



THE 102ND
NEBRASKA
LEGISLATURE

Unicameral Update
Session Review

2012

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

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Cover: a carved buffalo head adorns the capital of a column in the Nebraska Capitol's vestibule

Agriculture



Sen. Tom Carlson, Agriculture Committee chairperson

The management of domestic and wild animals, corn and wheat checkoff increases, and access to safe and healthful foods topped the list of agricultural issues addressed by senators this session.

Commercial dog breeders must meet stronger licensing requirements under **LB427**, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett.

Passed on a 45-3 vote, **LB427** requires that a facility veterinary care plan be updated annually at the time of an on-site visit by the attending veterinarian and that the plan include a hands-on physical checkup of each animal at least once every three years.

LB427 also requires that a breeder:

- maintain individual animal health records;
- for new facilities, provide that primary enclosures



Sen. Abbie Cornett

- have free access to an exercise area or provide daily exercise or socialization opportunities by other means;
- groom dogs to ensure very little of their coats are matted;
- identify all animals with a microchip;
- not perform certain surgeries on animals; and
- report serious injuries or medical conditions to veterinarians.

The state Department of Agriculture can deny licensure to any breeder whose license was revoked or who was accused of animal cruelty in another state. The bill provides a process to appeal any department licensure ruling.

Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Louden addressed the spread of black-tailed prairie dogs with **LB473**, approved on a 32-11 vote.

The bill allows counties to adopt a management plan to contain the expansion of prairie dog colonies and employ personnel to implement the plan. Any landowner found to be out of compliance with the ordinance will be served an official notice. The person will then have 60 days to take measures to control the expansion.

If a landowner fails to take action within 60 days, the county will take over management of the colony. Any cost incurred to the county for controlling the migration of prairie dogs will be charged to the offending landowner.

Another animal treatment bill heard by the committee was **LB915**, introduced by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson. The bill would have shortened the window of time people could report animal abuse or cruelty to 12 hours after the incident.

The bill would have required a reporter of animal abuse to include all documentation including video, photographs or audio evidence. Failing to report the abuse would be a Class IV felony.

A second provision of the bill would have made obtaining employment at an animal facility with the intent to disrupt the normal operations of the facility a Class IV felony.

The bill was held by the committee.

Senators approved bills increasing checkoff funds for



Sen. LeRoy Louden



Sen. Tyson Larson

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commercial wheat and corn sales.

LB905, introduced by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson, changed the Nebraska Wheat Board's current excise tax levy of 1.25 cents per bushel of wheat to 0.4 percent of the net market value of wheat sold through commercial channels in Nebraska. The board may make additional rate adjustments up to 0.5 percent of the net market value after Oct. 1, 2014.

The bill also creates the Nebraska Wheat Development, Utilization and Marketing Fund and allows certain non-checkoff revenues — such as licensing fees and royalties — to be remitted to the fund.

Senators passed the bill on a 44-0 vote.

Carlson also introduced **LB1057**, approved 45-0, which set the corn checkoff assessment at 0.5 cents per bushel levied by the Nebraska Corn Board. The fee had been 0.25 cents per bushel with authority for the Corn Board to increase to 0.4 cents. The new assessment rate is scheduled to take effect beginning Oct. 1, coinciding with the sunset of the ethanol development checkoff assessment.

The definition of noxious weeds was clarified in the Nebraska Seed Law by another Carlson bill.

LB770 removed the specific names of noxious weeds and instead refers to the “seeds of noxious weeds, as noxious weeds are designated in the Noxious Weed Control Act.”

LB907, introduced by Carlson, will subject agricultural tractors of 100 horsepower or greater to a mandatory permitting process.

Currently the agricultural tractor models of 40 horsepower or more are subject to the mandatory permit.

Passed on a 46-0 vote, the bill raises the minimum threshold from 40 to 100 horsepower, but provides that purchases of unpermitted tractors of any horsepower are not eligible for the sales tax exemption for agricultural machinery and equipment. Vendors will have the option

to permit tractors with less than 100 horsepower.

Senators approved two bills, both passed 49-0, that made changes to state Department of Agriculture statutes.

Under **LB771**, introduced by Carlson, provisions of the 2009 Food Code are incorporated into the Nebraska Pure Food Act that:

- require that the person in charge of a food establishment demonstrate knowledge of food safety risks and mitigation;
- provide a consumer advisory regarding risks of consuming raw or undercooked meat;
- establish standards for preventing food contamination by hand;
- establish time and temperature standards for cooking animal foods; and
- require that new dishwashers be equipped with automatic detergent and sanitizer dispensers.

Omaha Sen. Brenda Council introduced **LB1123** to increase access to healthful, affordable food for people living in underserved communities.

The bill would have provided funds dedicated to developing easily accessible sources of healthy food in areas designated as food deserts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These areas are characterized by limited access to healthful food retailers and are located in either high-poverty or low-income neighborhoods.

The bill was held by the committee.

Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan introduced **LB884**, a bill that would have created a task force to address the inclusion of agriculture in current K-12 standards and curricula.

LB884 also was held in committee. ■



Sen. Brenda Council



Sen. Kate Sullivan

Appropriations



Appropriations Committee chairperson Sen. Lavon Heidemann

Lawmakers made adjustments to the state's two-year budget with four bills passed this session.

LB968, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood on behalf of the governor, provides for deficit appropriations and passed on a 45-2 vote.

Among the significant appropriations outlined in the bill are:

- \$17 million to the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to cover shortfalls due to developments in the child welfare reform effort and to reduce caseloads;
- \$10 million to state aid to K-12 special education;
- \$9.7 million to reinstate 1.5 percent of a 2.5 percent



Sen. Mike Flood

cut in Medicaid provider rates for the upcoming fiscal year;

- \$6.1 million to fund the design and construction of a veterinary diagnostic center at the University of Nebraska; and
- \$4 million to reduce the state's developmental disability services waiting list.

LB969, also introduced by Flood at the request of the governor and passed on a 44-3 vote, authorizes various fund transfers.

LB131, introduced by Elk Creek Sen. Lavon Heidemann, makes transfers from the state's cash reserve, including:

- \$50 million for a cancer research center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha;
- \$15 million for the UNMC College of Nursing and School of Allied Health Professions at the University of Nebraska in Kearney;
- \$7.5 million for improvements to the Oak Bowl at Peru State College;
- \$6.7 million for renovation of the Armstrong Gymnasium at Chadron State College; and
- \$800,000 for the Centennial Mall renovation project in Lincoln.

The bill passed on a 43-1 vote.

Finally, **LB1072**, introduced by the Business and Labor Committee, approves claims exceeding \$50,000 authorized by the state claims board, including:

- \$2.5 million in denied claims made by subcontractors of Boys and Girls Home – a former lead contract agency with DHHS;
- \$495,000 in tort claims; and
- \$275,000 in miscellaneous claims.

The bill also includes \$3.9 million in write-offs for fiscal year 2010-11. **LB1072** passed on a 42-4 vote.

Gov. Dave Heineman subsequently vetoed the provision in **LB1072** approving the \$2.5 million in claims made by subcontractors of Boys and Girls Home, but senators voted 31-12 to pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of the governor. ■

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Banking, Commerce and Insurance



Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee chairperson Sen. Rich Pahls

Insurance and banking industry regulation were among the issues considered by the Legislature this session. Senators approved insurance coverage for oral cancer medications.

LB882, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, requires that a health policy, certificate, contract or plan provide coverage for a prescribed, orally administered anticancer medication that is used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells on a basis no less favorable than intravenously administered or injected cancer medications that are covered as medical benefits.

The bill also prohibits an insurance provider from reclassifying an anticancer medication or increasing a co-insurance, copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense to offset the cost of complying with the bill.

LB882 takes effect Oct. 1, 2012, and sunsets Dec. 31, 2015.



Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

Lawmakers also approved a bill meant to clarify the regulatory framework for motor vehicle ancillary product contracts.

LB1054, introduced by Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy, specifies that service contracts for ancillary motor vehicle products are not insurance and not otherwise subject to the state's insurance code.

The bill defines ancillary products as a protective chemical, substance, device, system or service installed on or applied to a motor vehicle, which is designed to prevent loss or damage from a specific cause.

Such products include, but are not limited to:

- additives;
- alarm systems;
- steering locks;
- fuel and ignition kill switches;
- part marketing products; and
- electronic, radio and satellite tracking devices.

Also included in the bill's ancillary auto product definition are contracts or agreements for repair or replacement of:

- windshields damaged by road hazards;
- inoperable or lost keys or key fobs;
- tires or wheels damaged by road hazards; and
- dents, dings or creases using paintless dent removal.

The bill passed 44-0.

Several banking bills also were approved this session, including a measure that updates and amends the state's consumer finance laws.

LB965, introduced by Boys Town Sen. Rich Pahls at the request of the state Department of Banking and Finance, makes changes to the Nebraska Installment Sales Act (NISA), the Residential Mortgage Licensing Act (RMLA) and the Nebraska Installment Loan Act (NILA).

Among the provisions, the bill:

- amends NISA to transition the current manual licensing process for installment sales companies onto the electronic Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry (NMLSR);
- allows a licensee to move its place of business any-



Sen. Beau McCoy

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where without having to apply for a new license;

- brings the RMLA into compliance with new federal guidelines related to mortgage bankers and loan originators;
- authorizes the department to grant a certificate of exemption to a nonprofit organization that promotes affordable housing or provides homeownership education;
- authorizes the department to issue a mortgage loan originator license to a person who has had certain misdemeanors or any felony expunged from the record;
- allows the department to issue an emergency order to suspend, limit or restrict a mortgage license under specific circumstances; and
- amends NILA to include other state-regulated financial services entities and industries in the definition of NMLSR.

The bill passed on a 43-1 vote.

LB962, also introduced by Pahls, requires information in a state Department of Revenue review of major tax exemptions to specify categories in relation to sales and use tax.

The bill also names the legislative Tax Rate Review Committee and requires that its annual report be appended to the Department of Revenue's tax expenditure report.

LB962 passed on a 44-0 vote.

Senators approved a bill aimed at increasing financial literacy among Nebraska youth.

LB269, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Danielle Conrad, increases licensing fees for delayed deposit service providers, also known as payday lenders. Under the bill, renewal fees increase from \$150 to \$500 for a main office location and from \$100 to \$500 for each branch office location.

The bill also creates the Financial Literacy Fund to receive the increased portion of the licensing fees, which will be administered by the University of Nebraska to provide financial literacy education to K-12 students in Nebraska.

LB269 passed 48-0.

Also passed was **LB836**, sponsored by Pahls, which allows state and political subdivisions to use additional programs to redeposit public funds invested in an interest-bearing money market deposit account at multiple insured institutions in amounts up to the FDIC deposit insurance coverage limit.



