Campaign auto-dialed call procedures debated

Senators began debating a bill on general file Jan. 17 that would create an exemption for automatic dialing-announcing devices used for campaign purposes. The Legislature debated the issue for the remainder of the week.

Currently, political calls made by automatic dialing-announcing devices are overseen by two commissions: the Public Service Commission (PSC)—a regulatory agency whose responsibilities include oversight of the telecommunications industry in the state, and the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission (NADC)—a regulatory agency that administers and enforces the state’s campaign finance, lobbying and conflict of interest laws.

Any person who uses such a device for a reason other than solicitation is required to register with the PSC and include an explanation of the planned message.

LB418, introduced by Omaha Sen. John Nelson, would amend the current statute to create an exemption from registering automatic dialing-announcing devices with the PSC and would give regulatory authority to the NADC.

Nelson said the NADC has the knowledge and skills to regulate these calls. The current process of regulating auto-

Chief’s remarks focus on vulnerable Nebraskans

Chief Justice Michael Heavican of the Nebraska Supreme Court delivered his State of the Judiciary address to the Legislature Jan. 19.

Heavican’s address focused on the judiciary’s advancements in serving the state’s children and elderly.

Through a statewide working group, the courts have cooperated with the Legislature and executive branch officials to improve service delivery in child welfare cases and in juvenile and county courts, Heavican said.

In addition, the state has addressed truancy by focusing on local-level solutions prior to formal court involvement, he said.

“By focusing our efforts on prevention and on diversion of truants before they enter the court system, all parties benefit,” Heavican said. “The courts’ resources should be reserved for the most difficult truancy cases.”

Nebraska also has been recognized as a national leader in protection of vulnerable adults, he said.

By improving laws regarding guardianships and conservatorships, as well as increased training of court staff and financial institutions, Nebraska has strengthened protections for the state’s vulnerable elderly population, he said.

Heavican noted the importance of technology in improving access and efficiency in the state’s judicial system. Through partnership with Nebraskagov, he said, the courts are able to process online payment of court fines and costs including civil judgments,
Campaign auto-dialed call procedures debated

(continued from front page)

automated calls through two separate agencies is inefficient and confusing, he said, so LB418 could simplify this process.

A pending Judiciary Committee amendment would clarify that all political content, regardless of the message, would be exempt from the PSC registration requirements.

Omaha Sen. Heath Mello spoke in opposition to the amendment and the bill, saying they would undo the accountability measure originally put in place to regulate automated dialing calls.

Mello introduced an amendment to the committee amendment Jan. 18 that would require automated calls to provide information immediately preceding the message. This would include the name of the person making the expenditure if the message is being transmitted for a person making an expenditure that is reportable under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act.

“There is nothing wrong with the existing system in my mind,” Mello said. “There is a reasonable protection for consumers when they know who is providing the service and what they are providing it for.”

It could be burdensome to have two separate agencies regulating the process, he said, so the amendment provides a legitimate solution to both issues.

Nelson opposed the Mello amendment, saying that the primary purpose of the PSC is to regulate consumer commerce and solicitations, not political content. The regulatory authority should be placed with the NADC because political dialogue is its point of expertise, he said.

The Mello amendment failed on a 16-25 vote, and Mello filed a motion to reconsider the vote.

“I am open to ideas for efficiency,” he said. “But I also want to make sure that we keep the same consumer protections that we have already put into place.”

The motion to reconsider failed on a 14-27 vote, and Mello filed a motion to bracket the bill.

“If we are going to make massive, wholesale changes to consumer protections on these types of calls, I think we should bracket this bill and explore it over the interim,” Mello said.

Sen. Annette Dubas of Fullerton supported the bracket motion, saying there are no problems with how automated calls currently are regulated.

“If there are changes that need to be made [to the bill], we need to take the time to consider them,” she said. “That is why I think the bracket motion is appropriate.”

Nelson spoke in opposition to the bracket motion, saying the intent of LB418 is to limit regulation on automated calls that are political in nature.

“I think the less regulation we have of free speech the better off we are,” he said.

The motion to bracket LB418 failed on a 17-23 vote as debate continued Jan. 19.

Nelson filed an amendment to the committee amendment that would require eligible persons who make automated calls relating to a political candidate or ballot to register the use of such a message with the NADC.

The name and address of the person paying for the message would be provided, as well as a detailed description of the planned use.

Under the amendment, the NADC could not charge a fee for such registration.

Nelson said his amendment would clarify what regulatory authority would be given to the NADC. It would require that statements for the intended use of the message be filed with the NADC, he said, but the amendment would not require a submission of the entire script as the PSC currently requires.

The Nelson amendment was adopted on a 32-7 vote, and Mello filed a motion to reconsider the vote.

“While this [amendment] does improve the bill, it still makes the process less transparent,” Mello said.

The Legislature adjourned before taking further votes. Six additional amendments are pending—five from Mello and one from Omaha Sen. Burke Harr.
Chief’s remarks focus on vulnerable Nebraskans

(continued from front page)

criminal fines and restitution.

The judicial branch also is making progress in electronic case filing and 24-hour viewing, he said.

“We are now one of only a few court systems in the nation that have a statewide comprehensive case management system,” he said.

Heavican said the courts’ use of technology enhances its ability to provide access to justice for Nebraska citizens.

“We continue to be committed to cooperation, to making the judicial branch and its services accessible and affordable and to being held accountable,” he said.

Sens. Colby Coash (left), Amanda McGill (right) and others escort Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Heavican into the Norris Chamber to deliver his State of the Judiciary address.

Unicameral Update online

While the Unicameral Update print edition is mailed out weekly, the Web version of the publication, located at update.legislature.ne.gov, is updated continually throughout the legislative day.

The site provides links to get the Update’s RSS and Twitter feeds or subscribe to the Update’s Google group to receive weekly Update e-mails. Readers may search Update stories by bill number, senator’s name or keyword using the search box provided in the top-right corner.
Education

Bill would require increased educational accountability

The state Board of Education would establish an expanded accountability structure under a new bill discussed by the Education Committee Jan. 17. LB870, introduced by York Sen. Greg Adams, would authorize the board to set performance and assessment indicators for students. The measures used under the new accountability structure would be established by the board by Aug. 1.

Schools currently are held accountable for students’ results on content area assessments. LB870 would add additional measures including student growth and improvement and graduation rates. Schools would be required to report the data annually.

Adams said the intent of the bill is to establish a broader range of benchmarks for use in measuring a school’s effectiveness.

“When we look at content scores, there are a lot of things behind that number,” he said. “This bill does not throw out what we’re already doing, but expands what we measure.”

Bob Evnen testified on behalf of the state Board of Education in support of the bill. He said focusing on incremental growth and improvement would make progress attainable for all students.

“We’re not expecting under-performing schools to bridge the gap immediately,” he said. “We want schools to stair-step to higher achievement levels.”

Andy Rikli, assistant superintendent of Westside Community Schools, testified that a school’s demographics, as well as the rigor of a school’s graduation requirements, should be considered under the new system.

“Not all school districts have the same graduation requirements,” he said. “Schools that go above and beyond should be acknowledged.”

No one testified in opposition.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

New airport hazard-area dimensions advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval Jan. 17 to a bill that would change definitions in the state’s Airport Zoning Act dealing with airport hazard areas.

LB352, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, would extend the instrument runway approach zone from three to 10 miles.

Lautenbaugh said the bill would extend the zone in a cone shape from the end of an instrument runway, but would not alter the three-mile visual approach zone that currently surrounds airports.

Sen. Bob Krist of Omaha spoke in support of the bill, saying it would allow Nebraska airports to comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations if they chose to be certified for instrument landings. For planes to land via instruments only, he said, certain criteria have to be met regarding obstacles in the plane’s glide path.

A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment, adopted 34-0, would allow an existing structure or tree to be grandfathered into compliance with the new zoning restrictions if the structure or tree does not increase in height.

Avery said the amended bill should not adversely affect the construction of cell phone towers or windmills near rural airports because both are significantly shorter than 890 feet.

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Committee chairperson Sen. Bill Avery of Lincoln said the amendment allows for a gradual increase in the height of potential obstacles as the 10-mile zone extends beyond the runway, ending at a maximum of 890 feet.

Avery said the amended bill should not adversely affect the construction of cell phone towers or windmills near rural airports because both are significantly shorter than 890 feet.

Lautenbaugh said the bill would support economic development and provide rural communities the ability to qualify for life-flight landings to provide emergency medical care.

Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher
expressed concern that the bill would give too much power to local airport authorities who could pursue instrument runways at the expense of building windmills or other types of economic development.

“It’s a power shift [away] from the county and the people who can vote on it to a very narrow group of people,” Schumacher said.

The amended bill advanced to select file on a 32-1 vote.

**Bill would change ballot vacancy provisions**

Provisions for filling a general election ballot vacancy would be harmonized under a bill given first-round approval Jan. 17.

Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch, sponsor of LB503, said the measure would provide consistency in filling ballot vacancies. Nebraska has different provisions when a ballot vacancy occurs due to a candidate declining a nomination and when a candidate exits a race for other reasons, he said.

Under current law, the political party of a candidate who declines a nomination has three days to fill the ballot vacancy.

LB503 would remove the time constraint in cases of declination and would allow a vacancy to be filled by the executive committee of the vacating candidate. If such a committee does not exist or chooses not to replace the candidate, the vacancy may be filled by a mass convention of the political party.

“The bill would treat both situations the same,” Pirsch said.

LB503 advanced to select file on a 34-0 vote.

**Structural changes proposed to local boards of education**

The structure and compensation of local boards of education was the focus of a Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee hearing Jan. 18.

Under LB720, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, the Omaha Public Schools’ board of education would be limited to five members. The board is currently composed of 12. Under Lautenbaugh’s bill, members would be forced to vacate their position after two consecutive four-year terms. The bill also calls for a $20,000 annual salary for all board members.

Lautenbaugh said the size of the Omaha board is simply too large to function effectively.

“You get to a point of diminishing returns with larger numbers,” he said. “It’s harder for members to assert themselves when you get a larger number.”

Omaha Sen. Brenda Council introduced LB717 in response to Lautenbaugh’s bill. Her bill would require that any changes made to the Omaha board be applied to every board of education.

“It’s not our job to meddle in one district’s business, but to set statewide public policy,” she said. “If you believe those provisions represent sound public policy, it should be applied to all districts in Nebraska.”

Council, a former member of the Omaha Board of Education, testified to the board’s effectiveness during her 11-year term. She said the current structure allows representatives to hear from all areas of their districts.

John Lindsay, representing Omaha Public Schools, testified in opposition to LB720. He said the size of Omaha’s subdistricts would become much too large under the bill.

“Some subdistricts would have to be nearly twice the size of some legislative districts,” he said.

Current board member Mary Morrissey opposed both the reduction in size and annual salaries proposed in LB720.

“I don’t want to be paid for my services,” she said. “I feel like the money should be better spent in the classrooms.”

Former senator Ernie Chambers of Omaha testified in a neutral capacity. He said the problem is the quality, not quantity, of people serving on the board.

“You don’t have to change the structure,” he said. “You have to get better and more responsive people on the board.”

No one testified in support of either bill, and the committee took no immediate action on them.

**Bill would require reporting of electioneering communication**

An electioneering communication of more than $250 would require a report to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission under a bill heard Jan. 19 by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

LB754, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, would define an electioneering communication as one that:

- refers to a clearly defined candidate;
- is publicly distributed in the 30 days before an election; and
- is directed to the electorate of an office sought by the clearly defined candidate.

Contributions and expenditures
would be excluded from the definition of an electioneering communication, as would a candidate debate, a communication by the media or by a membership organization to its members or about a specific bill while the Legislature is in session.

Avery said the measure was similar to a bill he introduced last session that stalled during select file debate. He said LB754 addresses concerns expressed by various organizations regarding how membership organizations and voter guides are defined.

“I have incorporated all of the suggestions made to me last year into this bill,” he said.

Under the bill, membership would be established when an individual indicates intent to join or pays dues to an organization.

Frank Daley, executive director of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, testified in support of bill.

“The simple point of the bill ... is that if you’re going to spend money in connection with Nebraska elections, you have to report it,” Daley said.

There was no opposition testimony and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Review of senator conflicts of interest proposed

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee heard testimony Jan. 19 on bill that would require the formal review of conflict of interest statements filed by state senators.

Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, sponsor of LB755, said the proposal would raise awareness among lawmakers and provide citizens additional information about potential legislative conflicts of interest.

Under current law, local-level elected officials must file potential conflict of interest statements before voting on measures that may have a financial benefit or detriment to the individual, his or her immediate family members or business interests.

Statements are reviewed by the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, Avery said, which determines if a conflict exists.

“If they have a conflict, they are barred from voting,” he said.

State senators, however, face no such restriction, Avery said. Senators are required to file a potential conflict of interest statement, he said, but the commission currently does not review the filings and lawmakers are free to vote on measures related to a statement.

Under LB755, a potential conflict of interest statement filed by a state senator would be reviewed by the commission and a determination would be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature within a reasonable amount of time.

Frank Daley, executive director of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, testified in support of the bill. He said the measure would treat state lawmakers more like other elected officials in relation to conflicts of interest.

The bill would not prevent senators from voting on a bill even when a conflict of interest exists, he said, but would provide additional information for the public to consider regarding such votes.

Conflict of interest determinations by the commission also could assist senators in making decisions about recusing themselves from votes, he said.

No one testified in opposition and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Health & Human Services

Bill would broaden authorization for respiratory therapy decisions

A bill that would allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to order respiratory services was discussed during a hearing of the Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 19.

LB788, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, would change current state statute to reflect the standards adopted by the federal government and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Darcy O’Brien-Genrich, president of the Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care, testified in support of the bill. She suggested that it be amended to include certified registered nurse anesthetists and certified midwives.

“Respiratory therapists need to be able to practice with midlevel practitioners,” she said.

Lincoln respiratory therapist Tom Danek said providing proper care to homebound patients is particularly difficult under the current law.

“Being in the homecare setting, we don’t have easy access to physicians for authorization,” Danek said. “It’s much easier to gain access to a nurse practitioner.”

No one testified in opposition to the bill and the committee took no immediate action.

Foster care demonstration project proposed

The state Department of Health
and Human Services (DHHS) would be required to apply for a federal waiver for a foster care demonstration project under a bill heard Jan. 20 by the Health and Human Services Committee.

Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell said LB820, introduced by the committee, could improve permanency for children in the foster care system and allow the department to fund an array of community-based services for children and their families.

Title IV-E is the adoption assistance and foster care program funded by the federal government.

The bill would require DHHS to apply for a federal Title IV-E waiver by Jan. 1, 2013.

“The waivers do not add more money to state [Title] IV-E funds, but provide more flexibility in their use,” Campbell said.

Under the bill, the waiver application would be required to show that Nebraska would implement at least two child welfare improvement policies outlined by the federal government within three years of the application. At least one of those policies would be new to the state.

Melanie Williams-Smotherman, executive director of the Family Advocacy Movement, spoke in favor of the bill.

She said a waiver could result in more funds for programs that focus on family preservation, rather than out-of-home services. Currently, Nebraska fluctuates between having the second and third highest child removal rate in the country, she said.

“There is a horrible price to pay for this ... which cannot be measured in dollars,” Williams-Smotherman said.

Sarah Forrest of Voices for Children in Nebraska also testified in support, calling the bill an important opportunity for comprehensive child welfare reform.

“For many years our child welfare system has failed children and families,” she said, adding that abuse prevention and in-home services could greatly improve outcomes for children at risk.

Scot Adams, interim director of the DHHS division of children and family services, testified in a neutral capacity.

Adams said the department is interested in exploring a Title IV-E waiver, but is concerned about timelines outlined in the bill. In addition, he said, DHHS is engaged in monitoring the performance of current reforms and would like time to explore any unintended consequences of obtaining a waiver.

“We are concerned with the mandate of LB820,” Adams said. “We’ve got far more to learn.”

No opposition testimony was given and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

**Genetic counselors would receive licensure under bill**

A formal licensure process for genetic counselors was the focus of a bill discussed by the Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 19.

Under LB831, introduced by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, genetic counselors who have satisfied the training and certification requirements of the American Board of Genetic Counseling could apply for licensure.

Howard said the need for licensure is important due to the growing prevalence of the practice.

“Genetic counselors work with many general practitioners today,” Howard said.

Bronson Riley, representing the Southeast Nebraska Cancer Center, testified that licensure would improve the quality of care available to patients.

“Currently any individual can hold himself or herself as a genetic counselor,” he said. “With licensure, individuals can feel assured the person providing genetic counseling is properly educated.”

Sen. Bob Krist asked whether a genetic counselor would advise a woman to terminate a pregnancy based on information provided during a consultation.

Beth Conover, an Omaha genetic counselor, explained that her job is to present all options and support the patient.

“My job is to help them identify the implications for their family,” she said. “I’d never tell them what to do, but would help them find resources.”

No one testified in opposition to the bill and the committee took no immediate action.

**State ward drug task force proposed**

The Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony Jan. 20 on a bill that would require creation of a task force to examine prescription of psychotropic drugs to children who are wards of the state.

LB837, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, would require the committee to create the task force, comprising 10 lay members and 11 government representatives.

Howard said a recent federal report indicated that foster children are more likely than the general public to be medicated and that the drugs used can cause serious side effects, including seizures and suicidal thoughts.

In addition, she said, the mental disease and trauma suffered by foster children often is exacerbated by a lack of comprehensive and coordinated health care.

“I believe the turmoil of reform has only highlighted the likely risks,” Howard said.
Caitlin Pardue of Voices for Children in Nebraska testified in support of the bill, saying psychotropic drugs can create more problems than they solve when used without other forms of therapy.

“Medication is often seen as a quick fix for many behavioral problems ... but they’re only addressing the surface level,” Pardue said.

No opposition testimony was given and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Judiciary

Penalty for contraband in detention facilities advances

A bill that would create an offense for bringing prohibited items into a detention facility was advanced from general file Jan. 17.

LB415, introduced by Cortland Sen. Norm Wallman, would make it a Class I misdemeanor to bring prohibited items into a detention facility, provide them to an inmate or for an inmate to possess them.

Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha, the committee chairperson, said that the public should be adequately notified about what items are considered contraband because the penalty for bringing contraband into facilities is so significant.

The amendment was adopted 34-0 and LB415 advanced from general file on a 35-0 vote.

Bill would allow transfer of judgeship

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony Jan. 18 on a bill that would transfer a county court judgeship to another district.

LB790, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, would transfer a judgeship in the 5TH Judicial District County Court—located in Hamilton County—to the 3RD Judicial District County Court—located in Lancaster County.

Coash said caseloads in Hamilton County have decreased, so the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission decided not to fill the vacant judgeship and instead transfer it to a district with a higher caseload.

Susan Strong, a Lancaster County judge, testified in support of the bill. She cited data from a recent caseload study showing that Hamilton County currently has six judgeships, but has a need for only 4.5 judgeships. Lancaster County currently has six judgeships, but has a need for 8.1 judgeships, she said.

No one testified in opposition and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Bill would prevent frivolous lawsuits from inmates

Inmates would be prevented from filing frivolous lawsuits at public expense under a bill discussed by the Judiciary Committee Jan. 20.

LB793, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, would place restrictions on inmates with a history of filing frivolous lawsuits. He said the bill would save taxpayer money and unclog the state court system.

“One gentleman has filed over 600 lawsuits.”

Under the bill, any inmate who has previously filed three civil lawsuits deemed by a court to be frivolous would be prohibited from filing a civil case at the public’s expense. The inmate could continue to file civil suits at his or her personal expense.

Exceptions to the rule would include inmates who could prove an imminent danger of bodily harm or criminal appeals. If signed into law, the “three-strike” rule would apply only to lawsuits filed after the adoption of the law.

Warren Whitted, Nebraska State Bar Association president, testified in support of LB793. He said that the bill would strike an important balance within the court system.

“No opposition testimony was given and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

This bill ensures adequate access to redress in the courts while limiting frivolous lawsuits,” Whitted said.

Amy Miller, ACLU legal director, testified against the bill, saying it unfairly targets a prison population with high rates of illiteracy and poverty.

“It’s not fair to expect prisoners to meet the same standard in drafting lawsuits as trained lawyers,” Miller said. “The bill also unfairly targets the poor because those with money could continue to file suits.”
The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

**Bill would ban “bath salt” drug**

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony Jan. 19 on a bill that would expand the Uniform Controlled Substances Act to ban the compounds that are used to make the drug commonly known as bath salts.

