

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2018
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB859

Hearing Date: Thursday January 18, 2018
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Hansen
One Liner: Change records relating to employee deaths which may be withheld from the public

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Blood, Brewer, Briese, Hilgers, Lowe, Murante, Thibodeau, Wayne
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Matt Hansen
Tonya Ford
Allison Weston
Rod Hitchler
Susan Martin

Representing:

Introducer
USMWF Org Inc.
Weston Family & USMWF
USMWF
Nebraska State AFL-CIO

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 859 changes what records can be withheld from the public.

Currently, records developed or received by law enforcement agencies and other investigative public bodies can withhold records when those records constitute a part of an examination, investigation, intelligence information, citizen complaint or inquiry, or strategic tactical information.

LB 859 would change this to allow such records to be disclosed if four circumstances apply.

First, the record must relate to the cause of or circumstances surrounding the death of an employee.

Second, the employee's death must have arose out of or related to his or her employment.

Third, the request for the record is made after any related investigation has concluded.

Fourth, the request must be made by a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister, grandchild, or grandparent by blood, marriage, or adoption.

The bill also makes clear that it does not require access to information that would qualify as informant identification, the names or identifying information of citizens making complaints or inquiries, information which would compromise an ongoing criminal investigation, or information which may be withheld under another provision of law.

John Murante, Chairperson