

**One Hundred Fifth Legislature - Second Session - 2018**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB994**

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**Chairperson: Senator Curt Friesen**

**Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications**

**Date of Hearing: February 05, 2018**

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

LB 994 is introduced to assist in enhanced broadband telecommunications service to unserved and underserved areas in rural Nebraska. It would state intent that citizens in rural Nebraska should have comparable broadband service to citizens in urban areas. The bill would create a Rural Broadband Study Task Force. It would require a change in contributions methodology to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. It would allow the Public Service Commission to consider a reverse auction program if current providers were not providing appropriate service to customers. It would allow the PSC to maintain a registry of locations where there was a lack of coverage for wireless communications, and the PSC would use that information to determine where to award grants for the building of wireless towers.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Curt Friesen