

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB479

Hearing Date: Thursday January 26, 2017
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Groene
One Liner: Change public hearing provisions and redefine a term under the Nebraska Budget Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Brewer, Briese, Craighead, Hilgers, Lowe, Murante, Wayne
Nay: 1 Senator Blood
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Mike Groene
Coby Mach

Representing:
Introducer
Lincoln Independent Business Association

Opponents:
Lynn Rex
Kyle McGowan
Nate Jenkins
Greg Adams

Representing:
League of Nebraska Municipalities
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Nebraska Community College Association

Neutral:
Andrew Brott
Jon Habben

Representing:
City of Omaha
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 479 has 5 provisions.

First, it requires governing bodies to hold a hearing on their annual budget statement that is held on a separate day from any regularly scheduled meeting. That meeting must not be limited in time.

Second, it requires that at the hearing for the budget statement, the governing body make a detailed presentation of the statement, and make copies of the proposed budget available to the public.

Third, at the hearing, any member of the public must be allowed to address the governing body and be given a reasonable amount of time to do so.

Fourth, the bill prevents the governing body from adopting the budget statement for 30 days after the public hearing.

Finally, the bill redefines "governing body" for the purposes of the Nebraska Budget as to include a "joint entity created pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act that receives tax funds" levied by Natural Resource Districts.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 35 has two provisions.

First, it eliminates the requirement that the budget hearing be held on a separate day from a regularly scheduled meeting, and simply requires that the hearing be held separately from the meeting.

Second, the original bill's prohibition on a political subdivision adopting the budget statement for 30 days after the hearing is eliminated.

John Murante, Chairperson