

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LR151

Hearing Date: Wednesday May 17, 2017
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Pansing Brooks
One Liner: Recognize the historic significance of the In re Gault decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, and acknowledge its importance to the juvenile justice system

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Report to the Legislature for further consideration

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Baker, Chambers, Ebke, Halloran, Hansen, Krist, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents: Senator Patty Pansing Brooks	Representing: Introducer
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LR 151 would express the Nebraska Legislature's acknowledgement of the "important legacy" of the United States Supreme Court's decision in In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967), which recognized a juvenile defendant's right to due process under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in certain legal proceedings. LR 151 notes that 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision. The resolution further asserts that, pursuant to the ruling in In re Gault, juvenile defendants are "entitled to legal representation," "entitled to a timely notification of charges against them," "have the right to be protected against self-incrimination," and "have the right to question witnesses." The resolution concludes by asserting findings that the "necessity of providing due process protections for all children accused of a crime or status offense in Nebraska is recognized," that "all people of Nebraska are encouraged to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the Gault decision," and that "the Legislature pledges itself to acknowledge and redress disparities in representation, due process, and decision making in the juvenile courts."

Laura Ebke, Chairperson