

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, as I reviewed Senator Robak's letter I was struck by something in her letter that maybe I have no concern or no reason to have concern with this provision. But it says at present time the public body must provide reasonable notice "by a method designed by each public body". One of the problems we ran into, if I recall, with liquor licenses in providing local option for liquor licenses was that there seems to be concern that standards need to be set that were uniform, so that those standards were uniform across the state, so that a denial of a liquor license was not arbitrary, I think, by the city council. I don't know if this bill...I realize this is a totally separate subject, but sometimes when you are using methods that are designed by each public entity, whether it's a municipality or an NRD or what, I'm wondering if what is reasonable to an NRD or a municipality may be the same reasonableness as to a county board, for example. I guess all I can...I'll ask Senator Robak, she has the remainder of my time, if she'd like, to address that. Maybe you covered that when I was off the floor, but I'm just curious if this has any connection with a similar problem that we saw with the granting of local option on liquor licenses.

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes, LB 628, it does provide a standard now for all levels of local government, every city, every county, every school board and every NRD, and on and on and on, sets the standard.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? If not, any closing statement, Senator Robak?

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes. LB 628 is not concerned with electric rates, or even concerned with public power districts. LB 628 is only concerned with a portion of the Nebraska open meetings law. The purpose of LB 628 is to remove the uncertainty which currently exists as to the laws notice of requirements for all agenda items at all public meetings at all levels of local and state government including every city, every county, every school board, every NRD and on and on and on and on. There was an editorial in the Lincoln Journal recently that mistakenly created the impression that LB 628 is a bill which is being promoted by the Nebraska Public Power District to permit it to increase rate increases upon its customers without public notice. NPP is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska