

January 26, 1996 LB 106  
LR 41

Commerce, and Insurance, and Transportation Committees, all signed by their respective chairs. LB 106 is reported as correctly engrossed, Mr. President. That is all that I have. (See pages 627-33 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The next item is LR 41CA. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 41CA is a proposal by Senator Brown. (Read brief explanation.) The resolution was introduced in January of last year. At that time, it was referred to Transportation Committee. It was advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brown, to open on your bill.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature. With the weather the way it was this morning, I was not sure that we were going to take up this bill today, but it seems like a few more of us are trudging through the snow to be here. LR 41CA removes language pertaining to the Nebraska Public Service Commission from the Constitution of the State of Nebraska. The intent of the bill is not to necessarily eliminate or to automatically change the Public Service Commission, but it is to give us the flexibility to deal with the way the services are being delivered and whether they are being delivered efficiently and effectively. You will have received on your desks copies of an editorial from the Lincoln Journal Star, which has some information in it and some concerns regarding the Public Service Commission which I think captures some of the feeling that I have. I never talked to the Journal Star, but I certainly think that some of the issues that are brought up in the editorial are very relevant. When the voters approved the constitutional amendment that put in place the State Railway Commission, which was the predecessor of the Public Service Commission, that was in 1906, the language of the amendment called for three elected officials, and those officials were the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Treasurer. In 1961 the people approved an amendment to the constitution which provides that the commission shall consist of not less than three or more than seven members. Today there are five full-time public service commissioners elected for six-year terms. They receive a salary of \$42,000 a year, and each have a \$5,000 a year travel allowance. The agency has a General Fund