

Sexual assault survivor protections advanced



Sens. Kate Bolz and Bruce Bostelman discuss LB43 during general file debate.

The Legislature advanced a bill March 3 that would create a sexual assault survivor's bill of rights.

Under LB43, as introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, a survivor of sexual assault would be guaranteed the right to privileged consultation with a sexual assault advocate during any physical examination or interview by a peace officer, prosecutor or defense attorney.

The bill enumerates the rights available to survivors, Bolz said, without creating undo complications for health care providers and law enforcement.

"This is a bill that honors survivors of sexual assault by providing a single document that makes them aware of the rights and resources that are available to them," she said.

A Judiciary Committee amend-

ment replaced the bill. As amended, the bill would allow a survivor of sexual assault to have an advocate present during any physical examination or interview, but the advocate could not consult with or provide legal advice to the survivor.

The amendment would require that any medical professional, peace officer, prosecutor or defense attorney provide a survivor with written documentation of his or her rights before conducting an initial physical examination or interview.

A survivor also would have the right to be interviewed by a peace officer of the gender of his or her choosing, if the request could be accommodated reasonably.

Sen. Joni Albrecht of Thurston offered a technical amendment to

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Injury leave for school employees clears first round

School employees who are injured by another person while at work would receive injury leave under a bill advanced by lawmakers March 5.

Lincoln Sen. Mike Hilgers, sponsor of LB1186, said teachers who cannot work after being assaulted while on the job currently may receive workers' compensation benefits after seven days. If they are absent for seven or fewer days, however, they must use personal or sick leave, he said.

Some school districts offer formal or informal assault leave to teachers, Hilgers said, but that policy is not common across the state.

"If you are assaulted on the job ... you should not have to come out of your own pocket for your own sick leave or personal leave to take care of that," he said.

Under the bill, a school district employee who is physically injured by another person who "intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury" to that employee would receive up to seven days of injury leave and be paid their usual salary for the time they are absent and unable to work as a result of the injury.

The employee's injury must have occurred within their scope of employment in a way that would be covered by the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act.

Under the bill, injury leave would not count against any other leave an employee accrues. In determining the applicability of injury leave, a school

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Sexual assault survivor protections advanced

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change the language to a peace officer of the “sex” of the survivor’s choosing. She said it would provide needed clarification for law enforcement.

Omaha Sen. Megan Hunt opposed the amendment, calling it “unnecessary.”

“Having the word ‘gender’ in this bill ... does nothing to hurt [anyone],” she said. “There is no legal reason to refer to ‘gender’ as ‘sex’ here.”

The Albrecht amendment failed on a 17-22 vote. Twenty-five votes were needed.

LB43 also would require a medical provider who conducts a physical exam after a sexual assault to contact the appropriate law enforcement agency, which would be required to retain any forensic evidence for 20 years.

Evidence collected from a sexual assault physical examination could not be used to prosecute a survivor for any misdemeanor crimes or offenses under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers supported the bill, but expressed concerns about the use of the term “survivor”

rather than “victim.” He said the recent social trend of moving away from the word “victim” should not overrule accepted legal language.

Following the 41-1 adoption of the Judiciary Committee amendment, senators voted 41-0 to advance the bill to select file. ■

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UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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Clerk of the Legislature: Patrick J. O’Donnell

Editor: Kate Heltzel; Writers: Kyle Harpster, Ami Johnson, Mike Malloy; Photographer: Bess Ghormley

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THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE’S OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1977

Injury leave for school employees clears first round

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district could require confirmation from a physician regarding the causation and the period of time for which an employee is unable to work.

LB1186 also would require each school district to report annually to the state Department of Education the number of incidents resulting in injury leave and the total number of injury leave days taken.

An Education Committee amendment, adopted 41-0, would remove that provision.

North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, the committee's chairperson, said such data already is available from the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court. Removing the requirement would eliminate the bill's cost, he said.

Sen. Joni Albrecht of Thurston supported LB1186, saying it would help Nebraska attract and retain teachers by ensuring that they do not have to sacrifice their sick or personal leave if they are assaulted at work.

"If injured on the job by an intentional assault," she said, "the school



Sen. Mike Hilgers said teachers should not have to use personal leave for assault-related absences.

should have the responsibility to make sure that that teacher is then ... taken care of financially."

Groene also supported the bill, saying that his staff found more than 300 cases last year in which a teacher took at least seven days of leave after being injured in a job-related assault.

"This is just one thing we can do to help those teachers who are so severely assaulted that they have to take time off of work from the injuries," he said.

Also in support was Lincoln Sen.

Matt Hansen. He said the seven-day gap applies to almost all Nebraska workers unless their collective bargaining agreement offers some type of assault leave.

Although LB1186 would help solve that problem for teachers, he said, the Legislature might want to consider future legislation that would extend the same assistance to workers in other high-risk professions.

Senators voted 45-0 to advance the bill to select file. ■

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AGRICULTURE

Pulse crop checkoff program clears first round

Lawmakers advanced a bill March 3 that would create a checkoff program for Nebraska pulse crop growers.

LB803, introduced by Sen. Dan Hughes of Venango, would create the five-member Pulse Crop Development, Utilization and Marketing Board.



Sen. Dan Hughes

The board would protect and stabilize the state's pulse crop industry and the economy of the areas producing those crops, which the bill defines as dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans, faba beans and lupine.

Hughes said pulses are becoming more popular as an alternative crop. A recent University of Nebraska-Lincoln survey found that Nebraska farmers planted approximately 80,000 combined acres of chickpeas, field peas and lentils, he said.

In addition to providing funds for pulse crop market promotion and research, Hughes said, the program would make Nebraska chickpea producers eligible for revenue insurance.

The board's members, who would be appointed by the governor, would have to be Nebraska residents who are pulse crop growers with at least five years of experience, among other requirements.

The director of the state Department of Agriculture and the vice chancellor of the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources would serve as nonvoting members.

Beginning July 1, 2020, a 1 percent

excise tax would be imposed on the net market value of pulse crops sold through commercial channels in the state. The tax would be levied and imposed on the grower at the time of sale or delivery. The first purchaser would collect the tax and remit it to the board.

The board could adjust the levy after July 1, 2022, but the levy could not exceed 2 percent of the net market value.

Senators voted 37-0 to advance LB803 to select file.

Hemp program updates clear first round

Lawmakers advanced a bill March 4 that would update the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act to harmonize it with new federal regulations.

Congress legalized the cultivation and sale of hemp with the 2018 Farm Bill. States that wish to regulate hemp production first must submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for approval.

The Nebraska Hemp Farming Act, which the Legislature passed last year, requires the state Department of Agriculture to submit such a state plan to the USDA and to establish, operate and administer a program to license and regulate those who cultivate, process, handle or broker hemp.

