

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB625

Chairman: Senator Les Seiler

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2015

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB625 allows for involuntarily admitted patients to be transported across state lines for mental health treatment in a qualified health care facility.

Currently, involuntary patients cannot receive treatment in facilities located outside of Nebraska.

As a result, patients can be transported to facilities that are located hours away from their place of residence if a bed is not available closer to home, resulting in additional financial and emotional stress to the patient, their support network and law enforcement agents who are required to transfer the patient.

The number of qualified facilities in Nebraska that can provide appropriate services for such patients are limited, resulting in a potential barrier to timely access to emergency behavioral health treatment.

Patients who are involuntarily admitted are likely under a great amount of duress and LB625 would allow them to receive treatment closer to their familial and community support systems. This proposal is not a mandate and currently, voluntarily committed patients are allowed to receive behavioral health care in qualified facilities across state lines. LB625 simply provides additional options for timely access to emergency behavioral health services.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Bob Krist, District 10