

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB229

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2021

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

LB 229 amends Nebraska's hate crime statutes to include "gender identity" in the list of attributes for which enhanced penalties can be imposed if a crime is perpetrated because of some aspect of the victim's identity. Current law considers the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability as potential factors for hate crimes. This does not account for crimes committed against trans and gender non-conforming people.

In other words, this would make it so that violent crimes committed against trans, gender nonconforming or other LGBTQ individuals on the basis of their gender identity can be considered hate crimes, making them punishable with more severe penalties than similar crimes not perpetrated purely on the basis of the victim's identity.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Megan Hunt