

# **One Hundred Fifth Legislature - Second Session - 2018**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB769**

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**Chairperson: Senator Curt Friesen**

**Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications**

**Date of Hearing: January 23, 2018**

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

Since 2001 Nebraska has been a member of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact. Since its inception, MIPRC has worked to promote, coordinate and support improvements to passenger rail service within and among its member states. MIPRC has taken a leading role in advocating for the federal government to develop a lasting collaboration with states in the Compact for passenger rail development. Involving a mix of gubernatorial, legislative and private sector delegates from each member state, the Compact has been successful in protecting long-distance passenger rail service-including the California Zephyr service through Nebraska-that is valuable to many Midwesterners.

In 2015, LB 317 was introduced and amended to provide for Nebraska's membership in the Compact to cease as of June 30, 2018 due to cost concerns. LB 769 would eliminate this "sunset clause" and allow Nebraska to remain a member of the Compact. It also would do away with the requirement that the state be solely responsible for the biennial dues and allow for a cash fund to be created consisting of gifts, grants, or bequests from any source including federal, state, public and private sources. The money shall be used to carry out passenger rail initiatives under the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Dan Quick