

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB596

Hearing Date: Thursday March 13, 2025
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Sanders
One Liner: Change requirements for legal publications and notices required by law

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

Vote Results:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Aye: | 7 | Senators Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Lonowski, Meyer, F., Wordekemper |
| Nay: | | |
| Absent: | 1 | Senator Hunt |
| Present Not Voting: | | |

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rita Sanders
Colby Coash
Beth Bazyn Ferrell

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)

Opponents:

Dennis DeRossett

Representing:

Nebraska Press Association

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

This bill proposes changes to a section of statute governing legal notices. It would authorize digital news publication of such notices as an alternative to newspaper notices. The bill also specifies that such digital publication run for the same required period of publication as the equivalent newspaper notice.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 2282 makes substantive changes to the provisions of LB 596 and also adds provisions from five other bills: LB 896, LB 898, LB 919, LB 923, and LB 1145.

Sections 1, 2, and 3 contains the original provisions of LB 923.

Sections 4, 5, 10 and 11 contain provisions from LB 919, amended to harmonize the use of the term "accessible durable medium."



Sections 6, 7, 9, and 13 contain provisions from LB 596 as amended by AM 1768. These provisions define "digital newspaper" and "E-edition," and further provide that E-editions of legal newspapers shall be considered legal newspapers under certain circumstances. These sections also provide for the use of digital newspapers for purposes of giving public notice under the open meetings act in localities where no print edition or e-edition of a legal newspaper are published. Section 9 also includes a harmonizing change to a legal rate for publication of legal notices.

Section 8 contains the original provisions from LB 896 to change fees relating to marriage licenses and marriage records.

Section 12 contains provisions from LB 898, section 3, and from LB 1145, section 1. The provisions from LB 898 are amended to strike all original sections of the introduced bill and to instead provide virtual meeting authorization for three additional public bodies: the Semiquincentennial Commission, the board of trustees of Nebraska State Historical Society, and local foster care review boards. The provisions from LB 1145 are revised to refer to four regular newspaper notices per calendar year and also to accommodate public bodies without regular meetings.

Section 14 contains the partial repealer.

Section 15 contains the outright repealer from the revised LB 596 and from LB 923.

Testifiers on LB898:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Lonowski , Opening Presenter
Daryl Bohac, Nebraska State Historical Society
Monika Gross, Foster Care Review Board
Don Lease II, Self

Opponents:

Korby Gilbertson, Media of Nebraska, Inc.

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB898:

Yes: 7 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Lonowski, Meyer, F., Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 1 Hunt;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Testifiers on LB1145:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Lonowski , Opening Presenter
Lynn Rex, League of Nebraska Municipalities
Beth Bazyn Ferrell, Nebraska Association of County Officials
Colby Coash, Nebraska Association of School Boards
Larriane Polk, Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council
Dean Edson, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Matt Hansen, Lancaster County Clerk and Lancaster County Board
Joe Kohout, United Cities of Sarpy County



Don Lease II, Self

Opponents: None

Neutral:

Kristen Hassebrook, Nebraska Press Association and Media of Nebraska

Committee vote to attach LB1145:

Yes: 7 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Lonowski, Meyer, F., Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 1 Hunt;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Testifiers on LB919:

Proponents:

Senator Rita Sanders , Opening Presenter

Candace Meredith, Nebraska Association of County Officials

Matt Hansen, Lancaster County Clerk and Lancaster County Board

Opponents: None

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB919:

Yes: 7 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Lonowski, Meyer, F., Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 1 Hunt;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Testifiers on LB923:

Proponents:

Senator Stan Clouse , Opening Presenter

Candace Meredith, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)

Matt Hansen, Lancaster County Clerk and Lancaster County Board

Opponents: None

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB923:

Yes: 7 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Lonowski, Meyer, F., Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 1 Hunt;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Testifiers on LB896:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Lonowski , Opening Presenter

Candace Meredith, Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)

Opponents: None

Neutral: None



Committee vote to attach LB896:

Yes: 7 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Lonowski, Meyer, F., Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 1 Hunt;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Rita Sanders, Chairperson

