

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB127

Chairperson: Senator John Murante

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 02, 2017

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The Nebraska Open Meetings Act is designed to ensure the transparency of governing boards to the citizens. However, having open and transparent meetings is only valuable if the citizens are aware of when and where the meetings are going to occur.

LB 127 provides for greater transparency through a change in the open meetings law, in Sec. 84-1411 of the statute. It strikes language for political subdivisions to publicize meeting designated by each political body and requires them to publish such notice in a newspaper of general circulation in each county within the public entities jurisdiction as well as any other method designated by the public body. The newspaper notice does not have to be published in every county but must have a general circulation within the county. This proposal is also not intended to apply to state agencies but just political subdivision.

Broad language in the current law, allows some political subdivisions to interpret the law and use their own method of publication that does not inform the general public of the meetings appropriately. In order to make sure that political subdivisions are providing effective notice of their meetings to the general public. LB 127 is intended to make sure citizens are given adequate notice of meetings conducted by government entities, where decisions are made concerning the people's business.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene