

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LR34**

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**Hearing Date:** Friday February 06, 2015  
**Committee On:** Executive Board  
**Introducer:** Krist  
**One Liner:** Provide the Executive Board reappoint the Department of Correctional Services Special Investigative Committee of the Legislature

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Report to the Legislature for further consideration with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	8	Senators Campbell, Coash, Hadley, Hughes, Krist, Larson, Murante, Watermeier
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Chambers
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Bob Krist  
Mike Marvin  
Brad Meurrens

**Representing:**

Introducer  
NAPE  
Disability Rights Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

This resolution re-authorizes the Department of Correctional Services Special Investigative Committee of the Legislature. The special committee was first created in 2014 by LR424.

The LR424 special committee issued a report on December 15, 2014, which identified additional problems within the Department of Correctional Services. The report and its appendices can be viewed at:

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/reports/lr424.php>

LR34 would authorize the special committee to study the following: The adequacy and funding history of programs designed to rehabilitate inmates; the availability of mental health care and the policies and procedures used to ensure inmates receive appropriate mental health care; the policies relating to solitary confinement, segregation or other isolation issues; the transition of inmates from incarceration to the community; the administration of good time laws; any evaluation or study made of the department's policies and practices; and whether or not an office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System should be created for oversight of the department.

The special committee would consist of seven members appointed by the Executive Board. The special committee elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The committee would be required to issue a report no later than December 15, 2015.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment does the following:

- \* Increases the number of members to be appointed to the Special Committee from seven to "up to eleven."
- \* Provides that the Executive Board shall appoint the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Special Committee.
- \* Removes the language regarding the office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System. This language is included in other legislation.
- \* Requires the Special Committee to brief the Judiciary Committee by December 15, 2015 and December 15, 2016. The requirement for a report is changed to be "as circumstances warrant."
- \* Extends the termination date of the Special Committee to the start of the 2017 legislative session.

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Bob Krist, Chairperson