

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB785

Chairperson: Senator Tom Brewer

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: January 26, 2022

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

LB785 would amend Neb. Rev. Stat. 32-908, 32-942 and 32-943. LB 785 reduces the amount of time to vote by mail from 35 to 22 days and the time to vote in person before the election commissioner or county clerk from 30 day to 22 days, matching the 22 days presently allowed for special elections.

In addition, the bill states that a registered voter could appoint an agent to return a marked early voting ballot. The agent can only act as an agent for no more than two registered voters in an election. Finally, it would bar a candidate or any person serving on a campaign committee from serving as an agent to return a marked early voting ballot unless the marked early voting ballot to be returned is for a member of the candidates family or a member of the candidate committee's family.

The goal is to harmonize the early voting periods to limit voter confusion and give a more focused window for voters to assess candidates and issues. It reemphasizes the honored tradition of voting in person on the first Tuesday of November, enhancing voter integrity and limiting the opportunities for ballot harvesting.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene