

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB308

Chairperson: Senator Mike Groene

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: March 20, 2017

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

The Committee on Americanism is an important, ongoing subcommittee of local school boards in Nebraska. The purpose of the committee is to ensure that kids are developing an understanding of and appreciation for American history and the American republic, and to ensure that the government curriculum in Nebraska's public schools is taught in such a way that it instills loyalty, devotion to justice, and a love of liberty into the next generation of Americans.

The intent of LB 308 is to ensure that the committee is properly performing its job in conformity with statutory requirements and to allow for more transparency in the operations and decisions of the committee. To those ends, this legislation places three additional, but not burdensome, requirements on the committee: the committee shall hold no less than three public meetings annually, at least one of which allows for public testimony; keep minutes of all meetings showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present and absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed; and ensure that any curriculum that is recommended or approved by the committee on Americanism is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lydia Brasch