

## Potential sales tax increase, local taxing authority cap advanced



Sens. Lou Ann Linehan and R. Brad von Gillern confer during first-round debate on a proposal to fund property tax relief.

A proposal to generate state revenue that would be used to provide additional property tax relief advanced to the second round of debate April 2 after a successful cloture motion.

LB388, as introduced by Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, would make a technical change to state law regarding the sales tax rate.



Sen. Lou Ann Linehan

A pending Revenue Committee amendment would replace the bill with a proposal to increase the state sales tax rate, impose sales tax on the purchase of certain items and services and eliminate exemptions for others.

The additional revenue would fund a companion proposal contained

in an amendment to LB1331, introduced by Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil.

The amendment would end the refundable income tax credit against school taxes paid that was created under LB1107 in 2020 and instead “front load” the funds allocated to the credit by increasing foundation aid to public schools.

Linehan said the two proposals – in conjunction with a modified cap on school property taxing authority in the amendment to LB388 – would provide more funding to schools at a time when valuations in some urban and suburban districts are spiking,



Sen. Dave Murman

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## School athletics, bathroom access proposal fails to advance

A bill that would restrict K-12 students’ access to school facilities and sports teams based on their sex assigned at birth stalled on general file April 5 after a failed cloture motion.

LB575, as introduced last session by Omaha Sen. Kathleen Kauth, would adopt the Sports and Spaces Act and restrict students to using school bathrooms and participating in school sports that correspond to their sex assigned at birth rather than their gender identity.

Under the bill, Nebraska public and private schools would be required to designate each group bathroom and locker room in school buildings for use by either biological females or biological males, based on chromosomes and anatomy.

Additionally, schools would be barred from permitting a biological male to use a restroom or locker room designated for biological females, and biological females would be prohibited from using a male-designated restroom or locker room.

Kauth said the bill would protect students’ “privacy and dignity” when using restrooms and locker rooms. In addition, she said, there are “immutable” differences between males and females and that forcing girls to compete in sports against boys who identify as female could put their safety at risk.

“It is extremely wrong that we are putting girls in the position to par-

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# Potential sales tax increase, local taxing authority cap advanced

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which reduces their state aid under the school funding formula and forces them to rely more on property taxes.

“If we don’t do this,” she said, “we are going to raise property taxes by significant amounts.”

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, the committee amendment would increase the state sales tax rate from 5.5% to 6.5% unless actual state General Fund net receipts for fiscal year 2023-24 exceed the most recent forecast of net receipts provided by the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board by 3.5%.

If net receipts exceed the forecast by 3.5%, the state tax commissioner then would set a lower rate, from 6.25% to 5.5%, based on how much state revenue exceeds that threshold. The commissioner would determine the applicable rate on or before July 14, 2024.

The amendment also would limit to 3% the amount by which a city, county or village could increase its property tax request from one year to the next with several exceptions, including a percentage based on real property growth.

Lincoln Sen. George Dungan opposed LB388. He said he supports

frontloading the LB1107 credit but opposes funding additional school aid with a sales tax increase that disproportionately would affect low- and middle-income Nebraskans.

“We do need property tax relief,” he said, “just not a tax shift.”

Sen. R. Brad von Gillern of Elkhorn said the proposal is not a dollar-for-dollar tax shift and would result in a “net tax reduction” for many Nebraskans. He said the sales tax increase would not have an outsize effect on low-income Nebraskans because they spend most of their income on essentials, such as groceries and rent, that are not subject to sales tax.

The committee amendment would help offset any regressive effects from the sales tax increase by exempting residential utilities from sales tax, von Gillern added.

Linehan said she was open to amending the proposal on select file to remove the sales tax increase. If lawmakers cannot agree on an amendment, Linehan said, she would ask Speaker John Arch of La Vista not to schedule further debate on the bill.

After eight hours of first-round

debate over two days, Linehan filed a motion to invoke cloture, which ends debate and forces a vote on the bill and any pending amendments.

The motion succeeded on a vote of 33-6. Thirty-three votes were needed.

Senators then voted 28-12 to advance LB388 to select file. ■

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## School athletics, bathroom access proposal fails to advance

(continued from front page)

ticipate against boys – who are much, much stronger – against their will,” Kauth said. “Women and girls are going to start refusing to participate in sports, knowing that the cards are stacked against them when men are allowed to compete against them.”

A pending Education Committee amendment would clarify that biological female students who are taking cross-sex hormones also would be prohibited from competing against other women and girls in school sports.

Omaha Sen. Megan Hunt opposed the measure and filed numerous motions to extend debate. LB575 isn’t about protecting women’s sports, she said, but rather about discriminating against transgender youth who want to participate in school activities.

“We’re talking about 7th graders who want to run track with their friends,” Hunt said. “And then the state [comes] down to put this government-sanctioned discrimination upon them when they are just trying to run track and play soccer and have fun with their friends at school.”

Fremont Sen. Lynne Walz argued that the Nebraska School Activities Association’s gender participation



Sen. Kathleen Kauth said LB575 would ensure privacy and safety for all Nebraska students.

policy, which most Nebraska K-12 schools currently follow, is sufficient.

“We already have an effective policy in place,” she said. “We have had it in the past, we have it today and it will be effective in the future.”

Sumner Sen. Teresa Ibach spoke in support of LB575. The current NSAA regulations give school districts individual authority to implement gender participation policies, she said, result-

ing in a lack of uniformity.

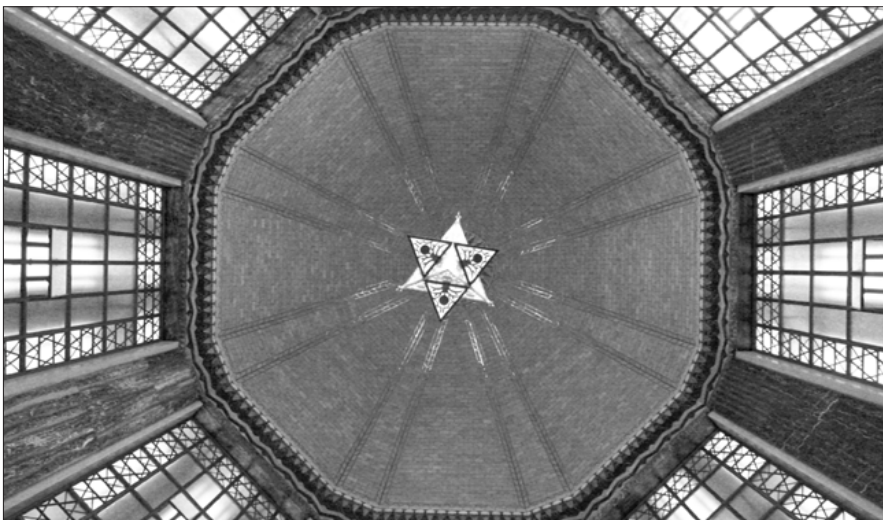
“What [LB]575 will allow is statewide guardrails for consistent, fair competition,” Ibach said.

