

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB254

Hearing Date: Friday February 10, 2023
Committee On: Executive Board
Introducer: Brewer
One Liner: Require the Legislative Council to develop and maintain a publicly accessible digital Internet archive of closed-captioned video coverage of the Legislature and change powers and duties of the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Arch, Bostar, Briese, Geist, Lowe, Riepe, Slama, Vargas
Nay:
Absent: 1 Senator Aguilar
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Brewer
Nicole Fox
Guadalupe Esquivel
Mikel Lauber
Heidi Uhing
Gavin Geis
Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek

Representing:

Introducer
Platte Institute
NE Civic Engagement Table
Media of Nebraska
Civic Nebraska
Common Cause Nebraska
Self NE Legislative Study Group

Opponents:

Michael Ryan

Representing:

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Neutral:

Brandon Metzler

Representing:

Clerk of the Legislature

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 254 would require that the Legislative Council, through the Executive Board, develop and maintain a publicly accessible, digital Internet archive of closed-captioned video coverage of the Legislature, including all floor debate and public committee hearings, beginning with coverage of the 109th Legislature, First Session in January 2025, or as soon as live, closed-captioned video coverage of the Legislature is available for use, whichever is sooner.

LB 254 would also require that the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission (NETC) provide live,

closed-captioned video coverage of the Legislature, including all floor debate and public committee hearings, beginning with coverage of the 109th Legislature, First Session in January 2025, or as soon as the commission has closed-captioning capabilities, whichever is sooner.

All applicable historical video coverage of the Legislature would be collected and added to the digital archive as available, and would consist only of video coverage of the Legislature captured by the NETC and closed-captioned prior to January 1, 2025.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 698 is a white-copy amendment that replaces the bill.

The amendment makes several changes, including:

- Requiring that the Executive Board develop policies and procedures surrounding the creation and ongoing usage of the publicly accessible, digital Internet archive of closed-captioned video coverage of the Legislature;
- Providing that audio and video recordings of proceedings of the Legislature are not official records of such proceedings and shall not be admissible in any proceeding as evidence of legislative history, action, or intent;
- Providing that audio and video recordings of proceedings of the Legislature shall not be used, reproduced, or redistributed without express permission by the Legislative Council and in accordance with policies developed by the Executive Board;
- Striking references to potential funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA); and
- Adding the Emergency Clause

Tom Briese, Chairperson