Sen. Steve Halloran, sponsor of LB1152, said the bill would make the act consistent with state plan specifications in a USDA interim rule published last October and also make it easier for the state Department of Agriculture to administer the program.

He said the bill would reference the federal rule's definition of "acceptable hemp THC level." It also would

require testing laboratories to measure the total THC in a hemp sample and to report a measurement of uncertainty along with the test results.

Halloran said LB1152 also would define negligent and nonnegligent violations of the act and clarify that the presence of uncultivated feral hemp is not considered cultivation for purposes of the act.

Additionally, the bill would require licensees to notify the department of the estimated date that hemp will be transported from a registered site at least seven days prior to shipment.

An Agriculture Committee amendment, adopted 36-2, would remove this provision.

"Testimony in the committee was very adamant that this would be impractical," Halloran said.

Instead, the amendment would require licensees to maintain a record of hemp shipments shipped from or received by the licensee. It also would:

- require the department to receive and process all completed license applications and issue licenses to qualified applicants;
- clarify that the lot represented by a hemp sample must be harvested within 15 days; and
- authorize the Nebraska Hemp Commission to preserve and develop certain Nebraska heirloom hemp varieties.

Following adoption of the committee amendment, senators voted 37-2 to advance the bill to select file.



Sen. Steve Halloran

BANKING, COMMERCE & INSURANCE

Bill to expand dermatology access advances

Dermatology services conducted

through asynchronous review could be covered by a patient's individual health insurance under a bill advanced from general file March 5.

LB760, introduced by Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman, defines asynchronous review as the acquisition and storage of medical information at one location that is then forwarded to or retrieved by a health care provider at a different location for evaluation.

Under the bill, beginning Jan. 1, 2021, asynchronous review that is deemed medically necessary could not be excluded from a health insurance policy solely because it is delivered asynchronously.

"[The bill is] the only way I can see that we can help people in rural Nebraska," Kolterman said.

A Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee amendment, adopted 36-0, would require that asynchronous review delivered through telehealth be reimbursed at a rate negotiated between the provider and the insurer.

Lawmakers advanced LB760 to select file on a 35-0 vote.

Omnibus banking bill advances

A bill that would change the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act was amended to become an omnibus banking bill and advanced from general file March 5.

LB808, introduced by Sen. Andrew La Grone of Gretna, would enact new sections in the act related to defective corporate actions. La Grone said the bill would provide a method



Sen. Mark Kolterman

to correct procedural errors that a corporation might make.

A Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee amendment, adopted 35-0, added provisions from five bills to LB808:

- LB775, introduced by Sen. Matt Williams of Gothenburg, which would make several technical changes to the Nebraska Real Property Appraiser Act;



Sen. Matt Williams

- LB782, introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner, which would allow students within 120 days of completing an accounting degree to take test sections of the certified public accountant exam;



Sen. John Stinner

- LB902, introduced by Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks of Lincoln, which would modernize and reform the terms of an irrevocable trust;



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

- LB929, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, which would exempt from the Nebraska Real Estate License Act an unlicensed person who provides a list of potential purchases to a broker



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

- or real estate salesperson; and
- LB1123, also introduced by Lindstrom, which would expand the definition of security to include student loans under the Public Funds Deposit Security Act.

Lindstrom introduced an amendment, adopted 34-0, that also would add provisions of his LB767 to change laws governing condominium associations. Among other changes, the provisions would reduce the time allowed to recover damages from alleged deficiency in the design or construction of a condominium.

Williams supported the amendment. He said current condominium laws in Nebraska are outdated and as a result new condominium construction has "slowed down or even stopped."

Sen. Rick Kolowski of Omaha opposed the amendment. He said many states have seen an increase in condominium construction while having a longer period of time to claim damages.

"Where is the concern for the individual condominium owner?" he said.

Senators advanced LB808 to select file on a 35-0 vote.



Resilience training; PTSD injury claims for first responders amended, advanced

Senators amended and advanced a bill from select file March 6 meant to address the mental health strain experienced by emergency first responders.

LB963, sponsored by Gordon Sen. Tom Brewer, would provide first



Sen. Tom Brewer

responders with opportunities to receive resilience training to help prevent or mitigate the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The bill would allow first responders to establish a presumptive case of PTSD from cumulative injury or stress caused by conditions of employment as a personal injury for workers' compensation purposes.

To establish such a case, the first responder must show that he or she: underwent a mental health examination before the onset of the mental injury or illness, obtained testimony from a qualifying mental health professional that he or she suffers from a mental injury or illness and participated in resilience training prior to the onset of the mental injury or illness and annually thereafter.

The state Department of Health and Human Services would reimburse first responders for resilience training if their employers do not.

Under the bill as amended on general file, only state-licensed practicing physicians, psychologists and mental health practitioners would be qualified to render an official PTSD diagnosis.

Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell offered an amendment on select file, adopted 27-0, that would add a sunset date of Jan. 1, 2027, to the provisions of LB963 and would clarify that the mental health practitioner making a diagnosis must be independent.

McDonnell offered a second amendment that incorporated provisions of his LB448, which would increase burial benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses to \$11,000. Beginning in 2023, the cap would be adjusted by a maximum of 2.75 percent per year.



Sen. Mike McDonnell

Following the 38-0 adoption of the amendment, senators advanced LB963 to final reading by voice vote.



Language assessment program for deaf children advanced

A bill that would require special language assessments for children who are deaf or hard of hearing advanced from the first round of debate March 5.

LB965, as introduced by Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell, would require the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to establish and coordinate a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

McDonnell said the bill is meant to enhance kindergarten readiness for deaf and hard of hearing children by increasing language proficiency during the early years of life.

"The ultimate goal and intent of LB965 is to raise awareness and understanding of any deaf child's experience in language learning and how that impacts their educational success," he said.

An Education Committee amendment, adopted 45-0, would replace the bill with amended provisions of the original proposal.

It would require the state Department of Education to establish and coordinate the program in collaboration with the commission. The program would assess, monitor and track the language developmental milestones of deaf and hard of hearing children from birth through age five.

Under the proposal, language assessments would be given as needed to each child under 6 who is deaf or hard

of hearing in compliance with the state Special Education Act and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The amendment would require the department and the commission to publish a joint annual report specific to language and literacy developmental milestones of children who are deaf or hard of hearing relative to their peers who are not deaf or hard of hearing. The department and commission would publish the report on their respective websites and submit it to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Education Committee.

The commission would appoint a 14-member committee to advise it on all aspects of the language assessment program. On or before July 1, 2021, the committee would develop specific action plans and make recommendations necessary to implement the program.

In doing so, the committee would review and recommend the use of existing language assessments for children or are deaf or hard of hearing and recommend qualifications for identifying assessment evaluators with knowledge of the use of evidence-based best practices with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The committee amendment also includes amended provisions of LB839, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Anna Wishart. Under her proposal, the Legislature would declare that Nebraska recognizes American Sign Language as a separate and distinct language.

"We are currently one of five [states] who do not," Wishart said, "and we owe it to our deaf and hard of hearing constituents to change that statistic."



Sen. Anna Wishart

The proposal also would allow the State Board of Education to provide for the teaching of ASL in schools. If a school offers a course in ASL, the bill would require that it be offered to all students and may be used for world language credits by the school.

The provisions of LB839 also would allow any postsecondary institution to offer an elective course in ASL, and any credits earned could be used for world language credits if recognized as such by the institution.

Senators voted 45-0 to advance LB965 to select file.

Education cleanup bill broadened, advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval March 3 to a bill that would make several technical changes to state education law after amending it to include provisions of several other education-related bills.

North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, sponsor of LB1131, said it contains technical changes recommended by the state Department of Education, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and Education Committee staff.

An Education Committee amendment, adopted 38-1, includes amended provisions of LB640, introduced last session by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard. The provisions would expand the current definition of multicultural education to include studies relative to the Holocaust and other acts of genocide.

“The Holocaust is a vital part of

world history that demonstrates the dangers of prejudice, discrimination and dehumanization that is fueled by racism and intolerance,” Howard said. “It is my hope that by educating our youth about the past we can prevent these events from happening in the future.”

Sen. Megan Hunt of Omaha supported the amendment. At a time when anti-Semitic violence is increasing around the world, she said, students need to learn about the Holocaust.

“It’s important to teach these things so that our young people who are the future decision makers ... have an understanding of the historical tragedies that are part of all of our history,” Hunt said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers also supported the amendment. He introduced an additional amendment, adopted 34-3, that would add studies relative to slavery, lynching and racial massacres in America to the definition of multicultural education.

“If we’re going to start bringing in these types of horrendous crimes against humanity,” Chambers said, “we should not forget the crimes against black humanity that took place in America.”

Groene opposed the Chambers amendment, saying such subjects, along with genocide, more appropriately would be addressed in Nebraska’s social studies standards. He said lawmakers should not include specific instances of genocide or slavery in the multiculturalism statute.

“To pick certain instances in history does our children a disservice,” Groene said.

He filed an amendment to remove the provisions of LB640, as amended by the Chambers amendment, from LB1131. It failed on a vote of 10-10.

The committee amendment also includes amended provisions of

LB950, introduced by Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil. As introduced, the bill would modify eligibility requirements for the Access College Early Scholarship Program.

The amended provisions would allow the state commissioner of education to verify certain applicants’ eligibility upon request by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

Also included in the committee amendment are provisions of LB1076, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz. Her proposal would allow the state’s tribal colleges to participate in the Community College Gap Assistance Program by expanding it to include eligible programs at accredited, nonprofit, two-year postsecondary institutions with a physical presence in Nebraska.

Sen. Sue Crawford of Bellevue introduced an amendment, adopted 41-0, to incorporate provisions of her LB1001 in the committee amendment.

Under her proposal, each school board would require that the phone number for a national or local suicide prevention hotline or a crisis text line is printed on each new student identification card issued to middle school and high school students enrolled in schools under a board’s authority, beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

Additionally, each public post-



Sen. Dave Murman



Sen. Kate Bolz



Sen. Mike Groene



Sen. Sara Howard



Sen. Sue Crawford

secondary institution authorized to operate in Nebraska would require that one of those numbers be printed on new identification cards issued to enrolled students, beginning with the 2021-22 academic year.

Senators voted 37-0 to advance LB1131 to select file.

GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

State contract authority changes stall on second round

A bill that would change state purchasing processes was amended but ultimately stalled during select file debate March 6.

LB790, sponsored by Sen. Julie Slama of Peru, would allow the state Department of Administrative Services to join competitively bid group contracts entered into with political subdivisions of other states rather than seeking new bids for an independent contract.

The bill would authorize the state purchasing bureau to negotiate the terms of such contracts.

Sen. Mike Hilgers of Lincoln introduced an amendment, adopted 27-0, clarifying a section of the bill that would allow political subdivisions to use a design-build contract method—in which design and construction contracts are bid simultaneously rather than sequentially—only for water infrastructure projects. He said previous language in the bill was too broad.

Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood also offered an amendment, adopted 34-0, to incorporate a provision of her LB752.

The amendment would require the state Department of Health and Human Services and the state Department of Veterans' Affairs to work together to encourage service providers in state and local agencies to ask the question "Have you or a family member ever served in the military?" The question would be included on intake forms and in interviews, she said.

"By asking these questions, it allows the veteran, active-duty service member and their families to find out if they have access to services they never would have been told about if they did not self identify," Blood said.

Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks of Lincoln raised concerns regarding the potentially broad scope of the underlying bill. She introduced an amendment that would prohibit any provision of LB790 from being used to privatize administration of facilities operated by DHHS or the state Department of Correctional Services.

"With privatization we would not have any powers to determine what is going on within the facility. We would not have any power to say 'no, you're spending too much' on this or that. We wouldn't have the power to go in and say 'no, don't put our children into solitary confinement,'" Pansing Brooks said.

Sen. John McCollister of Omaha supported the amendment. He said the state's privatization of child welfare services a decade ago was an "abysmal mess" that should not be repeated. McCollister added that he would not support LB790 unless Pansing Brooks' amendment was adopted.

Gretna Sen. Andrew La Grone opposed the amendment, saying it was unconstitutional. He said the state



Sen. Carol Blood

currently contracts with private entities for pest control, information technology and other services at its facilities.

"This would invalidate those contracts, therefore it would be unconstitutional," La Grone said.

Slama also opposed the amendment, assuring fellow senators that the bill's intent was not to allow a private company to operate prisons or any other state-run facility in Nebraska.

A pending amendment offered by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha would codify that if a court found Pansing Brooks' amendment unconstitutional it could be removed from state law while the rest of the provisions of LB790 would remain intact.

After 90 minutes of debate, the Legislature moved on to the next item on the agenda without voting on LB790 or the pending amendments. Per a practice implemented by Speaker Jim Scheer, the sponsor of a bill that is facing a potential filibuster must demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion before the measure will be scheduled for additional debate.

State holiday honoring Native Americans amended, advanced

The second Monday in October would be known as Indigenous Peoples' Day and Columbus Day in Nebraska under a bill advanced from general file March 4.

LB848, as introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, would have replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. A Government,



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment, adopted, 44-0, instead would merge the two holidays.

Pansing Brooks said the compromise was “not perfect” but necessary to move the bill forward. The combined holiday would honor Nebraska’s first residents, she said.

“I brought LB848 to keep this Nebraska history alive and to give our state an opportunity to have an important day of reflection on the contributions of our first people,” Pansing Brooks said.

Sen. Tony Vargas of Omaha supported the bill, saying he appreciated the compromise Pansing Brooks offered. Several Italian Americans from Vargas’ south Omaha district opposed abandoning Columbus Day during the bill’s committee hearing, he said.