Sen. Tom Brandt of Plymouth questioned how the measure would be enforced and who would pay to implement the policies outlined in LB575. He expressed concern that schools would have to build additional restrooms and find ways to determine a student’s chromosomes.

“I’m a person that wants to limit the financial responsibility of our schools,” Brandt said. “I don’t want to see any more unfunded mandates.”

After four hours of debate, Kauth offered a motion to invoke cloture, which ends debate and forces a vote on the bill and any pending amendments.

The cloture motion failed 31-15. Thirty-three votes were needed. A failed cloture motion results in debate on a proposal ceasing for the day. LB575 is unlikely to be placed on the agenda again this session. ■



## Halloran officially reprimanded for remarks

The Executive Board announced an official letter of reprimand of Hastings Sen. Steve Halloran April 3 for remarks made March 18 during floor debate on a bill regarding obscenity laws governing K-12 teachers and librarians.

During the debate, Halloran read from the bill's committee hearing transcript, which included a passage from "Lucky," a memoir by Alice Sebold that describes a graphic sexual assault that the author experienced. Halloran inserted the names "Senator Cavanaugh" and "Senator Dungan," who were engaged in the debate, throughout his reading of the excerpt.

The Legislature launched an official investigation into the incident March 20 under its workplace harassment policy and appointed a special three-member personnel panel. The panel hired an outside law firm to investigate whether the actions taken by Halloran violated the Legislature's workplace harassment policy or other employment discrimination law.

During announcement of the reprimand, Executive Board chairperson, Sen. Raymond Aguilar of Grand Island, said the law firm determined Halloran's remarks would not meet the criteria for a hostile work environment claim under federal or state law, but were a violation of the Legislature's harassment policy.

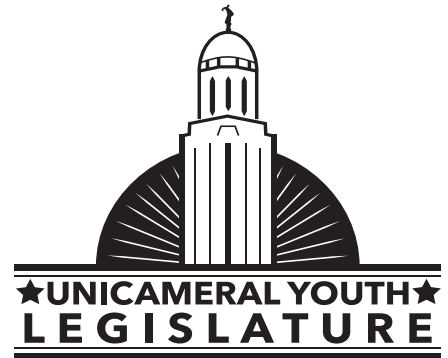
According to the report, Sen. Halloran's conduct and comments were "inappropriate, unnecessary and could be interpreted as unfairly targeting a fellow member of the Legislature." It went on to describe his conduct as "reprehensible" and that it could foster a hostile work environment.

Aguilar said the Executive Board met to review the report and voted 8-1 to approve an official letter of reprimand. The letter, which was read into the legislative record, indicated that those who signed it agree that Halloran's conduct "should never be tolerated."

"[We] formally deplore the unacceptable conduct of Sen. Halloran and find that his remarks were not only unbecoming of a member of the Nebraska Legislature and contrary to all senatorial traditions of decorum, but clearly violated the Nebraska Legislature's workplace harassment policy."

In comments on the floor following the announcement, Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh said she was disappointed with the handling of the investigation and the public announcement of its conclusions without prior notification to her or Sens. John Cavanaugh and George Dungan.

"You have failed me ... you have failed all victims," Cavanaugh said, adding that she intends to file a censure motion. ■



High school students with an interest in law, government, leadership or public speaking are encouraged to register for the 2024 Unicameral Youth Legislature, which will convene June 9-14.

In this legislative simulation conducted at the State Capitol Building, high school students from around the state have the opportunity to take on the role of lawmakers. Student senators sponsor bills, conduct committee hearings, debate legislation and discover the unique process of the nation's only unicameral by learning directly from current state senators and staff.

The program is conducted by the Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature, through the Unicameral Information Office, in coordination with Big Red Summer Camps.

Scholarships are available and are awarded prior to registration. The registration deadline is May 3.

For information on registration and scholarships, visit the Unicameral Youth Legislature page: [NebraskaLegislature.gov/uyl](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov/uyl). ■

# AGRICULTURE

## Nitrate reduction incentive bill amended, advanced to final round

A bill that would provide Nebraska farmers with incentives for reducing their synthetic, commercial fertilizer use and incorporating innovative technology into their farming practices was amended and advanced by lawmakers April 4.

LB1368, sponsored by Sumner Sen. Teresa Ibach, would adopt the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act, which would implement a program to incentivize farmers to switch from synthetic fertilizers to sustainable alternatives.



Sen. Teresa Ibach

The bill would provide an annual incentive of \$10 per acre to qualified farmers who verify a reduction in commercial fertilizer rates of either 40 pounds per acre or 15% by incorporating a qualifying product into the farm's nutrient plans. The incentive program would be capped at \$5 million annually and would terminate Dec. 31, 2029.

As amended on general file, LB1368 would fund the program through a one-time \$5 million transfer from the state's Cash Reserve Fund to a newly created Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Cash Fund.

Ibach offered a select file amendment, adopted 42-0, to strike that provision and instead authorize a \$1 million transfer from the accrued interest on the Water Resources Cash Fund. The amendment also would allow, but not require, the state De-

partment of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations and apply for any state, federal or private grant funding to carry out the bill's provisions.

Columbus Sen. Mike Moser also offered an amendment to include provisions of his LB1199. The provisions would eliminate certain fees collected by the state Department of Natural Resources for performing administrative duties, including those for certain surface and groundwater use permit applications.



Sen. Mike Moser

Moser said the bill would eliminate rarely used, insignificant fees collected by the department and reduce administrative and accounting costs.

Following the 36-0 adoption of Moser's amendment, senators advanced LB1368 to final reading by voice vote.

istrator within a semiannual review period be conducted onsite. The bill instead would give the director of the state Department of Insurance discretion to require an onsite evaluation if deemed necessary.

Nebraska is one of only 10 states to still require this "antiquated" in-person review, Slama said, and enforcement has become difficult with more third-party administrators working from home.

During debate March 28, Slama offered an amendment to make technical changes to the bill and add provisions of LB990 and LB446, both introduced by Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar.



Sen. Eliot Bostar

LB990 would alter the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Licensure and Regulation Act and the provisions of LB446 would provide a regulatory framework for peer-to-peer vehicle sharing in Nebraska and determine the priority of insurance liability. The amendment would require that the owner and driver be insured under a motor vehicle liability insurance policy during each sharing period and specify what such a policy must include.

Sen. John Cavanaugh of Omaha offered a motion to divide the question and consider the provisions of LB446 separately from the rest of the Slama amendment.

Following a ruling from the presiding officer that the amendment could be divided, Cavanaugh filed another motion challenging the germaneness of the provisions, which he said were not substantively related to the overall committee package.

That motion was denied and a motion from Cavanaugh to overrule the presiding officer was defeated on a vote of 9-29. The Legislature

# BANKING, COMMERCE & INSURANCE

## Insurance omnibus measure clears first round

A bill that would change requirements for onsite reviews of insurance administrators was amended to become an omnibus insurance measure and advanced from general file April 2.

As introduced by Dunbar Sen. Julie Slama, LB1073 would eliminate a requirement that at least one operations review of a third-party admin-



Sen. Julie Slama

adjourned for the week before taking any additional votes.

When debate resumed April 2, lawmakers voted 37-0 to adopt the Slama amendment containing the provisions of LB446. The rest of the amendment was adopted on a vote of 38-0.

A Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee amendment, adopted 38-0, added portions of nine other bills.

Provisions of LB885, sponsored by Bostar, would create a lung cancer screening mandate for individuals between 50 and 80 years of age who currently smoke or who quit within the past 15 years and had a 20-pack per year smoking history. The provisions would prohibit a deductible, coinsurance or cost-sharing requirement for qualified individuals.

LB1136, sponsored by Norfolk Sen. Robert Dover, would increase the maximum civil fine that the state Real Estate Commission may impose on an individual performing brokerage activities in Nebraska without a license. The provisions would raise the cap from \$2,500 per complaint to \$5,000 or the total amount of commission earned by the licensee in each transaction subject to a complaint.



Sen. Robert Dover

Also included in the committee amendment are:

- LB873, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Beau Ballard, which would increase from \$500 to \$5,000 the amount of “good funds” a person acting as a real estate closing agent must have available



Sen. Beau Ballard

for disbursement at the time of closing a real estate transaction;

- LB1024, introduced by Bostar, which would change provisions related to documents and information provided to an independent review organization under the Health Carrier External Review Act;
- LB1135, sponsored by Dover, which would prohibit use of right-to-list home sale agreements and change provisions of the Nebraska Real Estate License Act;
- LB1147, introduced by Bostar, which would provide requirements for separate investment accounts that hold assets of index-linked variable annuity contracts;
- LB1148, sponsored by Blair Sen. Ben Hansen, which would change requirements relating to insurance coverage of step therapy for certain drugs;
- LB1227, introduced by Ballard, which would allow a professional employer organization to offer its covered employees any health benefit plan that follows the requirements of the Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement Act and the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act; and
- LB1409, sponsored by Bostar, which would change provisions of the Nebraska Condominium Act related to notification requirements regarding the subdivision of a unit, creation of timeshares or proposed amendment to a declaration that ad-



Sen. Ben Hansen

versely affects the priority of the mortgagee’s right to foreclose its lien or otherwise materially affect the rights and interests of the mortgagee or beneficiary.

Following adoption of the committee amendment, lawmakers voted 38-0 to advance LB1073 to select file.

## EDUCATION

### School funding changes advanced

A proposal that would terminate the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act, or TEEOSA, and establish a new school funding system earned first-round approval from lawmakers April 3.

As introduced by Glenvil Sen. Dave Murman, LB1331 would modify language regarding State Board of Education policies on truancy and clarify language related to the State Department of Education’s powers and duties. An Education Committee amendment, adopted 47-0, gutted the bill and replaced it with a separate proposal containing provisions of Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne’s LB1231.



Sen. Dave Murman



Sen. Justin Wayne

Murman, the chairperson of the Education Committee, said LB1331 initially was a cleanup bill for the state Department of Education. It became apparent, however, that establishing a new school funding system was of

greater importance this session, he said. “This is a critical investment in our schools and more importantly for our students,” Murman said.

As amended, LB1331 is a companion bill to Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan’s LB388. The two bills aim to generate state revenue to fund additional property tax relief by implementing the Nebraska Education Formula and increasing yearly per-student foundation aid from \$1,500 to \$3,000.



Sen. Lou Ann Linehan

The increase in foundation aid would be funded by discontinuing the state’s refundable income tax credit against school taxes paid, established under LB1107 in 2020, and reallocating those funds to increase foundation aid for public schools.

Adams Sen. Myron Dorn said many property owners are not claiming the tax credit because they are unaware of it or don’t understand how it works. As a result, he said, nearly 50% of the credits have gone unclaimed.

Among other provisions, LB1331 also would prohibit school districts from adopting budgets that surpass certain allowable reserve percentages. The percentages would differ based on the district’s average daily membership and the department would be responsible for annually determining and certifying each district’s specific allowable reserve percentage.

Linehan supported the bill, saying TEEOSA has long been a problem. She said equalization aid – calculated by subtracting needs from available local property tax revenue – has disproportionately affected rural school districts that contain large amounts of agricultural land. In addition, she said, recent property valuation increases

in urban and suburban areas have decreased foundation aid for those districts.

Bennington Sen. Wendy DeBoer raised concerns about eliminating equalization aid, which school districts with the greatest need receive. Foundation aid, however, goes to schools regardless of need, she said, and is less flexible in addressing the needs of individual districts.

Plymouth Sen. Tom Brandt supported the bill, saying it would significantly increase funding for schools in his district while simplifying property tax relief for Nebraskans.

“This bill is about property tax relief,” he said. “This is part of a solid solution when combined with LB388.”

Seward Sen. Jana Hughes supported “front loading” the income tax funding directly to schools to provide property tax relief without making taxpayers claim the tax credit.

“Property owners pay property taxes every year, and it just does not make sense for the government to take our money, hold it for nine months out of the year, and then we have to ask for it back,” she said.

A motion from Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh to indefinitely postpone the bill failed 0-36.

After adopting the committee amendment, senators voted 45-0 to advance LB1331 to select file.



**Pacific stress test bill expanded, clears first round**

A bill meant to prepare supply chains and critical infrastructure for

the risk of a possible Pacific conflict advanced from general file April 3 after lawmakers declined to make it a vehicle to attempt to return Nebraska to winner-take-all distribution of the state’s Electoral College votes.

LB1300, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar, would require an assessment of all risks to state or national security, economic security or public health in the event of a conflict involving China or other countries in the Pacific theater and the U.S. or its allies. The governor would be required to publish the state risk assessment annually.



Sen. Eliot Bostar

The bill would create the Committee on Pacific Conflict and outline membership and expectations, including production of the annual threat report. LB1300 also would prohibit companies from designated countries from bidding on certain state or local procurement contracts.

Bostar said if Taiwan were invaded, which is a persistent danger, it likely would result in the U.S. being targeted.

“Given that Nebraska is home to Strategic Command and other critical American assets, it’s not hard to imagine [the state] being the target of cyberattacks and other disruptions,” Bostar said. “We cannot control these global risks, but we can and should prepare for them.”

A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment would add restrictions on circulation of the committee’s report, with criminal penalties for unauthorized dissemination, and allow the substitution of a briefing for the written report if deemed necessary.

Dunbar Sen. Julie Slama offered

an amendment to the committee amendment that would add the provisions of LB764, originally introduced by Central City Sen. Loren Lippincott. Those provisions would end Nebraska's split system of awarding electoral votes, in place since 1991.



Sen. Loren Lippincott

Currently, the statewide winner in presidential elections receives two electoral votes and the winner of each of the state's three congressional districts receives one electoral vote. Nebraska and Maine are the only two states to use this system.

Slama said renewed national interest in how Nebraska apportions its Electoral College votes provided an opportunity to revisit the state's policy.

"We have a chance to seize the moment here," she said.

The amendment was ruled not germane to the underlying bill by the presiding officer, a ruling that Slama challenged and sought to overrule. The motion from Slama to overrule the chair was defeated on an 8-36 vote.

Lawmakers then adopted the committee amendment on a 41-0 vote, which contains provisions of six additional bills, including Bellevue Sen. Rita Sanders' LB2. The provisions would create a state Commission on Asian American Affairs.



Sen. Rita Sanders

The commission would include 14 individuals of Asian ancestry appointed by the governor. It would be tasked with enhancing the cause of Asian American rights and developing solutions to problems common to all Asian American residents of Nebraska.

Sanders said Asian Americans are the fastest growing minority group in the state and impact Nebraska through sports, cuisine, holidays and culture.

Provisions of LB869, introduced by Bostar, would expand the mission of county veterans service committees to encompass aid to all veterans, regardless of whether a war existed during their term of service. The measure also clarifies that a person who served on active duty for training in the Nebraska National Guard would be eligible to receive assistance from county veterans service committees.

LB887, sponsored by Gordon Sen. Tom Brewer, would create the Nebraska Nonprofit Security Grant Program to be administered by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. The proposal outlines a list of authorized uses for grant funds, which NEMA would begin providing Jan. 1, 2025. Individual recipient organizations would have an annual grant cap of \$100,000 and total annual grant awards would be capped at \$500,000.



Sen. Tom Brewer

LB1048, introduced by Bostar, would require certain chemical facilities in Nebraska to participate in a federal program relating to cybersecurity and infrastructure security.

Also included in the committee amendment are provisions of two bills originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell. LB1243 would create the Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team within the office of the state fire marshal.



Sen. Mike McDonnell

LB1358 would prohibit metropolitan and primary class city council

members from increasing their salaries or the mayor's salary in excess of inflation as calculated by the Consumer Price Index plus 1% without a public hearing, a two-thirds vote of the council and voter approval. Omaha is the state's only metropolitan class city and Lincoln is the only primary class city.

In addition, salaries could be raised only once every two fiscal years. The measure would set maximum salary levels for directors of public power districts and salary limitations for metropolitan utility districts and counties.

Following adoption of a technical amendment offered by McDonnell, lawmakers voted 41-0 to advance LB1300 to select file.



**ADC child support income exclusion advanced**

Lawmakers amended and advanced a bill April 3 that would exclude some child support income in determining eligibility for a government assistance program.

Under current law, eligibility for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance and Child Care Subsidy programs are determined by the applicant's household income that includes income received through child support payments made by the non-custodial parent.

LB233, as introduced last session by Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh, would require the state Department of Health and Human Services to



disregard all child support income for purposes of calculating a recipient's eligibility for assistance through TANF, LIHEAP, SNAP and the Child Care Subsidy program, beginning Jan. 1, 2024.



Sen. John Cavanaugh

The bill also would remove a current provision of the state's TANF direct cash assistance program, Aid to Dependent Children, that requires recipients to surrender all child support payments to the state in order to receive benefits. Under LB233, child support payments made to a custodial parent receiving ADC benefits would go directly to the parent rather than to the state.

Cavanaugh said the current practice is unfair.

"When a parent pays money for the support of their child, the state should not take that money," he said. "That money should go [toward] the support and welfare of the child."

A Health and Human Services Committee amendment, adopted 41-0, would limit the income disregard to the ADC program.

Cavanaugh introduced an amendment to the committee amendment that would change the bill's operative date to July 1, 2026. It also would create a pass-through to allow a custodial parent to receive \$100 of child support paid for a family with one child and \$200 for a family with two or more children and disregard that amount when determining program eligibility.

Lincoln Sen. Danielle Conrad spoke in support of the measure. She said just 30% of taxpayer dollars that come to the state through the TANF program and are intended to support low-income families in Nebraska are being used for that purpose.

"That's problematic in a lot of respects," Conrad said. "But this is one common sense issue that I think we can come together on and find consensus to at least make sure that the state of Nebraska stops ripping off child support payments for low-income working families in the administration of this program."

Following the 41-0 adoption of Cavanaugh's amendment, senators voted 38-0 to advance LB233 to select file.

**Child care provider assistance advanced to final round**

A bill that would create a new category of eligibility for Nebraska child care providers was narrowed and advanced from select file April 4.

LB856, introduced by Omaha Sen. John Fredrickson, would exclude all earned and unearned income from eligibility determinations for the Child Care Subsidy program for households with at least one individual who holds employment in a qualifying child care setting.



Sen. John Fredrickson

Individuals who pass a criminal background check and are employed at least 20 hours a week at an in-home or licensed child care facility would be eligible for free child care for their own children under the program.

Fredrickson offered a select file amendment, adopted 35-0, that replaced the bill. The amendment would remove categorical eligibility for child care providers under the Child Care Subsidy program but would keep an exception that was adopted on general file for a child care provider who cares for their own child.

Current Nebraska law prohibits the state Department of Health and

Human Services from providing a subsidy to a child care provider who cares for their own child. LB856 would create an exception if an employer has attempted to make reasonable accommodations to ensure that a provider is not caring for their own child but such an accommodation cannot be made.

Fredrickson said he was disappointed to narrow the bill's scope, but that the measure still would address a common problem among smaller child care providers in rural Nebraska who struggle to separate parents and children due to limited staff and space.

"Taking this smaller step now will give us more time to analyze the data from Iowa and other states who have moved forward on categorical eligibility for providers," he said.

Fredrickson introduced another amendment to allow the department to develop rules and regulations to carry out the bill's provisions and provide an operative date of July 1, 2025.

After adopting the amendment on a vote of 38-0, senators advanced LB856 to final reading by voice vote.

**JUDICIARY**



**Bill to reform parole board amended, advanced**

A measure that would provide seats on the Board of Parole to individuals with experience in the state's correctional system was expanded and advanced to the second round of debate April 3.

LB631, as introduced last session by Sen. Terrell McKinney of Omaha, would require the board to include one member who is a formerly incarcerated individual and one member

with experience in restorative justice and reentry. In addition, members would be considered to be in “neglect of duty” if they miss three hearings of the parole board in a calendar year and parole could not be denied based on an inmate’s lack of access to programming.



Sen. Terrell McKinney

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 33-8, would make a number of changes, including requiring a code of ethics and training in cultural competency and implicit bias for board members.

An amendment offered by McKinney replaced the committee amendment and added the provisions of five additional bills related to reentry for formerly incarcerated individuals. Among other provisions, the amendment would require development of performance metrics for probation officers and evaluation of a possible unified risk assessment framework across all Nebraska criminal justice agencies.

McKinney said many people are languishing in prison long past their parole eligibility date due to barriers to reentry. He said the amendment is an attempt at a comprehensive overhaul of the state’s parole and pardon systems.

“We need to make sure that we’re actually rehabilitating people,” he said. “I strongly believe that we must make changes to our parole board and our criminal justice system.”

Included in the amendment are provisions of LB1145, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Carolyn Bosn, which would transfer the Division of Parole Supervision to the Nebraska



Sen. Carolyn Bosn

Department of Correctional Services.

