

# One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB398

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**Chairperson: Senator Curt Friesen**

**Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications**

**Date of Hearing: February 09, 2021**

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

LB 398 would increase the speed standards applicable to boundary changes of local exchange telecommunications carriers, dark fiber leasing, and Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) support. For all programs, the speeds would be increased from 25/3 to 100/100.

Customers could petition for a boundary change so that they can be served by another eligible telecommunications carrier serving adjacent territory if the incumbent carrier is not providing 100/100 speeds. A public entity leasing dark fiber would not be subject to the requirement to remit 50% of its lease profits to the NUSF in areas lacking 100/100 service. In other words, the areas subject to the 50% profit requirement would be fewer, thereby incentivizing more dark fiber leasing. To qualify to receive or continue to receive NUSF support, the carrier would have to provide speeds of 100/100. It would also ensure that NUSF-supported are subject to Public Service Commission oversight.

The purposes of the bill are to accelerate broadband deployment, promote a future-proof communications network, and ensure accountability of the people's resources.

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

**Senator Bruce Bostelman**