These are chemically altered substances that have similar effects as methamphetamines, LSD and PCP. The product is manufactured and marketed as “bath salts” to skirt around current drug laws.

Under LB814, introduced by Ogalalla Sen. Ken Schilz, the penalty for possessing bath salts would be a Class IV felony and manufacturing or trafficking the drug would be a Class III felony.

Schilz said the drugs can result in a loss of motor control, paranoia and erratic behavior in those who take it.

Corey O’Brien, assistant attorney general, testified in support of the bill. These drugs are cheap to purchase, are widely available and exist solely for the purpose of getting children and adults high, he said.

Some of the compounds listed in LB814 were banned at the federal level in 2010, O’Brien said, but that does not authorize Nebraska to prosecute for possession of these drugs.

“We wanted to make this bill as all encompassing as possible so manufacturers could not tweak the [banned substances] just enough so they are not illegal, like they are doing under federal laws,” O’Brien said.

Mike Vance, a Seward County sheriff, also testified in support of the bill, saying he had arrested a man who had abducted a nine-year-old boy after using bath salts.

When the man was located, Vance said, he was on the roof of a house getting ready to jump off and was acting similar to people who are high on PCP.

No one testified in opposition and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

**Death concealment penalties could increase**

A bill that would increase the penalty for concealing the death of another person was discussed in a Judiciary Committee hearing Jan. 19.

Under LB815, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, the penalty for concealment of a person’s death would be increased from a Class I misdemeanor to a Class III felony.

The concealment or an attempt to prevent discovery of human remains would be treated as a separate offense, with any additional sentences imposed to be served consecutively. The bill also would remove the statute of limitation for the offense.

Fulton said concealing a person’s remains could significantly hamper an investigation into their death, so the punishment should reflect the significance of withholding that information.

David Partsch, representing the Nebraska County Attorneys Association, testified in support of the bill, saying that concealment often results in a lack of evidence on the causation of death.

In homicide cases involving concealment, Partsch said, there often is not enough evidence to convict a person of first-degree murder, so charges are lessened to an offense such as manslaughter.

John Freudenberg, the attorney general’s criminal bureau chief, also testified in support of the bill, saying concealment cases are difficult to prosecute.

“It does not make sense to reward those who do a really good job of hiding a body by giving them a lesser penalty,” Freudenberg said.

Coleen Nielsen, representing the Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, provided neutral testimony. When penalties are enhanced it makes more work for the court system, she said.

“In recent years, we have noticed there has become a burden on the court system and public defenders offices as a result of enhanced penalties,” Nielsen said. “And this particular [bill] is going to add all kinds of litigation to the process.”

There was no opposition and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

**Judicial pay increase considered**

Nebraska Supreme Court justices would receive a salary increase under a bill heard by the Judiciary Committee Jan. 20.

Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash introduced LB862 with the intent of providing a salary increase to the Supreme Court justices commensurate with an increase received by state employees in 2012. He explained that the increase was important because the salaries of all judges are based on the salaries of the Supreme Court.

“This bill is important because it would also apply to all judges serving in Nebraska,” Coash said.

Warren Whitted, Nebraska State Bar Association president, testified in support of the bill. He said that compensation for judges should be competitive to encourage a strong judiciary.

“We have experienced an inordinate number of retirements recently,” Whitted said. “When looking for high-
ly qualified replacements, we need to be able to properly compensate them.”

No one testified in opposition to the bill and the committee took no immediate action.

Revenue

Bill would streamline tax certificate procedure

County treasurers would lose the ability to issue tax deeds without a public sale under a bill advanced to select file Jan. 17.

When a property tax bill goes unpaid, interested investors currently can purchase a tax sale certificate. The certificate pays 14 percent interest on the taxes due. If the tax bill remains unpaid, investors can choose to begin foreclosure proceedings. The most common method involves a judicial foreclosure of the tax certificate to gain ownership of the property.

The second method allows a county treasurer to issue a tax deed without a public sale of the property. This method would be eliminated under LB370, a bill introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman.

According to the bill’s statement of intent, repealing the provision would place all lien holders on a fair, level playing field.

Several senators voiced concerns over the proposed change. Omaha Sen. Burke Harr said removing the tax deed structure would be problematic for all involved.

“By eliminating the provision, a property could feasibly sit for years without taxes being collected,” Harr said. “We want to encourage people to purchase tax certificates to keep funding for schools.”

Schuyler Sen. Chris Langemeier instead suggested changing the process used to notify property owners of a past-due tax bill.

“I think the notice is the problem,” he said. “They get this 30-day notice and don’t know what it is.”

Wightman agreed to discuss possible amendments to the bill before it reaches the second round of debate. The bill was advanced to select file on a 40-0 vote.

Property valuation notices could change

A bill that would clarify the property valuation process was discussed in a Revenue Committee hearing Jan. 19.

York Sen. Greg Adams said he introduced LB822 on behalf of county assessors seeking to avoid confusion among property owners.

Currently, when a property is assessed at a value different than the previous year, the county assessor must notify the property owner. The old and new assessed values, dates to file a protest and the median value of all property in the county are included in the notice.

LB822 would eliminate the inclusion of the median value from personal notices. Under the bill, the value would continue to be provided by the assessor’s office and to local media.

“Listing the median value creates confusion for taxpayers,” Adams said.

Marilyn Hladky, representing the Nebraska Association of County Assessors, testified in support of the bill. She explained that the median value listed in the notice has been a frequent point of contention for taxpayers.

“Some homeowners who are assessed above the listed median value feel their valuation should be lowered to meet the median,” she said.

No one testified in opposition to the bill and no immediate action was taken.

Urban Affairs

Two-year city budget cycles proposed

First class cities in Nebraska would be authorized to change from an annual to a biennial budget process under a proposal heard by the Urban Affairs Committee Jan. 17.

LB868, sponsored by the committee, would amend the State Budget Act to allow cities of the first class to file biennial budgets with the state auditor’s office upon approval by city voters.

Crete mayor Roger Foster testified in support of the bill, saying the shift to a two-year budget cycle would allow communities like Crete to improve long-range fiscal planning and union contract negotiations.

“It would allow us to make better use of our time and tax dollars,” Foster said.