She said the change would provide greater coordination of reentry programming.

“The goal here is to have the right hand talking to the left hand and having a smooth transition so that individuals who are coming out of the Department of Correctional Services are set up for a path of success,” Bosn said.

Also included is LB334, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell, which would create minimum standards for reentry housing facilities throughout Nebraska.



Sen. Mike McDonnell

McDonnell said wrap-around services are important for people who are reentering society after being incarcerated and housing is big part of that equation. He said some existing reentry housing – which the state pays for – is “not fit for humans.”

Other bills in the amendment are:

- LB348, introduced by Sen. Justin Wayne of Omaha, which would give parole services the power to contract with non-profit private providers to develop and operate community work release and treatment centers;
- LB922, sponsored by McKinney, which would establish the Parolee Business Empowerment Grant Program to provide financial grants to eligible parolees who own or run businesses; and
- LB1126, introduced by Bosn, which would create a career



Sen. Justin Wayne

readiness pilot program to assist justice-involved individuals in obtaining the National Career Readiness Certificate.

Bellevue Sen. Rick Holdcroft opposed the McKinney amendment. While acknowledging the hard work involved between lawmakers, the governor’s office and the department, he said the 52-page amendment was too expansive.

Both McKinney and Bosn said additional amendments would be offered on the next round of debate, as negotiations among stakeholders regarding additional modifications are ongoing.

Following the 29-7 adoption of the McKinney amendment, senators voted 30-7 to advance LB631 to select file.

### Extended preservation of sexual assault forensic evidence advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval April 2 to a proposal that would allow individuals who have undergone a sexual assault forensic examination to request law enforcement to preserve their forensic evidence for an additional 20 years.

LB870, introduced by Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh, also would require law enforcement to notify the individual, no later than 60 days before the end of the statutorily required retention period for such evidence, of its intended destruction or disposal.



Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh

“The goal is to give more information to the victims of sexual assault,” she said.

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 46-0, clarifies that a

law enforcement agency would not be required to provide such notice for forensic evidence that was provided anonymously. The amendment also would require that an individual, at their request, be informed when there is a change of status in their case.

After adopting the committee amendment, senators voted 43-0 to advance LB870 to select file.

**Safe haven bill narrowed, advanced to final reading**

A bill intended to expand safe haven provisions for Nebraska infants was narrowed and given second-round approval April 3.

Current state law allows for the surrender of infants 30 days old or younger in person at a hospital. LB876, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Rick Holdcroft, would raise the age to 90 days or younger and provide additional options for a parent or a person acting on the parent’s behalf to voluntarily release custody of an infant.



Sen. Rick Holdcroft

In addition to hospitals and other health care facilities, the bill also would allow a parent or designee to surrender physical custody to an emergency medical provider, at a fire or police station that has staff present 24 hours a day or in a newborn safety device installed at an approved location.

Holdcroft offered a select file amendment, adopted 27-0, to remove the ability for a parent or designee to surrender custody through a newborn safety device and limit approved drop-off locations to emergency care providers, hospitals and staffed fire or police stations.

The amendment also states legislative intent to appropriate \$65,000 to the state Department of Health and Human Services in fiscal year 2024-25 and \$10,000 each year thereafter to develop, implement and maintain a public information program regarding the bill’s provisions.

Following adoption of the Holdcroft amendment, lawmakers advanced LB876 to final reading by voice vote.

**Bill gutted to become civil practice proposal, advanced**

Lawmakers amended and advanced a bill April 4 that would make several updates to Nebraska law governing civil practice and procedure.

As introduced by Lincoln Sen. Danielle Conrad, LB1195 would have expanded eligibility for two programs aimed at addressing a shortage of legal professionals in certain areas of the state. Conrad said the proposal needed additional work, however, so the bill was chosen as a vehicle for other measures.



Sen. Danielle Conrad

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 31-0, gutted the bill and replaced it with provisions of several others related to civil practice and procedure.

The amendment includes provisions from Conrad’s LB1265 that would require the Commission on Public Advocacy to establish eligibility criteria and guidelines for service providers seeking funds from the Legal Aid and Services Fund. The amendment also clarifies that grants should be awarded only to legal service providers offering direct legal representation.

“What we wanted to do was tighten

up that program a little bit and provide some accountability,” Conrad said.

Other bills included in the committee amendment are:

- LB832, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, which would authorize the Governor to accept full or partial cession or retrocession of federal juvenile jurisdiction on behalf of the state when offered by the appropriate federal authority;
- LB902, introduced by Bennington Sen. Wendy DeBoer, which would prohibit an assisted living facility from requiring a third-party financial guarantee as a condition of admission, expedited admission or continued stay unless the third-party has legal access to a resident’s income;
- LB1220, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Carolyn Bosn, which would update property law regarding personal representatives, small estate affidavits, payments and transfers to minors and the roles of trustees and conservators; and
- LB1268, introduced by Conrad, which would raise the homestead exemption from \$60,000 to \$120,000 regarding judgment liens and forced sale.



Sen. Carol Blood



Sen. Wendy DeBoer

After voting 31-0 to adopt a technical amendment from Conrad, lawmakers voted 38-0 to advance LB1195 to select file.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Private renewable energy meeting requirement clears first round

A bill seeking to harmonize requirements for public and private energy generation facilities in Nebraska advanced from general file April 3 after lawmakers voted to narrow the proposal.

LB399, as introduced last session by Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon, would require any privately developed renewable energy generation facility to file an application with the Nebraska Power Review Board seeking approval of the project and to hold a public meeting.



Sen. Tom Brewer

Within 10 days of an application, the board would schedule a public hearing, to be held within 60 days, and give notice to those the board deems to be affected by the proposal.

The board would approve the application after the hearing if it meets the criteria certified to in the application, unless such approval were outweighed by any testimony or evidence in opposition to the application offered by power suppliers, other interested parties or members of the public.

A Natural Resources Committee amendment would replace the bill. Under the amendment, an application would be approved if the board finds that it meets the certified criteria, would “serve the public convenience and necessity” and that the applicant can most economically and feasibly supply the electric service resulting from the proposed construction or

acquisition without unnecessary duplication of facilities or operations.

The amendment would apply only to a proposed electric generation facility with a generating capacity greater than 10 megawatts. It would retain the public meeting requirement and specify that the meeting be held in one of the counties in which the proposed facility would be located and that at least 50% of the governing body of the electric supplier attend either in person or by videoconference. At least one member would be required to be physically present.

Brewer said it should not be too much to ask for private energy developers to be required to meet with those who would be impacted by the construction of their facilities. Wind energy has “torn apart” families and communities in rural Nebraska, he said, and neighbors should be able to weigh in on potential projects.

“This bill does not stop renewable energy projects in Nebraska,” Brewer said. “It adds two steps to the process — adding the power purchase agreement and one public meeting to the law.”

Committee chairperson, Sen. Bruce Bostelman of Brainard, agreed. Speaking in support of the committee amendment, he said the proposal simply would align the requirements for private energy developers with those of public power utilities.

