

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB708

Hearing Date: Monday January 24, 2022
Committee On: Executive Board
Introducer: Hughes
One Liner: Eliminate the requirement to copyright reissue and supplement volumes of the Nebraska Revised Statutes

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 9 Senators Geist, Hilgers, Hughes, Lathrop, Lowe, McCollister, Pansing
Brooks, Slama, Vargas

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Hughes
Marcia McClurg

Representing:

Introducer
Revisor of Statutes for the Nebraska Legislature

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Section 49-707 requires the Revisor of Statutes to copyright the supplements and reissued volumes of the Nebraska statutes. In 2020, the United States Supreme Court extended the "government edicts doctrine," which provides that federal, state, and local statutes and court decisions are in the public domain and are not eligible for copyright protection, to annotated versions of statutes or court decisions when such annotations are done by members of the government as part of their duties. Georgia v. Public.Resources.Org. Inc., 140 S. Ct. 1498.

Following the Georgia decision, the U.S. Copyright Office denied a request by the Revisor to copyright the 2019 Supplement, which means that the Revisor can no longer comply with the requirement to copyright the statutes.

Dan Hughes, Chairperson