No opposition testimony was given and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.
### Senator Contact Info

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senator Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Greg L. Adams</td>
<td>York, District 24</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gadasma@leg.ne.gov">gadasma@leg.ne.gov</a></td>
<td>(402) 471-2756</td>
<td>Room 1107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Brad Ashford</td>
<td>Omaha, District 20</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist20</td>
<td>(402) 471-2622</td>
<td>Room 1103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Bill Avery</td>
<td>Lincoln, District 28</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist28</td>
<td>(402) 471-2633</td>
<td>Room 1114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Dave Bloomfield</td>
<td>Hoskins, District 17</td>
<td>new.legislature.ne.gov/dist17</td>
<td>(402) 471-2716</td>
<td>Room 1117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Lydia Brash</td>
<td>Bancroft, District 16</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist16</td>
<td>(402) 471-2728</td>
<td>Room 1529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Kathy Campbell</td>
<td>Lincoln, District 25</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist25</td>
<td>(402) 471-2731</td>
<td>Room 1402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Tom Carlson</td>
<td>Holdrege, District 38</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist38</td>
<td>(402) 471-2732</td>
<td>Room 1022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sen. Mark R. Christensen</td>
<td>Imperial, District 44</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist44</td>
<td>(402) 471-2805</td>
<td>Room 3000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sen. Colby Coash</td>
<td>Lincoln, District 27</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist27</td>
<td>(402) 471-2632</td>
<td>Room 2028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Danielle Conrad</td>
<td>Lincoln, District 46</td>
<td>news.legislature.ne.gov/dist46</td>
<td>(402) 471-2720</td>
<td>Room 1008</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**January 17 - 20, 2012**
### NEW BILLS

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<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Introducer</th>
<th>One-line description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB1000</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Change certain marriage related fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1001</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Create the Building Code Advisory Committee and change and eliminate state agency building code compliance requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1002</td>
<td>Sullivan</td>
<td>Change long-term care bed moratorium provisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1003</td>
<td>Schumacher</td>
<td>Change motor vehicle liability insurance and financial responsibility requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1004</td>
<td>Schumacher</td>
<td>Authorize credit unions to receive deposits of public funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1005</td>
<td>Lambert</td>
<td>Include state emergency response teams under the Volunteer Emergency Responders Job Protection Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1006</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Change bidding provisions relating to vendors who are blind or visually impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1007</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Require production costs of a report submitted to the Legislature to be stated on the report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1008</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Provide for utilization and treatment guidelines for medical services under the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1009</td>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>Provide that probate records are not subject to disclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1010</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Change eligibility provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1011</td>
<td>Dubas</td>
<td>Adopt the Property Tax Relief Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1012</td>
<td>Lautenbaugh</td>
<td>Change medical treatment and temporary disability provisions under the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1013</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Change the Administrative Procedure Act and provide for attorney’s fees and costs as prescribed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1014</td>
<td>Conrad</td>
<td>Authorize the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1015</td>
<td>Conrad</td>
<td>Change the child care reimbursement rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1016</td>
<td>Conrad</td>
<td>Require the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with certain community-based organizations as prescribed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1017</td>
<td>Conrad</td>
<td>Transfer funds to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1018</td>
<td>Conrad</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to business mergers, consolidations, and conversions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1019</td>
<td>Harms</td>
<td>Appropriate funds for capital improvements at the state colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1020</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Adopt the Nebraska Coordinated School Health Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1021</td>
<td>Schilz</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to actions involving motor vehicle collisions with domestic animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1022</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Change officer and employer contribution rates under the Nebraska State Patrol retirement Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1023</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Provide for the waiver of education-related fees for dependents of veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1024</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Provide exceptions to the State Personnel System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1025</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Prohibit accepting gifts and contributions by Public Service Commission members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1026</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Change the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act to change provisions relating to confidential records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1027</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Change licensure requirements for head injury facility administrators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1028</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Require Department of Health and Human Services to apply for a grant relating to long-term care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1029</td>
<td>Lambert</td>
<td>Require an address from a complainant or trustee for acceptance of demands of payment relating to real property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1030</td>
<td>Hansen</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to obligations of drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1031</td>
<td>Harr</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to name of debtor for Uniform Commercial Code financing statements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1032</td>
<td>Wightman</td>
<td>Change advertisement and display of credential provisions under the Uniform Credentialing Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1033</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Provide tax incentives under the Nebraska Advantage Act for renewable energy projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1034</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Adopt the College Choice Grant Program Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1035</td>
<td>Sullivan</td>
<td>Provide for automatic nomination of airport authority board members as prescribed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1036</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Provide for a cash balance benefit election for certain county and state employees and create county and state retirement funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1037</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Change matching requirements for arts funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1038</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Require blood-lead testing prior to school enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1039</td>
<td>Brasch</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to school bus safety requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR375CA</td>
<td>Schumacher</td>
<td>Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to authorize games of chance, lotteries, and gift enterprises, provide for compacts with bordering states, and distribute revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR376CA</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Constitutional amendment to change provisions relating to redevelopment projects</td>
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### Jan. 18, 2012

