

LEGISLATURE

Weapons rights questioned

■ A bill would make carrying concealed weapons without unlawful intent legal.

By Gwen Tietgen
Staff writer

Strong opinions voiced in the judiciary committee Wednesday questioned citizens' rights to carry concealed weapons.

LB1133 would eliminate the offense of carrying a concealed weapon and make carrying a weapon with

unlawful intent an offense.

Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha said the bill would give citizens the right to conceal guns. They would be charged with a class one misdemeanor only if the gun were used for "unlawful intent."

Supporters of the bill included several citizens from rural areas.

They were tired of legislators trying to take away their constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Those opposing the bill said it would endanger law enforcement officers and make it impossible to convict people carrying guns.

The Rev. Jay Schmidt, representing

Nebraskans for Peace, said allowing concealed weapons endangers public safety and the unarmed citizen.

Janet Bonet of Omaha testified against the bill.

"If this bill passes, there is going to be a lot of smiling criminals out there," she said.

"If a citizen is carrying a gun and hiding it, what are they really trying to hide? When someone carrying a gun is embarrassed to wear it visibly, they have a problem."

The committee indefinitely postponed the bill after the hearing Wednesday.

Bill would require data on research using humans

By Jill Zeman
Staff writer

Legislators were among many people discussing research using aborted fetal tissue Wednesday, but they weren't debating its morality.

LB1417, introduced Jan. 20 by Sen. Jim Jensen of Omaha, would require medical schools in Nebraska that conduct research using human subjects to disclose information to the legislative Health and Human Services Committee.

The committee discussed the issue Wednesday but has not yet voted on whether to advance it to the floor.

Jensen, the committee chairman, said he introduced the bill because of concern about research using aborted fetal tissue conducted at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

"Although this bill is in response to the fetal research, it does not confine itself to just that type of research," he said.

Jensen emphasized that any form of research using humans would need to be reported under the proposed bill.

"I believe the committee, the

Legislature and the people of the state should be aware and updated about the kinds of research being performed," he said.

Jensen said UNMC has been cooperative in providing information to help him draft the bill.

He said the bill doesn't require the committee to take any action; the members must only be informed.

William Berndt, vice chancellor of academic affairs at UNMC, said no one intended to hide the aborted fetal tissue research from the public.

UNMC had offered public presentations and scientific reports about the research since its inception, he said.

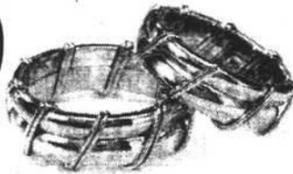
But Berndt said some information from research using human subjects needs to remain confidential.

Berndt also said he has no problem reporting the details on the nature of the research to the committee.

Julie Schmit-Albin, Nebraska Right to Life executive director, said she opposed the aborted fetal cell research, but feels the bill is a step in the right direction.

"Anything that sheds light on what goes on behind closed doors is appreciated," she said.

BORSHEIM'S



FREE MEN'S WEDDING BAND!
(A \$150 VALUE)

Now through February 14, 2000, receive a free gentleman's wedding band of your choice, up to a \$150 value, with the purchase of a diamond engagement ring at Borsheim's! Select from among thousands of sparkling diamond and gemstone engagement rings, or loose diamonds and mountings.

See a sales associate for details. Some restrictions apply.



BORSHEIM'S



J-E-F-F PLATINUM

Where lifetime relationships begin

For a complimentary Engagement Package, call 1.800.642.GIFT.



Regency Court, 120 Regency Parkway, Omaha, NE 68114 (402) 391-0400 (800) 642-GIFT
www.borsheims.com mail@borsheims.com
Hours: Mon & Thurs. 10-8; Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10-6; Sat. 10-5:30

Judge no person until you've walked a mile in their shoes

(Or a half a mile in their underwear)



SHOES THAT WON'T PINCH, BUNCH OR RIDE UP.

For a discount at Shoeline.com, use the Coupon Code MHC36551