

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB637

Hearing Date: Friday February 24, 2023
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Albrecht
One Liner: Require members of the public to be allowed to speak at each meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Aguilar, Brewer, Conrad, Halloran, Hunt, Lowe, Sanders
Nay:	1	Senator Raybould
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Joni Albrecht
Larry Storer
Doug Kagan
Loreen Reynante
Dennis Schleis
Allie French
Kent Franzen
Samuel Lyon
Brad Yerger
Elizabeth Davids
Stephanie Johnson
Susan Jacobus
Paul Von Behren
Spike Eickholt
Doug Wittmann
Merlyn Bartels
Alexander Stephens

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom
Self
Self
Nebraskans Against Government Overreach
Self
Self
Self
Self
Nebraskans For Founders Values
Self
Self
ACLU of Nebraska
Self and Win It Back
Self
Self

Opponents:

Lynn Rex

Jack Moles
Sarah Centineo

Representing:

League of Nebraska Municipalities and Nebraska Association of County Officials
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA)
Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) and Bellevue Public Schools

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Summary:

This bill would modify the Open Meetings Act to require every public body subject to the Act to allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at their public meetings other than closed sessions called pursuant to Section 84-1410. Current law requires public participation to be allowed at all meetings, but public bodies are not currently required to allow citizens to speak at every meeting.

Tom Brewer, Chairperson