

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB63

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 14, 2023
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Bostar
One Liner: Require withholding of distributions to telecommunications companies from the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Bostelman, Brandt, DeBoer, DeKay, Fredrickson, Geist, Moser
Nay:
Absent: 1 Senator Cavanaugh, M.
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:
Eliot Bostar
Deb Schorr
Andrew Vinton

Representing:
Introducer
Congressman Mike Flood
ALLO Communications

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Amends section 86-324; Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund, created, use, commission powers.

The section is amended by the addition of a new subsection (2) (d) which provides that the Public Service Commission shall withhold NUSF support from any company using or providing equipment or service using any telecommunications equipment or service deemed to pose a threat to national security identified on the covered list pursuant to the federal Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019.

Companies shall not be required to obtain a permit or authority from any governmental entity to remove, discontinue or replace any covered service or equipment.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee considered and adopted an amendment which accomplishes the following:
The Standing Committee Amendment adds and amends two new sections of law to the bill:

1) Section 86-125- Communications Providers; Registration; requirements; Administrative Fine.

This section currently requires communications providers to file a registration form with the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC). The section is amended to require all telecommunications providers to certify to the NPSC by January 1 of each year that they do not use or provide any communications equipment or service deemed to pose a threat to national security identified on the Federal Communications Commission Covered List; and

2) Amends Section 86-1304- Broadband Bridge Act; Grant; Purpose; Application; Qualification.

The section establishes the application process for purposes of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.

The section is amended to provide that no applicant for funding shall be eligible to receive a grant if the applicant uses or provides any telecommunications equipment or service deemed to pose a threat to national security identified on the Covered List by the Federal Communications Commission.

Suzanne Geist, Chairperson