

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board February 5, 2026
Rough Draft

HANSEN: Welcome to the Executive Board. My name is Senator Ben Hansen. I represent the 16th Legislative District in Washington, Burt, Cuming, and parts of Stanton County, and I serve as chair of the Executive Board. I would like to invite the members of the committee to introduce themselves starting on my right with Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Rob Clements, District 2.

McKINNEY: Terrell McKinney, District 11.

BALLARD: Beau Ballard, District 21.

DORN: Myron Dorn, District 30.

FREDRICKSON: John Fredrickson, District 20.

HANSEN: Also assisting the committee is our legal counsel Benson Wallace, our committee clerk Natalie Schunk, and our committee page-- you're not Lexi, so you want to stand up and introduce yourself?

JOEL HENSON: I'm Joel Henson. I'm a political science student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and I'm from Lincoln.

HANSEN: Thanks, Joel. A few notes about our policy and procedures, please turn off or silence your cell phones. We will be hearing two bills, and we'll be taking them in the order listed outside the hearing room. On the table near the door to the hearing room, you will find green testifier sheets. If you are planning to testify today, please fill one out and hand it to the page when you come up to testify. This will help us keep an accurate record of the hearing. If you're not testifying at the microphone but want to go on record as having a position on a bill being heard today, there are yellow sign-in sheets at the entrance where you may leave your name and other pertinent information. Also, I would note if you are not testifying but have an online position comment to submit, the Legislature's policy is that all comments for the record must be received by the committee by 8 a.m. the day of the hearing. Any handouts submitted by testifiers will also be included as part of the record as exhibits. We would ask if you do have any handouts that you please bring 12 copies and give them to the page. We will use a light system for testifying. Each testifier will have 5 minutes to testify. When you begin, the light will turn green, when the light turns yellow, that means you have 1 minute left. When the light turns red, it is time to end your testimony and we'll ask you to wrap up your final thoughts. When you

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come up to testify, please begin by stating your name clearly into the microphone and then please spell both your first and last names. The hearing will begin with each introducer giving an opening statement. We will then hear from supporters of the bill, then from those in opposition, followed by those speaking in a neutral capacity. The introducer of the bill will then be given the opportunity to make closing statements if they wish to do so. On a side note, the reading of testimony that is not your own is not allowed unless previously approved and we do have a strict no-prop policy in this committee. With that, we'll begin today's hearing with LB1245 and welcome Senator Dover to open.

DOVER: All right. Thank you, Chairman Hansen, and good afternoon, committee members. For the record, my name is Robert Dover, R-o-b-e-r-t D-o-v-e-r. I represent District 19, which consists of Madison County and the southern half of Pierce County. First, I make you-- first, I must make you all aware that my office has been in communication with Corey Steel, the State Court Administrator for the Nebraska Supreme Court, regarding this bill. Yesterday evening, we were notified that the judges do not like to move from their current parking location. Therefore, I have brought an amendment today to remove judges from the bill. Research published by the Electoral Integrity Project conducted by Dr. Laurel Harbridge-Yong of Northwestern University and Dr. Alexandra Filindra of the University of Illinois Chicago examines democratic processes and emerging threats to electoral systems. The study finds that threats and, and violence against elected officials, including state and local officeholders, have become measurable and recurring feature of today's political environment. In interviews where elect-- with elected officials and staff across the country, every respondent in their study reported experiencing incivility, and most reported receiving threats of violence. A smaller but still significant number reported direct exposure to violent acts. These findings reflect a broader deterioration of political civility and an increasing level of risk faced by public officials at all levels of government. In my handout, you will find a graph from a 2024 study published by Combating Terrorism Center at West Point titled: Rising Threats to Public Officials: A Review of 10 Years of Federal Data. I believe that-- I don't know that the graph shows for sure, but actually just so you know, the above, the above graph or the above line in the graph is actually the total and then the lower one is ideologically motivated in the graph. Accompanying this graphic, the researchers stated in the publication, quote, threats against public officials have a long

