

One Hundred Sixth Legislature - Second Session - 2020

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1208

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2020

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

LB1208 reforms practices relating to restrictive housing, immediate segregation, discipline, and other conditions of confinement in state correctional facilities.

These reforms:

1. Follow national best practices to ensure inmates are given enough out-of-cell time to maintain their health and mental stability;
2. Ease the transition out of segregation and better prepare inmates for successful release into the community;
3. Utilize a "step down" approach for moving inmates from restrictive housing into general population;
4. Cap the length of time that inmates can be in restrictive housing and provide for a hearing and appeals process;
5. Prohibit the use of "double bunking" in restrictive housing;
6. Outline measures for the use of confidential informants and informant testimony; and
7. Ensure up-to-date electronic records are shared with the Public Counsel/Ombudsman and Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tony Vargas