

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB62**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday January 17, 2017  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Scheer  
**One Liner:** Eliminate prohibition on teachers wearing religious garb

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	5	Senators Ebke, Groene, Erdman, Linehan, Walz
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	3	Senators Kolowski, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Jim Scheer  
Tom Venzor  
Martin Cannon  
Nate Grasz  
Jeff Downing  
Jackson Moffett  
Christopher Spike Eickholt  
Jestin Casas

**Representing:**

Introducer  
NE Catholic Conference  
Thomas More Society  
NE Family Alliance  
self  
self  
ACLU  
self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

This bill repeals 79-898-899 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

79-898 prohibits a teacher from wearing any dress or garb in school or while engaged in the performance of his or her duty that identifies the teacher as a member or adherent of any religious order, sect or denomination. Violation of this section results in being found guilty of a misdemeanor and can be fined up to \$100, costs of prosecution or a jail term not exceeding 30 days.

79-899 states that a teacher found guilty under 79-898 shall be suspended for a year for a first offense and permanently disqualified from teaching at that school. Any school board member refusing to comply with this section is guilty of a Class V misdemeanor and can be fined up to \$100 and the costs of prosecution.

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Mike Groene, Chairperson