

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB492**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 26, 2019  
**Committee On:** Urban Affairs  
**Introducer:** Wayne  
**One Liner:** Adopt the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 7 Senators Briese, Crawford, Arch, Hansen, M., Hunt, Wayne, Lowe  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Justin Wayne  
Richard Schmeling  
Robert Kuzelka  
Jerry Janulewicz  
Michael Davis  
Stephen Osberg  
Greg Youell  
Christy Abraham

**Representing:**

Legislative District #13  
Pro Rail Nebraska Inc.  
Self  
City of Grand Island  
City of Lincoln  
Greater Omaha Chamber  
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency  
League of Nebraska Municipalities

**Opponents:**

Dustin Antonello

**Representing:**

Lincoln Independent Business Association

**Neutral:**

Curt Simon

**Representing:**

Metro Area Transit

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 492 would adopt the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act. Under the Act, a municipality or group of municipalities within a metropolitan statistical area may create a regional metropolitan transit authority (RMTA). The Act also provides a process by which an existing transit authority created under the Transit Authority Law could convert into a RMTA.

Each RMTA created under the Act would be governed by a seven-member elected board.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 628 makes a series of changes to the bill, including:  
-Limits the Act to existing transit authorities converting into a RMTA  
-Clarifies and defines the operating jurisdiction of RMTAs  
-Clarifies the conversion of an existing transit authority into a RMTA

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- Eliminates provisions for removal of RMTA board members
- Updates references to the public records statutes
- Clarifies that a RMTA may still contract to provide transit service outside of its operating jurisdiction
- Clarifies that a RMTA may receive donations and other miscellaneous funds from other sources
- Allows a RMTA to direct excess funds to either operating funds or reserve funds
- Provides that the conversion of an existing transit authority into a RMTA does not alter existing collective bargaining agreements or employee relationships
- Repeals the process that purports to allow the creation of regional transit authorities under the Transit Authority Law
- Harmonizes provisions

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Justin Wayne, Chairperson