

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB131

Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne

Committee: Urban Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 23, 2021

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

LB 131 is a simple technical cleanup to the municipal ordinance statutes that corrects a current conflict with at least one other section of statute. Currently, Nebraska's city and village boards are subject to a requirement that ordinances must be read on three different days before final passage, unless the city council or village board votes to suspend that requirement. Councils and boards can vote to suspend the three day reading requirement for everything except annexation or redistricting.

This bill adds a catch-all provision to the current statute to say that the requirement cannot be suspended for annexation, redistricting, "or as otherwise provided by law". The reason for this is that there is at least one other instance in another section of statute that is at odds to this section because it provides another instance in which the three readings can't be waived. By adding "or otherwise provided by law", we are covering for any other current and future situations in which the legislature may decide to add to the list of reasons for which the 3 day requirement cannot be suspended.

Without LB 131, every time the legislature wants to pass a bill dealing with the waiving of the 3 day requirement, we would have to come back and amend this statute. This change does not add anything substantive but corrects inconsistency in current statute while allowing flexibility for future legislation.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Megan Hunt