“People really did identify with Columbus Day as Italian Americans. They felt a personal connection,” Vargas said.

Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte said the bill was unnecessary because the federal government recognizes Native American Heritage Day on the day after Thanksgiving.

“Let the Native Americans have their day. Let the Italians have their day,” Groene said.

Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon introduced an amendment, adopted 45-0, to include provisions of LB849, also introduced by Pansing Brooks. The amendment would extend eligibility for the Bridge to Independence Program to Native American youth who have reached the age of majority under tribal law. The program is a system of supports for older teenagers and young adults who are at or near the end of their time in foster care.

Eligibility for the program begins at 19—the age of majority in Nebraska—and Pansing Brooks said some native youth age out of the tribal foster care system at 18, leaving them without services for a year.

Following adoption of the Brewer

amendment, LB848 advanced to select file on a 43-0 vote.

Bill to create Civil War monument wins first-round approval

The First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry would be honored under a bill that advanced from general file March 5.

LB850, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, would authorize a committee to create a monument to the regiment at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield in Tennessee where it fought alongside Union soldiers during the Civil War.

The bill would direct the Nebraska Secretary of State to submit to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior a written request to approve and authorize placement of the monument and would create a committee to provide for the creation, construction, transportation, installation and unveiling of the monument.

The monument’s construction would be privately funded, Pansing Brooks said.

“A modest monument to the First Nebraska Regiment at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield will call attention to the significant contributions Nebraska made to the Union’s success in the Civil War, which brought an end to the scourge of slavery in this country,” she said.

A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs technical amendment was adopted 35-0 and lawmakers advanced the bill to select file on a 36-0 vote.

Omnibus election bill advances

A bill that would keep in-person voting an option in certain counties was amended to become an omnibus election measure and advanced from general file March 5.

LB1055, introduced by Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon, would require counties that conduct elections by mail to have an in-person polling site at the office of the county clerk, at least one secure ballot drop box available for voters and in-person early voting opportunities.



Sen. Tom Brewer

Currently, counties of less than 10,000 residents can apply to the state for permission to hold an election entirely by mail.

“It’s important for people to have the option to go to the county clerk’s office, drop off a mail-in ballot or they can cast an in-person ballot,” Brewer said.

Sen. Tony Vargas of Omaha supported the bill, saying that he wants to assure that voters in eligible counties know they can vote in person if they wish to.

A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment, adopted 42-0, added the provisions of several bills to LB1055:

- LB820, introduced by Brewer, which would remove “home” and “work” phone numbers from voter application forms and make changes to the timeline for recall elections;
- LB1086, introduced by Sen. Matt Hansen of Lincoln, which

would require poll watchers who wish to observe Election Day procedures to be either a



Sen. Matt Hansen

registered voter in Nebraska or a member of a state, national or international election monitoring organization;

- LB1136, introduced by Sen. Matt Williams of Gothenburg, which would require members of a public power board to be governed by the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act when dealing with conflicts of interest on board business and would repeal a law prohibiting a public power board member from having an interest in a contract to which the board is a party;



Sen. Matt Williams

and would

- LB1119, introduced by Gretna Sen. Andrew La Grone, which would prohibit special elections from being held in March of even-numbered years unless the election is in conjunction with a statewide primary election; and



Sen. Andrew La Grone

- LB1120, also introduced by La Grone, which would prohibit special elections from being held in September of even-numbered years unless the election is in conjunction with a statewide general election.

La Grone introduced an amendment, adopted 39-0, that would allow school bond special elections to be held in March and would allow a political subdivision to hold a special election in September to either approve a property tax levy or to exceed the subdivision's property tax levy limitation.

Lawmakers advanced LB1055 to select file on a 45-0 vote.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health and human services omnibus bill advances

A bill that would allow licensed barbers to offer in-home services was amended to become an omnibus health bill and advanced from general file March 3.

LB755, introduced by Sen. Carol Blood of Bellevue, would require barbers who work at a client's home to obtain a permit from the state Board of Barber Examiners. The bill also would allow nail technicians to offer in-home services.



Sen. Carol Blood

The bill would expand the definition of who qualifies for home services to include people with persistent physical and mental disabilities.

Blood said 22 percent of Nebraskans have a physical or mental disability that may make it difficult or impossible to leave their home for personal care services. The bill also would help caretakers who are unable to leave the person they are caring for, she said.

"Self-care issues seem small, but can mean a lot," Blood said.

A Health and Human Services Committee amendment, adopted 39-0, added the provisions of five bills to the measure:

- LB37, introduced by Sen. Robert Hilkemann of Omaha, which would amend the



Sen. Robert Hilkemann

Podiatry Practice Act to allow a physician's assistant to perform services that are delegated by and provided under the supervision of a podiatrist and are within the podiatrist's scope of practice;

- LB772, introduced by Sen. Matt Williams of Gothenburg, which would remove restrictions on physician assistants regarding the details of their collaborative agreement and their ability to work in a hospital and prescribe medication, including allowing a physician assistant to serve under several specialists who may work at the same practice rather than solely under a single physician;

- LB811, introduced by Sen. John McCollister of Omaha, which would amend the Parkinson's Disease Registry Act and require that



Sen. John McCollister

a patient's date of birth rather than Social Security number be included in a pharmacist's semi-annual report to the state Department of Health and Human Services;

- LB825, also introduced by Hilkemann, which would add Spinal Muscular Atrophy to the list of 32 required screenings for all infants born in Nebraska; and

- LB834, introduced by La Vista Sen. John Arch, which would allow architecture candidates to begin taking their professional



Sen. John Arch

licensure exam as they are completing their education and experience requirements, and allow engineers to take one of their two exams prior to completing four years of post-accredited degree experience.

Lawmakers advanced LB755 to select file on a vote of 40-0.

Amended child protection changes advanced

A bill that would extend and revamp the state’s alternative response procedures in child welfare cases was amended and advanced from select file March 6.

Alternative response is a practice that handles low-risk child welfare cases by empowering families to build on their strengths, rather than criminally investigating them or placing them on the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. Nebraska’s alternative response pilot program has been in place since 2014.

Among other provisions, LB1061, introduced by Sen. Sue Crawford of Bellevue, would eliminate the pilot program’s sunset date, provide clearer definitions of response pathways for reports of child abuse and neglect and establish an advisory group under the Nebraska Children’s Commission to examine the state Department of Health and Human Service’s use of alternative response.

Crawford introduced an amendment on select file, adopted 32-0, that would narrow the types of cases eligible for alternative response. Cases instead would be forwarded directly to the county attorney if they involve:

- a history of termination of parental rights;



Sen. Sue Crawford

- domestic violence involving a caretaker in situations where the alleged perpetrator has access to the child or caretaker;
- someone who illegally manufactures methamphetamine or opioids in a home where a child lives;
- a child who has contact with methamphetamine or other nonprescribed opioids;
- a household member who tests positive for methamphetamine or nonprescribed opioids at the birth of an infant who is the subject of the report; and
- absence of a caretaker without having given an alternate caregiver authority to make decisions and grant consents for necessary care, treatment and education of a child without having made a provision to be contacted to make such decisions or grant such consents.

