

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1205

Chairperson: Senator Tom Brewer

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 16, 2022

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

This bill acknowledges that Chambers is the longest-serving Nebraska state lawmaker. His official biography lists his occupation as "Defender of the Downtrodden." He's dedicated much of his legislative efforts to racial justice. One of his achievements was leading Nebraska to abolish the death penalty in 2015, though it was later overturned. He also wrote laws to institute district instead of at-large elections for Omaha's city council, which helped Black Omahans gain representation, and he helped ban corporal punishment in schools. This bill provides provisions for the voting and appointment of library board members and employees, requiring that members be derived from members of the metropolitan class, and expounds upon the job duties and responsibilities thereto. Moreover, Senator Chambers represented North Omaha area in the unicameral state Legislature since 1971, with most of that time spent as the lone African-American Senator in Nebraska's legislature. His election for 12 terms led to a measure passed in 2000 to institute term limits.

Under this bill, funds will be allocated to the Nebraska State Historical Society who shall develop a History Arts Humanities Museum in honor of former Senator Ernie Chambers.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Terrell McKinney