history in the United States, and thus, the problem is not new. But the data reveals something new emerged during the past decade, a concentration of threats that began to spike in 2017 corresponding with a general increase in polarization followed by the-- following the 2016 presidential election. While 2013 and 2016 had on average 38 federal charges involving threats to public officials per year, that average sharply increased during the period of 2017 to 2022, with the average number of federal charges increasing to 62 per year. It seems the clamor of threats to public officials has grown louder since 2017, with gradual steady increases. LB1245 is intended to address this increased threat by enhancing the safety and security of Nebraska's legislative officials by addressing vulnerabilities associated with current parking and access to state facilities. In light of increased incidents of political violence and threats toward public officials nationwide, the Legislature has a responsibility to take reasonable, proactive steps to protect those who serve in highly visible constitutional roles. It is important to note that this Legislature is already acknowledging those realities through the work of this committee, LB1237, focused on assuring the safety of all Nebraskans within the Capitol by establishing clear procedures to prevent weapons and prohibited substances from entering the building and by formalizing security responsibilities within the Capitol itself. LB1245 complements that effort. Where LB1237 addresses security inside the Capitol, LB1245 addresses safety around it. Together, these bills reflect a coordinated and thoughtful approach to security, one that recognizes public access to government must be preserved while also acknowledging the evolving risks faced by those carrying out official duties. LB1245 directs the Department of Administrative Services to assign members of the Legislature to move to a more secured parking facility at 1331 K Street, and authorizes coordination with the Nebraska State Patrol to ensure appropriate security protocols are in place. This is a practical, limited adjustment designed to reduce unnecessary risk and ensure continuity of government operations. Additionally, I'd like to share my personal story of being attacked while walking home after the session one evening. Some of you may be aware of this, but it's kind of-- it's, it's, it's not a funny story, but [INAUDIBLE] it's kind of strange. I, I just had gotten hearing aids. And it's kind of funny, is those that have them, you start knowing the high feature. So it was wintertime and I was walking and you notice the, the crystallization when you're walking, the crunch, crunch, it just is a higher note. And so I was over at, I stay at Windsor Square, so I'm behind Billy's and I was going into the back door and I start-- and I'm hearing someone walking down the alley

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where I hear crunch, crunch, crunch, and I was-- remember thinking, oh, it's interesting, I never would have heard it that way. And then I noticed all of a sudden it goes crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch and it's coming toward me. And I'm trying to push the button to get in the door as quick as I can and pull it behind me, because once I get that door secured I know I'm safe. I couldn't get it shut in time. And so we're, we're, we're-- I'm trying to get him out, we're tussling, and I'm close like this, and I'm not proud of this, but my mother-- well I'm proud of this part-- my mother taught me when someone called me a name, when I was done to say a prayer for them, because that diffuses the whole feeling, right? And I went to the oil fields and worked for 3.5 years. And, and in rough situations, you have to fight in the oil field. It's just the way it is. And if you don't fight in the bars and stuff, then you're going to be picked on and those kind of things. So, basically, I had to fight six times. So I didn't have to fighting anymore. And I didn't really like it, but it's just the environment, you know. So the good thing about that was I had experience in fighting. And I know, I know how to fight. I know what to do and what not to do. And I witnessed a lot more than six fights, right? And so we're tied up, and, and here's the thing, a fight is over within about one, two, three. And if it's not over it might as well be over because someone's winning and somebody's losing and it just-- the inevitable eventually comes. Well, I'm tied up like this, and I'm thinking, it's a safe zone because no, no one-- there's no punches or nothing can happen. And I thinking, you know, I was 66 at the time, and I'm thinking I'm 66 years old and I could, excuse me, I could have kicked my rear end in a matter of one, two, three. The gentleman that I was tied up with was, I would estimate, 45 years old and very-- and strong. And I'm thinking, what am I going to do? Because if this is a fight, I'm, I'm going down, right? So I'm thinking, like a fighter is, I have to hit him with everything I have as quickly as possible. And so what do I do? My largest muscle is my leg, right? So what I decide to do-- I'm hoping we're in the doorway, I'm hoping if I can shove him back and then raise my foot and just let him have it right in the chest, I can get him out the door and pull the door shut and be safe. Well, what happened was you lose-- you know, you're this close and you're-- and if this-- it happens-- it's happening fast, but it's happening slow. It's hard to explain how that happens. And we're in there and I'm thinking, OK, go, and I shoved him back and I hit him as hard as I could right in the chest. And luckily he was already inside the door a little bit so he hits the door jam. So here we are, probably a distance from here to here, he's looking at me. He is not happy. I'm