The amendment also would remove abandonment of a child for six months or more immediately prior to a report from the list of cases excluded from eligibility for alternative response.

Crawford said she introduced the amendment after concerns were expressed by county attorneys that alternative response could be used too often.

Following adoption of the amendment, LB1061 was advanced to final reading on a voice vote.

JUDICIARY

Mental health care directives win first-round approval

Nebraskans would have more control over their future mental health

care under a bill advanced from general file March 4.

LB247, as introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, would allow individuals to create an advance directive—a written, notarized statement of a person’s desired medical treatment to be carried out if the person becomes incapacitated—specifically for their mental health care.



Sen. Kate Bolz

Mental health directives were first introduced in the 1980s, Bolz said, as a tool for people with mental health diagnoses to retain choice and control over their own care.

“Mental health directives are necessary because they close an important statutory gap that allows individuals the right to maintain their voice in their own mental health care,” she said.

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 41-0, replaced the bill. As amended, it would allow a person to issue instructions or preferences on future mental health care decisions, including consent to or refusal of specific types of care, such as inpatient treatment, psychotropic medication or electroconvulsive therapy.

Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop supported the bill and the amendment. A doctor cannot provide care without patient consent, he said, even if the patient is suffering a psychotic break.

“This allows someone who is in their proper state of mind to execute one of these [advance directives] and say, ‘If I’m in a place where I can’t make these decisions, then I want my power of attorney to do it, even if I’m saying no,’” Lathrop said.

LB247 would require two witnesses to the signing of an advance directive. Witnesses could not be the person’s attending physician or member of their

mental health care treatment team, family member, romantic partner, attorney or owner or employee of a treatment facility at which the person is receiving treatment.

The person signing an advance directive must be of sound mind and could not appear incapacitated or under undue influence or duress at the time of signing. An advance mental health care directive would remain in effect until it expires according to its own terms or is revoked by the person to whom it applies.

Under the bill, a healthcare professional who acts or declines to act according to reasonable medical standards, in good faith reliance upon a person's advance directive, would not be subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability or discipline for unprofessional conduct.

Senators advanced the bill to select file on a 40-0 vote.

Student mental health considerations advanced

A bill that seeks to prioritize students' mental health was advanced from general file March 5.

Currently, a school may refer a child to the county attorney for truancy if the child has had more than 20 absences during the school year and a collaborative plan has not successfully resolved the child's barriers to attendance.

LB751, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, would add mental health as a recognized barrier to attendance for consideration as part of a collaborative plan.



Sen. Carol Blood

Blood said the bill would acknowledge the need to treat an individual's

mental well-being the same as physical health.

"It's a small but much needed step to destigmatize mental health problems that many students face and a step forward toward addressing the alarming increase in the rate of suicide [among] Nebraska's children," she said.

North Platte Sen. Mike Groene expressed concerns about leaving a potentially suicidal student at home alone.

"Who is the person that is looking for the small signs that can prevent suicide," he asked. "Are they better off at school where a mentor, teacher or counselor can take note of the situation?"

Senators voted 46-0 to advance the bill to select file.

Immunity for emergency child removal advanced

A person assisting a child believed to be in imminent danger would be eligible for legal immunity under a bill advanced from general file March 4.

LB832, as introduced by Brainard Sen. Bruce Bostelman, would provide criminal and civil immunity for a person who removes a child—who they reasonably believe to be in imminent danger—from a locked motor vehicle, as long as they act in good faith.



Sen. Bruce Bostelman

Bostelman said he introduced the bill after a child in his district mistakenly was left in a hot car and died.

"According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, heat stroke is not about irresponsible people potentially leaving children in cars," he said. "Most cases occur when a child is mistakenly left [behind] or enters into a vehicle unattended."

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 39-0, replaced the bill.

State law currently includes a "good Samaritan" provision that extends legal immunity to a person rendering aid at the scene of an accident or other emergency. The committee amendment would expand the definition to include entering a vehicle to remove a child to avoid immediate harm.

Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop supported the bill.

"Our hope is that by [advancing] this bill, we can raise awareness so that people are looking in cars in the summer and they don't hesitate for a second to break a window to get to a child that might otherwise perish," he said.

Senators advanced the bill to select file on a 38-0 vote.

Omnibus judiciary bill advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval March 5 to a bill that would make several changes to judicial procedure.

LB881, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, would eliminate the court's authority to deduct fines automatically from otherwise encumbered portions of an offender's bond.



Sen. Matt Hansen

An offender's bond should be returned at the conclusion of a case, Hansen said, and then the court can assess that person's ability to pay a fine.

"Just because you were able to scrape together the money to post bond, doesn't mean you can actually afford it," he said.

Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop introduced an amendment that instead would allow an offender to choose whether or not they wanted fines deducted from their bond.

The amendment was adopted 35-0.

A Judiciary Committee amendment incorporated provisions of nine additional bills:

- LB213, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John McCollister, which would allow a person sentenced to community service to apply to have their conviction set aside;



Sen. John McCollister

- LB282, sponsored by Hansen, which would require the court to appoint counsel when setting bond for an indigent defendant;
- LB776, sponsored by Bennington Sen. Wendy DeBoer, which would allow evidence from an expert witness regarding eyewitness testimony to be admitted



Sen. Wendy DeBoer

- under Nebraska Evidence Rules;
- LB777, also sponsored by DeBoer, which would replace references to infractions, misdemeanors and felonies and use the term “offense;”

- LB945, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh, which would require cities of more than 100,000 people to prepare an annual



Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh

- report on untested sexual assault evidence collection kits;
- LB1007, also sponsored by Hansen, which would reduce the time between court reviews of a person’s competency to stand

trial to every 60 days;

- LB1041, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, which would clarify the process for making a grand jury transcript publicly available when convened to investigate the death of a person in custody or detention;



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

- LB1180, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, which would increase the number of alternate jurors a court can impanel to six; and



Sen. Justin Wayne

- LB1181, also sponsored by Wayne, which would provide that a person cannot be held in custody while awaiting trial on an offense for a period of time longer than the maximum sentence for that offense.

Following the 33-0 adoption of the committee amendment, senators voted 31-0 to advance the bill to select file.



Senators advance biofuel development authority for public power

Nebraska’s public power districts could develop, manufacture and sell certain biofuels in an effort to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions under a bill advanced from general file March 4.

LB899, introduced by Venango

Sen. Dan Hughes, would authorize a public power district to develop, manufacture, use, purchase or sell biofuels and biofuel byproducts.