Sen. Danielle Conrad



Sen. Colby Coash



Sen. Burke Harr

The bill passed 49-0.

The Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee heard testimony on two bills that would establish a Nebraska health benefit exchange.

The federal Affordable Care Act requires establishment of an operational state health care exchange by Jan. 1, 2014. Without a plan in place, the federal Department of Health and Human Services would be authorized to develop and operate an exchange within the state.

LB835, sponsored by Nordquist, would create a health benefit exchange within the state Department of Insurance (DOI) under the control and supervision of an 11-member independent governing board.

LB838, sponsored by Pahls, also would create a Nebraska health benefit exchange. The DOI director would be authorized to establish the exchange under the bill, which does not specify a governance structure for a state exchange.

Both bills were held in committee.

The committee also considered bills addressing fraudulent lien filers, coverage for autism spectrum disorders and minimum auto insurance coverage.

LB982, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr on behalf of the Nebraska Secretary of State, would change the powers of the secretary of state's office regarding removal of fraudulent or suspect financing statements and allow an individual affected by a fraudulent statement to recover damages.

Under **LB1129**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, health insurance policies issued in Nebraska would be required to cover the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders in individuals up to 21 years of age.

LB1003, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, would increase minimum liability policy limits for auto insurance in Nebraska to \$50,000 per person, \$100,000 per occurrence and \$50,000 for property damage.



Sen. Paul Schumacher

The three bills were held in committee. ■

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Business and Labor



Sen. Steve Lathrop, Business and Labor Committee chairperson

A bill brought by the Business and Labor Committee and considered as part of the Legislature's budget package was vetoed by the governor this session, although senators overrode the veto.

LB1072 approved payment of claims made against the state and was amended to include claims denied by the state claims board, initially introduced as LB1073. Senators approved the measure March 27 on a 42-4 vote, but Gov. Dave Heineman subsequently line-item vetoed the payment of outstanding debt related to the privatization of the child welfare system. The provision approved claims totaling \$2.5 million made by subcontractors of Boys and Girls Home – a former lead contract agency with the state Department of Health and Human Services that since has

declared bankruptcy.

In his veto letter, the governor said the subcontractors were not directly engaged in a contract with the state of Nebraska and that paying them would make taxpayers responsible for debts incurred by a private organization.

Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop filed a motion to override the governor's veto, saying the state has a responsibility to pay the claims because providers rendered services required by law.

Senators voted 31-12 to pass LB1072 in its entirety April 3, notwithstanding the objections of the governor. Thirty votes were needed to do so.

The committee also considered a bill dealing with employee recommendations.

Fremont Sen. Charlie Janssen introduced LB959, passed on a 45-0 vote, which provides immunity to a current or former employer who provides certain information to a prospective employer only upon written consent of the prospective employee.



Sen. Charlie Janssen

A consent form will be provided during the application process and will be valid only for the length of time that the application is considered active by the prospective employer but no longer than six months.

An employer providing information pursuant to a written consent will be immune from civil liability and presumed to be acting in good faith. The good faith presumption may be rebutted upon a showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the information was known to be false or that the employer acted with malice or reckless disregard for the truth.

A bill related to job training was held in committee.

Under LB1152, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, recipients of unemployment benefits would have been eligible for on-site job training funded by the state Department of Labor. ■

Education



Sen. Greg Adams, Education Committee chairperson

Senators worked on legislation related to alternative education opportunities, student progress measures and testing for lead poisoning this session.

Omaha Sen. Heath Mello introduced **LB1079**, passed on a 42-4 vote, which designates funding for programs that assist adult students in obtaining academic, career and technical skills.

The bill defines a bridge program as a structured career pathway program, developed in partnership between the provider of the adult education program and a nonprofit social services organization, which assists students in obtaining academic, employability and technical skills needed to enter and succeed in postsecondary education and training and the labor market.

LB870, introduced by York Sen. Greg Adams, creates an educational accountability system based on student progress, including student growth and improvement and



Sen. Heath Mello

graduation rates.

The bill, passed on a 46-0 vote, incorporated provisions of **LB1144**, a bill introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford that allows school districts to partner with community colleges, educational service units or other entities to provide career-focused academies.

LB996, introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, provides a mechanism for students wanting to drop out of school for financial or health reasons.

Any parent or legal guardian wishing to withdraw a student from school must notify the student's school district. The parent or guardian must provide evidence that the student is facing either a financial hardship that requires that the student be employed to support the student's family or an illness making attendance impossible or improbable.

The superintendent will conduct an exit interview and must provide information about alternative educational opportunities as well as the reduced future earning potential and likelihood for unemployment for high school dropouts.

LB996 passed on a 27-20 vote.

Cortland Sen. Norm Wallman introduced **LB1090**, passed 26-15, which provides \$140,000 for grants to be awarded by the state Department of Education in support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program.



Sen. Brad Ashford



Sen. John Wightman



Sen. Norm Wallman



Sen. Brenda Council

LB1038, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brenda Council, authorizes the state Department of Health and Human Services division of public health to create a lead poisoning education and outreach program for school children.

LB1038 passed on a 44-0 vote.

Adams introduced **LB946**, passed on a 46-0 vote, which establishes a new formula for ap-

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appropriating funds to the state's six community colleges. The formula applies to any funds in excess of the projected \$87.8 million in state aid already allocated to the colleges. The bill also authorizes an aggregate levy authority of 11.25 cents per \$100 of taxable valuation.

LB446, also introduced by Adams and passed on a 46-0 vote, allows for Lincoln and Omaha to continue operating as single-district educational service units (ESUs). The current infrastructure funding formula will be modified to reflect a 5 percent decrease in student counts for the single-district ESUs.

Adams sponsored **LB633**, passed 41-0, which permits school districts to issue refunding bonds to redeem any part of an outstanding bond authorized under current law at or before the maturity date. The bill includes provisions of **LB634**, a bill introduced by Adams that allows a school district to exceed the 5.2-cent levy if its current valuation is lower than the year in which bonds were last issued and the current maximum levy cannot service the bonds.

Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton introduced **LB990**, a bill that would have required that all public school students be led in



Sen. Tony Fulton

the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag every day school is in session. The bill would have required that the U.S. flag and the state flag be displayed in a prominent position in every public school classroom.

The bill was held by the committee.

LB809, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, would have required school administrators to spend more time evaluating teacher performance.

The bill was indefinitely postponed by the committee.

Two additional bills were held in



Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh

LB1068, introduced by Adams, would have established the Medicaid in the Public Schools Task Force to determine whether state schools are eligible for additional Medicaid reimbursement funds.

LB1156, introduced by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson, would have allowed more spending flexibility and local control over spending decisions for school districts that currently do not qualify for state equalization aid. ■



Sen. Tom Carlson

Executive Board



Sen. John Wightman, Executive Board chairperson

Two measures that could impact the service of state senators will appear on the ballot this November as a result of legislation considered by the Legislature's Executive Board.

LR358CA, introduced by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson, will allow voters to extend the state constitution's current limit of two consecutive four-year terms for state senators to three consecutive four-year terms.



Sen. Tom Carlson

The legislative resolution was passed 31-14.

LR373CA, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh and passed 31-15, will increase each senator's salary to \$22,500 with voter approval. Senators currently are paid \$12,000 annually.



Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh

The Executive Board also extended legislative oversight of the Beatrice State Developmental Center.

LR365, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop and adopted on a 40-0 vote, provides for continuation of the Developmental Disabilities Special Investigative Committee through 2012.

It was established in 2008 in response to problems at the center.

LR372CA, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton and indefinitely postponed by the committee, would have defined "one-half of a term" as service in the Legislature from the first day of a 90-day session until the first day of the next 90-day session.



Sen. Tony Fulton

LR377CA, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, would have required the legislature to establish a compensation commission that would determine the salary, travel expenses and benefits of state constitutional officers and members of the Legislature.

It was indefinitely postponed by the committee. ■



Sen. Bill Avery

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General Affairs



Sen. Russ Karpisek, General Affairs Committee chairperson

Lawmakers considered several changes to the state's liquor laws and gaming regulations this session.

Senators approved a bill authorizing the designation of common areas where alcohol may be consumed.

LB1130, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, authorized the creation of entertainment districts and a licensing process for those districts.

Under the bill, an entertainment district may be designated and regulated by a local governing body via city ordinance and may be revoked if found to be a nuisance or a threat to public health, safety or welfare. Entertainment district designations will be filed with the state Liquor Control Commission (LCC).

A local governing body may designate a commons area



Sen. Colby Coash

within the district that:

- is shared by entertainment district authorized licensees;
- abuts the licensed premises of the licensees;
- is closed to vehicular traffic when used as a common area; and
- has limited pedestrian accessibility by use of a physical barrier on a permanent or temporary basis.

To operate in the commons areas, a business will be required to:

- file an application with the LCC and pay a \$300 fee;
- be located adjacent to a commons area within an entertainment district;
- have a retail liquor license, craft brewery license or microdistillery license; and
- only serve alcoholic liquor in a container that displays the business' logo or trade name.

LB1130 passed on a 44-1 vote.

With passage of **LB824**, introduced by Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek, flavored malt beverages will be taxed in Nebraska at the same rate as beer rather than the higher hard liquor rate.

The bill places restrictions on the amount of alcohol in a flavored malt beverage that can be derived from flavorings or distilled alcohol and includes a provision that changes the trigger date for payment of state excise tax to align with the federal trigger date. State excise tax will be levied when the product is shipped from its bonded location.

Senators passed the measure on a 37-6 vote.

Lawmakers also passed a bill that removes a prohibition on selling and dispensing alcoholic liquor in Nebraska on Sundays between 6 a.m. and noon.

Under **LB861**, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett, alcohol sales during Sunday morning hours still could be restricted by local ordinances.

The bill passed on a 44-0 vote.

Senators gave unanimous consent to bracket a bill that would prohibit minors assisting with alcohol compliance checks from lying about their age or consuming alcohol.



Sen. Abbie Cornett

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Under **LB60**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, law enforcement officers also would be prohibited from consuming alcohol during a compliance check.

Krist said the state Liquor Control Commission had agreed to include training on the proper procedure for conducting compliance checks during an upcoming law enforcement workshop. He said the additional training, combined with assurances from the commission that they would not administratively prosecute cases resulting from improper compliance checks, addressed the concerns that led to the bill's introduction.

LB60 was bracketed until April 1, 2012.

Among the proposed changes to Nebraska's gaming regulations considered this session was a bill to update the state's Pickle Card Lottery Act.

Currently, nonprofit organizations must wait five years from the date of incorporation to qualify for a pickle card license. Volunteer fire companies, as well as volunteer first aid, rescue, ambulance and emergency squads are exempted from the five-year waiting period.