looking at him thinking what am I going to do? There's only three things I can do. If I was younger, I'd be going at him and we would be-- that's just what you have to do. I'm old and he's young. I can't go at him. If I backed up he will come after me. That's just what happens. So I got to stand my ground and try to intimidate him verbally. And so what I said was, I'm a straight-- I'm a state senator. If you touch me, you will go to prison because I didn't know what other threat I could come up with, right? And so I kept repeating it and as, as, as forcefully and as clear as my voice could be, like, like a spear, to hopefully intimidate him. And that went on for, I don't know, a few minutes, right? And, and nothing was really happening. I had a door 10-- about 10 feet behind me, if you're familiar with Windsor Square. And I'm thinking, OK, I'm going to have to run for the door. And so I waited for a second where I thought he wasn't, like, paying as much attention to me, or whatever, and I just went for it. I got behind the door, I pulled the door shut, and I got on my phone and I called 911. And eventually-- and, and here it is, no one came. So I don't know what happened there. And, eventually, I, I, I waited a while, I opened the door and he had, he had gone, he had left. And so this is a real threat. I experienced it personally. And what would have happened if somebody-- I mean, I'm not proud that I ever fought, but I knew what to do. I mean, not everybody that's a, that's a, that's a man, that's a state senator knows probably what to do in a fight like that. And I would hate to think what would happen if it was a woman who doesn't have as much build, even if they knew how to fight, it isn't-- it's just-- it's-- there's a risk there. So I want to share, this isn't about, you know, being proactive about some future day, I was assaulted. And so I just want to make sure everyone realizes, I'm testifying here because this is a real thing. And so just-- I just wanted-- this is a real-life experience. Finally, I would, I would like to address on some opposing comments that were brought to our attention online. According to my office's calculation, the numbered senator spots needed will not account for all the spots in the parking structure on K Street. It is my intent that those remaining spots can be available to state employees. Additionally, it is my intent that the current senator parking located on the east side of the Capitol will open up for use by state employees as well. I do not know if this will address the fiscal note since lots for a purchase will open up on the east side of a lot. Thank you for your time, and I'll welcome your questions.

HANSEN: All right, thank you. Are there any questions from the committee? Senator Dorn.

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DORN: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Who current-- or who-- state employees or who currently uses that parking?

DOVER: OCIO.

DORN: OCIO does?

DOVER: Yeah, and, and basically what brought this up was, you know, I was there, I think as everybody here was in 2023, and, and, and during-- there was a very-- I don't know how you-- they said it was the worst demonstration since the Vietnam War is what I had heard. I think you all remember the amount of the yelling and chanting, where I couldn't even hear someone in, in the Chamber at times. I was in the middle, I could hear someone in back because of the noise coming from the Rotunda. And so we were, of course, escorted out. I was, I was, I was going to go out and we had to protect the red coats, right? And so we went down under, and we came up in that parking lot for safety. So, to me, that seems to be the place to go so that's where we would be.

HANSEN: OK. Yes, Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: Thank you, Chair Hansen. Thank you, Senator Dover. So-- thank you for sharing your story as well, that's kind of startling and I can appreciate why you bring this. So that, that tunnel is there-- are you suggesting, like, the senators would have access to that tunnel and then we'd--

DOVER: Correct.

FREDRICKSON: [INAUDIBLE]

DOVER: Correct.

FREDRICKSON: [INAUDIBLE]. OK.

DOVER: I, I, I heard-- I don't know if someone is going to be here to testify-- but I heard that there's some concern that if we use the elevator to come up, there's additional floors that are, that are-- that we-- that are secure that we need not have access to. But I'm guessing it would be handled much like the Capitol is, is handled today. And I don't know if we pass through secure stuff, but I don't see it in situations like at the construction company if there could be something built. I mean, there could even be a metal, you know, grate put across with a locking metal door or something, but I just-- I mean, it happened to me, this isn't like what if, what if in some

situations like we're looking at the Capitol. I don't know if there's been situations in the Capitol where someone's been assaulted or not, but I've been assaulted outside the Capitol. And to be quite truthful in articles I was reading about this, I should have had it included here, I would say 75% of people, they're attacked outside the building. And even if you think of the news situations we know where the head of the insurance company was shot outside going to a meeting. I mean, these people are attacked outside the building going to the secure site. So I think if we don't do something on the outside, I think that we're, we're, we're leaving the, the most-- well, the, the most-- I guess, the weakest part of our coming from our car to [INAUDIBLE], we're leaving that open for whatever might happen to us.

HANSEN: Could you explain the fiscal note a little bit, or is it--

DOVER: I just got-- to be truthful, I just, I just--

HANSEN: OK.

DOVER: --got it, so, no, I can't. But--

HANSEN: Is there--

DOVER: 50.

HANSEN: OK. Lost revenue and potential costs due to necessary upgrades. So it does have some interesting numbers in here about, like, since we are declining parking tags or stickers in the past, they would have to upgrade this entry at \$20,000, and another \$15,000, I'm trying to figure out what their goals were and what their plans were to upgrade the entry if we're declining stickers, so. If [INAUDIBLE]-- they might come and explain later.

