

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB646

Hearing Date: Thursday February 28, 2013
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Murante
One Liner: Change election provisions for public power districts

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Avery, Bloomfield, Lautenbaugh, Murante, Scheer, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 2 Senators Karpisek, Price

Proponents:
Senator John Murante

Representing:
Introducer

Opponents:
Stephen Bruckner

Representing:
Omaha Public Power District

Neutral:
Jack Gould
Bob Twiss

Representing:
Common Cause Nebraska
Self

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 646 exempts the board of directors of power districts with a service area containing a city of the metropolitan class from being allowed to petition for its creation to provide for the division of the territory of such district into two or more subdivisions for the nomination and election of some or all of the districts. It also exempts the power district containing a city of the metropolitan class from being able to combine subdivisions.

At the first election after January 1, 2014, in which members are elected by election subdivision, the members from districts 1, 3, and 5 will be elected for initial terms of four years and the members of the remaining election subdivisions will be elected to terms of six years. Thereafter, all members will be elected to terms of six years.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment strikes all of the original sections of the bill and replaces it with the following provisions:

By December 1, 2013, the board of directors of a public power district with a service area containing a city of the metropolitan class will divide the district into 8 election subdivisions.

The boundaries of the existing election subdivisions in which one member resides will be preserved.

The board of directors will divide the remaining existing subdivision in which more than one member resides into the same number of election subdivisions as there are members residing in such subdivisions.

All of the subdivisions will be composed of substantially equal population and compact and contiguous territory.

The board will assign each member holding a position on the board of the effective date of this act to represent a numbered election subdivision for the remainder of the term of office for which the member is elected.

The terms of members representing election subdivisions numbered 1, 2, and 3 will expire in January 2015. The terms of members representing subdivisions 4 and 5 will expire in January 2017, and the terms of members representing subdivisions 6, 7, and 8 will expire in January 2019.

After each federal decennial census, the board of directors will create new boundaries for the eight election subdivisions. The board will follow county lines wherever practicable and the subdivisions will be composed of substantially equal population and compact and contiguous.

Bill Avery, Chairperson