



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 7**

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**Hearing Date:** January 18, 2007

**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

**Introducer(s):** (Preister)

**Title:** Change the rights of the public regarding agenda items under the Open Meetings Act

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Aguilar, Avery, Friend, Mines, Pahls, Rogert
0	No	
1	Present, not voting	Senator Karpisek
0	Absent	

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**Proponents:**

Senator Don Preister  
Pamela Daly  
Kara Harbert  
Kenneth Winston  
Lynn Moorer  
Alan Jacobsen  
Raymond Tyrakoski  
Jack Gould  
Theresa Peterson  
Jarel Vinduska  
  
Dennis McCormick

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Self  
Great Plains Environmental Law Center  
Nebraska Chapter Sierra Club  
Self  
Self  
Self  
Common Cause Nebraska  
Self  
Self  
Schramm Association for a Viable Environment  
Self

**Opponents:**

Lynn Rex

**Representing:**

League of Nebraska Municipalities

**Neutral:**

Alan Peterson  
Chris Dibbern  
John Spatz  
Jon Edwards

**Representing:**

Media of Nebraska  
Nebraska Municipal Power Pool  
Nebraska Association of School Boards  
Nebraska Association of County Officials

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 7 amends provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

First, if a citizen speaks on an item of new business at a public meeting, the members of the body may discuss the issue with the citizen but will not take action on such business at that meeting. New business is defined as any item not on the agenda which is not an emergency.

Also, the bill prohibits a public body from requiring that members of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak to the body regarding items on the agenda or new business.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator Ray Aguilar, Chairperson**