DOVER: Yeah, there's-- if there's someone that doesn't address that because they might be-- I'm guessing there might-- I've heard that may be here testifying. But I would say this is \$50,000, even if it was \$100,000, even if it was \$250,000, or whatever it is, we have a responsibility. What is it worth for someone who's, who's physically assaulted and hurt or, or worse?

HANSEN: OK. Any other questions? Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Thank you. Is this in a parking garage or is this still outside parking?

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DOVER: It, it-- so it's-- if you, if you drive by on K Street you can see it. It's-- basically, it's a, it's a covered parking garage. It has-- I think it has-- there's a wall around it about this tall that goes all the way around it. I'm guessing if, if security or State Patrol look at it, they might decide just to go ahead and put some kind of cage or some kind of bars or some kind of protection above that. So it could be, it could be totally-- but you'd have to put a, a door that opened and shut. So I don't know. But, no, sorry, it's on K Street. It's a, it's a garage right over where OCIO is parking. If you drive by, you'll see it. It's just one of those things you don't pay attention to when you're driving around. I don't know if I answered your question or not or--

McKINNEY: Kind of. Thank you.

DOVER: Yeah, I mean-- so you must not have walked out that day.

McKINNEY: Which day?

DOVER: In 2023, like when we counted our vote.

McKINNEY: Oh, I did.

HANSEN: Yeah, he did.

McKINNEY: I walked out.

DOVER: That's-- yeah, that's, that's it. That's the one. We, we went down, we went through that door, we went down. We went to the north--

McKINNEY: Oh, no, I didn't walk, I didn't walk down through there. I just walked out.

DOVER: OK.

McKINNEY: Yeah.

HANSEN: Yeah, I think the issue with that was-- I believe that was the year somebody posted our parking lots online, the senators' parking lots on line so they could-- which was probably not the greatest thing in the world to post where we park online publicly--

DOVER: Yeah.

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HANSEN: --out there for everyone to see, during that time anyway in 2023 when we were having-- there was a little turmoil at that time, so.

DOVER: Oh, yeah.

HANSEN: All right, seeing no other questions, you're sticking around for closing?

DOVER: Yes, I will.

HANSEN: All right.

DOVER: Thank you.

HANSEN: So we'll take our first testifier in support of LB1245. Anyone in support? All right, we'll take our first person testifying in opposition to LB1245. It's all you.

CHAD DAILEY: Senators, my name is Chad Daily, C-h-a-d D-a-i-l-e-y. Honorable committee members, I'm here today to state my opposition to LB1245. I'll begin by addressing the statement of intent, the bill to address the safety and security of legislative and judicial officials. The parking facility at 1331 K Street offers no tangible increase in security. Foot traffic is not controlled. There are two accesses-- two pedestrian access points and two vehicle access points, neither of which are controlled. The vehicle access points are controlled via badge access as standard at any other DAS parking facility. Security monitoring and lighting are more or less the same as other lots. We have video surveillance and occasional vehicle control of the lots. The Legislature already has a surface lot that is secured in the same fashion. This alone should be enough to stop consideration of this bill as a wasteful disruption. We also deal with homeless or other people seeking shelter in the small spaces between the lot and the building that I work in, the 501 Building. That's not an uncommon experience. Unless that area is secured, there is no measurable increase in security. If a higher level of physically secured parking is desired, it should be built using funds that DAS collects from parking facilities. DAS collects funds monthly for parking, and what is the balance of that fund? The last expansion that I know of for DAS parking facilities occurred in the late 1990s when I first became a state employee. The last expansion that I know of was back then. The waiting list for parking at that time was longer than a decade. It would seem that DAS is derelict in their duty to properly accommodate

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the needs of our employees. Overselling access is not a permanent solution. I am told that the waiting lists are at or near a decade again, which is an unfortunate circumstance. Operational disruption for the state is a risk here, which is understood not just for the Legislature, but also the digital operations for the state. The people employed that work in the 501 Building are your digital first responders. Find me one agency that is not completely reliant on digital communication or technology. The people-- these digital first responders that work in this building require immediate access to the 501 Building at any time, given that we are the ones that respond to attacks from global attackers, not just in a local vicinity. It's well understood that most of what we do can be performed remotely, but employees are prohibited by policy from working from home, no matter the condition, even when sick. This means that if we're to work, we have to be present in our assigned facility. Assigned parking ensures timely, reliable access. In any emergency, timeliness is critical. And if we are to believe that the state is to be run as a business, then time is money. Every moment the digital facilities are impacted costs the state money and lost work product, lost revenue collection, or delayed service delivery. Delaying response time because we can't find parking is an easily preventable issue and one that employees already-- that use the lot already pay for themselves. It seems odd to displace long-term full-time employees with demonstrated value for benefit what they pay for with temporary part-time employees with the lot left empty for half of the year. There's an already complete solution to the congestion issue and it would obviate my objection to this bill, write a law ensuring that the option for remote work is secured for all state employees. Remote work was used during the COVID pandemic and it worked very well. The investment in hardware, software, security, and associated processes are already complete and are highly functional. Thank you for your time. Do you have any questions?