LB979, introduced by Plattsmouth Sen. Paul Lambert, extends the exemp-



Sen. Bob Krist



Sen. R. Paul Lambert

tion to any nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to support a volunteer fire company, first aid, rescue, ambulance or emergency squad.

The bill passed 48-0.

A bill that would have amended the five-minute time limit required between keno games failed to advance from general file.

LB1067, sponsored by Karpisek would have allowed a county, city or village conducting a keno lottery to designate a time limit between games of less than five minutes, but not less than three minutes.

The bill failed to advance on a 20-17 vote. Twenty-five votes are needed for advancement.

Finally, the General Affairs Committee heard testimony on a proposed change to the Nebraska Constitution that would have allowed the Legislature to authorize and regulate casino gaming in Nebraska.

LR375CA, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, would have placed a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2012 general election ballot that would allow the Legislature to authorize and regulate any game of chance, lottery or gift enterprise.

The committee voted to indefinitely postpone the measure. ■



Sen. Paul Schumacher

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Government, Military and Veterans Affairs



Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee chairperson
Sen. Bill Avery

A range of topics involving government, military and veterans affairs came before the Legislature this session. Issues included elections, state contracts and the impeachment of civil officers.

Elections

Among the measures passed concerning election procedures was a bill requiring that petition circulators be 18 years of age or older.

LB759, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, also removes a requirement that a circulator be an elector of the state.

The bill passed 41-2.

Provisions for filling a general election ballot vacancy are harmonized under a bill passed this session.

Under current law, the political party of a candidate who declines a nomination has three days to fill the ballot vacancy but there are different provisions when a candidate exits a race for other reasons.

LB503, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch, provides consistency in filling ballot vacancies by removing the

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

The bill passed on a 34-0 vote.

A bill that would require presentation of identification prior to voting in a Nebraska election stalled on general file.

Under **LB239**, introduced by Fremont Sen. Charlie Janssen last session, a voter who does not present identification at the polls but casts a provisional ballot would have had 10 days to submit government-issued photographic identification to the election commissioner in order for the ballot to be counted.

After eight hours of debate spanning three days, Janssen offered a motion to invoke cloture, an attempt to cease debate and force a vote on the bill. The motion failed 30-16, three votes short of the number needed. The bill was not rescheduled for debate.

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee heard testimony on two additional bills introduced by Avery.

LB754, would have defined electioneering communication and require reporting of communications over \$250 to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

Under **LB1025**, a Public Service Commission candidate or member could not accept a gift or contribution from a person engaged in a business that applies to and receives its authority to conduct business in Nebraska and is subject to oversight by the commission.

An officer, director, partner or member of such a business also would have been prohibited from giving a gift or contribution.

Both bills were held in committee.

Office holders

Several bills were considered that impact public office-



Sen. Pete Pirsch



Sen. Charlie Janssen

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holders in Nebraska.

Senators approved a proposed change to the Nebraska Constitution regarding impeachment of civil officers.

LR19CA, introduced by Avery, places a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2012 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the proposal will add a misdemeanor related to the election by which a civil officer was elected to office as an impeachable offense.

Currently, the constitution states that a civil officer may be impeached for any misdemeanor committed while in office.

LR19CA passed on a 45-0 vote.

Lawmakers also approved a bill that allows additional public entities to hold public meetings by video and telephone conferencing.

LB735, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, extends the authorization to community college boards and public power and public power irrigation districts.



Sen. Paul Schumacher

The bill passed 47-0.

LB755, introduced by Avery, would have required the formal review of conflict of interest statements filed by state senators.

Under the bill, statements would have been reviewed by the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and a determination would have been filed with the Clerk of the Legislature within a reasonable amount of time.

The bill was held in committee.

State agencies

Lawmakers passed a bill this session seeking to improve the procedure by which state agencies contract for services.

Introduced by Avery, **LB858** applies to contracts valued at more than \$15 million and requires the involvement of the state Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

The bill requires a state agency to submit a copy of a proposed contract and a proof-of-need analysis to DAS, which must certify a submitted analysis as complete before an agency may proceed with contracting services.

The bill also changes the exemption for service contracts with direct providers of medical, behavioral or developmental health services, child care or child welfare

services. These child welfare contracts will be exempted from certain service contract provisions if the contract is \$15 million or less.

The bill includes provisions from **LB1006**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, that gives priority for vending contracts in state- or federally-owned buildings to blind or visually impaired bidders.

LB858 passed 46-0.

A commission dedicated solely to promoting tourism in Nebraska was created this session.

LB1053, introduced by Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon, creates the Nebraska Tourism Commission. All powers and duties currently held by the travel and tourism division of the state Department of Economic Development are transferred to the newly formed commission.

Members will be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature. All current employees of the travel and tourism division will become employees of the commission.

Senators passed the bill on a 47-0 vote.

A bill that would have merged the state Department of Labor (DOL) with the state Department of Economic Development (DED) was heard by the committee.

Under **LB971**, introduced by Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms, all existing DOL programs, employees and contracts would have been moved to the DED with no cuts in personnel or services.

The bill was advanced to general file but was not debated by the full Legislature.



Sen. Tony Fulton



Sen. LeRoy Loudon



Sen. John Harms

Other bills

The fees required for recording documents – such as deeds, mortgages and wills – with the register of deeds were increased.

LB14, introduced last session by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, increases the fee for recording documents with the register of deeds from \$5 per page to \$10 for the first page and \$6 for each additional page.

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Part of the funds generated by the increase are designated to fund the preservation, maintenance and modernization of public records in the register of deed's office.

The bill also increases the uniform fee associated with recording documents pursuant to the Uniform Federal Lien Registration Act, payable to the Nebraska Secretary of State, from \$6 to two times the fee required for recording instruments with the register of deeds.

LB14 passed on a 39-9 vote and becomes operative Jan. 1, 2013. All fee increases included in the bill will sunset Jan.1, 2018.

LB782, introduced by Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy, requires all reports be submitted to the Legislature electronically. The bill also authorizes the clerk of the Legislature to establish requirements for the electronic format, submission and distribution of required reports. The clerk may accept a report in written form only upon a showing of good cause.

Provisions of the bill relating to reports filed by lobbyists and principals has an operative date of Jan. 1, 2015.

The bill passed on a 42-0 vote.

Senators also passed a bill meant to address the handling of unclaimed military medals.

Under **LB819**, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Scott Price, any unclaimed military medal, decoration or award removed from a safe deposit or collateral deposit box in Nebraska will be delivered to the state treasurer's office.

Unclaimed medals will be reported on the same schedule as other unclaimed



Sen. John Wightman



Sen. Beau McCoy



Sen. Scott Price

property and the treasurer's office may designate a veterans' organization or other entity as custodian of any unclaimed medals after 10 years.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

A bill that would have restructured the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) board of education stalled on general file.

LB720, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, would have reduced the size of the board from 12 members to five. The bill also called for term limits of two consecutive four-year terms and a \$20,000 annual salary for all board members.

After prolonged debate, Lautenbaugh moved to refer LB720 back to the committee and senators obliged.

A similar bill - **LB717** offered by Omaha Sen. Brenda Council - would have required that any changes made to the Omaha board be applied to every board of education but was not advanced from committee.

Two bills that were given first-round approval by lawmakers remained on select file.

LB344, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford, would have required creation of an interjurisdictional planning commission to review and plan for the possible merger of governmental services in Douglas County and the city of Omaha and report its findings to the Legislature.

LB352, sponsored by Lautenbaugh, would have extended the instrument runway approach zone in Nebraska from three to 10 miles. ■



Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh



Sen. Brenda Council



Sen. Brad Ashford

Health and Human Services



Sen. Kathy Campbell, chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee

Oversight and reorganization of the state's troubled child welfare system topped the list of health and human services issues addressed by lawmakers this session.

Child welfare

A bill intended to provide a strategic plan and legislative oversight for child welfare programs in Nebraska was approved this session.

LB821, sponsored by the Health and Human Service Committee, creates a 22-member Nebraska Children's Commission tasked with creating a statewide strategic plan to reform child welfare programs and services in the state.

Among other issue areas, the commission will be required to create committees to examine foster care reimbursement rates and – based on provisions originally

introduced by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard as **LB837** – state policy regarding prescription of psychotropic drugs to state wards. The commission is required to report on the strategic plan to the Legislature and the governor by Dec. 15, 2012.



Sen. Gwen Howard

The bill also creates the Office of Inspector General within the Office of Public Counsel, also known as the Ombudsman's Office.

The inspector general will be appointed by the public council and approved by the Legislature. The office is authorized to investigate allegations of possible misconduct, death or serious injury in foster homes, private agencies, childcare facilities and programs.

The office also will review the role and effectiveness of the state's youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, analyze data and report to the Legislature and the governor annually.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

LB961, also introduced by the committee, returns child welfare case management to the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) by April 1, 2012, except in the eastern service area, in which the department will be allowed to contract for lead agency case management as a pilot project.

Both the department and the pilot project lead agency are required to reduce caseload size to between 12 and 17 cases per worker by Sept. 1, 2012. If children in a family receive services in the home, all children will be considered one case. If any child is placed out of the home, each child will be considered one case.

The bill passed 48-0.

Lawmakers also passed a bill that seeks to tighten budgeting standards for the state's child welfare system.

The Legislative Performance Audit Committee introduced **LB949**, which, among other provisions, requires DHHS's division of children and family services to include a strategic plan in its budget request to the Legislature for the next two budget cycles. The plan must identify the main purpose of each program in the division, goals for measuring progress and benchmarks and time frames for meeting those goals.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Under the bill, the division is required to provide quarterly updates to the Legislature's HHS and Appropriations committees beginning in October 2012 on any movement of funds greater than \$250,000 into the child welfare sub-program from other budget programs.

LB949 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Under **LB820**, introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, DHHS is required to apply for a federal waiver for a foster care demonstration project by Sept. 30, 2013.

The bill also incorporates provisions from two other bills - **LB926**, introduced by Fullerton Sen., Annette Dubas, which requires DHHS to create a Foster Care Reimbursement Committee to develop a statewide standard rate structure for children in foster care and **LB874**, introduced by Howard, which requires licensure of all foster parents not related to a child by blood, marriage or adoption.

Finally, the bill will provide a \$3.10 rate increase for foster parents starting July 1, 2013. A 25-cent administrative fee authorized in the bill for foster care agencies will be in addition to the foster parent payment increase.

LB820 passed 49-0.

Lawmakers also approved a bill that requires development of a new child welfare data system.

Under **LB1160**, introduced by the committee, DHHS is required to develop and implement a web-based, statewide automated information system to integrate child welfare data.

The department is required to obtain an evaluation of the state's child welfare system by a nationally recognized entity and to report to the Legislature regarding the completed evaluation and plans for the new data system by Dec. 1, 2012.

