

AMENDMENTS TO LB 658

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM1487)

Introduced by Friend, 10.

1 1. Insert the following new section:

2 Sec. 7. Section 66-1830, Reissue Revised Statutes of
3 Nebraska, is amended to read:

4 66-1830 (1) The office of public advocate is created as
5 a separate and independent division within the commission. The
6 public advocate shall represent the interests of Nebraska citizens
7 and all classes of jurisdictional utility ratepayers, other
8 than high-volume ratepayers, in matters involving jurisdictional
9 utilities and shall act as trial staff before the commission.
10 In the exercise of his or her powers, the public advocate shall
11 consider all relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the
12 provision of safe, efficient, and reliable utility services at just
13 and reasonable rates.

14 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 75-105, the
15 executive director of the commission, upon consultation with the
16 members of the commission, shall appoint the public advocate. The
17 public advocate position shall be a full-time position, and the
18 public advocate shall devote all of his or her time and efforts to
19 fulfilling the requirements of the position and performing his or
20 her duties under the State Natural Gas Regulation Act. The public
21 advocate shall serve a four-year term and shall be removed only
22 for good cause. The executive director shall be responsible for

1 reviewing the performance of the public advocate, for removing the
2 public advocate in accordance with law, and for filling any vacancy
3 in that position in the same manner as the original appointment.

4 (3) The public advocate shall be an attorney and shall
5 have experience in consumer-related utility issues or in the
6 operation, management, or regulation of utilities. No person owning
7 stocks or bonds in a corporation subject in whole or in part to
8 regulation by the commission or who has any pecuniary interest in
9 such corporation shall be appointed as public advocate.

10 2. Renumber the remaining sections and correct the
11 repealer accordingly.