

# One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB344

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**Chairperson: Senator Merv Riepe**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: March 01, 2017**

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

LB 344 would reduce regulatory burdens for those who obtain Mental Health and Substance Abuse or Occupational Licensure licenses in Nebraska by combing the separate Mental Health Center and the Substance Abuse Treatment Center statutes into one health care facility type that can provide both mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

It removes outpatient services from the requirements for being licensed as a substance abuse treatment center, provides alternative methods to obtain an Alcohol and Drug Counseling License or Mental Health Practice License in Nebraska through reciprocity by recognizing licensure and other requirements from other states.

It also includes additional degrees or substantially equivalent degrees to be considered acceptable for licensure as a mental health practitioner. (Currently, an applicant for a provisional license must identify his/her supervisor at the time of application. LB 344 would allow an applicant to obtain the provisional license and then seek employment, registering 30 days after.) The bill also removes the specific time frame that supervised experience hours can be earned.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Joni Albrecht