

# One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB934

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**Chairperson: Senator Les Seiler**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: February 3, 2016**

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

LB934 updates the Public Guardianship Act and its powers and duties, and change provisions relating to the number of appointments the Public Guardian can accept.

LB934 removes the provision that the office hire up to twelve associate guardians, and replaces it with a multidisciplinary team of professionals and support staff hired by the Director. The office shall provide appropriate and high quality care and support to all public wards served by the office of public guardian. LB934 caps the office at 20 individuals per multidisciplinary team member up to 480 wards. The cases the office is currently overseeing are too time consuming. In time, it will not be practical for the office to best serve the needs of individuals. Their resources will be stretched too thin and the last thing we want is for anyone to not be able to receive the appropriate attention they deserve by the office.

The Office of Public Guardian has also found that they need more attorneys as part of the staff in order to file motions for their wards. LB934 requires legal representation provided by the public guardian office to be limited to the duties and responsibilities of the office. LB934 also requires the director and deputy director to an attorney licensed to practice law in Nebraska.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Colby Coash