HANSEN: All right. Thank you for testifying. Are there any questions from the committee? Senator Ibach.

IBACH: Thank you, Chair. I just have a comment, not really a question, because I got to tour that facility as part of the building committee and so I understand how relevant your position is over there and how relevant the agency is. I don't think we're trying to dispute the importance or the convenience of your parking to your job site. I think maybe the senator is just exploring options that might be available.

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CHAD DAILEY: As a person who works very irregular hours, parking is a real, is a real thing. And the other lots are oversold, which means that even if I secure a place there, that doesn't mean I'm guaranteed a place to park. I may have to walk a very long distance or have to tolerate fines just to do my job.

IBACH: Yeah, thank you.

CHAD DAILEY: That's why I pay for assigned parking.

IBACH: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HANSEN: Can I ask how much? I'm unfamiliar, how much do you pay for assigned parking?

CHAD DAILEY: \$50 a month.

HANSEN: \$50 a month. OK. All right. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for coming. Take our next testifier in opposition to LB1245.

MICHAEL COSTELLO: I was [INAUDIBLE]. May I read from my notes on my phone?

HANSEN: Oh, definitely, yeah.

MICHAEL COSTELLO: Hello, my name is Michael Costello, M-i-c-h-a-e-l C-o-s-t-e-l-l-o. I've been a state employee for 20 years and I currently park in the garage at 1331 K Street. The statement and intent for this bill is to enhance security and safety by providing more secure controlled parking. Based on my experience parking in this garage over the years, I don't think it has any more inherent security features than any other state parking option. It is publicly accessible from all sides. The wall described by the senator is easily climbed over. I have purpose-- personally witnessed a barrier arm pushed aside by a Lincoln police officer in pursuit of a vehicle into the garage. So I would question the benefit-- the public benefit with regards to the loss of revenue for the majority of the year while parking spots sit unused. My understanding is that the Capitol staff already have access to a monitored parking area, so why do they need to take ours?

HANSEN: All right. Thank you for coming. Are there any questions? Senator Jacobson.

JACOBSON: Well, probably more of a comment. I don't know, maybe I can put a question in this too, but my, my understanding for Senator Dover's bill is that the parking location and the style of the parking lot is probably less of a concern, but it's the fact that there's a tunnel from the Capitol from the floor to that lot, which we don't have to the current parking lot. And so the challenge in 2013 [SIC] was physically getting off the floor and to the parking lot. Once we got to the parking lot, it wasn't a concern. It was how do you get out of-- off the floor and out of the building without having a mob. And I think-- so I think that's the reason for it. I'm, I'm very sensitive to the displacement of people that are working there now. And if they've got limited options to be able to park, that is a problem, and I'm, I'm very sympathetic to that and I, and I hear that. But I think that's what we're-- what the bill's about is how do we physically get out of the building, and it's because of the tunnel that goes over there.

MICHAEL COSTELLO: Is there an option to create another secured parking facility?

HANSEN: I'm, I'm unfamiliar, and that'd be something probably, maybe Senator Dover could, could bring up on his closing. But it's definitely an option to look at all that kind of stuff. Let's see-- let me see if there's any other questions.

MICHAEL COSTELLO: Oh.

HANSEN: Any other questions from the committee? All right, seeing none, thanks for coming. Take our next testifier in opposition LB1245. Welcome.

CASEY DUNNGOSSIN: Hello, my name is Casey Dunningossin, C-a-s-e-y D-u-n-n-g-o-s-s-i-n. I am no longer a state employee with the state of Nebraska. However, I worked for the state for 10 years. I worked here at the Legislature, for the State Patrol, and for OCIO. I'm here in opposition of this bill because I don't feel like it takes into account how it will impact the rest of state employees that work downtown. I know that's been kind of addressed. But also in the senator's opening remarks, he talked about how if there were security concerns that it would cost more money to put in additional security measures within the 501 Building or surrounding the parking garage there. In September, I was laid off due to budgetary constraints within OCIO. So I would like to know how this bill takes that into consideration and ensures future state employees don't need to be laid

off for future [INAUDIBLE] like budget cuts? That's where I'm concerned. This-- also, I would like to, like, acknowledge his experience with someone in the field attacking him, however that could happen to any state employee. So state employees that have to work year round are giving up that potential security for other people that are only here part of the-- part time. I would also question how would you ensure that only senators have access to the lot because when I worked at the Legislature there was plenty of experiences where their staff would use their parking spot if they weren't there? There were other times where their staff would drop them off at the front of the door. So I would like to know how that would be ensured to make sure that, one, it's used for the purpose that it is intended for, but also so that it wasn't abused by people within the system that have access to it? So that's my comment.