The bill also includes provisions of **LB774**, originally introduced by Howard, which requires the Health and Human Services Committee to report to the governor, the Legislature and the chief justice on progress made by DHHS toward recommendations contained in the committee's report on child welfare reform.

Reports will be required for three years, with the first due on Dec. 15, 2012.

The bill passed 45-0.

Nebraska's current Foster Care Review Board will be made a state agency under a bill approved this session.



Sen. Annette Dubas

LB998, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, abolishes the board and establishes a Foster Care Review Office. Terms of the current 11-member board will be terminated.

Under the bill, the newly created office will be a noncode agency within the executive branch. All staff except the executive director will be transferred from the board to the office.

The bill also creates a Foster Care Advisory Committee. No member of the advisory committee may have a financial interest in the foster care system or be employed by DHHS, a county, court, child-caring agency or child-placement agency.

The bill has an operative date of July 1, 2012.

LB998 passed 45-0.

Senators also overrode a gubernatorial line-item veto of a provision in the state claims bill related to child welfare reform.

LB1072, introduced by the Business and Labor Committee as part of the Legislature's budget package, approves claims exceeding \$50,000 authorized by the state claims board.

Senators approved the measure on a 42-4 vote. Gov. Dave Heineman subsequently vetoed a provision approving 50 claims totaling \$2.5 million made by subcontractors of Boys and Girls Home - a former lead contract agency with DHHS that since has declared bankruptcy.

Senators voted 31-12 to pass LB1072 notwithstanding the objections of the governor. Thirty votes were needed to do so.

Public benefits

Lawmakers voted to override a gubernatorial veto of a bill that will establish a program to offer prenatal services to low-income women in Nebraska regardless of immigration status.

Under **LB599**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, DHHS is required to establish a program under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) solely for the unborn children of mothers who are ineligible for coverage under Medicaid.

Eligibility for service will be determined using an income budgetary methodology of no greater than 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline.

Senators had passed LB599 on a 31-15 vote and the bill subsequently was vetoed by the governor.

In his veto message, Heineman said he opposed the bill



Sen. Bob Krist

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

because it would provide prenatal care to illegal immigrants at the expense of Nebraska taxpayers. He said the annual \$2.5 million cost to fund the program should be spent on other state priorities.

Campbell offered a motion to override the governor's veto, saying tax dollars would be expended to care for children born without prenatal care regardless of the bill's passage, but that LB599 would ensure that future Nebraska citizens would be born healthy and could help prevent costly stays in neonatal intensive care units.

Lawmakers voted 30-16 to override the governor's veto and enact LB599 into law. Thirty votes are needed to override a veto.

DHHS is required to increase staff at local offices to provide more assistance with the state's system for accessing public benefit programs – known as ACCESSNebraska – under a bill passed this session.

LB825, introduced by Dubas, requires the department to adequately staff existing local offices and includes guidelines to determine the appropriate number of staff needed to provide in-person assistance to clients at each existing office.

The bill passed 38-4.

LB901, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop and amended into the state's budget adjustment package, allocates \$4 million for services for individuals with developmental disabilities who were on the DHHS waiting list and past their date of need for such services on Nov. 14, 2011.



Sen. Steve Lathrop

LB1038, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brenda Council, authorizes the DHHS division of public health to create a lead poisoning education and outreach program that will:

- educate health care providers, child care providers, public school personnel and parents about the risks of lead poisoning in children;
- provide a standard to be used in identifying elevated blood-lead levels; and
- recommend that a child be tested for elevated blood-lead levels if the child resides in a zip code with a high prevalence of children with elevated blood-lead levels or if the child meets one of the criteria in a screening questionnaire developed by DHHS.



Sen. Brenda Council

The department is required to pay the cost of elevated blood-lead testing only for children who participate in Medicaid.

The bill passed on a 44-0 vote.

Senators also created the Children's Health and Treatment Act this session.

LB1063, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook, requires that the guidelines and criteria used by DHHS to determine medical necessity for Medicaid services be published on the department's website and on those of managed care contractors and the state Department of Administrative Services.



Sen. Tanya Cook

The bill also requires 60 days' prior notice to providers of changes to treatment guidelines and quarterly DHHS reports on authorization and denial rates for behavioral health services for children under age 19.

The bill passed on a 44-0 vote.

Lawmakers also passed a bill designed to bolster the fiscal integrity of Nebraska's Medicaid program.

Introduced in 2011 by the Health and Human Services Committee, **LB541** was advanced to final reading last session. Lawmakers returned the bill to select file this session and amended it to require DHHS to report to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2012 on the status of all contracts authorized by the bill.

LB541 requires DHHS to contract with one or more recovery audit contractors and limits contingent fees to no more than 12.5 percent of amounts recovered. All amounts recovered and savings generated from the contracts will be returned to the state's Medicaid program.

The bill passed 49-0.

Senators extended the termination date for self-sufficiency activities under the Welfare Reform Act from Sept. 30, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2016.

Under **LB842**, introduced by Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms, recipients of the state Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program may count hours spent pursuing an associate degree toward their work activity requirements.

The program will be evaluated prior to the new termination date.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote.

LB507, also introduced by Harms, allows an applicant who is 21 years old or the head of a



Sen. John Harms

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

household to meet the state's self-sufficiency requirement by maintaining satisfactory attendance at a secondary school, a general education development (GED) program or equivalent or participating in education directly related to employment for an average of 20 hours per week.

LB507 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Senators also passed a bill this session that outlines the parameters of future medical assistance contracts for delivery of behavioral health services in Nebraska.

LB1158, introduced by Krist, will require an at-risk managed care model for behavioral health managed care contacts entered into by DHHS after July 1, 2012.

The bill includes caps on administrative contract spending, restrictions on contract profits and requires that a minimum of 0.25 percent of contract payment be contingent on performance metrics.

The bill passed 48-0 and takes effect immediately.

Licensure and credentialing

Lawmakers passed a bill that changes Nebraska's supervision requirement for attaining certification as a marriage and family therapist.

LB1148, introduced by Grand Island Sen. Mike Gloor, amends the definition of a qualified supervisor and changes specifications for the current 3,000 hours of supervised experience.

The bill passed 45-0.

Senators also approved a bill that provides a formal licensure process for genetic counselors.

Under **LB831**, introduced by Howard, a genetic counselor who has satisfied the training and certification requirements of the American Board of Genetic Counseling may apply for licensure.

The bill prohibits a genetic counselor from being required to counsel or refer a patient with respect to abortion.

LB831 passed on a 46-1 vote.

A bill meant to clarify permitted practices under the Nebraska Nurse Practitioner Act was given final approval this session.

Hoskins Sen. Dave Bloomfield said he introduced **LB1083** to clarify for DHHS that they may hire licensed nurs-



Sen. Mike Gloor



Sen. Dave Bloomfield

es to provide home health care to family members or friends.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote and takes effect immediately.

LB788, introduced by Campbell, changes current state statute to reflect the standards adopted by the federal government and CMS regarding who may order respiratory therapy services.

Under the bill, the scope of practice in Nebraska is extended to include physicians assistants, nurse practitioners and certified residential nurse anesthetists.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

The process used to propose credentials and changes in scope of practice is expanded under a bill passed by the Legislature.

LB834, introduced by Gloor, makes various changes to the Credentialing Review Program and the operation of the Technical Review Committee.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

County hospitals will have more authority to make large purchases under a bill approved this session.

LB995, introduced by Elk Creek Sen. Lavon Heidemann, allows county hospitals to obtain lines of credit without a public vote.



Sen. Lavon Heidemann

The bill allows a county hospital to:

- encumber hospital property;
- obtain a line of credit or borrow money;
- make improvements and additions to facilities with county board approval;
- participate in group purchasing organizations for large items; and
- open clinics in communities outside its jurisdiction.

Use of general bonds to fund new projects still will require a public vote.

Senators passed the bill on a 45-0 vote.

Finally, the Health and Human Services Committee considered a bill that would remove the state's prohibition on a certified nurse midwife attending a home birth.

LB712, sponsored by Malcolm Sen. Ken Haar, would retain the requirement that a certified nurse midwife operate under the supervision of a licensed practitioner, who would have to authorize a home birth.



Sen. Ken Haar

The bill did not advance from committee. ■

Judiciary



Sen. Brad Ashford, chairperson of the Judiciary Committee

Senators addressed a variety of judicial issues this session, including continued juvenile justice reform, child abuse penalties and changes to the state's gaming laws.

Juvenile justice

A bill that expands and creates protocols for the state's seven child advocacy centers was passed this session.

Under **LB993**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford, each county child advocacy center must have a location for conducting forensic interviews and medical evaluations for alleged child victims of abuse and neglect.

The bill also requires that each county have protocols to:

- outline mandatory reporting of child abuse;
- define the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, child protective services and other response agencies; and
- ensure that coordination of these teams is occurring

at all levels of the community response.

The increased services at the centers are estimated to cost \$870,000.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

Senators also passed a bill that promotes administrative collaboration at each of the state's youth rehabilitation and treatment centers (YRTC).

Currently, the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), through the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS), oversees YRTCs in Kearney and Geneva.

LB972, introduced by Ashford, authorizes the Department of Correctional Services to provide training to OJS employees on the safety and security of youth living at YRTCs. OJS is required to submit an annual status report to the Legislature.

The bill passed 49-0.

Senators passed a bill that revises the state's student truancy provisions.

In 2010, the Legislature passed a bill requiring school districts to report cases to a county attorney when a student has been absent 20 days or more per year, whether the absences are excused or unexcused.

LB933, introduced by Ashford this session, makes the 20-day report discretionary if all 20 absences are due to illness or otherwise have been excused. If a report is issued, the bill requires that the report indicate whether:

- the absences are due to documented illness or are otherwise excused;
- the school requests more time to work with the student before the county attorney intervenes; or
- the school has used all reasonable efforts to address the child's absence from school without success and recommends intervention by the county attorney.

If further action is needed after the 20-day report, the county attorney, the parents and the school representative will meet at a location determined by the school.

The bill passed 44-0.

Criminal justice

A person will be disqualified from receiving a concealed carry permit for convictions, rather than criminal charges,

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under a bill passed by the Legislature this session.

Currently, the permit application of a person with any “violations of law” can be rejected on that basis alone. **LB807**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, clarifies the statute to refer to convictions instead of violations of law.

The bill also clarifies language with regard to automatic revocation of permits. A permit holder convicted of a violation that occurred on property owned by the state or any political subdivision may have his or her permit revoked. If the violation occurred elsewhere, a permit holder may face revocation for any second or subsequent offense.

