

COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB 310

HEARING DATE: March 18, 1993

COMMITTEE ON: Natural Resources

TITLE: LB 310 (Warner) Change provisions for audits for public power and irrigation districts

ROLL CALL VOTE, FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

Advanced to General File

Y Advanced to General File with amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote results:

6 Yes

Senators Beutler, Bohlke, Bromm, Elmer, Hartnett, Jones

1 No

Senator Preister

1 Present, not voting

Senator McKenzie

0 Absent

PROPOSERS

Senator Warner

Dan Schaecher

Harry Young

Pat Healey

Steve Wacker

Eldon Pape

Representing

Introducer

Nebraska Public Power District

Norris Public Power

Nebraska Power Association

Nebraska Rural Electric Association

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

Omaha Public Power District

OPPOSERS

Representing

NEUTRAL

Representing

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 310 would clarify that public power districts, public power and irrigation districts, and rural power districts are exempt from the Nebraska Budget Act. The bill would change the auditing standards for these districts from "generally accepted government auditing standards", which are currently required by the Auditor of Public Accounts, to "generally accepted auditing standards." Under LB 310, districts would not have to have approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts regarding selection of a CPA firm to do the audit, nor would the Auditor be required to pay for the cost of the audit and then bill the district for such cost.

Explanation of Amendments, if any:

The amendment to LB 310, which becomes the bill, exempts power districts from the State Budget Act, allows districts to select their own auditor, and allows districts to pay the audit firm directly. The amendment also retains some provisions of the State Budget Act including: 1) districts must have a proposed budget, 2) the budget must be available for inspection at the district's headquarters, and 3) a budget meeting must be held and notice of the meeting must be given. In addition to giving notice of the budget meeting, notice will be given that a copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection at the district's headquarters. The amendment would require that uniform budget forms be used. These forms would be prescribed by the Power Review Board. The amendment provides that audits of power districts shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Chairperson