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<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Introducer</th>
<th>One-line description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB1040</td>
<td>Schilz</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to snow removal on state highways and encroachments and regulation of state rights-of-way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1041</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Adopt the Department of Health and Human Services Delivery Improvement and Efficiency Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1042</td>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Authorize nurse practitioners to sign death certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1043</td>
<td>Langemeier</td>
<td>Eliminate provisions relating to contracts or agreements for discounted rates involving public power districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>Introducer</td>
<td>One-line description</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1044</td>
<td>Haar</td>
<td>Provide for Public Service Commission regulation of hazardous liquid pipeline facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1045</td>
<td>Haar</td>
<td>Authorize school district expenditures in case of disaster or emergency as prescribed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1046</td>
<td>Harr</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to law enforcement certification and continuing education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1047</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>Require safe injection practices as prescribed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1048</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>Increase an appropriation for nurse visitation services as prescribed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1049</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Create and change provisions relating to the purchase of certain metals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1050</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Provide a sales and use tax incentive for procurement processing companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1051</td>
<td>Coash</td>
<td>Change registry provisions regarding adult protective services and child protection cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1052</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to maintenance of drainage facilities on county roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1053</td>
<td>Louden</td>
<td>Create Nebraska Tourism Commission and transfer powers and duties from the Travel and Tourism Division of the Department of Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1054</td>
<td>McCoy</td>
<td>Exempt ancillary product contracts from state insurance laws and authorize the sale of such contracts in conjunction with motor vehicle service contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1055</td>
<td>Hadley</td>
<td>Appropriate funds for a Kearney Division nursing and allied health professions facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1056</td>
<td>Pirsch</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to harassment and domestic abuse protection orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1057</td>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>Change the Nebraska Corn Resources Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1058</td>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>Change the Employment Security Law and the New Hire Reporting Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1059</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Adopt the State Officers Compensation Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1060</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Change procedures for adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1061</td>
<td>Heidemann</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to valuation of agricultural land</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1062</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to adoption assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1063</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Adopt the Children’s Health and Treatment Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1064</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Permit the procurement of sickness and accident insurance from a nonadmitted insurer under the Surplus Lines Insurance Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1065</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Appropriate facility construction funds for the Lincoln Division of the University of Nebraska Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1066</td>
<td>Hansen</td>
<td>Provide for payment of claims against the state</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1067</td>
<td>Karpisek</td>
<td>Change restrictions on keno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1068</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Create and provide duties for the Medicaid in the Public Schools Task Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1069</td>
<td>Wightman</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to tax sales to collect delinquent property taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1070</td>
<td>Wightman</td>
<td>Change eligibility provisions for petitioning on the general election ballot</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1071</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Extend the deadline for acceptance of applications under the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1072</td>
<td>Business &amp; Labor</td>
<td>Appropriate funds for planning and design of a veterinary diagnostic laboratory facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1073</td>
<td>Business &amp; Labor</td>
<td>Change restrictions on keno</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1074</td>
<td>Karpisek</td>
<td>Change requirements for copies of public records and speaking at public meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1075</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Require certain health care facilities to offer vaccinations to residents and patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1076</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Require manager of a liquor licensee to complete training as prescribed</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1077</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Provide grants for educational bridge programs for low-income adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1078</td>
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<td>Provide a property tax exemption and a sales and use tax exemption relating to data centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1079</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Provide for free antlerless deer hunting permits for farmers as prescribed</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1080</td>
<td>Karpisek</td>
<td>Name and change provisions of the Police Officers Retirement Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1081</td>
<td>Bloomfield</td>
<td>Clarify permitted practices under the Nurse Practice Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1082</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Require all land leased by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds be open to the public for hunting, fur harvesting, and fishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1083</td>
<td>Lautenbaugh</td>
<td>Adopt the Compressed Natural Gas Innovation Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1084</td>
<td>Lautenbaugh</td>
<td>Create and provide duties for the Medicaid in the Public Schools Task Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1085</td>
<td>Karpisek</td>
<td>Provide additional ground for seeking grandparent visitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1086</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Adopt the Compressed Natural Gas Innovation Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1087</td>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>Change notice, summons, and warrant provisions of the Nebraska Juvenile Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1088</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Appropriate funds for construction of a cancer research facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1089</td>
<td>Wallman</td>
<td>Provide for the awarding of grants and the distribution of information relating to the Summer Food Service Program by the State Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1090</td>
<td>Fischer</td>
<td>Adopt the Prepaid Wireless Surcharge Act and eliminate certain charges on prepaid wireless service</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1091</td>
<td>Hilton</td>
<td>Require information and training regarding the disposal of mercury-containing light bulbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1092</td>
<td>Hadley</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to foreclosure proceedings for delinquent real estate taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1093</td>
<td>Harms</td>
<td>Provide for an election in certain counties to require elections by mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1094</td>
<td>Larson</td>
<td>Provide for Beef State license plates</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1095</td>
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<td>Prohibit entry into a motor vehicle without permission of the owner or for the purpose of committing a crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1096</td>
<td>Pirsch</td>
<td>Exempt purchases of nonprofit mental health centers from sales and use tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1097</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Constitutional amendment to terminate legislative compensation provisions and provide for creation of a compensation commission for state constitutional officers and members of the Legislature</td>
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</table>
**NEW BILLS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB1098</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Repeal the Build Nebraska Act and change distribution of sales and use tax revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1099</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Change expense provisions under the Nebraska Juvenile Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1100</td>
<td>Wightman</td>
<td>Create a legislative advisory committee to study and report regarding health care services and health care insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1101</td>
<td>Wightman</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to election of county assessors</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1102</td>
<td>Wightman</td>
<td>Change inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1103</td>
<td>Wightman</td>
<td>Provide access to deceased family member's medical records</td>
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<td>LB1104</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Change the Postsecondary Education Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1105</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Change and eliminate provisions relating to schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1106</td>
<td>Schilz</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to assessment of improvements on leased public land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1107</td>
<td>Pirsch</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to the movement of vehicles and other property after an accident and provide immunity</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1108</td>
<td>Pirsch</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to a sales and use tax exemption for manufacturing machinery and equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1109</td>
<td>Brash</td>
<td>Provide for classification of flooded agricultural land as inundated land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1110</td>
<td>Brash</td>
<td>Provide for assistance for temporary and permanent housing after a natural disaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1111</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to penalties involving operator's license revocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1112</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to state highway system plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1113</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Power of Attorney Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1114</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to the Municipal Equalization Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1115</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Authorize construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities by jurisdictional utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1116</td>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Changes Nebraska Capitol Commission membership provisions</td>
</tr>
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<td>LB1117</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Change income tax calculations relating to the federal alternative minimum tax</td>
</tr>
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<td>LB1118</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Provide tax incentives for large data center projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1119</td>
<td>Karpisek</td>
<td>Prohibit sale, possession, and use of flying lantern-type devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1120</td>
<td>Karpisek</td>
<td>Limit liability for bucking bull activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1121</td>
<td>Lambert</td>
<td>Change signature requirements for recall petitions for sanitary and improvement districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1122</td>
<td>Bloomfield</td>
<td>Change the Medical Assistance Act with respect to certain home health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1123</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Adopt the Nebraska Healthy Food Financing Initiative Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1124</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>Provide for designation of priority schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB1125</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to natural resources district occupation tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1126</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Provide and change extraterritorial jurisdiction of a village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1127</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Change provisions and penalties relating to issuing or passing a bad check or issuing a no-account check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1128</td>
<td>Schumacher</td>
<td>Adopt the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act and provide tax credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1129</td>
<td>Coash</td>
<td>Provide requirements for insurance coverage of autism spectrum disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1130</td>
<td>Coash</td>
<td>Provide for entertainment district licenses under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1131</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Adopt the Innovation, Discovery, Entrepreneurial Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1132</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Change the Community Development Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1133</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Adopt the Redistricting Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1134</td>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Change agency procedures for eminent domain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1135</td>
<td>Haar</td>
<td>Provide an income tax credit relating to purchases of energy star certified materials and equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1136</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Create and provide for a wage subsidy program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1137</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Adopt the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1138</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Change community betterment organization and tax credit provisions under the Community Development Assistance Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1139</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Prohibit receiving certain types of wagers on horseracing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1140</td>
<td>Mello</td>
<td>Provide for licensure instead of registration under the Professional Landscape Architects Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1141</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to reimbursement of travel expenses for Nebraska National Guard members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1142</td>
<td>Nordquist</td>
<td>Adopt the Health Care Transparency Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1143</td>
<td>Cornett</td>
<td>Change and eliminate provisions relating to stacking of insurance coverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1144</td>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>Provide for career academy schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1145</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Change and provide provisions and penalties relating to human trafficking and pandering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1146</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Appropriate funds to carry out the Nebraska Prostitution Intervention and Treatment Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1147</td>
<td>Dubas</td>
<td>Provide for public wireless Internet access in the State Capitol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1148</td>
<td>Gloor</td>
<td>Change certification provisions for marriage and family therapists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1149</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to child guardianships and child welfare caseloads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1150</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>Adopt the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Services Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1151</td>
<td>Lathrop</td>
<td>Eliminate a sunset provision under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act relating to certain first responder injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1152</td>
<td>Lathrop</td>
<td>Provide job training programs for recipients of unemployment insurance benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1153</td>
<td>Lathrop</td>
<td>Require timely provision of juvenile court-ordered treatment or services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1154</td>
<td>Lathrop</td>
<td>Provide job training programs for unemployment benefit recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1155</td>
<td>Lathrop</td>
<td>Change penalties relating to operating a motor vehicle while under orders not to operate a motor vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1156</td>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>Exempt non-equalized schools from expenditure limits in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1157</td>
<td>Larson</td>
<td>Change late filing fee provisions under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NEW BILLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Introducer</th>
<th>One-line description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB1158</td>
<td>Krist</td>
<td>Provide requirements for medical assistance behavioral health managed care contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1159</td>
<td>Krist</td>
<td>Provide additional requirements and duties relating to state contracts for services valued at twenty-five million dollars or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1160</td>
<td>Health &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>Require Department of Health and Human Services to develop an information system and provide for reports and an evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1161</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Provide for study and evaluation of routes for proposed oil pipelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1162</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Provide for appointment of nonresidents as notaries public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1163</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Provide for a deer donation program and for redistribution of deer permit fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1164</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Prohibit the Attorney General from bringing an action pursuant to a certain federal statute that addresses the distribution in commerce of general service incandescent lamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1165</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Change provisions relating to truancy and excessive absenteeism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1166</td>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>Eliminate certain elective county offices when approved by the voters and provide for appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1167</td>
<td>Lautenbaugh</td>
<td>Require certain provisions in highway and bridge construction and maintenance contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1168</td>
<td>Lautenbaugh</td>
<td>Adopt the School District Purchasing Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1169</td>
<td>Pirsch</td>
<td>Require reporting of disappearance or death of a child as prescribed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1170</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Change provisions of separate segregated political funds under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1171</td>
<td>Christensen</td>
<td>Adopt the Nebraska Balance of Powers Act and create the Committee on Nullification of Federal Laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1172</td>
<td>Pirsch</td>
<td>Provide an additional ground for termination of parental rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR378</td>
<td>Schilz</td>
<td>Congratulate the Ogallala High School one-act play for winning the 2011 Class B state championship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR379</td>
<td>McCoy</td>
<td>Congratulate the Elkhorn South High School girls’ golf team for winning the 2011 Class B state championship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR380</td>
<td>McCoy</td>
<td>Congratulate the Elkhorn South High School boys’ tennis team for winning the 2011 Class B state championship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR381</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>Recognize the achievements of Colonel Harry Francis Cunningham on the eightieth anniversary of the completion of the State Capitol and request the Lincoln City Council rename a portion of “J” Street in his honor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2012 Committees