The bill includes provisions of **LB538**, introduced by Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek, that require a firearm not used to commit a crime but taken by a law enforcement agency for safekeeping must be returned to its owner without a court order.

The bill passed on a 48-1 vote.

A bill passed this session makes the drug known as “bath salts” an illegal substance.

LB670 originally dealt with the Nebraska Juvenile Code but was amended to contain provisions introduced by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz as **LB814**.

The amended bill expands the Uniform Controlled Substances Act to ban the compounds that are used to make bath salts, which are chemically altered substances that have similar effects as methamphetamines, LSD and PCP. The product is manufactured and marketed as bath salts to skirt current drug laws.

The penalty for possessing bath salts is now a Class IV felony and manufacturing or trafficking the drug is a Class III felony.

The bill passed 47-0 and takes effect immediately.

Senators passed a bill this session that refines child abuse penalties.

LB799, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett,



Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh



Sen. Russ Karpisek



Sen. Ken Schilz

makes child abuse resulting in serious bodily injury a Class IIIA felony and a Class III felony if the offense is committed negligently and results in the death of a child.

The bill clarifies that criminal negligence refers to a person who knew or should have known the danger involved and acted recklessly with respect to the safety or health of the child.

The bill passed 46-0.

LB310, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill, makes a credible threat a reason for granting a protection order. Violating a protection order—currently a Class II misdemeanor—will be a Class I misdemeanor. Subsequent violations will be considered a Class IV felony.

The bill contains provisions of two other bills.

LB1056, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch, deems that a respondent of a protection order has been served notice of the order if he or she is present at a hearing. If the respondent has been properly served with the ex parte order and fails to appear at the required hearing, the temporary order shall be deemed to be granted.

LB920, introduced by McGill, contained additional provisions allowing a petitioner to request a hearing, as well as federal requirements further preventing offenders from carrying firearms. The bill passed on a vote of 42-0.

Under **LB1145**, also introduced by McGill, forcing or enticing a person into prostitution will be a Class IV felony for a first offense. If the victim is younger than 18, it will be a Class III felony for the first and subsequent offenses. Pandering currently is a misdemeanor offense in Nebraska.

The bill also establishes a commission on human trafficking and requires training for government officials. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline number will be posted in key establishments throughout the state.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote.



Sen. Abbie Cornett



Sen. Amanda McGill



Sen. Pete Pirsch

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

LB677, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, provides enhanced penalties for assault on health care professionals on duty at a hospital or a health clinic. A person convicted of such an assault will be guilty of a Class IIIA felony.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote.

The governor vetoed a bill passed by the Legislature this session that would have created an offense for bringing prohibited items into a detention facility.

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

The bill passed 45-0 and subsequently was vetoed. Wallman did not file a motion to reconsider the governor's veto.



Sen. Steve Lathrop



Sen. Norm Wallman

Courts

A bill aimed at restricting frivolous lawsuits filed by inmates at public expense was approved this session.

Under **LB793**, introduced by Lautenbaugh, an inmate who previously has filed three civil lawsuits deemed by a court to be frivolous is prohibited from filing a civil case at the public's expense. An inmate may continue to file civil suits at his or her personal expense.

Exceptions to the rule include criminal appeals and cases in which an inmate is in danger of bodily harm. The "three-strike rule" will apply only to lawsuits filed after the law takes effect.

The bill passed on a 47-1 vote.

The statute of limitations for victims who were sexually assaulted as children increased under a bill passed this session.

LB612, introduced by Pirsch, would allow a childhood victim of sexual or attempted sexual assault to bring civil action for injuries suffered until he or she is 32 years old.

Under the bill, criminal prosecution of a defendant is not required to maintain a victim's civil action.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

Senators approved a bill that changes provisions relating to the collection of DNA samples from individuals

convicted of a felony or other specified offense.

LB66, introduced by Cornett, specifies that probation officers are responsible for taking DNA samples from convicted felons placed on probation who do not enter into a prison, jail, detention facility or other institution.

In counties without a city of the metropolitan class, an individual not placed on probation who receives a fine or a penalty of time served will have a DNA sample collected by the county sheriff.

In addition, a county jail, detention facility or other institution that collects the sample will not be held financially responsible for the cost of the DNA sample kit if the court waives the cost of taking a DNA sample for any reason.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

Judges within the state court system will see a 2 percent salary increase under a bill passed this session.

LB862, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, provides for an increase in salary commensurate with the increase proposed for state employees in fiscal year 2012-13.

The pay increase applies to state Supreme Court judges. All other state judges' salaries are based on Supreme Court salaries.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

Under **LB722**, also introduced by Coash, courts are allowed to deduct fines or costs owed by an offender from his or her cash bond as an alternative to ordering a lump sum payment of court costs.

The bill applies to all bonds except those encumbered by a valid lien, levy, execution or assignment to counsel of record or the person who posted the bond.

The bill passed 49-0.

Finally, **LB790**, introduced by Coash, transfers a judgeship in the 5th Judicial District County Court—serving Boone, Butler, Colfax, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk, Saunders, Seward and York Counties—to the 3rd Judicial District County Court, which is located in Lancaster County.

The bill passed on a 38-8 vote and takes effect immediately.

Other bills

Senators declined to override a gubernatorial veto of a bill that would have authorized the state Racing Com-



Sen. Colby Coash

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

mission to license and regulate pari-mutuel wagering on historic horse races.

An historic horse race creates a pari-mutuel pool via instant racing terminals from wagers placed on a previously held race at a licensed racetrack.

Lawmakers had passed **LB806**, introduced by Lautenbaugh, on a vote of 26-18. The bill subsequently was vetoed by Gov. Dave Heineman.

The bill would have established a Historic Horse Racing Distribution Fund comprising taxes collected from the races and licensing fees, which would be \$1,000 per machine.

Half of the fund's proceeds would be credited to the Racing Commissions Cash Fund to be used for programs that facilitate equine therapy for youth and veterans and the other half would be directed to the Compulsive Gambler's Assistance Fund.

Under the bill, historic horse racing would end if it were found by a court to allow any additional Class III gaming as defined in the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Authority to license and regulate historic horse racing also would terminate if specific criteria were not met within four years of continuous use of instant racing terminals, including:

- construction of a race track enclosure in a county that contains a city of the primary class;
- a 25 percent increase in purses compared to 2011; and
- a 30 percent increase in the number of live horse racing days at tracks with instant racing terminals in counties other than Douglas, or a 40 percent increase in Douglas County.

In his veto message, the governor said LB806 represents an unconstitutional expansion of gambling in the state.

Heineman said that while the Nebraska Constitution permits betting on the results of horse races by the pari-mutuel method when conducted in a licensed racetrack enclosure, this exception to the general prohibition on gambling in the state does not apply to "slot-machine bet-

ting" on past races.

Senators voted 28-20 on the motion to override – two votes short of the number required – and a motion to reconsider the vote fell one vote short. The governor's veto of LB806 was sustained.

Lawmakers passed a bill that provides an asset specific mechanism for the nonprobate transfer of land.

LB536, introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, permits individuals with an interest in real property to enable the owner to pass the property to a beneficiary on the owner's death directly and without probate.



Sen. John Wightman

Under the bill, a transferor must sign a document under oath and in the presence of two disinterested witnesses affirming that he or she is not a minor and is of sound mind and that the transfer is voluntary.

If the transferred property is agricultural land, a transferor may designate his or her interest in growing crops to the estate or to one or more of the designated beneficiaries. If a deed does not contain a crop designation, a transferor's interest in the growing crops passes to the estate.

Finally, property deeds between a spouse and ex-spouse or between a parent and child are tax exempt under the bill.

LB536 passed on a 40-0 vote.

LB1113, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, provides definitions for various areas of authority that can be granted to a power of attorney agent and identifies certain areas of authority that can be granted because of the propensity of such authority to dissipate the principal's property or alter the principal's estate plan.



Sen. Mike Flood

The bill also provides statutory forms to be used by lawyers and laypersons.

LB1113 passed 47-0. ■

Natural Resources



Sen. Chris Langemeier, chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee

Legislation clarifying oil pipeline regulations as well as the protection and management of the state's water and wildlife resources was passed this session.

LB1161, sponsored by Papillion Sen. Jim Smith, makes changes to law enacted during the November 2011 special session to regulate oil pipeline routing in Nebraska.



Sen. Jim Smith

Under **LB1161**, a pipeline carrier wishing to construct a major oil pipeline after the effective date of the bill must apply for approval from the governor under the provisions of **LB4** passed during the special session.

The governor may approve the application or refer it to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for further review

under the Major Oil Pipeline Siting Act.

Among other provisions, the bill also requires:

- the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to hold at least one public hearing on an application under review by the department;
- a carrier to reimburse DEQ for the cost of an evaluation within 60 days after notification of the cost;
- the PSC to make public any documents or records relating to a major oil pipeline unless federal law provides otherwise; and
- that a carrier's eminent domain rights be terminated if they remain unused two years after approval of a pipeline application.

The bill passed on a 44-5 vote and takes effect immediately.

Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan introduced **LB845**, passed 46-0, which strengthens requirements currently outlined in the Oil Pipeline Reclamation Act.



Sen. Kate Sullivan

The bill requires that:

- genetically appropriate and locally adapted native plant materials and seeds be used based on site characteristics and vegetation as determined by a preconstruction site inventory;
- final grading, topsoil replacement, installation of erosion control structures, seeding and mulching be completed within 30 days of backfill except when weather conditions, extenuating circumstances or unforeseen developments prevent it;
- all reclamation including choice of seed mixes, method of reseeding, weed and erosion control measures and monitoring be conducted in accordance with the Federal Seed Act, the Nebraska Seed Law and the Noxious Weed Control Act; and
- mulch be installed as required by site contours, seeding methods and weather conditions or when requested by a landowner.

The bill takes effect immediately.

An economic development rate on electricity was provided for new and expanding businesses.

LB1043, introduced by Schuyler Sen. Chris Lange-

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meier, provides the rate for five years to encourage new businesses to move to the state. The rate also applies to local businesses expanding their operations.

The bill passed 48-0 and takes effect immediately.

Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon sponsored **LB498**, passed 49-0, that establishes regulations related specifically to in-situ mining, which is a method of extracting uranium deposits from underground. The bill allows for a permit amendment to increase the daily peak withdrawal or annual volume to levels authorized under a DEQ permit.



Sen. LeRoy Loudon

Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen introduced **LB950**, passed 47-0, which dedicates all reimbursement payments from Republican River natural resource districts to funding future water projects. The bill directs the state treasurer to transfer \$1.4 million from the general fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund by June 30, 2013.



Sen. Mark Christensen

Christensen also introduced **LB1125**, which allows landowners with nonirrigated land along the Republican River to receive a refund of incorrectly levied taxes.

