

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB996

Hearing Date: Monday February 03, 2020
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Brandt
One Liner: Create the Broadband Data Improvement Program

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hilgers, Hughes
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Brandt
John Hladik
Michael Tabbert
Danny DeLong
Ansley Mick Fellers
Charles Karpf
Beth Bazyn Ferrell
Linda Duckworth
Mary Ridder
John Hansen

Representing:

Introducer
Center for Rural Affairs
Self
Volunteer AARP NE
NE Farm Bureau
NE Farm Bureau
NACO
League of Women Voters of NE
NE Public Service Commission
NE Farmers Union

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Justin Brady

Representing:

NE Cable Communications Assoc

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 996 would amend the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act (Section 1) with new language relating to establishment of the Broadband Data Improvement Program.

Section 2 provides new language relating to legislative intent and the Public Service Commission's permissive authority relating to administration of the program. The purpose of the program is to complement broadband data submitted by service providers, leverage the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and its Digital Opportunity Data Collection docket to improve Nebraska's broadband map, and to encourage Nebraskans to participate in crowdsourcing efforts to improve the map.

The PSC, in administering the program, may (a) participate in the FCC's Digital Opportunity Data Collection; (b) develop

a state-based broadband data crowdsource program; (c) develop a state outreach plan to promote citizen participation in a crowdsource program; (d) allocate resources to areas of the state where evidence exists that federal broadband data may be inaccurate; (e) prioritize data improvement in rural areas, including municipalities and unincorporated areas; and (f) adhere to any guidelines established by the FCC for states to improve broadband data. The PSC may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of the program.

Curt Friesen, Chairperson