“With [the amendment] we can ensure the same public input and review on both public power and private development energy facility projects prior to construction,” Bostelman said.

Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh said he was not opposed to the public meeting requirement, but did object to shifting project approval from a permissive process — where an applicant can build if they certify that they meet the required criteria already set out

in state law — to one that requires approval from the Power Review Board.

“That is injecting politics and that is taking away local control,” Cavanaugh said, adding that local zoning and siting requirements already exist.

Several opponents argued that the change would create barriers to renewable energy development in Nebraska.

Sen. George Dungan of Lincoln said the possibility of an application being denied by the board would create uncertainty for developers that would hinder their ability to raise sufficient capital to apply in the first place.

“This imposes additional red tape for private business to operate in Nebraska,” Dungan said.

After several hours of debate, Brewer offered an amendment, adopted 42-0, that would retain only the public meeting requirement. Under the amendment, an applicant would be required to explain the need for the proposed facility at the hearing, and real property owners in any of the counties in which the proposed facility would be located would be provided an opportunity to comment.

“I’ll take 70% of something rather than 100% of nothing,” Brewer said, “and that’s how I approach this.”

The amendment also would change a requirement for filing a decommissioning plan from the tenth year of operation to the third year. An additional amendment offered by Cavanaugh and adopted 41-0 would change that requirement to the sixth year of operation.

Following adoption of the amendments, lawmakers voted 44-0 to advance LB399 to select file.

## NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

### State patrol retirement measure advanced to select file

A proposal that would change provisions related to the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement System was narrowed and advanced from general file April 2.

Under the retirement plan currently, the contribution rate for both State Patrol members and the state is 16.26% of a member's monthly compensation.

As introduced last session by Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar, LB196 would reduce the contribution rate for patrol members to 8% and increase the state contribution rate to 25%. It also would increase annuity amounts for a patrol member's surviving spouse from the current 75% to 100%.



Sen. Eliot Bostar

Lastly, the bill as introduced would change the cost-of-living adjustment from the lesser of the Consumer Price Index changes or a set percentage — from 1% to 3% based on hiring date and length of service — to the greater of those two factors.

Bostar said the State Patrol has been losing troopers “at an alarming rate” that continues to rise. Pay increases aren't enough to turn the tide, he said, and LB196 would be a valuable tool in recruitment and retention.

“Reaching sufficient staffing levels has become increasingly difficult,” Bostar said.

A Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee amendment would remove the changes to the surviving spouse annuity and the COLA provi-

sion. It also would adjust the employee contribution rate from the bill's 8% to 10% and the state rate to 24%.

Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell, chairperson of the committee, said the State Patrol had suggested the changes as a way to lower the bill's fiscal impact and that they negotiated with the governor to reach a consensus. A required actuarial study of the amendment has indicated a financial impact of \$2.5 million to the state's general fund, he said.

Sen. Danielle Conrad of Lincoln supported the amendment, while saying she preferred the bill as introduced. Losing the COLA provision and the increase to the surviving spouse annuity was a “real disappointment,” she said, but a more balanced distribution of contribution rates reflects an acceptable compromise.

An amendment offered by Elmwood Sen. Robert Clements instead would change the contribution rates to 12% for members and 22% for the state. He said the amendment would “split the difference” between the current contribution rate for State Patrol members and what they asked for in the bill initially.

North Platte Sen. Mike Jacobson supported the Clements amendment, which he said would strike the right balance between supporting the State Patrol and fiscal responsibility. State Patrol members recently received a 22% pay increase, he said, and further increases in their compensation would put pressure on counties and cities to match that compensation for their own law enforcement — likely leading to an increase in property taxes to pay for it.

“We can all talk a good game about [how] we want to lower property taxes ... but it starts with spending. It starts by controlling our spending,” Jacobson said.

Sen. Anna Wishart of Lincoln opposed the Clements amendment, say-

ing public safety should be a top priority for lawmakers. She said supporting law enforcement personnel who “put their lives on the line” for Nebraskans is a worthy investment of tax dollars.

“Don't let this be the thing that you decide to cut,” Wishart said.

The Clements amendment failed 24-16, one vote short of the number required.

An amendment was then offered by Bostar to extend the deadline to file a claim under the state's In the Line of Duty Compensation Act from one year to three years after the date of death. It was adopted 42-0.

Following the 45-0 adoption of the committee amendment, senators voted 44-0 to advance LB196 to select file.

### Firefighter retirement bill clears first round

Lawmakers advanced a measure to select file April 4 that would make changes to the retirement system for certain Nebraska firefighters on a promise from the bill's sponsor that negotiations would continue.

Nebraska law classifies cities based on population. First class cities are those with a population between 5,001 and 100,000.

LB686, as introduced last session by Fremont Sen. Lynne Walz, would create a new cash

balance retirement plan — which essentially is a pension plan — with a guaranteed annual return of at least 5% for firefighters



Sen. Lynne Walz

in those cities. A Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee amendment instead would incorporate a number of other measures to change the existing defined contribution plan.

Among other provisions, the

amendment would:

- change the definition of salary for firefighters in first class cities to include overtime, call-back and call-in pay and exclude clothing allowances and other benefits;
- increase contribution rates for employers and firefighters who do not pay into Social Security;
- allow firefighters not already required to do so to elect to pay into Social Security;
- allow two or more firefighter retirement committees to choose to pool assets into a single retirement fund; and
- require cities to provide two years of health insurance benefits upon retirement for eligible firefighters.

Walz said firefighters in first class cities were moved to a defined contribution plan in 1984 with the assurance that their new plan would match or exceed their defined benefit of 50% of their salary. That has not happened, she said, and the committee amendment is an attempt to help firefighters achieve the secure retirement they were promised.

Some firefighters are forced to rely on Medicare for basic health care after providing a lifetime of service to their communities, Walz said, while others continue to work while injured, or have left for jobs with other communities or states with better benefits and safety nets.

“After 40 years of inaction, this Legislature owes our firefighters a better deal than what this amendment offers – and certainly better than their current situation,” Walz said.

Seward Sen. Jana Hughes opposed the committee amendment, particularly the provision that would guarantee two years of health insurance benefits after retirement, which she

called a “massive unfunded mandate” for first class cities.

“The only way cities can pay for these benefits is by increasing property taxes or making cuts to current programs and services,” Hughes said.

Sen. Mike Jacobson of North Platte echoed those concerns. He also opposed the committee proposal and offered an alternative amendment that would make a number of changes, including removing post-retirement health insurance benefits.

Senators initially approved Jacobson’s amendment on a 26-16 vote. Twenty-five votes were needed. After a successful motion to reconsider that vote, Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell, chairperson of the committee, asked lawmakers to move the bill to select file so that negotiations could continue.

McDonnell acknowledged that an agreement might not be possible, given how little time is left in the legislative session, but said lawmakers owe it to the firefighters to try and fulfill a promise that the Legislature made 40 years ago.

“We’re on the shot clock,” he said. “At least give us a chance.”

Senators then voted down Jacobson’s amendment 24-17. After also rejecting the committee amendment on a 22-15 vote, lawmakers advanced LB686 to select file 25-14.