Under the bill, any acre that is enrolled in a local, state or federal temporary irrigation retirement program that prohibits the application of irrigation water is exempt from the occupation tax levied during that year.

Any landowner who has been incorrectly taxed may present evidence of nonirrigation to the natural resource district within 12 months after the tax has been levied. The refund will sunset on Oct 1, 2012.

Senators passed the bill on a 49-0 vote.

Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch introduced **LR40CA**, passed on a 41-3 vote, which allows voters to amend the state constitution to establish that the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife is subject only to laws, rules and regulations that preserve the future of hunting, fishing and the promotion of wildlife conservation and management.



Sen. Pete Pirsch

The proposed amendment will be placed on the November 2012 general election ballot. If adopted by voters, the constitutional amendment would declare public hunting and fishing as the preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife.

LB928, introduced by Loudon, authorizes the state Game and Parks Commission to issue permits by random drawing to eligible applicants. The bill also contains provisions from **LB1163**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, that allow hunters to harvest and donate deer to a food-assistance program for people in need.



Sen. Tony Fulton

Senators passed the bill on a 49-0 vote.

The state Game and Parks Commission will transfer ownership of two state recreation areas under bills passed by senators this session.

LB849, introduced by Sullivan and passed 46-0, transfers ownership of the Pibel Lake State Recreation Area to the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

Christensen introduced **LB739**, passed on a 45-0 vote, which transfers ownership of the Champion Mill State Historical Park and Champion Lake State Recreation Area to Chase County.

Both ownership transfers take effect immediately. ■

Retirement Systems



Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, chairperson of the Retirement Systems Committee

Senators made several changes to the state's retirement systems this session.

LB916, introduced by the Nebraska Retirement System Committee, makes Internal Revenue Code compliance updates for county, judge, state patrol, school and state employee retirement provisions.

The bill:

- removes per diems as compensation for purposes of retirement;
- allows terminated or retired plan members to roll-over funds into a Roth IRA;
- allows a lump sum direct transfer of a death benefit into a qualified retirement plan;
- requires employers to notify the Public Employees Retirement Board upon termination of an employee member;

- allows a non-spousal beneficiary to make a direct transfer or rollover of the member's death benefit into a qualified retirement plan; and
- allows a member's beneficiary to be entitled to an additional death benefit that he or she would be entitled to had the member been employed during the period of qualified military service when the death occurred.

Included in the measure are provisions of two additional bills:

- **LB1036**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, which provides an additional opportunity for active county and state defined contribution plan members to opt in to the cash balance plans between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31, 2012; and
- **LB973**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, which allows a judge to order civil payment from a portion of a convict's benefits and annuities plan if he or she is a member of a specified public pension plan who is convicted of or pleads guilty to felony assault, sexual assault, kidnapping, child abuse, false imprisonment or theft by embezzlement and is found civilly liable for resulting damages.



Sen. Colby Coash

Benefits and annuities necessary for support of the employee or appointee or his or her beneficiaries would be exempt from payment. The provisions of LB973 operate retroactively and apply to individuals convicted of a felony or who plead no contest and were found liable for civil damages prior to, on or after the bill's effective date.

LB916 takes effect immediately and passed on a 46-0 vote.

Senators also approved a bill allowing counties with a population between 200,000 and 300,000 to reduce the employer's contribution to the employees retirement plan.

LB867, introduced by Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek, affects only Lancaster County and reduces the employer contribution rate to at least 100 percent of the employee's contribution for those hired after July 1, 2012. The current contribution rate is 150 percent of an employee's contribu-

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tion. Current employees will continue to receive the 150 percent county contribution match.

The bill passed 46-0.

Finally, **LB1082**, also introduced by Karpisek, increases retirement contribution rates for police officers and first class cities.



Sen. Russ Karpisek

The bill increased the minimum contribution rates for police officers and first class cities to 6.5 percent of an officer's salary beginning Oct. 1, 2013. Rates increase to 7

percent on Oct. 1, 2015.

The bill also changes the vesting schedule for officers in first class cities to the following:

- 40 percent after two years of service;
- 60 percent after four years of service;
- 80 percent after five years of service; and
- 100 percent after seven years of service.

All officers will be 100 percent vested upon reaching age 60.

LB1082 passed on a 48-0 vote and takes effect immediately. ■

Revenue



Sen. Abbie Cornett, chairperson of the Revenue Committee

Senators passed legislation this session that will give municipalities increased taxing authority while also providing a number of tax exemptions to spur economic development.

Tax adjustments

Senators overrode a gubernatorial veto on **LB357**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford, which allows local option sales taxes to be levied at 1.75 percent and 2 percent, with 70 percent approval of the members of the municipality's governing body. The proposal then would be submitted to voters for approval. The bill was first debated in 2011 and was carried over



Sen. Brad Ashford

from last session.

The bill requires that cities of the metropolitan and primary classes designate proceeds from any increased sales tax revenue to projects completed under interlocal agreements. Omaha is the state's only metropolitan city and Lincoln is the state's only primary class city.

Increased sales tax revenue in cities of the metropolitan class must be used to:

- reduce existing taxes with the first 0.25 percent of additional revenue;
- fund public infrastructure projects with the next 0.125 percent of additional revenue; and
- fund projects under interlocal agreements with the next 0.125 percent of additional revenue.

For cities of the primary class, the first 15 percent of additional tax revenue must be dedicated to funding non-public infrastructure projects under interlocal agreements. The remaining proceeds will be designated for public infrastructure projects related to economic development.

Cities of the first class, second class and villages will dedicate all increased sales tax revenue to funding public infrastructure projects.

Senators had passed the bill on a 30-15 vote. In his veto letter, Gov. Dave Heineman said the bill would allow cities to levy taxes up to an additional 33 percent.

Ashford filed a motion to override the veto, saying the increases would go into effect only with voter approval and called the bill an important tool.

Senators voted 30-17 to pass the bill notwithstanding the objections of the governor.

Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett introduced **LB970**, passed 39-9, which establishes new individual income tax brackets that will lower income taxes slightly. Existing tax rates were adjusted to the following rates for 2013:

- 2.46 percent for an individual making up to \$2,400 or a married couple making up to \$4,800;
- 3.51 percent for an individual making between \$2,400 and \$17,500 or a married couple making between \$4,800 and \$35,000;
- 5.01 percent for an individual making between \$17,500 and \$27,000 or a married couple making between \$35,000 and \$54,000; and

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- 6.84 percent for an individual making more than \$27,000 or a married couple making more than \$54,000.

For a married couple filing a joint return with a taxable income of \$50,000, it is estimated the reduction would equate to a savings of \$40 in 2013 and \$68 in 2014, compared to 2011.

Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer introduced **LB745**, passed 46-0, which requires that any proposed occupation tax be subject to a vote of the people, have a specific purpose and indicate a sunset date. Any change in the rate of a current occupation tax also will be subject to a vote. The bill does not eliminate occupation taxes currently in place.



Sen. Deb Fischer

Municipalities will be able to adjust the rate of an occupation tax imposed for a specific project which is not deposited in the municipality's general fund or to terminate an existing occupation tax without submitting it to a public vote.

Tax credits

LB1128, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, provides tax credits to entities that invest in low-income rural and urban areas. Under the bill, community development entities must be certified by the state tax commissioner to receive the credit.



Sen. Paul Schumacher

The credit may be used against the financial institutions' tax, insurance premium tax and income taxes. Certified development entities would receive a 7 percent tax credit during the third year and an 8 percent tax credit for the next four years. The total amount of credits awarded by the state cannot exceed \$15 million in any fiscal year.

Senators passed the bill on a 41-0 vote.

Cornett introduced **LB1118**, passed 48-0, which offers tax incentives to a company investing at least \$200 million in qualified property for the purpose of building a data center and creating 30 or more new jobs. The bill authorizes the state to reclaim property taxes, plus interest, if a company fails to meet established benchmarks.

LB983, introduced by Cornett, increases from four years to 20 years the carry-forward period during which Nebraska's research and development tax credit can be claimed.

Senators passed the bill on a 47-0 vote.

Under **LB209**, introduced by Cornett, cities of the first and second class, as well as villages, can delay payment of job credit tax refunds by one year. An installment repayment option is allowed for any refund exceeding 25 percent of a city's total sales tax receipts. Cities will be notified of pending job credit tax refunds one year in advance.

Senators passed the bill on a 49-0 vote.

Tax exemptions

Under **LB1097**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch and passed 43-0, purchases made by nonprofit mental health centers are not subject to sales and use taxes.



Sen. Pete Pirsch

Biochips used for genetic and protein analysis of livestock are exempt from sales tax under **LB830**, introduced by Kearney Sen. Galen Hadley. The bill categorizes biochips as an agricultural input, which is not subject to state sales taxes.

Senators passed the bill on a 49-0 vote.

Hadley introduced **LB40**, passed 49-0, which exempts nonprofit health clinics from paying sales and use taxes. Clinics must meet two requirements to qualify for the exemption. First, the clinic must be owned by one or more hospitals operating the clinic as a nonprofit. Second, the health clinic must be licensed under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act.

LB902, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, provides property and sales tax exemptions for nonprofit entities created by local governments to utilize a lease-purchase agreement that requires transfer of title to the local government upon completion of all payments due under the lease-purchase agreement. The bill requires a public vote for any project exceeding



Sen. Burke Harr

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established spending thresholds. Any project costing more than \$50,000 or 0.6 percent of total or actual value of real and personal property of the governmental subdivision is subject to voter approval.

Senators passed the bill on a 44-0 vote.

Other bills

LB750, introduced by Cornett and passed 48-0, clarifies the types of property that can be used as comparable lands for the purpose of valuating farm home sites. The bill specifies that residential land located within a platted and zoned residential subdivision is not comparable to land that is part of a farm home site.

Sales of land that do not include a farm home site will not constitute a comparable sale when determining the actual value for farm home sites. The state Department of Revenue will be required to conduct an annual analysis on market premiums to ensure accurate valuation of farm home sites.

Under **LB822**, introduced by York Sen. Greg Adams, notifications of property valuation will no longer feature the median value figure currently included on notices.



Sen. Greg Adams

Senators passed the bill on a 49-0 vote.



Sen. John Wightman

LB370, introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, eliminates the ability of county treasurers to issue tax deeds without a public sale. The ability to begin foreclosure of the tax certificate to gain ownership is not affected.

Senators passed the bill on a 48-1 vote.

