

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1068

Chairperson: Senator Jim Smith

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

Date of Hearing: February 23, 2016

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

LB 1068 would provide a process for review of electric rate increases by the Nebraska Public Service Commission. Nebraska's electric rates have increased more than most other states in the region in the past 10 years and have been among the largest increases in the nation. In addition, some power district boards have chosen to increase rates in a manner that hurts low-income people and penalizes investments in efficiency and renewable energy.

LB 1068 would provide that any rate increase of more than two per cent would be subject to review by the Public Service Commission. It would also provide a process for petition to review of electric rates if two per cent or more of affected customers file petitions with the commission.

LB 1068 would also create the position of customer advocate to represent the interests of customers in the process. This is intended to provide expertise to help the voices of customers be heard in the review process.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ken Haar