

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB281

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 23, 2021
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Albrecht
One Liner: Require child sexual abuse prevention instructional programs for school students and staff

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Day, Linehan, McKinney, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Joni Albrecht
Erin Merryn
Carrie Erks
Kara Mueller
Julane Hill

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Self
Self
Self

Opponents:

Colby Coash
Connie Duncan

Representing:

NASB
Lincoln Public Schools

Neutral:

Ivy Svoboda

Representing:

Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:

Cora Schrader
Jason Hayes
Spike Eickholt
Lisa Lavene

Representing:

Children's Hospital & Medical Center
NSEA
ACLU of Nebraska
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

States Legislatures findings and requires school districts to adopt a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in kindergarten through grade five beginning in school year 2022-23, review such program every two years, and preserve a report of its findings. Funding for such curriculum is sought under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. 6301 as the act existed on January 1, 2021.

Schools districts are required to include in such program:

- A minimum of 4 instructional sessions per school year that builds on the previous year's instruction;
- Age-appropriate curriculum, including role-playing, discussion, activities, and books to educate students regarding body safety that includes child sexual abuse prevention;
- Instruction providing students with the knowledge and tools to communicate incidents of potential and actual sexual abuse;
- Instruction regarding safe touch, unsafe touch, safe secrets, and unsafe secrets and how to escape and report a sexual abuse situation;
- Techniques to recognize child sexual abuse, skills to reduce vulnerability, and encouragement to report child sexual abuse;
- A professional training component for administrators, teachers, and other school personnel regarding communicating child sexual abuse prevention techniques to students, effects of child sexual abuse on children, receiving child sexual abuse reports and disclosures, and mandated reporting; and
- A parental involvement component to inform parents about preventative child sexual abuse topics, including characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors, and how to discuss child sexual abuse prevention with children.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment becomes the bill. The changes from LB281 are noted below. All other provisions from LB281 are included in the committee amendment.

Removes "instructional" from the phrase "child sexual abuse prevention instructional program".

Changes the grade levels such programs shall be implemented in from kindergarten through grade five to kindergarten through grade twelve.

Requires the curriculum to be evidence based.

References 79-879 when the act refers to grooming.

Adds Sec. 2. to require training to be provided within the framework of existing training programs offered by the State Department of Education. The department is required to develop a list of approved training materials for the program. Allows the department to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

Lynne Walz, Chairperson