



Ninety – Sixth Legislature – First Session – 1999
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 794

Chairperson: Senator Curt Bromm
Committee: Transportation
Date of Hearing: February 22, 1999

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

The intent of LB 794 is to add new language to Nebraska State Statute in order to require the Nebraska Department of Roads to collect, on a quarterly and annual basis, information and data regarding rail traffic in the State of Nebraska by segment of railroad. The Department of Roads shall analyze and report such information to the Nebraska Public Service Commission for review.

LB 794 also states that the Public Service Commission, with assistance and advice provided by the Department of Roads, shall develop and implement a plan in order to determine which lines are at risk of being abandoned or discontinued by a railroad carrier. Based on such plan and upon discretion, the Public Service Commission shall notify, by registered or certified mail, those communities and parties which are in jeopardy of losing rail service due to declining rail traffic volumes.

Furthermore, LB 794 states that the Public Service Commission, in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the Nebraska Rural Development Commission, shall explore with those affected communities and parties viable options in order to provide for continued rail service.

The Public Service Commission, the Department of Economic Development, and the Rural Development Commission shall also provide detailed information to those parties notified regarding the implications of possible rail service abandonment or discontinuance. A notified party shall receive such assistance by submitting a written, notarized request.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Roger R. Wehrbein