Sen. Dan Hughes

Hughes said the proposal would allow public power districts to research biofuel applications that could reduce their power generation facilities’ carbon dioxide emissions, which are produced when fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas are burned.

“All we’re asking for in this bill is to give our public power sector ... a little more flexibility of looking at ways to reduce the carbon footprint of generating electricity,” he said.

A Natural Resources Committee amendment, adopted 40-0, would allow public power districts to develop, manufacture, use, purchase or sell at wholesale “advanced” biofuels and their byproducts and other fuels and fuel byproducts so long as those activities help offset greenhouse gas emissions.

Hughes said advanced biofuels are those made from feedstocks, such as grass or manure, that are not food products.

Sen. Mike Moser of Columbus supported the bill. He said it would give the Nebraska Public Power District the opportunity to partner with a private company in a project that could potentially reduce its carbon dioxide emissions.

Albion Sen. Tom Briese also supported LB899, saying it could benefit rural Nebraska by expanding biofuel production.

Sen. Justin Wayne of Omaha opposed the bill. He said it would allow public power districts to compete with private utilities in the natural gas industry.

Senators voted 44-1 to advance the bill to select file.

REVENUE



Tax form change for NEST contributions advanced

Nebraska taxpayers could direct state income tax refunds to their Nebraska Education Savings Trust Plan accounts under a bill advanced from general file March 4.

NEST provides tax-advantaged 529 accounts meant to encourage saving for postsecondary education costs. An account's participant, or registered owner, is eligible for a state income tax deduction for contributions they make, up to \$5,000 for those married filing separately and \$10,000 for other filers.

As introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, LB865 would allow a participant to reduce their federal adjusted gross income by the amount their employer contributes to their account.



Sen. Justin Wayne

It also would prohibit any government program administered by a state agency that provides benefits or aid to individuals based on financial need from taking employer contributions into account when determining a person's income.

Wayne introduced an amendment, adopted 39-0, that would remove those provisions, which he said are included in LB1042, introduced by Gretna Sen. Andrew La Grone.

The remaining provisions of LB865 would require the state tax commissioner to include space on the individual income tax return form, beginning with tax year 2021, in which the taxpayer may designate any amount of a refund as a contribution to their NEST account.

The tax commissioner would determine the amount of designated contributions, and the state treasurer would transfer the amount from the state's general fund to the College Savings Plan Program Fund for deposit into the appropriate accounts.

The state Department of Revenue estimates that 5 percent of total refunds will be directed to NEST accounts, which would decrease general fund revenue by approximately \$641,000 in fiscal year 2022-23.

LB865 also would modify the definition of "matching contribution" for purposes of a program in which the state treasurer provides incentive payments to employers that make matching contributions to employees' NEST accounts.

Lawmakers voted 38-0 to advance the bill to select file.

NEST program changes advanced

Nebraskans could deduct employer contributions to their state college savings accounts from their state income taxes under a bill advanced from the first round of debate March 3.

The Nebraska Education Savings Trust Plan provides tax-advantaged 529 accounts meant to encourage saving for postsecondary education costs. Contributions grow tax-deferred, and withdrawals are exempt from state and federal taxes as long as they are used for a beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses.

Gretna Sen. Andrew La Grone, sponsor of LB1042, said the bill would ensure that Nebraska taxpayers do not have to pay state income tax on employer contributions to their



Sen. Andrew La Grone

NEST accounts.

Under his proposal, an individual's federal adjusted gross income would be reduced by the amount of any contribution made by the individual's employer into the individual's NEST account.

The deduction would be for taxable years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2021, and could not exceed \$5,000 for those married filing separately or \$10,000 for other filers.

LB1042 also would prohibit any state agency that provides benefits or aid to individuals based on financial need from taking employer contributions into account when determining an individual's income.

Additionally, LB1042 would eliminate the provision in current law that allows only an account's participant, or registered owner, to take a state income tax deduction equal to contributions they make to their account, up to \$5,000 for those married filing separately or \$10,000 for other filers.

As introduced, LB1042 would allow owners to use NEST accounts to pay for costs incurred for participation in certain apprenticeship programs and the principal or interest on any qualifying education loan of the designated beneficiary or sibling of the beneficiary.

A Revenue Committee amendment, adopted 40-0, would remove those provisions. Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, the committee's chairperson, said the change is intended to reduce the bill's estimated cost.

Sen. Adam Morfeld of Lincoln introduced an amendment, adopted 32-0, that would include amended provisions of his LB1083.



Sen. Adam Morfeld

The proposal would update the

Meadowlark Act, under which a NEST account is opened for each Nebraska newborn, to allow the state treasurer to credit private qualified contributions to the Meadowlark Endowment Fund or to accounts opened under the program, at the direction of the donor.

Morfeld said the change would allow certain charitable foundations that have rules against funding endowments to contribute to the program.

Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks introduced an amendment, adopted 36-1, that would prohibit any money accrued by participants in the program fund from being used to pay expenses associated with attending kindergarten through 12th grade.

It also would prohibit private contributions to the Meadowlark program from being used to pay those expenses.

Lawmakers voted 42-0 to advance the bill to select file.

TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Transportation load limit exception advanced

Farmers would have expanded transportation options under a bill advanced from general file March 3.

Currently, the state Department of Transportation, Nebraska State Patrol or local authorities can issue permits authorizing a person to move objects greater than maximum weight and load limits set in state law.

One of these permits allows a person transporting grain to exceed vehicle weight limits by 15 percent and length limits by 10 percent to transport grain from the field to storage, market or stockpile in the field, or from stockpile to market or factory when failure to do so would mean economic loss.

LB931, sponsored by Hastings Sen. Steve Halloran, would expand the permit to apply to transport of grain directly from farm storage to market.



Sen. Steve Halloran

The bill would help modernize state statutes, Halloran said, and give peace of mind to farmers.

“This bill helps clarify the language in current statute regarding transporting grain to market and ensures that farmers can deliver their harvested grains from farm storage to market without being penalized for being overweight if they are stopped by a carrier enforcement officer,” he said.

The bill also would allow single-axle trucks to exceed single axle and gross weight by up to 15 percent for transport from farm storage to market or factory, up to 70 miles.

A Transportation and Telecommunications Committee amendment, adopted 38-0, would allow the maximum load of seasonally harvested grain to be increased for tandem axle, group of axles or on the gross weight by 15 percent for transport from farm storage to market or factory without a permit.

Bayard Sen. Steve Erdman supported the proposal.

“This is a commonsense bill that makes a difference for agriculture and makes a difference for the state of Nebraska,” he said.

Senators advanced LB931 to select file on a 41-0 vote.

Omnibus transportation bill amended, advanced

Lawmakers amended and advanced a bill from select file March 6 containing several transportation measures.

LB944, as introduced by Lincoln Sen. Suzanne Geist, would allow

owners to seek a refund on vehicle registration if a vehicle is lost to natural disaster. Geist said the bill also would harmonize several technical provisions of state law related to motor vehicles.



