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Appeal of Neb Death Penalty Repeal Being Considered

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Death penalty supporters in Nebraska are looking to challenge the Legislature's landmark repeal vote in court and on the ballot.

The Nebraska attorney general's office said Thursday that it plans to challenge part of the law that changed the sentences of the 10 current death row prisoners to life in prison.

Attorneys plan to argue that the law violates the state constitution, which gives the Board of Pardons exclusive power to change final sentences.

Sen. Beau McCoy of Omaha announced the formation Wednesday of a new group, Nebraskans for Justice, which will look into a citizen-led ballot initiative to reinstate capital punishment.

McCoy says the group may push to suspend the new law before it takes effect or could seek a constitutional amendment.

Associated Press