

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB444

Hearing Date: Friday March 03, 2017
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Walz
One Liner: Prohibit cities and counties from canceling health insurance coverage for injured law enforcement officers

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Baker, Ebke, Halloran, Hansen, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 1 Senator Chambers

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Lynne Walz
Mike Hutchinson
Jim Maguire
Darren Garrean

Representing:
Introducer
self
Nebraska Fraternal Order of Police
Nebraska Professional Firefighters Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:
Larry Dix
Lynn Rex

Representing:
Nebraska Association of County Officials
League of Nebraska Municipalities

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 444 alters statute pertaining to political subdivisions. The bill requires that if a law enforcement officer is injured from an assault occurring on duty, and as a result have seen their number of hours on the job fall below the minimum necessary to qualify for insurance coverage, a city or county will be obligated to continue the officer's insurance coverage.

This mandatory coverage shall apply for as long as the officer remains employed with the city or county, but the city or county may cancel the officer's health insurance if the officer does not return to the job within twelve months of the injury.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 467 would replace Section 1 of the original bill. IN so doing, it would serve to expand the applicability of LB 444 from only law enforcement officers as originally written, to now include all first responders as defined in new Subsection (4). The definition includes: sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, police officers, volunteer or paid firefighters, or out of hospital medical care providers like EMTs and paramedics.

Laura Ebke, Chairperson