### Agriculture

**Chairperson:** Sen. Tom Carlson  
**Members:** Sens. Bloomfield, Brasch, Harr, Karpisek, Larson, Lathrop and Wallman  
**Meets:** Tues. – Rm. 2102

### Appropriations

**Chairperson:** Sen. Lavon Heidemann  
**Members:** Sens. Conrad, Fulton, Hansen, Harms, Mello, Nelson, Nordquist and Wightman  
**Meets:** Mon., Tues. – Rm. 1524; Wed., Thurs., Fri. – Rm. 1003

### Banking, Commerce & Insurance

**Chairperson:** Sen. Rich Pahls  
**Members:** Sens. Christensen, Gloor, Langemeier, McCoy, Firsch, Schilz and Schumacher  
**Meets:** Mon., Tues. – Rm. 1507

### Business & Labor

**Chairperson:** Sen. Steve Lathrop  
**Members:** Sens. Ashford, Carlson, Cook, Harr, Smith and Wallman  
**Meets:** Mon. – Rm. 2102

### Education

**Chairperson:** Sen. Greg Adams  
**Members:** Sens. Avery, Cornett, Council, Haar, Howard, Seiler and Sullivan  
**Meets:** Mon., Tues. – Rm. 1525

### General Affairs

**Chairperson:** Sen. Russ Karpisek  
**Members:** Sens. Bloomfield, Brasch, Coash, Krist, Lambert, Larson and McGill  
**Meets:** Mon. – Rm. 1510

### Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

**Chairperson:** Sen. Bill Avery  
**Members:** Sens. Janssen, Karpisek, Pahls, Price, Seiler, Sullivan and Wallman  
**Meets:** Wed., Thurs., Fri. – Rm. 1507

### Health & Human Services

**Chairperson:** Sen. Kathy Campbell  
**Members:** Sens. Bloomfield, Cook, Gloor, Howard, Krist and Lambert  
**Meets:** Wed., Thurs., Fri. – Rm. 1510

### Building Maintenance

**Chairman:** Sen. LeRoy Louden  
**Members:** Sens. Hansen, Heidemann, Mello, Sullivan and Wallman

### Enrollment & Review

**Chairman:** Sen. Tyson Larson

### Legislature’s Planning Committee

**Chairperson:** Sen. John Harms  
**Members:** Sens. Cook, Flood, Gloor, Heidemann, Mello, Schumacher, Sullivan and Wightman

### Education Commission of the States

**Members:** Sens. Adams, Harms and Howard
JUDICIARY
Chairperson: Sen. Brad Ashford
Members: Sens. Coash, Council, Harr, Larson, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh and McGill
Meets: Wed., Thurs., Fri. – Rm. 1113

NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS
Chairperson: Sen. Jeremy Nordquist
Members: Sens. Heidemann, Karpisek, Lambert, Louden and Mello
Meets: at the call of the chairperson – Rm. 1113

TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Chairperson: Sen. Deb Fischer
Members: Sens. Campbell, Dubas, Hadley, Janssen, Lautenbaugh, Louden and Price
Meets: Mon., Tues. – Rm. 1113

EXECUTIVE BOARD (REFERENCE)
Chairperson: Sen. John Wightman
Members: Sens. Christensen, Fischer, Flood, Karpisek, Lange-meier, Lathrop, Nelson, Pahls and Heidemann (nonvoting ex officio)
Meets: Mon., Tues. – Rm. 1113

LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT
Chairperson: Sen. John Harms
Members: Sens. Dubas, Flood, Heidemann, Krist, Mello and Wightman

RULES
Chairperson: Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh
Members: Sens. Brasch, Dubas, Lathrop, Schilz and Flood (nonvoting ex officio)

NATURAL RESOURCES
Chairperson: Sen. Chris Langemeier
Members: Sens. Carlson, Christensen, Dubas, Haar, McCoy, Schilz and Smith
Meets: Wed., Thurs., Fri. – Rm. 1525

REVENUE
Chairperson: Sen. Abbie Cornett
Members: Sens. Adams, Brasch, Fischer, Hadley, Louden, Pirsch, Schumacher
Meets: Wed., Thurs., Fri. – Rm. 1524

URBAN AFFAIRS
Chairperson: Sen. Amanda McGill
Members: Sens. Ashford, Coash, Cook, Krist, Lambert and Smith
Meets: Tues. – Rm. 1510

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
Chairperson: Sen. Tom Hansen
Meets: Wed., Thurs., Fri. – Rm. 1113

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Chairperson: Sen. Adams and Fischer