Cornett introduced **LB727**, passed 49-0, which updates current state statute and establishes new provisions as they relate to the department. The bill:

- eliminates certain motor fuels tax collection commissions if a notice of a deficiency assessment issued has become a final assessment;
- changes the due date for motor fuel producers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, importers and exporters to file their motor fuel tax returns to the 20th day;
- changes the source of data required to update the department's calculation of the wholesale price of gasoline
- changes the due date for the department to update its biennial tax burden study to Dec 1, 2013, and every two years thereafter;
- clarifies the sales tax exemption for sales of prepared food by parent or student organizations at elementary or secondary schools;
- repeals the state statute that currently requires the department to appoint a committee to oversee the operation of the motor fuel trust fund;
- eliminates statutory requirements that the department must use certified mail for mailing certain notices, including a notice of a proposed deficiency determination;
- adds first-class mail to the list of authorized forms of mail that the department can use whenever it is required to give any notice under the Nebraska Revenue Act; and
- includes an emergency clause.

The bill incorporates provisions from **LB903**, also introduced by Cornett, which exempts fees paid to participate in youth sports events and youth competitive educational activities from sales and use taxes. ■

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Transportation and Telecommunications



Sen. Deb Fischer, chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

Senators considered and passed legislation addressing a wide range of issues this session, including pedestrian and motor vehicle safety, hauling requirements and specialty license plates.

LB1030, introduced by North Platte Sen. Tom Hansen, requires that drivers keep a minimum distance of 3 feet when passing a pedestrian, bicycle or electric assistive mobility device traveling in the same direction on a roadway. Violators would be fined \$100 to \$300, depending upon the frequency of the offense.



Sen. Tom Hansen

Senators passed the bill on a 45-0 vote.

Under **LB1039**, introduced by Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch and passed 45-0, failing to stop for a school bus will result in a \$500 fine and the assessment of



Sen. Lydia Brasch

three points on a driver's license.

Drivers will be required to decrease speeds to 25 mph when the yellow warning lights on a bus are flashing and to stop if the red lights are flashing. At locations where the school district determines that 400 feet of clear vision in each direction is not possible, a bus could stop if a sign indicates that a school bus stop is ahead.

Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz introduced **LB740**, passed 49-0, which allows semitrailer combinations hauling baled livestock forage to exceed a 40-foot limitation without exceeding a length of 59.5 feet, including the load.



Sen. Ken Schilz

LB841, introduced by Scotts-



Sen. John Harms

bluff Sen. John Harms, restricts the length of combination vehicles hauling sugarbeets to up to 10 percent longer than that allowed by law. Such permits would be reduced from 210 days to 120 days for a distance of up to 70 miles in order to comply with federal law.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote and takes effect immediately.

Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer introduced **LB751**, a bill that brings state motor carrier statutes up-to-date and changes ignition interlock provisions.

The changes adopted include:

- handicapped parking permit physical standards;
- the International Registration Plan for apportioned vehicles in interstate commerce;
- federal rules and regulations pertaining to commercial motor vehicles and commercial driver's licenses;
- federal rules and regulations pertaining to hazardous materials and agricultural operations; and
- more specific language on which federal provisions the State Patrol is authorized to enforce.

The bill also allows a repeat drunken driving offender using an ignition interlock permit to drive to an ignition interlock service facility.

The bill was amended to include provisions of five other bills, all introduced by Fischer.

LB718 authorizes the handling of certificates of title

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in any county or the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and changes the distribution of title fees.

LB724 makes corrections to the medical certification program for commercial motor vehicle drivers and prohibits texting while driving a commercial motor vehicle.

LB726 eliminates the requirement that the DMV send out certain notices by certified or registered mail.

LB748 repeals two sections of statute requiring the courts to remit a list of outstanding arrest warrants to the department each month.

LB769 removes county treasurers' authority to issue duplicate or replacement driver's licenses. The bill also requires department employees who verify or produce driver's licenses or state identification cards to submit their fingerprints to the FBI for a criminal history background check and prohibits juveniles who violate the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act from being eligible for an ignition interlock permit.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote.

LB216, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, creates a special interest license plate that will be available to owners of motor vehicles that are unaltered from original specifications and are collected, preserved, restored or maintained for leisure. The plates



Sen. Colby Coash

must be attached to the rear of the vehicle.

Under the bill, the special interest vehicle can be driven only on public streets and roads for occasional transportation, public displays, parades and related pleasure or hobby activities. Violations will be a Class V misdemeanor. The fee for special interest license plates is \$50.

The bill passed on a 44-1 vote.

Under **LB1091**, introduced by Fischer and passed 44-0, prepaid wireless phones are subject to both the wireless E911 fee and the telecommunication relay system fee. The fees will be collected at the point of sale.

Omaha Sen. John Nelson introduced **LB418**, a bill that would have created an exemption from registering automatic dialing-announcing devices with the Public Service Commission (PSC), giving regulatory authority to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission (NADC). As amended, the bill would have required eligible persons who make automated calls relating to a political candidate or ballot to register the use of such a message with the NADC. It would not have required a submission of the entire script as the PSC currently requires.



Sen. John Nelson

The bill stalled on general file after a cloture motion failed on a 26-17 vote. Thirty-three votes were needed. ■

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Urban Affairs



Sen. Amanda McGill, chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee

Natural gas infrastructure, building codes, utility district elections and economic development were among the urban affairs issues taken up by lawmakers this session.

Senators passed a bill that allows jurisdictional utilities to construct and authorize natural gas pipeline facilities.

Under **LB1115**, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, a jurisdictional utility may implement a plan to construct rural natural gas infrastructure. Prior to constructing a natural gas facility, the jurisdictional utility will be required to consider factors such as the environmental impact on the area and the project's economic feasibility.



Sen. Mike Flood

A jurisdictional utility will be required to file proposed rural infrastructure surcharge tariffs with the Public Service Commission (PSC) consistent with the proposed rate increases negotiated in an agreement with a community prior to undertaking rural infrastructure

development.

A rural infrastructure surcharge tariff or gas supply adjustment tariff will become effective immediately upon filing of all required items with the PSC, including a copy of the agreement with the community and a map of the underserved area.

LB1115 passed on a 49-0 vote.

Production film companies are included in the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LOMED) under a bill passed this session.

LOMED authorizes incorporated cities and villages to appropriate local sales and property tax dollars – if approved by local voters – for economic development purposes.

Under **LB863**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, LOMED will include the production of films, commercials and television programs as businesses that qualify for the program.

Film companies will be required to acknowledge cities where a production was created as well as the state of Nebraska in a production's credits, unless prohibited by local, state or federal law or regulation. Film companies will be required to provide notice of such projects to the Nebraska Film Office.



Sen. Colby Coash

The bill passed 44-0 vote.

LB42, introduced by Kearney Sen. Galen Hadley, adds references to the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code into current building statutes.

Cities and villages are granted the authority to adopt a plumbing code containing rules and regulations. In the absence of a city or village code, the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code will apply. If a city code is similar to the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code, the city ordinance will take precedence.



Sen. Galen Hadley

Senators passed the bill on a 46-0 vote.

A bill requiring that metropolitan utilities district (MUD) board members be chosen by district elections stalled on select file.

Omaha Sen. Brenda Council said she introduced

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LB190 in the hope of making MUD board membership more reflective of the citizens it serves. Currently, members are elected at large.

LB190 failed to advance from select file on a 23-15 vote. Twenty-five votes were needed for advancement.

Three measures concerning tax increment financing (TIF) regulation in Nebraska were considered by the Urban Affairs Committee but failed to advance to general file.

LR376CA, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, would have placed a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2012 general election ballot to make the following changes to TIF regulations:

- extend the maximum length of TIF bonds from 15 to 20 years;
- allow the Legislature to extend the maximum length of TIF bonds from 20 years to 30 years if more than half of the property was previously state-owned; and
- replace the requirement that property be designated “substandard and blighted” with language stating



Sen. Brenda Council



Sen. Heath Mello

that property be “in need of rehabilitation or redevelopment.”

Under **LB1132**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill, a city would have been allowed to develop land within a 3-mile radius of the city for a TIF project that is essential to redevelopment of a substandard or blighted area without acquiring or annexing the land if a county board approves the project.

LB918, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett, would have capped at 7 percent the total actual value of real and personal property of any political subdivision that a city or village could designate as blighted.

In addition, the bill would have limited the combination of current and proposed redevelopment projects’ excess value to 7 percent of the total actual value of real and personal property of any political subdivision in which the proposed redevelopment project would be located, including the authorizing political subdivision.

Finally, the bill would have removed a current requirement that cities conduct a cost-benefit analysis of proposed TIF projects. ■