HANSEN: All right. Any questions from the committee? I have a-- maybe a question or a comment, but it's maybe something Senator Dover might be able to bring up later, because I think if, I'm assuming anyway, if the Legislature does use the parking that the expense would be on the Legisla-- upon the Legislature and wouldn't take from the OCIO budget or anything--

CASEY DUNNGOSSIN: Oh, I'm not worried about that.

HANSEN: OK.

CASEY DUNNGOSSIN: It's the additional security measures that he brought up. So, like, ensuring that the, the elevators don't go up past the first floor,--

HANSEN: Oh, I gotcha.

CASEY DUNNGOSSIN: --that there's other security measures in place so that senators or their staff can't get into areas that they shouldn't be able to get into at OCIO to ensure that, like, all these other aspects are handled, so.

HANSEN: Sure. Well, that makes sense. OK. All right. All right, seeing no other questions, thank you. Anyone else wishing to testify in opposition LB1245? Any opposition? OK, seeing none, anyone wishing to testify in a neutral capacity to LB1245? Welcome.

COREY STEEL: Welcome. Thank you, Chairman Hansen and members of the Executive Board. My name is Corey Steel, C-o-r-e-y S-t-e-e-l, and I am the State Court Administrator for the state of Nebraska. Senator

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Dover, I want to thank him and his staff, Whitney, for working with us on the amendment. We weren't sure yesterday if it would get completed and done, so I am here to hand out the bill striking judges of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. We have looked at this bill and members of the court and myself have actually went with Capitol Commission member and went down through the tunnel, went over, looked at the, the parking garage and did our due diligence to see is it something that the judges of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court want to move from where we currently are on the east lot to west. The court-- both courts have determined that, at this point in time, they would rather just stay in the current lot that they are and feel that that's best suited for their needs. I want to thank Senator Dover for looking out for the security and including the judges of the two appellate courts in this endeavor as they park over there, as well as a few of our other administrative staff. But at this time, the court would request that there be an amendment to strike them out and just leave them to be able to park in their current location. I'd be happy to answer any questions that anybody may have.

HANSEN: All right, committee, this is your chance to grill him. The only chance.

COREY STEEL: I did give one senator a warning before.

HANSEN: All right, seeing no questions, you're off the hook.

COREY STEEL: Thank you.

HANSEN: Anybody else wishing to testify in neutral capacity? All right, seeing none, we'll welcome Senator Dover back up here to close. And for the record, we did have-- letters for the record, we had zero in support and three in opposition.

DOVER: Thank you. I just, I just jotted down a, a few points I'd like to just bring up briefly. One is I, I appreciate our digital first responders. And I, and I personally believe that, obviously, we would make sure they had-- [INAUDIBLE] losing-- they wouldn't be losing any parking and we'd simply probably swap the parking. But I do appreciate their, their hard work and, and coming, coming at late hours of the night and taking care of things for us. The parking garage is, is two stories and appears to be easier to secure than our current air lot. And I'm going to just explain that safety is my first concern for all employees. And if our digital responders had-- I mean, who, who has received a personal threat online? Is there anyone here that has?

Because I know a number of our fellow senators have received threats online, such as Senator Kauth, and a number of others that bring, that bring I would say bills that are-- well, I guess, just gets, gets emotions going, right, to, to the public and stuff. So there's a number of senators that, that have received physical threats. And so this isn't as though there isn't a need there. And I would also say, if you look at the graph, that's why I provided it, this is something that's on the rise. And I don't think I need to go into articles where we have had governors and other elected officials that have been physically assaulted. And, you know, I mean, on the federal level, on the state level, and things like-- this isn't something that's pie in the sky or may not-- may or may not happen. I'm just concerned that we wait long enough until something does happen and someone's hurt. And I don't know if it would ever be-- I, I would hope it would never be anyone and nobody that I know here and nobody in the future. So I, I think-- I don't know that everyone always understands what we go through as senators and the votes that we cast and the people that are very, very angry about those votes that we take and the businesses that we take. I just personally think the threat is real. I think the-- I feel as though-- and I can't speak-- well, I, obviously, cannot speak for the Executive Committee, but the discussions that you, that you have all had, I think you realize the threat is real also. And I just don't want to leave a hole in the security that would cause someone to be hurt, so. And I appreciate Senator Jacobson's comments about the safe exit. And that's-- I mean, is it needed? I'll say, yes, it is, because otherwise they would not-- they would never have used that exit for us if it wasn't needed at that time. And I, and I feel as though-- I think we all know there will be tough votes in the future for, for other legisla-- for other legislators, and I just want to make sure they're safe. Thank you.

