

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB575

Hearing Date: Monday February 04, 2019
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Brewer
One Liner: Require school district policies regarding the provision of information to and access by military recruiters

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Brewer, Groene, Kolowski, Linehan, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Tom Brewer
Kevin Kilker

Representing:
Bill Sponsor
Omaha Recruiting Company, US Army

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative bill 575 creates a new section of statute directing that the school board of each school district shall adopt a policy for providing routine directory information for each high school student, upon request, to a military recruiter. This applies to all public school districts in Nebraska. For the purposes of LB575, routine directory information is limited to a student's name, address and telephone number.

LB575 requires each school district to notify the parents or guardians of each student that they have the option to make a written request that routine directory information shall not be released without prior written consent. Upon receiving the written request, the school district shall comply.

However, when a student reaches eighteen years of age, the permission and consent required of and rights accorded to the parents or guardians are transferred to the student.

In addition to directory information, the policy to be developed by school boards is required to provide the same access to high schools by military recruiters as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers.

Finally, the bill states that nothing in its language shall be construed to allow a school board to adopt a policy to withhold access to routine directory information from a military recruiter by implementing a process that differs from the written consent request process.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee considered and adopted Amendment 175 which substitutes for the bill and revises the introduced language of LB575 as follows:

Regarding the notice to parents and guardians that they have the option to make a written request that routine directory information shall not be released without prior written consent, AM175 specifies that such notice must be provided within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year. For a new student who enrolls after the commencement of the school year, the notice must be provided within 30 days of enrollment.

AM175 adds the same 30 days prior to or following commencement of the school year, or 30 days after enrollment of a new student, requirement for notice to students that are either 18-years-old, or who will reach 18-years-old during such school year, of their right to make a written request that their routine directory information shall not be released without prior written consent. Furthermore, said students are notified that any previously made request by a parent or guardian expires upon their reaching 18 years of age.

Mike Groene, Chairperson