

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB289

Chairperson: Senator Laura Ebke

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 23, 2017

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

Under current law, most individuals convicted of a human trafficking offense may receive light sentences, including probation. Probationary-level offenses can even include trafficking a minor and trafficking an adult with use of threat or force. LB289 imposes tougher sentences on both traffickers and solicitors of trafficking victims by increasing the felony classifications for an array of offenses.

Specifically, LB289 increases felony classifications for sex trafficking of a minor from Class IIA to Class IC, trafficking of a minor with use of threat of force from a Class II to a Class IB, trafficking an adult with use of threat of force from a Class IIA to a Class ID, trafficking of an adult from a Class III to a Class II, pandering from a Class III to a Class II and solicitation of a trafficked adult from no regulation to a Class II. The change in classifications would result in convicted traffickers being sentenced to at least one year in prison and, for the most egregious offenses, up to life in prison.

LB289 also establishes that victims of trafficking cannot be prosecuted as participants in other's trafficking ventures. Additionally, the bill aligns Nebraska with federal law, which defines the crime of solicitation of a minor as sex trafficking.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Patty Pansing Brooks