

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB498

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 09, 2021
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: DeBoer
One Liner: Require the Public Service Commission to implement a broadband service testing and mapping program

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, M., DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hughes, Moser

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Wendy DeBoer
Chris Dibbern
John Hansen
Dan Watermeier

Representing:

Introducer
NMPP Energy, League of NE Municipalities, et al
NE Farmers Union
NE Public Service Commission

Opponents:

Tip O'Neill

Representing:

NE Telecommunications Assn

Neutral:

Tim Obermier
Angela Hollman

Representing:

Rural Measures UNK
Rural Measures UNK

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:

Patrick Pope
Jason Hayes

Representing:

NE Public Power District
NSEA

Opponents:

John Idoux

Representing:

CenturyLink

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 498 directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to implement a broadband service testing a mapping program to

provide information about broadband availability and speeds in the state. The PSC could contract with third-party vendors to test, validate, and map broadband service availability and speeds. As a condition for receiving Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) support, a telecommunications company would be required to submit data to the PSC. The PSC is directed to utilize independent computing divides to test and validate broadband availability and speeds. The PSC would be required to provide the mapping information on a public broadband map, which would be available on the PSC's web site.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 363 removes the requirement for telecommunications companies receiving NUSF support to submit data pursuant to the program, removes the provision making NUSF support conditional upon submitting this data, and specifies that nothing in this section restricts the PSC from using other methods to conduct speed tests and develop maps.

Curt Friesen, Chairperson