HANSEN: All right. Thank you. Any questions from the committee?
Senator Jacobson.

JACOBSON: Well, in fairness, I just wanted to disclose that in 2013 [SIC] when all of you went and used the tunnel, I just went ahead and just acted natural and walked out the other way. And I-- actually, I walked out and walked around the Rotunda and, and I ended up-- actually I went down a level first and then walked onto my office and so I never saw-- I never got the tour.

DOVER: Oh.

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JACOBSON: So just so you know, I'm, I'm, I'm shooting in the dark here, so.

DOVER: I, I, I was actually-- just so you know, I was going to walk out too. And then someone, I can't remember who it was, said, no, you need to go this way and I said, no, I'm not afraid of them. And they said it's not for you, Rob, it's for the redcoats because they have to protect us.

JACOBSON: Yeah.

HANSEN: That was my amendment, so there's no way I was going out there. Any questions from the committee? Anything else further?

DORN: Probably 2023, not 2013.

HANSEN: Yeah, 2023.

JACOBSON: Or 2023.

DORN: Yes.

JACOBSON: I wasn't here in 2013.

DORN: No, neither were we. None of us were.

JACOBSON: I was in high school then.

DORN: [INAUDIBLE]

HANSEN: OK, seeing no other questions, thank you very much.

DOVER: Thank you.

HANSEN: All right, well, that'll close our hearing for LB1245. And we'll resume with our final bill LB1155 and welcome Senator Dorn. All right. Welcome, Senator Dorn.

DORN: I was intrigued by Senator Jacobson's 2013 comment.

HANSEN: Yeah, it felt that long ago.

DORN: I just thought maybe he knew something I didn't know, but, no, we knew what he meant. Thank you. Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman Hansen and members of the Board. My name is Myron Dorn, M-y-r-o-n D-o-r-n. I represent Legislative District 30. I also serve as chair of

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the Legislative Oversight Committee and am introducing this bill for the committee. LB1155 makes several minor changes to the statutes governing the work of the Legislative Oversight Division. These updates are intended to make the division more efficient and effective. The bill-- this bill would require the committee's chair approval-- there's several things here and we'll talk about them-- this bill would require the committee's chair approval of the Legislative Audit Office's annual report rather than the full committee to streamline the process. Right now, we have, we have to get the OK from everybody or we try to get the OK from everyone. The report provides updates on previous audit recommendations which are already regularly shared with the committee. So those-- anything that's in that report, the committee has already seen. LB1155 would also provide auditors secure remote access to Department of Revenue files during recurring tax incentive audit. This change mirrors practices adopted during the pandemic by the-- by Revenue for their staff would allow the Audit Office to work from their own offices while eliminating the need for the department to provide dedicated office space or hardware to the auditors. Under current law, the Oversight Committee Chair may request that the Office of Inspector General disclose confidential information. However, in practice, it is difficult for the chair to identify what specific information requires review. Under LB1155, the Inspector Generals and the Director of Legislative Oversight would make these disclosure decisions together. Since the IG already has access to the information, they are better positioned to understand what requires the chair's input. Specifically, LB1155 would allow the Inspector Generals' offices to share confidential information regarding developments in the child welfare or correctional systems with the committee chair, Executive Board Chair, or subject matter committee chair when both the Inspector General and Division Director determine it is necessary to keep the Legislature well informed. This bill also adds language to those sections that clarify that any shared confidential information remains confidential and cannot be disclosed. LB1155 would also make a minor change to the Inspector General of Correctional Services annual report deadline. The due date would move from September 15 to October 15. The adjustment allows the OIG to incorporate data from the Department of Correctional Services annual restrictive housing report, which is due to the Legislature by September 15. LB1155 also makes several changes to the work of the Office of Inspector General of Child Welfare. Two of these changes are small cleanups from last year's LB298, which clarifies that the probation administrator must provide records to the OIG within 5 business days when requested for an investigation. This

