

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB166**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 23, 2021  
**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Introducer:** Geist  
**One Liner:** Provide for Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates and provide powers and duties for the Game and Parks Commission

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

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, M., DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hughes, Moser  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

<b>Proponents:</b> Sen Suzanne Geist Blake Collingsworth Kathy Collingsworth	<b>Representing:</b> Introducer Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation
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<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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<b>Neutral:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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**Submitted Written Testimony:**

<b>Proponents:</b> Timothy McCoy Cora Schrader	<b>Representing:</b> NE Game & Parks Commission Children's Hospital & Medical Center
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<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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<b>Neutral:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 166 would direct the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to design Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water plates. The design shall include a blue background with the head of an otter surfacing above water surrounded by the words "Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water". In addition to all other fees required for registration under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance or renewal of alphanumeric Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates shall be accompanied by a fee of \$5. The \$5 fee would be credited to the Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash

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Fund, which is created in Section 10 of the bill. Each application for initial issuance or renewal of a personalized message Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates shall be accompanied by a fee of \$40. 75% of the \$40 this fee shall be credited to the Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund, with the other 25% going to the DMV Cash Fund.

The Game and Parks Commission would be directed to create a program for the purpose of providing financial support for the education of persons about water safety in general and specifically for the education of children about staying away from water unless accompanied by an adult. The commission shall use the Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund to award grants to nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to educating children about water safety. The grants shall be used by the recipient organization to support educating persons about water safety in general and specifically for the education of children about water safety.

The DMV shall cease to issue Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates beginning with the next license plate issuance cycle if the total number of registered vehicles that obtained such plates is less than five hundred per year within any prior consecutive two-year period

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee adopted AM389, which specifies that the DMV may cease to issue the plate after the license plate issuance cycle beginning in 2023 should the specified criteria be met, and adds language to allow the DMV to charge a postage and handling fee for plates delivered to an applicant.

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Curt Friesen, Chairperson