

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board January 24, 2024
Rough Draft

AGUILAR: [RECORDER MALFUNCTION] Aguilar, represent the 35th Legislative District, and I serve as Chair of the Executive Board. We will start off having members of the committee and the committee staff do self [RECORDER MALFUNCTION] starting on my far right with Senator Beau.

BALLARD: Beau Ballard, District 21.

BOSTAR: Eliot Bostar, District 29.

SLAMA: Julie Slama, District 1.

LOWE: John Lowe, District 37.

TREVOR FITZGERALD: Trevor Fitzgerald, committee legal counsel.

VARGAS: Tony Vargas. District 7.

JACOBSON: Mike Jacobson, District 42.

AGUILAR: Also assisting the committee is our committee clerk, Sally Schultz, and our committee pages, Julie Skavdahl of Harrison, a history major at UNL, and Molly Penas from Fort Calhoun, who is a political science major at UNL. This afternoon we'll be hearing 2 bills and we'll be taking them in order listed outside the room. On the tables near the entrance, you'll find green testifier sheets. If you're planning to testify today, please fill out one and hand it to Sally when you come up. This will help us keep an accurate record of the hearing. Please note that if you wish to have your position listed on the committee statement for a particular bill, you must testify in that position during the bill's hearings. If you do not wish to testify but would like to record your position on the bill, please fill out the white sheet near the entrance. All this too?

TREVOR FITZGERALD: Yes.

AGUILAR: Also, I would like to note the Legislature's policy that all letters for the record must be received via the online comments portal by the committee by noon the weekday prior to the hearing. Any handouts submitted by testifiers will also be included as part of the record as exhibit. We would ask if you do have any handouts that you please bring 12 copies and give them to the page. If you need additional copies, the page can make them-- make you more. Testimony for each bill will begin with the introducer's opening statement.

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After the opening statement, you will hear from supporters of the bill; then from those in opposition, followed by those speaking in a neutral capacity. The introducer of the bill will then be given the opportunity to make a closing statement if they wish to do so. We ask that you begin your testimony by giving us your first and last name. Please also spell them for the record. Because the Executive Board meets over the noonhour and members have other hearings beginning at 1:30, we will be using a 3-minute light system today. When you begin your testimony, the light on the table will turn green. The yellow light is one-- your one-minute warning. And when the red light comes on, you will be asked to wrap up your final thoughts. I would remind everyone, including senators, to please turn off your cell phones and put them on vibrate. With that, we will begin today's hearing with LB909. Welcome to Senator Aguilar.

LOWE: Welcome, Senator Aguilar, to your Executive Board.

AGUILAR: Good afternoon, Vice Chair Lowe and members of the Executive Board. My name is Senator Ray Aguilar, R-a-y A-g-u-i-l-a-r. I represent the 35th Legislative District. I introduced LB909 in my capacity as Chair of Exec Board, and the bill is designed to clarify agency reports filed with the Executive Board's Chair Office. In 2018, the Legislature passed the Occupational Board Reform Act, commonly referred to as the OBRA. The goal of OBRA was to create a process for ongoing review and analysis of occupational regulations, which reviews assigned to the 14 standing committees of the Legislature. One aspect of OBRA that members may not-- may be aware-- unaware of is the fact that if there is any occupational regulations pending before a state agency, they must have been adopted and promulgated-- the state agency must report these regulations to the Exec Board on or before July 1 of each year. The current language in statute is somewhat confusing, with agencies regularly interpreting the language to require reporting all pending regulations, not just occupational regulations under OBRA. LB909 would clarify the language so that only those rules and regulations considered an occupational regulation under OBRA must be reported to the Exec Board. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

LOWE: Thank you, Chair Aguilar. Are there any questions at this time? Seeing none, you got off easy. Are there any proponents? Any opponents? Anybody in the neutral? Senator Aguilar waives closing. Senator Aguilar, welcome back. We're now going to hear-- oh, sorry. There was no online testimony. Senator Aguilar, you're welcome to open on LB908.

AGUILAR: Good afternoon, Vice Chairman Lowe and members of the Exec Board. My name is still Ray-- Senator Ray Aguilar, and I represent the 35th Legislative District. I introduce LB908 in my capacity as Chair of the Exec Board. And the bill is designed to clean up the statutes governing the Legislature. Before cell phones, it was common practice for members of the Legislature to need a way to contact their home or office without running afoul of the prohibition on improper use of government resources. In 1994, the then-Chair of the Exec Board brought a bill to authorize the Exec Board to adopt policies for the installation of private phone lines and fax machines in senators' offices and Executive Board policy on private phone lines was in place starting in 1994. But no senator has elected to install a private phone or fax machine since 2007. In December of 2022, the Exec Board adopted a series of cleanup changes to the Legislative Policy Manual, including repealing the private phone lines policy. LB908 would outright repeal the section of statute authorizing the Exec Board to adopt a private phone line policy, as this authorization is no longer necessary. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

LOWE: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Are there any questions? Seeing none, are there any proponents? Any opponents? Anybody in the neutral? [INAUDIBLE] much time. Senator Aguilar also waives. Are there any online? There were no online comments on this also.

SLAMA: Until we pass this, I can get a private line installed, right? Fantastic.

LOWE: With that, we close the hearing for today.