

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB845

Chairperson: Senator Les Seiler

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: January 20, 2016

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

This bill would provide for definitions and standards regarding the recording and reporting of juveniles being placed in solitary confinement, or 'room confinement' at juvenile facilities and adult correctional facilities. Specifically, the bill provides that if a juvenile is subject to room confinement at certain designated time periods, staff (including, in some instances, the director) of the juvenile facility must record certain information regarding the juvenile, the circumstances relating to the confinement, why lesser-restrictive means were not successful or pursued, and information regarding the psychological and physical health of the juvenile in relation to the period of confinement.

In addition, the affected facilities will be required to report to the Legislature instances in which juveniles are being subject to lengthy terms of confinement. This reporting will be done on a quarterly basis beginning September 30, 2016.

Finally, the bill directs the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare to review all data collected pursuant to the reporting requirement and to prepare an annual report to the Legislature regarding the use of room confinement at the facilities.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Patty Pansing Brooks