## REVENUE

### Revenue package containing good life district changes advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval April 4 to another package of tax-related proposals, including one under which cities could use local tax

revenue to pay for the development of special retail districts.

Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, sponsor of LB1317, said it was introduced as a placeholder. A Revenue Committee amendment, adopted 34-0, replaced the bill with 10 other bills heard by the committee this session.



Sen. Lou Ann Linehan

Under the provisions of LB863, introduced by Linehan, an individual no longer could deduct amounts received as annuities under the Federal Employees Retirement System for state income tax purposes.

The amended provisions of LB1043, introduced by Sen. Terrell McKinney of Omaha, would require certain nonprofit organizations that own or acquire underutilized tax-exempt property in a high-poverty area to develop the property within three years.



Sen. Terrell McKinney

The nonprofit would be required to submit a development plan for the property to the state Department of Economic Development, the clerk of the Legislature and the chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee within 90 days.

If the nonprofit fails to develop the property within that period, the department director would impose a fine. The director would revoke the property’s tax exemption if the failure persists for a further two years.

McKinney introduced an amendment, adopted 37-0, that instead would require the director to make a written recommendation to the county board of equalization that the

exemption be revoked. The amendment also would prohibit a nonprofit organization from selling the property at a price that is more than 50% above market value.

The amended provisions of LB1093, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar, would update the First Responder Recruitment and Retention Act, which provides tuition assistance to qualifying first responders.



Sen. Eliot Bostar

The amendment would expand and clarify the definition of first responder to include any law enforcement officer and professional firefighter.

It also would, with certain exceptions, prohibit an employer from canceling a first responder's individual or family health insurance policy if the first responder suffers serious bodily injury from an event that occurs while the first responder is acting in the line of duty.

If a first responder dies as a result of such an event, the employer could not cancel any health insurance policy covering the first responder's spouse or dependent for at least 12 months.

Currently, interest on refunds and additional taxes due as a result of a decision on a property's valuation by the Tax Equalization and Review Commission begins to accrue on the date of the decision.

Under the amended provisions of LB1134, introduced by Sen. R. Brad von Gillern of Elkhorn, interest would begin to accrue 30 days after the decision. The amendment also would allow two commission-



Sen. R. Brad von Gillern

ers to constitute a quorum to hear and determine appeals or petitions.

The amended provisions of LB1217, sponsored by Bostar, would update requirements for owners of rent-restricted housing projects and change how county assessors calculate valuation for those projects.

Bostar said the changes would correct "flaws" in currently required valuation methods that have resulted in zero or negative valuations on certain rent-restricted housing projects.

The amendment also would allow the owner of a sales-restricted house to apply to the county assessor for a special valuation. The assessor would determine the house's value at its unrestricted appraised value and its maximum allowed sale price and then use the lesser of the two values to determine its valuation.

Under the amendment, certain nursing and assisted-living facilities would receive a property tax exemption based on the percentage of occupied beds provided to Medicaid beneficiaries. It also would apply a property tax exemption to the commons area of a building that is owned by a charitable organization and used for student housing.

The amended provisions of LB1218, introduced by Bostar, would impose an excise tax of 3 cents per kilowatt hour on the electricity used to charge electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles at a commercial electric vehicle charging station, beginning Jan. 1, 2028.

The amendment also would increase the additional registration fee for each motor vehicle powered by an alternative fuel from \$75 to \$150. The additional fee for a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle would be \$75.

Under the amendment, an electric supplier could own, maintain and operate a direct-current, fast-charging station for retail services only at a location that is at least 15 miles from

a privately owned station and at least one mile from a federally designated alternative fuel corridor.

Before beginning construction of a fast-charging station, an electric supplier would have to conduct a right of first refusal process.

The electric supplier would provide public notice at least 90 days prior to beginning construction and could not build if a private charging station operator asserts their right of first refusal by providing notice that the operator plans to provide a station within 15 miles of the proposed location.

If no operator asserts their right within the 90-day period or if no station is built within 18 months after an operator provides notice, the electric supplier could proceed with construction.

Several senators said the requirement would unfairly restrict public power utilities.

Niobrara Sen. Barry DeKay said it would not be "proper" to prohibit utilities from participating in their core business of selling electricity to customers. He said he would seek to remove the right of first refusal provision on the second round of debate.

Sen. Mike Jacobson of North Platte said the process would ensure that private retailers who invest in expensive fast charging equipment would not have to compete with public utilities that can subsidize charging stations with ratepayer funds.

The provisions of LB1295, sponsored by von Gillern, would create the Financial Institution Data Match Act. The measure would require the state Department of Revenue to operate a data match system with each financial institution doing business in Nebraska.

Under the system, the department would provide financial institutions a list of individuals with unpaid taxes that the institutions would match to their account records. Institutions would

provide the department with a list of all matches that includes the name, address and Social Security number or federal employer identification number of each tax debtor that is matched and the balance of each account.

Financial institutions could charge the department a fee to cover the cost of reporting matches, and the department could contract with vendors to develop the system and perform matches. Financial institutions, the department and vendors would be subject to information security and confidentiality requirements.

The amendment would require the state tax commissioner to submit an annual report to the Revenue and Appropriations committees on the amount of taxes, penalties and interest collected during the most recently completed fiscal year as a result of contracts entered into with vendors.

The Legislature last session passed the Good Life Transformational Projects Act, which authorizes the state Department of Economic Development to approve applications for “good life districts” that meet certain thresholds related to investment and job creation. Transactions within a district are subject to a reduced state sales tax rate of 2.75%.

Under the provisions of LB1374, introduced by Linehan, a city could – with voter approval – establish an economic development program for an area of the city included in a good life district and appropriate local sources of revenue to pay for certain development costs, including the construction of public and privately owned real estate.

A city also would be authorized to finance a program by issuing bonds that would be payable from the local sources of revenue.

The provisions of LB1389, sponsored by Bostar, would exempt broad-

band equipment from personal property tax if it is deployed in an area using federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program funds or in a qualified census tract located in a metropolitan class city and used to provide internet access at certain speeds.

The provisions of LB1397, introduced by Glenvil Sen. Dave Murman, would exclude land used for commercial purposes that are not agricultural or horticultural – such as land used for a solar farm or wind farm – from the definition of agricultural and horticultural land for valuation purposes.

Finally, the amendment contains provisions of Bostar’s LB1184 stating legislative intent to appropriate \$1 million in general funds for fiscal year 2024-25 to the state Department of Environment and Energy to fund the installation of real-time nitrate sensors in monitoring wells.

Sen. Robert Clements of Elmwood introduced an amendment, adopted 31-0, that he said would improve the accuracy of currently required reports on inheritance tax collected by counties.

Sumner Sen. Teresa Ibach introduced an amendment, adopted 31-0, to include provisions of her LB893.

Under the amendment, business equipment involved in the manufacturing or processing of liquid fertilizer or any other chemical applied to crops – or the manufacturing of any liquid additive for a farm vehicle fuel – would qualify for a property tax exemption under the ImagiNE Nebraska Act.