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update specifies that the 5 days currently in the statute refers to business days, not just 5 calendar days. Adds the juvenile justice system to the intent language of the OIG's act to ensure consistency. Finally, Section 10 of LB1155 updates the juvenile room confinement statutes. The proposed changes regarding facility duties originated from bills in 2022 and 2023, both of which had no opponents and were voted out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. In recent discussion between the OIG and detention centers, however, concerns were raised regarding these changes. These concerns are addressed in AM1903, which I have with me today and which we want part of this bill. AM1903 replaces Section 10 of the original bill to focus on administrative efficiencies and the internal processes of the Division of Legislative Oversight. Specifically, AM1903 simplifies and standardizes reporting. Facilities would report to the Division of Legislative Oversight rather than posting reports on the Legislature-- Legislature's website. The reporting format for the facilities will be determined by the division to ensure consistency for data, data analysis. Centralized data analysis, responsibility for reviewing juvenile room confinement data will shift to the Division of Legislative Oversight as a whole. This allows the OIG to utilize the Audit Office's expertise, resulting in a more efficient use of resources and enhanced oversights. Stephanie Meese, the Director of the Legislative Oversight, will follow me today and can provide more detailed information about any parts of this bill if you should need it. Jennifer Carter, the Inspector General of Child Welfare, and Doug Kobernick, the Inspector General of Corrections, are also here and are available for questions if you so desire having questions for them. Happy to answer any questions as well. One of the things that we've done with this bill and the amendment, we've sent that both away to Kenny Zoeller with the Governor's Office and both Corey Steel with the judge's office. They have-- both had opportunity to review both of those, visit with both of them in the last couple days and they both said they are OK with this. One of the concerns was mentioned is, as we did LB298 last year, there would not be any changes forthcoming for a while. These are not changes to the bill itself. It's more as a cleanup type amendment and bill. That's what these are. So, so we have some, I call it, better understanding from both sides what exactly it means.

HANSEN: All right. Any questions from the committee? Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Dorn. I'm just curious, why are we consulting the Governor's Office about legislative oversight?

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DORN: Part of which was with the LB298 bill last year, Senator Arch brought that, and the discussions were with the Governor's-- Governor and his staff and the judges, and it was a working bill between all three of them that they all had worked together on to get to. That's why these updates, or whatever, we also wanted to make sure that we didn't necessarily consult them, that they knew that they were coming and knew why we were bringing them for more of the clarity of this isn't-- this-- or updates and corrections to it then needed to go into discussions with them which Speaker Arch did quite a bit last year.

McKINNEY: All right. I don't, I don't know, I'm just concerned about the separations of powers and just not muddying the waters of what we're supposed to do versus what they're supposed to do, but thank you for that explanation.

DORN: Well, if you remember the LB298 bill came about by because of the ruling that our Attorney General made that we were overstepping our bounds and Senator-- Speaker Arch worked for several years on that bill and this is just some corrections or updates to it. So wanted to make sure that if they were going to come testify and opposed to it that we knew about it or that we have the discussions with them to make sure that everybody understood and is in agreement that this is OK.

McKINNEY: All right. Thank you.

HANSEN: Any other questions from the committee? Seeing none, see you at closing. All right, let's take our first testifier in support of LB1155. Welcome.

STEPH MEESE: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman Hansen and members of the board. My name is Steph Meese, S-t-e-p-h M-e-e-s-e. I'm the Director of Legislative Oversight as well as the Legislative Auditor. Thank you to Chairman Dorn and the Legislative Oversight Committee for introducing LB1155 on behalf of the division. As Chairman Dorn noted, LB1155 makes several changes affecting the work of each of the division's offices, three offices, the Legislative Audit Office, the Office of the Inspector General of Child Welfare, and the Office of Inspector General of Correctional Services. Some of the changes were identified prior to the creation of the division, while others had emerged during the past 6 months following implementation of LB298. We notified the affected agencies and offices of the bill and worked collaboratively, collaboratively with them to incorporate suggested modifications and we appreciate their feedback. Overall, LB1155 would

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improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the division's work. And with that, I'm happy to take any questions. Thank you.

HANSEN: All right. Thank you. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you.

STEPH MEESE: Thank you.

HANSEN: Anyone else wishing to testify in support of LB1155? All right, seeing none, anybody wish to testify in opposition to LB1155? Seeing none, anyone wish to testify in the neutral capacity? Well, that was easy. All right, seeing none, Senator Dorn, if you want to-- well, before he waives closing, we did have one letter in support of LB1155 and none in opposition. And Senator Dorn waives his closing. So with that, we'll end our hearing on LB1155 and our hearings for today. Thank you.