Sen. Suzanne Geist

Sen. Curt Friesen of Henderson offered an amendment, adopted 39-0, that incorporated provisions of his LB1088. These would allow people to purchase a personalized message organizational license plate.



Sen. Curt Friesen

The provisions also would permit the state Department of Motor Vehicles to discontinue issuance of certain specialty license plates if less than 500 new and renewal applications are received in any consecutive two-year period. The current threshold is 200.

The Friesen amendment also would incorporate provisions of five additional bills, including:

- LB843, introduced by Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh, which would provide for “Dominate Life” license plates;



Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh

- LB903, introduced by Omaha Sen. Rick Kolowski, which would provide for Down syndrome awareness license plates;



Sen. Rick Kolowski

- LB921, introduced by Omaha Sen. Robert Hilkemann, which would provide for “The Good Life is Outside” license plates;



Sen. Robert Hilkemann

- LB942, introduced by Omaha Sen. Megan Hunt, which would provide for “Support the Arts” license plates; and



Sen. Megan Hunt

- LB1139, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Anna Wishart, which would provide for “Pets for Vets” license plates.



Sen. Anna Wishart

Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz also offered an amendment on select file to incorporate provisions of her LB976, which would add neurological impairment to the list of criteria eligible for handicap parking passes within the existing 200-foot mobility impairment standard.



Sen. Kate Bolz

Bolz said she brought the bill on behalf of a constituent who has a son with autism. Simply walking through a crowded parking lot can be difficult for her son, Bolz said, and having access to closer parking spaces would help alleviate that stress.

Senators voted 35-0 to adopt the Bolz amendment.

A Transportation and Telecommu-

nications Committee amendment adopted on general file incorporated provisions of LB831, originally introduced by Brainard Sen. Bruce Bostelman.



Sen. Bruce Bostelman

These would allow the state Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a salvage title for a vehicle manufactured prior to 1940 if it previously was titled as “junk.” The vehicle owner also would be required to prove that no major component part had been replaced, the vehicle had been restored to its original specifications and had been inspected.

The committee amendment also incorporated provisions of four additional bills, including:

- LB768, originally introduced by Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht, which would incorporate updated federal regulations related to cabin trailers, low-speed vehicles, handicapped parking, vehicle registration and driver licenses and state identification cards, among others;



Sen. Joni Albrecht

- LB785, originally introduced by Friesen, which would provide length, weight and load capacity exceptions for stinger-steered automobile transporters, towaway trailer transporter combinations, battery-powered vehicles, emergency vehicles and certain heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicles;
- LB983, originally introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, which would eliminate the one-point deduction from a person’s

driver license for a speeding violation of up to five miles per hour over the speed limit; and



Sen. Sue Crawford

- LB1067, originally introduced by Bayard Sen. Steve Erdman, which would allow all-terrain and utility-type vehicles to cross controlled-access highways of more than two marked lanes, if used for agricultural purposes.



Sen. Steve Erdman

Senators advanced LB944 to final reading by voice vote.

URBAN AFFAIRS

Workforce housing bill stalls

A bill intended to expand workforce housing in urban communities stalled on general file March 4.

LB1155, as introduced by Omaha Sen. Tony Vargas, would create a grant program within the state Department of Economic Development to support development of workforce housing in Nebraska counties of 100,000 or more residents. Sarpy, Lancaster and Douglas counties would be eligible for the program and only nonprofit organizations could apply for grants.



Sen. Tony Vargas

The Middle Income Housing Investment Fund would receive a one-time, \$10 million general fund

transfer. Any grants awarded would require one-to-one matching funds.

The program could be used for new construction, substantial repair or rehabilitation of dilapidated housing or upper-story housing development for occupation by a homeowner.

An Urban Affairs Committee amendment would define workforce housing as homes with an appraised value of \$150,000 to \$250,000.

Vargas said expanding the inventory of middle-income housing would enable young adults to stay in Nebraska.

“There’s a shortage of this type of housing,” Vargas said. “In my district, specifically, there has been a lot of new construction of higher-income condos and higher-income rental units. While the investment in the neighborhood has been positive in many ways, it has also resulted in longtime residents being pushed out.”

Sen. Justin Wayne of Omaha spoke in support of the bill, saying it was similar to a law passed three years ago to promote workforce housing development in rural areas. LB1155, Wayne said, would enable people to move out of low-income housing.

Sen. Steve Erdman of Bayard opposed the bill. He said that such a program would obscure the real reason private developers aren’t building workforce housing—high property taxes.

“We’ve been putting a Band-Aid on the problem,” Erdman said. “We spend too much, which makes our property taxes too high, and then we have to incentivize people to do things that the common investor can’t do.”

Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil also opposed the bill, saying government shouldn’t subsidize housing.

“Government is not effective or efficient in doing these types of things,” Murman said.

After several senators opposed using general fund dollars for the pro-

gram, Vargas offered an amendment to remove that provision from the bill. He said he would work to find other funding sources.

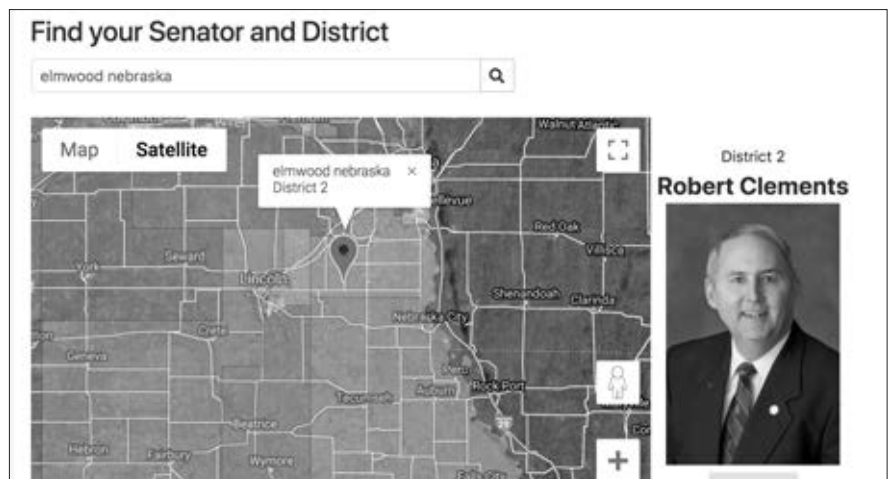
After three hours of debate, the Legislature moved on to the next item on the agenda without voting on

LB1155 or any pending amendments. Per a practice implemented by Speaker Jim Scheer, the sponsor of a bill that is facing a potential filibuster must demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion before the measure will be scheduled for additional debate. ■

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COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Current hearing schedules available at: NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar

Friday, March 20

Transportation & Telecommunications

1113 -1:00 p.m.