Linehan introduced an amend-



Sen. Dave Murman



Sen. Teresa Ibach

ment, adopted 33-0, to create a collection system she said would intercept an individual’s gambling winnings to pay off any child support debts or unpaid taxes.

The proposal would require an authorized gaming operator or licensee, before making a winnings payment, to check the system to determine if the winner has a debt for child support or medical or spousal support or an outstanding state tax liability.

The operator would deduct that amount from the winnings and remit the net winnings payment to the winner and the deducted amount to the state Department of Revenue, which would operate the system. The department would credit any winnings payment against debt certified by the state Department of Health and Human Services until it is paid off and then against any outstanding state tax liability.

LB1317 advanced to select file on a vote of 37-0. ■

## NO UNICAMERAL UPDATE NEXT WEEK

The 108th Nebraska Legislature, second session, has four scheduled days remaining:  
April 9, 10, 11 and 18.

The final regular issue of this session’s Unicameral Update will be published after the Legislature adjourns sine die on April 18.

Visit us online at Update. Legislature.ne.gov. And look for our session review issue in the coming weeks.



# 2024 Legislative Session\*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>January</b>						
	1	2	3 DAY 1	4 DAY 2	5 DAY 3	6
7	8 DAY 4	9 DAY 5	10 DAY 6	11 DAY 7	12 DAY 8	13
14	15 HOLIDAY	16 DAY 9	17 DAY 10	18 DAY 11	19 DAY 12	20
21	22 DAY 13	23 DAY 14	24 DAY 15	25 DAY 16	26 DAY 17	27
28	29 RECESS	30 DAY 18	31 DAY 19			

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>February</b>						
				1 DAY 20	2 DAY 21	3
4	5 DAY 22	6 DAY 23	7 DAY 24	8 DAY 25	9 RECESS	10
11	12 DAY 26	13 DAY 27	14 DAY 28	15 DAY 29	16 RECESS	17
18	19 HOLIDAY	20 DAY 30	21 DAY 31	22 DAY 32	23 DAY 33	24
25	26 RECESS	27 DAY 34	28 DAY 35	29 DAY 36		

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>March</b>						
					1 RECESS	2
3	4 DAY 37	5 DAY 38	6 DAY 39	7 DAY 40	8 RECESS	9
10	11 RECESS	12 DAY 41	13 DAY 42	14 DAY 43	15 DAY 44	16
17	18 DAY 45	19 DAY 46	20 DAY 47	21 DAY 48	22 RECESS	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	DAY 49	DAY 50	DAY 51	DAY 52	RECESS	

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>April</b>						
	1 RECESS	2 DAY 53	3 DAY 54	4 DAY 55	5 DAY 56	6
7	8 RECESS	9 DAY 57	10 DAY 58	11 DAY 59	12 RECESS	13
14	15 RECESS	16 RECESS	17 RECESS	18 DAY 60		20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**Federal & State Holidays**

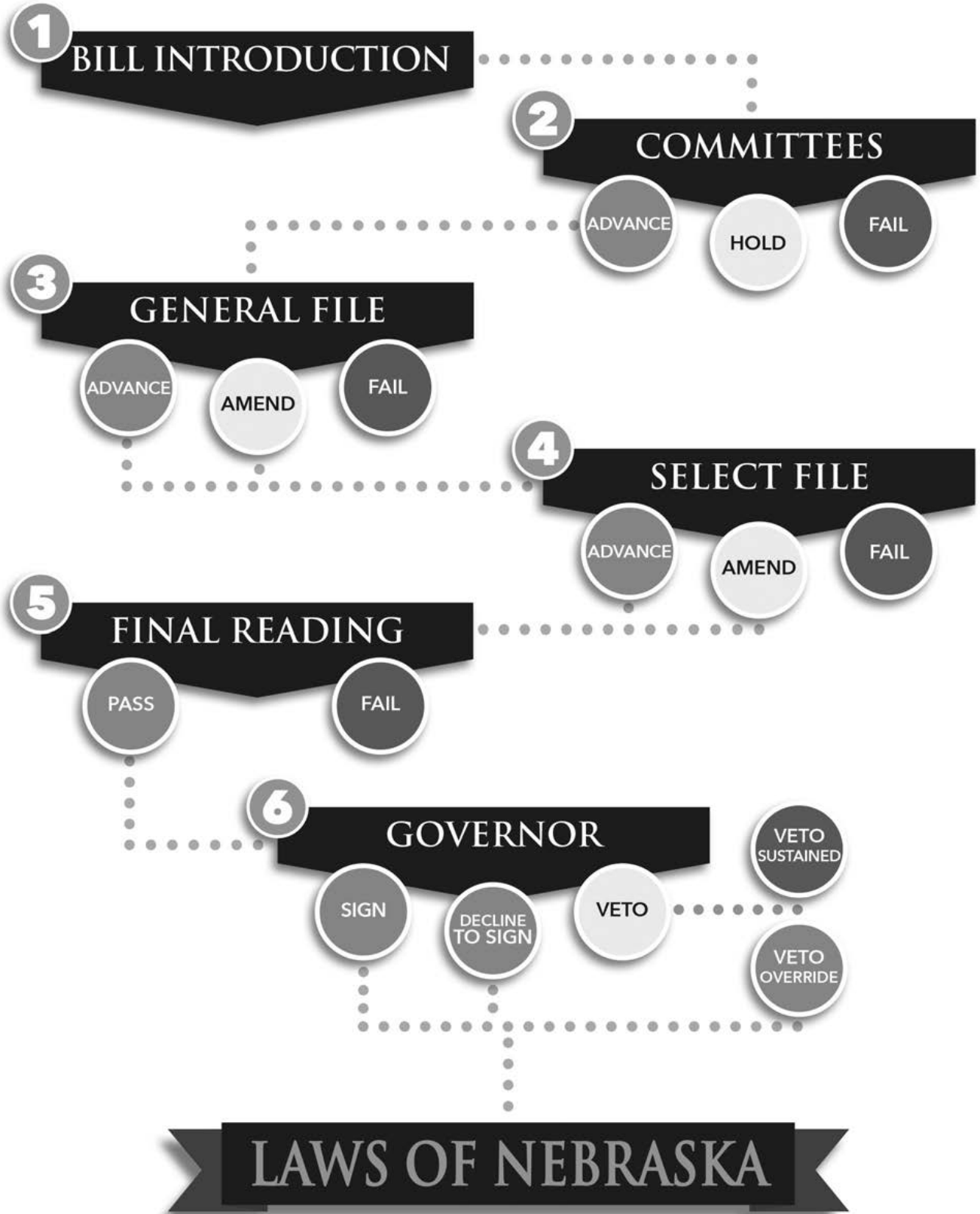
January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 February 19 – Presidents' Day

**Legislative Recess Days**

January 29  
 February 9, 16, 26  
 March 1, 8, 11, 22, 29  
 April 1, 8, 12, 15, 16, 17

\*The Speaker reserves the right to revise the session calendar.

# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



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