

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB 808

HEARING DATE: February 19, 1999

COMMITTEE ON: Natural Resources

TITLE: (Preister, Hartnett) Require certain information on electric utility bills

ROLL CALL VOTE – FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

8	Yes	Senators Bromm, Bruning, Hudkins, Jones, Kremer, Preister, Schrock, Stuhr
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
0	Absent	

PROPOSERS	REPRESENTING
Senator Don Preister	Introducer
Jennifer States	Nebraska Sierra Club
Richard Schmeling	ProRail Nebraska
Len Schropfer	Self
Walt Bleich	Nebraska Citizen Action Network
Shelley Sahling	Lincoln Electric System
Ben Paulos	Union of Concerned Scientists

OPPONENTS	REPRESENTING
Chris Dibbern	MEAN Energy

NEUTRAL	REPRESENTING
Eileen Doherty	National Conference of State Legislatures
Blair Swezey	National Renewable Energy Laboratory

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND/OR CHANGES:

LB 808 proposes to require disclosure by electric utilities to their ratepayers of the sources of power generation, its environmental impact and the consumer rights of the ratepayers. The disclosure is to take the form of a "label format."

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

What is included in the disclosure? The sources of electricity supplied, broken out (in a pie chart) by percentages of: biomass power, coal-fire power, hydropower, natural gas-fired power, nuclear power, oil-fire power, solar power, wind power, and other resources. A standardized chart which provides the amounts of: carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, particulates, heavy metals emissions, high and low-level radioactive waste, and other wastes, the disposal of which is required under state or federal law. The average price shown for the level of use of both residential and commercial customers. Consumer rights and the process for dispute resolution including a toll-free number for customer service and complaints.

Where must the labels appear and the disclosure be made? On monthly bills to customers; in all written marketing materials, including direct mail to customers; in internet ads; in all newspaper and magazine ads over a minimum size.

The information shall be in a uniform, simple label format as determined by the Nebraska Energy Office. Section 3 (3) requires the Nebraska Energy Office to adopt a certification program for labeling and identification of renewable energy and “green pricing of electricity” from a renewable energy source.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS, IF ANY:

None

Senator Ed Schrock, Chairperson