

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB205**

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**Hearing Date:** Friday February 10, 2023  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** von Gillern  
**One Liner:** Adopt the Government Neutrality in Contracting Act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	5	Senators Aguilar, Brewer, Halloran, Lowe, Sanders
<b>Nay:</b>	3	Senators Conrad, Hunt, Raybould
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator R. Brad von Gillern  
Katie Wilson  
Sheila O'Connor  
Toni Watts-McDonald  
Anne Klute  
  
Brandon Ray

**Representing:**

Introducer  
AGC Nebraska Chapter  
AGC Nebraska Building Chapter  
Watts Electric Company  
Associated Builders & Contractors Nebraska South Dakota Chapter  
Associated Builders & Contractors

**Opponents:**

Jon Nebel  
Susan Martin  
Ed Black  
Felicia Hilton  
Ron Kaminski

**Representing:**

IBEW, Nebraska State Council of Electrical Workers  
Nebraska State AFL-CIO  
BAC Local 15  
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters  
Nebraska Building & Trades Council

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accomodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Summary:

This bill, entitled the "Government Neutrality in Contracting Act," would forbid contract preferences in public contracts for or against contractors who are party to collective bargaining agreements. The bill includes legislative findings relating to the duty of government officials in Nebraska to efficiently procure goods and services in a nondiscriminatory manner. The bill

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defines nine terms relating to public contracting.

The bill would require that public requests for proposals or bid specifications not contain any term requiring or discouraging bidders from entering or adhering to collective bargaining agreements. The bill would also prohibit "contract award pass or fail scoring criteria" relating to hiring, labor assignments, local headquarters location, political activity, or demographic makeup. Public benefits would also be prohibited from being awarded based on such criteria. Public benefits and contracts in existence prior to the effective date of the Act would be unaffected.

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Tom Brewer, Chairperson