

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB479

Chairperson: Senator John Murante

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: January 26, 2017

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

In order for citizens to be able to cast a watchful eye on local government spending, local governments have to be transparent in their budget process and not only ensure that citizens have all the information they need to be informed available at the meeting, but also give citizens time to express their opinion on local government spending. This reinforces that the citizens' right to review the information discussed as provided in the Open Meetings Act 84-1412(8) applies to the Nebraska Budget Act as well.

This bill amends the Nebraska Budget Act to ensure greater transparency of the budget process by mandating that at the budget hearing, scheduled separately from a governing body's regular hearing, the board must make a detailed presentation on the budget, ensure that copies of the budget are available to the citizens, and so that every citizen wanting to address the board has an opportunity to do so, the hearing is not limited by time.

This bill also expands the list of boards included in the Nebraska Budget Act.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene