

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB148

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 06, 2019
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Groene
One Liner: Change requirements for public hearings on proposed budget statements and notices of meetings of public bodies

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Brewer, Blood, Kolowski, La Grone, Lowe
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Hilgers
Present Not Voting:	2	Senators Hansen, M., Hunt

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Mike Groene
Ken Anderson
Dan Estermann

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Self

Opponents:

Todd Siel

Lynn Rex

Jack Cheloha

Representing:

Lower Republican NRD and NE Association of Resources Districts
League of NE Municipalities and NE Assn of School Boards
City of Omaha

Neutral:

Beth Bazyn Ferrell

Representing:

Nebraska Association of County Officials

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 148 adds to the definition of a governing body for purposes of the Nebraska Budget Act. Joint entities created pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act that receive tax funds generated under section 2-3226.05 are added to this definition. This makes the provisions of the Nebraska Budget Act applicable to natural resource districts with integrated management plans involved in an interlocal agreement.

Second, the bill provides that public entities required to hold a public hearing on a proposed budget statement must hold that hearing separately from any regularly scheduled meeting. The hearing shall not be limited by a set length of time.

LB 148 would establish the following additional requirements for a public hearing on a proposed budget statement:

*A detailed presentation of the proposed budget statement must be given.

*At least three copies of the proposed budget statement must be made available to the public.

*Any member of the public wishing to speak on the proposed budget statement must be given a reasonable amount of time to address the governing body.

*The bill also adjusts notice requirements for meetings of public bodies.

For meetings of governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska:

*Notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction. If available, notice shall also be published on such newspaper's website.

*In addition to the required notice, notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by the public body or advisory committee.

All other public bodies besides governing bodies of political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska may designate the method of providing notice of meetings. All public bodies must record in their minutes the methods and dates of the notice provided.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment, AM 421, strikes ambiguous language and provides clarifying details about the required presentation and public notice.

Tom Brewer, Chairperson