

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB256

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 31, 2017
Committee On: Urban Affairs
Introducer: Briese
One Liner: Adopt the Vacant Property Registration Act

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Crawford, Hansen, Howard, Larson, Quick, Riepe, Wayne
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Briese
Greg Ptacek
Megan Spargl
Chris Connolly
Jay Davis
Lynn Rex
Jennifer Taylor

Representing:

Legislative District 41
City of Neligh
Benkelman Community Redevelopment Authority
City of Lincoln
City of Omaha
League of Nebraska Municipalities
City of Omaha

Opponents:

Ward Hoppe

Representing:

Nebraska Realtors Association

Neutral:

Kent Rogert
Bob Hallstrom

Representing:

Statewide Property Owners Association
Nebraska Bankers Association

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 256 would adopt the Vacant Property Registration Act. Under the Act, municipalities would have the authority to enact vacant property registration ordinances (VPROs) to identify and register vacant properties, collect fees to compensate for the public costs of property vacancy, plan for the rehabilitation of vacant properties, and encourage the occupancy of such properties.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 452 makes a number of changes to the bill, including:

- Provides that the Act does not apply to cities of the metropolitan class or cities of the primary class
 - Clarifies that a VPRO under the Act may only apply to buildings located within the city or village's corporate limits
 - Provides that a VPRO under the Act shall exempt vacant properties that are advertised in good faith for sale or lease
 - Provides that property owners have the right to prior notice of and to appeal adverse decisions by the municipality or the VPRO program administrator, with notice to be sent by certified mail
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- Provides that a VPRO program administrator may designate another individual to conduct inspections of vacant properties
- Provides that the provisions of the Act are supplemental to and in addition to any existing state laws relating to vacant property

Justin Wayne, Chairperson