Appointments: John F. Krager III; Roger Figard; Lisa Kramer; Steven D. Rames; Darold E. Tagge; Timothy W. Weander - Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards

Wednesday, April 8

Nebraska Retirement Systems

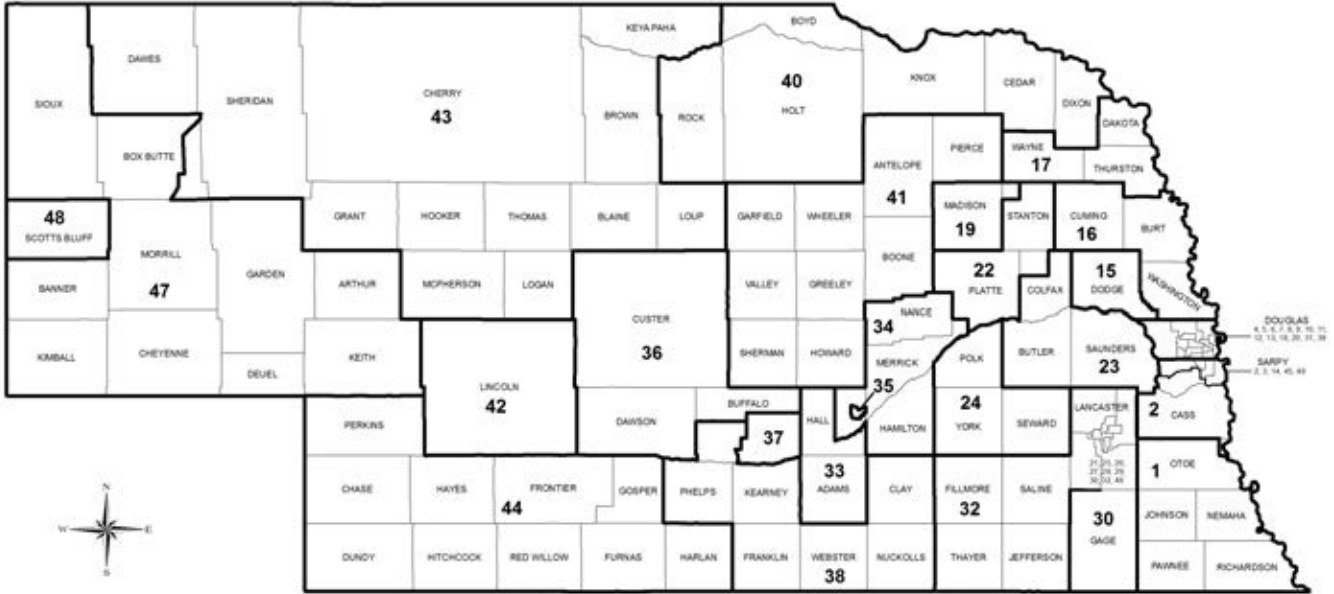
Room 1525 -12:00 p.m.

Presentation of the Nebraska Investment Council Annual Report to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee pursuant to section 72-1243(2)

Presentation of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems Annual Report to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee pursuant to section 84-1503(3) ■

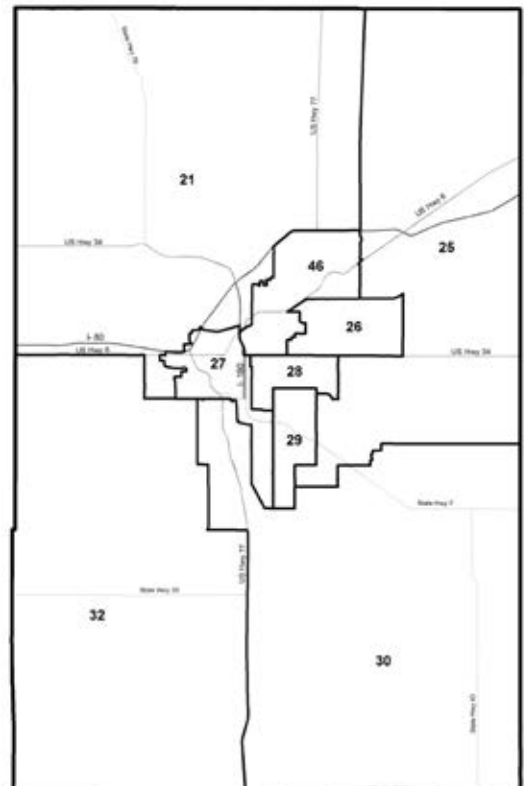
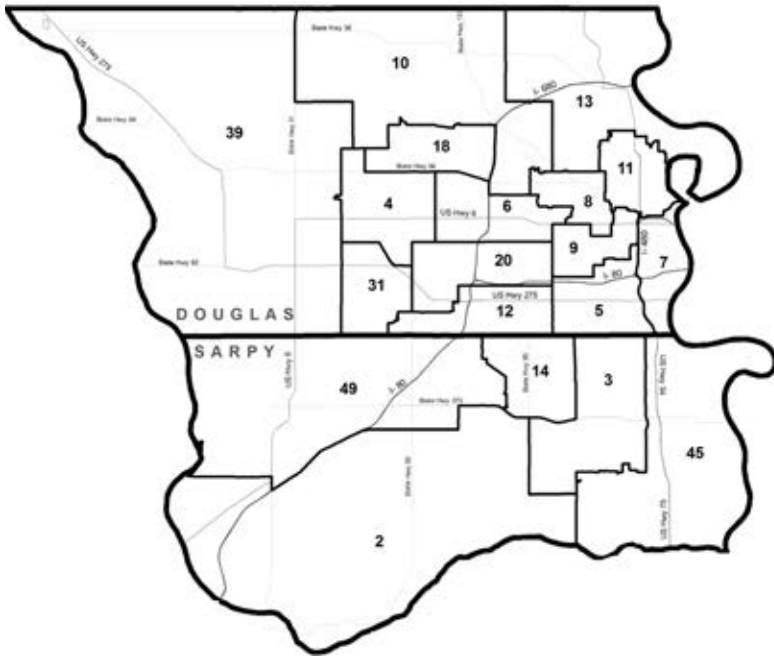
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

For larger versions of these and other district maps, visit the maps clearinghouse page on the Legislature's official website: www.nebraskalegislature.gov/about/maps.php



OMAHA AND VICINITY

LINCOLN



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Sen. Carol Blood Bellevue, District 3 Room 1021 (402) 471-2627 cblood@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist03	Sen. Wendy DeBoer Bennington, District 10 Room 1114 (402) 471-2718 wdeboer@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist10	Sen. Mike Hilgers Lincoln, District 21 Room 2108 (402) 471-2673 mhilgers@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist21	Sen. Lou Ann Linehan Elkhorn, District 39 Room 1116 (402) 471-2885 llinehan@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist39	Sen. Julie Slama Peru, District 1 11th Floor (402) 471-2733 jslama@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist01
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