

# One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

**LB334**

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**Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: February 10, 2021**

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

Studies have shown that post-prison outcomes will tend to be better for those inmates who participate in work release programs prior to their discharge from custody. Specifically, findings indicate that those inmates who participated in work release programs had a higher likelihood of obtaining post-release employment within the first quarter after their release, and also had a significantly lower rate of recidivism than those inmates who did not participate in work release programs prior to discharge from custody. In addition, studies indicate that those inmates who participated in privately operated work release programs were significantly more likely to become employed after their release.

In light of these findings, and in order to give the Nebraska Board of Parole additional options for the placement of offenders other than the granting of a full parole, the Legislature deems it desirable: (1) to increase the number of offenders in the Nebraska corrections system who are exposed to work release prior to their discharge from custody; and (2) to do so in settings that also offer therapy, programming, treatment, and/or vocational training and educational classes. To achieve these goals, it is the intent of the Community Work Release and Treatment Centers Act to empower the Nebraska Division of Parole Supervision to contract with private providers to establish community work release and treatment centers at various locations distributed throughout the State of Nebraska.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Justin Wayne**