MIDWEST INTERSTATE PASSENGER RAIL COMPACT
Chairperson: Sen. Cornett and Fischer

STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS
Chairperson: Sen. Scott Price
Members: Sens. Bloomfield, Brasch, Coash, Dubas, Larson, Nordquist
Monday, January 23
Appropriations
Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.
LB808 (Lautenbaugh) Appropriate funds for an environmental study of a hydroelectric dam project
LB859 (Avery) Provide funding for renovation of Centennial Mall

Banking, Commerce & Insurance
Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.
LB876 (Wallman) Change insurance policy, subscriber contract, and other policy provisions relating to mammography
LB879 (Pahls) Change a security requirement for depositories of public funds
LB886 (Schumacher) Change provisions relating to trademarks and trade names
LB890 (Pirsch) Provide for the electronic transmission of notice under the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act

Business & Labor
Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.
LB846 (Sullivan) Require employers to maintain employee emergency contact information
LB791 (Mello) Adopt the Shared Work Unemployment Compensation Program
LB866 (Haar) Adopt the Nebraska Fair Employment Opportunity Act
LB911 (Lathrop) Clarify use of a fund under the Employment Security Law

Education
Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.
LB968 (Lautenbaugh) Provide for teacher certification for military spouses
LB809 (Lautenbaugh) Change provisions relating to evaluation of certificated employees of schools

General Affairs
Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.
LB780 (Smith) Redefine "brewpub" and "microbrewery" for purposes of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB781 (Smith) Change bond provisions relating to commercial motor vehicles
LB785 (Harms) Change provisions relating to permits for exceeding vehicle size and weight limitations
LB764 (Louden) Change provisions relating to vehicle overload exceptions
LB740 (Schilz) Change provisions relating to farmers hauling hay and livestock forage vehicles
LB922 (Mello) Change provisions relating to vehicle load contents and spillage

Tuesday, January 24
Appropriations
Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.
LB968 (Speaker Flood) Provide for deficit appropriations
LB969 (Speaker Flood) Provide for fund transfers and change provisions relating to various funds

Banking, Commerce & Insurance
Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.
LB784 (Wightman) Change Nebraska Uniform Trust Code provisions relating to testamentary powers
LB887 (Pahls) Change provisions relating to insurance
LB942 (McCoy) Change certain notice provisions under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act
LB943 (McCoy) Adopt the Insured Homeowners Protection Act

Education
Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.
LB946 (Adams) Adopt the Community College Aid Act

Transportation & Telecommunications
Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.
LB718 (Schumacher) Provide for the electronic transmission of notice under the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code provisions relating to testamentary powers

Wednesday, January 25
Appropriations
Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.
Agency 10: Auditor of Public Accounts
Agency 24: Dept. of Motor Vehicles
Agency 28: Dept. of Veterans' Affairs
Agency 37: Workers' Compensation Court
Agency 39: Neb. Brand Committee
Agency 60: Neb. Ethanol Board
Agency 78: Neb. Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs
Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.
LB736 (Schumacher) Require provision of secret-ballot envelopes for elections
LB878 (Wallman) Change election calendar, vacancy, ballot, and counting machine provisions
LB759 (Avery) Require petition sponsors to provide identification for petition circulators and change petition circulation requirements

Health & Human Services
Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.
LB881 (Nordquist) Provide for a medicare waiver to provide coverage for certain lowincome HIV-infected individuals
LB900 (Lathrop) Require a report concerning individuals in need of multiple division services from the Department of Health and Human Services
LB825 (Dubas) Establish local offices for access to public benefit programs
LB826 (Dubas) Change provisions relating to legislative consideration of proposed rules and regulations under the Medical Assistance Act

Judiciary
Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.
LB802 (Lautenbaugh) Authorize carrying of concealed handguns by certain authorities within the scope of their employment
LB804 (Lautenbaugh) Change provisions relating to firearms
Committee Hearings

relating to justification for use of force
LB805 (Lautenbaugh) Remove the social security number requirement from certain firework permit and license applications
LB839 (Council) Require reporting of sexual misconduct by a school employee
LB806 (Lautenbaugh) Authorize the State Racing Commission to regulate wagering on historic horseraces

Natural Resources
Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.
LB739 (Christensen) Authorize Game and Parks Commission to transfer property to Chase County
LB849 (Sullivan) Authorize the Game and Parks Commission to transfer Pibel Lake State Recreation Area to the Lower Loup Natural Resources District

Revenue
Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.
LB830 (Hadley) Provide a sales and use tax exemption for biochips
LB745 (Fischer) Provide requirements for imposition of municipal occupation taxes

Thursday, January 26
Appropriations
Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.
Agency 14: Public Service Commission
Agency 31: Military Department
Agency 77: Commission of Industrial Relations
Agency 85: Neb. Public Employees Retirement Board

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs
Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.
LB767 (Howard) Require records of dates and hours of work for state officers and employees
LB779 (Lautenbaugh) Provide for rental of vehicles for use by state agencies
LB885 (Haar) Provide powers and duties to the state building division relating to the energy efficiency of state facilities
LB923 (Mello) Adopt the Nebraska Buy American Act

Health & Human Services
Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.
LB874 (Howard) Change foster care licensure provisions
LB957 (Health and Human Services) Adopt the Office of Inspector General for Nebraska Child Welfare Act
LB961 (Health and Human Services) Change provisions relating to case management of child welfare services

Health & Human Services
Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.
LB929 (McGill) Provide a membership requirement for State Foster Care Review Board members
LB998 (Krist) Create the Foster Care Review Office and eliminate the Foster Care Review Board
LB988 (Howard) Provide a rate of payment for certain medical services in emergency protective custody situations

Judiciary
Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.
LB730 (Mello) Change provisions relating to theft of services
LB840 (Council) Provide powers and duties relating to inmate mail
LB948 (Lambert) Change provisions and a penalty relating to intimidation by telephone call
LB881 (Coash) Change medical services payment provisions relating to jails and correctional facilities

Natural Resources
Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.
LB743 (Schilz) Provide for a fee relating to consideration of a variance under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act

Nebraska Retirement Systems
Room 1525 - 12:10 p.m.
LB916 (Nebraska Retirement Systems) Change provisions relating to retirement
LB1036 (Nordquist) Provide for a cash balance benefit election for certain county and state employees and create county and state retirement funds

Revenue
Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.
LB850 (Hadley) Create the incentive area tax credit program and authorize tax credits
LB872 (Hadley) Change provisions relating to apportionment of income between states

Friday, January 27
Government, Military & Veterans Affairs
Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.
LB735 (Schumacher) Provide for public meetings of a community college board of governors to be held by videoconference or telephone conference
LB766 (Price) Authorize the Adjutant General to make certain emergency expenditures
LB782 (McCoy) Require that reports submitted to the Legislature be submitted electronically
The Unicameral Update is a free newsletter offered weekly during the legislative session. It is produced by the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office through the Unicameral Information Office. For print subscriptions, call (402) 471-2788 or e-mail uio@leg.ne.gov.

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