Sen. Abbie Cornett

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB14	Wightman	S	Change fees received by registers of deeds, county clerks, district court clerks, and the Secretary of State	15
LB40	Hadley	S	Change a sales tax exemption for health clinics	5, 14
LB42	Hadley	S	Update references to the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code	13
LB50	Krist	C	Adopt the Elementary and Secondary Educational Opportunity Act and provide for income tax credits	
LB60	Krist	SF	Change provisions relating to compliance checks for sales of alcoholic liquor	4, 6
LB66	Cornett	S	Change provisions relating to DNA collection	2, 14
LB66A	Cornett	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB131	Heidemann	S	Change provisions relating to the Cash Reserve Fund	11, 12, 13
LB190	Council	SF	Provide for district elections for board members of metropolitan utilities districts	2, 6
LB209	Cornett	S (+489)	Provide for delayed deductions for refunds from municipal sales and use tax receipts and access to tax returns by certified municipal employees	8, 10, 14
LB209A	Cornett	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB216	Coash	S	Provide for special interest motor vehicle plates	5, 9
LB216A	Coash	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB239	Janssen	GF	Require presentation of government-issued photographic identification to vote in elections	9, 13
LB269	Conrad	S	Change provisions relating to delayed deposit services	5, 9
LB276	Council	GF	Change a penalty from death to life imprisonment without possibility of parole and change other penalties as prescribed	4
LB304	McGill	GF	Provide for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases as prescribed	4
LB310	McGill	S (+920, 1056)	Change provisions relating to protection orders	4, 13
LB330	Cook	GF	Change requirements for dental hygienists in public health-related settings	
LB343	Brasch	GF	Change land surveyor registration requirements	
LB344	Ashford	SF	Provide for an interjurisdictional planning commission for counties containing a city of the metropolitan class	5
LB352	Lautenbaugh	SF	Provide airport hazard area dimensions under the Airport Zoning Act	3
LB357	Ashford	VO	Change and eliminate provisions relating to increases in local option sales tax	14, 15
LB370	Wightman	S	Change provisions relating to collection of delinquent real property taxes by sale of real property	3, 7, 9
LB391	Schilz	S (+392)	Prohibit activities relating to aquatic invasive species and create the Nebraska Invasive Species Council	
LB392	Schilz	C (>391)	Provide powers and duties relating to aquatic invasive species	
LB398	Lathrop	S	Authorize election commissioners to administer oaths and affirmations and change provisions relating to notaries public	
LB415	Wallman	V	Change provisions relating to contraband in a detention facility or providing an inmate with contraband	3, 6, 7
LB418	Nelson	GF	Exclude certain automatic dialing-announcing devices from registration	3, 4
LB426	Cornett	S	Change grant provisions under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act and the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act	
LB427	Cornett	S	Change the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act	5, 9
LB446	Adams	S	Change duties and funding provisions relating to educational service units	6, 10
LB459	Schilz	S	Prohibit political subdivisions from defining or assigning legal status for animals inconsistent with personal property status	
LB461	Pirsch	C	Adopt the Freedom of Conscience Act	
LB469	Karpisek	C	Prohibit retail sale of novelty lighters and provide a penalty	
LB470	Karpisek	S	Provide requirements for approval of library personnel policies and procedures	
LB473	Louden	S	Adopt the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act	4, 10
LB489	Cornett	GF (>209)	Authorize municipalities to receive sales tax information	
LB498	Louden	S	Provide an exception for permit amendments under the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act for mineral exploration and production	5, 9
LB503	Pirsch	S	Change provisions for filling a vacancy on a ballot	3, 6
LB507	Harms	S	Change Welfare Reform Act requirements relating to education for recipients of assistance	5, 9
LB514	Christensen	C	Provide for recovery for unreasonable delay or denial of an insurance claim	
LB526	Carlson	S	Change provisions relating to water transfers	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB536	Wightman	S (+818)	Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act and provide exemptions from the documentary stamp tax	5, 7, 13, 15
LB538	Karpisek	GF (>807)	Change provisions relating to the disposition of seized firearms	15
LB540	Health & Human Services	SF	Require a medicaid waiver relating to family planning services	6
LB540A	Campbell	SF	Appropriation Bill	
LB541	Health & Human Services	S	Provide for third-party contracts to promote medicaid integrity and cost containment	8, 14
LB541A	Campbell	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB576	Wightman	S	Create cash funds relating to publication and distribution of statutes	
LB599	Campbell	VO	Provide coverage for certain children pursuant to the medical assistance program and change provisions relating to verification of lawful presence	14, 15
LB599A	Campbell	VO	Appropriation Bill	
LB612	Pirsch	S	Increase statute of limitations for plaintiffs suffering injury from sexual assault as a child	4, 9
LB613	Pirsch	GF	Change certain lien provisions relating to homeowner's associations and condominiums	
LB633	Adams	S (+634)	Change determination and certification dates under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and change tax levy and bonding authority for certain school improvement projects	9
LB634	Adams	C (>633)	Change provisions relating to the tax levy authority of school districts relating to certain bonds	
LB646	Christensen	S	Redefine emergency medical service and prohibit expansion of a scope of practice	
LB653	Christensen	GF	Provide for interbasin transfers during times of flooding as prescribed	
LB670	Flood	S (+814)	Change the schedule of controlled substances under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	13, 14
LB677	Lathrop	S	Provide criminal penalties for assault on a health care professional in the first, second, and third degrees	5, 7, 9
LB686	Schilz	S	Provide exceptions from the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act for transplantation of bovine embryos	
LB705	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to repeal obsolete statutes relating to computer date failure actions	
LB706	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to repeal an obsolete statute relating to an interim study	
LB707	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to repeal an obsolete statute relating to Joslyn Castle	
LB708	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to repeal an obsolete statute relating to the School Weatherization Fund	
LB709	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to repeal obsolete statutes relating to temporary zoning regulations that expired July 1, 2001	
LB710	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to repeal the University Buildings Renovation and Land Acquisition Fund that is no longer needed	
LB711	Wightman	S	Change provisions relating to membership on the Executive Board of the Legislative Council	
LB712	Haar	C	Change permitted practice provisions under the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice Act	8
LB713	Haar	C	Provide requirements for and prevent the prohibition of the installation of solar energy systems	
LB714	McCoy	S	Update references and change provisions in the Real Property Appraiser Act	
LB715	Fischer	S	Change regulation of boundaries for telecommunications services	
LB716	McCoy	C	Change municipal powers within extraterritorial jurisdiction	
LB717	Council	C	Change school board election membership, and salary provisions	3
LB718	Fischer	C (>751)	Change provisions relating to certificates of title, the distribution of titling fees, and registration fees for fleet vehicles	9, 14
LB719	Price	S	Change records management provisions	
LB720	Lautenbaugh	GF	Change membership provisions and provide salaries for Class V school boards	3, 14
LB721	Larson	S	Redefine the term police animal	
LB722	Coash	S	Authorize fines or costs to be deducted from an offender's bond as prescribed	8, 12, 14
LB723	Bloomfield	S	Change provisions relating to small systems under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act	
LB724	Fischer	C (>751)	Change commercial driver medical examination provisions and prohibit texting while driving a commercial motor vehicle	9, 14
LB725	Cornett	S	Update references to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986	
LB726	Fischer	C (>751)	Eliminate certain certified and registered mail requirements of the Department of Motor Vehicles	9, 14
LB727	Cornett	S (+903)	Change various tax provisions	9, 14
LB728	Mello	C	Provide for the distribution of money received by the state due to a settlement or court order or judgment	7

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB729	Mello	S	Provide powers to an authority and change bond provisions under the Community Development Law	
LB730	Mello	C	Change provisions relating to theft of services	
LB731	Mello	GF	Adopt the Remanufacturing Pilot Project Act and provide an income tax credit	
LB731A	Mello	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB732	Mello	C	Provide procedures for the use of eminent domain by cities and villages for trails	
LB733	Pirsch	S	Provide for electronic transmission and filing of documents under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act	
LB734	Schumacher	S	Change provisions relating to replevin	
LB735	Schumacher	S	Permit governing bodies of community colleges and certain public power districts to hold meetings by videoconferencing or telephone conference	8, 13
LB736	Schumacher	C	Require provision of secret-ballot envelopes for elections	
LB737	Gloor	S	Provide procedures for submitting national criminal history record information checks with respect to home studies for adoptions	
LB738	Gloor	S	Change burial expense benefits under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB739	Christensen	S	Authorize Game and Parks Commission to transfer property to Chase County	7, 10
LB740	Schilz	S	Provide a length exception for semitrailers transporting baled livestock forage	4, 12, 14
LB741	Schilz	C (>742)	Change application provisions relating to electric generation facilities	
LB742	Schilz	S (+741)	Change application provisions relating to electric transmission lines and development of renewable energy sources	
LB743	Schilz	S	Provide for a fee relating to consideration of a variance under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act	
LB744	Schilz	W	Change provisions relating to court fees	
LB745	Fischer	S	Provide requirements for imposition of municipal occupation taxes	4, 13, 14
LB746	Hadley	C	Change school permit provisions	
LB747	Hadley	C	Withdraw from and repeal the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact	5
LB748	Fischer	C (>751)	Eliminate provisions relating to denial of motor vehicle registration or operator's license to a person with outstanding arrest warrants	9, 14
LB749	Cornett	GF	Exempt indoor tanning services from sales and use taxes	
LB750	Cornett	S	Change provisions relating to farm home site valuation and comparable sales used for tax assessment	12, 14
LB751	Fischer	S (+718, 724, 726, 748, 769)	Change provisions relating to federal vehicle laws and regulations, parking permits, certificates of title, motor vehicle registration, ignition interlock permits, operators' licenses, state identification cards, motor carriers, mailing requirements, and recreational vehicles	9, 14
LB751A	Fischer	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB752	Avery	C	Provide an income tax credit relating to grape growing and wine producing	
LB753	Avery	C	Create funds and provide funding for childhood obesity prevention measures through sales taxation of soft drinks	8
LB754	Avery	C	Require reporting of electioneering communication	3
LB755	Avery	C	Require the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission to file reports regarding legislative conflicts of interest	3
LB756	Avery	C (>1161)	Provide public access to documents related to major oil pipelines	
LB757	Avery	C (>1035)	Change political party provisions	
LB758	Avery	C	Change provisions relating to gifts given by a lobbyist or principal	
LB759	Avery	S	Change petition circulation requirements	7, 10
LB760	Schilz	S	Change provisions relating to meetings of the Environmental Quality Council and grants made to political subdivisions	
LB761	Heidemann	S	Change requirements for acquisitions of certain real property by the state	
LB762	Louden	C	Change provisions relating to comparable sales used for tax assessment	
LB763	Louden	C	Change provisions relating to freeholder petitions and elementary sites	
LB764	Louden	C	Change provisions relating to vehicle overload exceptions	4
LB765	Krist	C	Change bidding requirements relating to contracts with providers of certain health and social services as prescribed	7
LB766	Price	S	Authorize the Adjutant General to make certain emergency expenditures	
LB767	Howard	C	Require records of dates and hours of work for state officers and employees	
LB768	Howard	S	Change provisions relating to access to adoption case files	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB769	Fischer	C (>751)	Change provisions relating to application for and issuance of operators' licenses and state identification cards	9, 14
LB770	Carlson	S	Change the Nebraska Seed Law	5, 9
LB771	Carlson	S	Change the Nebraska Pure Food Act	5, 9
LB772	Smith	S	Change provisions relating to the payment of salaries for county board members	
LB773	Smith	S	Change Uniform Credentialing Act fee provisions	
LB774	Howard	C (>1160)	Change and add reporting requirements relating to child welfare	9, 14
LB775	Brasch	IPP	Change disclosure provisions relating to the Auditor of Public Accounts	
LB776	Karpisek	W	Prohibit sale of alcoholic beer and liquor for less than the purchase price	
LB777	Haar	C	Change provisions relating to distribution of certain supplemental funds	7
LB778	Coash	W	Change loan eligibility under the Excellence in Teaching Act	
LB779	Lautenbaugh	S	Provide for rental of vehicles for use by state agencies	
LB780	Smith	S	Redefine "brewpub" and "microbrewery" for purposes of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	
LB781	Smith	GF (>824)	Change bond provisions relating to the gallonage tax on alcoholic liquor	
LB782	McCoy	S	Require that reports submitted to the Legislature be submitted electronically	10, 13
LB783	Wightman	C	Change provisions relating to powers of personal representatives	
LB784	Wightman	C	Change Nebraska Uniform Trust Code provisions relating to testamentary powers	
LB785	Christensen	C	Authorize possession of firearms as prescribed	
LB786	Christensen	S	Change forfeiture of office provisions for city council members in cities with a city manager	
LB787	McGill	GF	Authorize inspection and regulation of staff secure facilities by the Jail Standards Board	
LB787A	McGill	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB788	Campbell	S	Change respiratory care practice requirements	3, 12, 14
LB789	Haar	C	Change the State Electrical Act relating to electrical inspections	
LB790	Coash	S	Transfer a county court judgeship to another district	3, 6, 10
LB791	Mello	C	Adopt the Shared Work Unemployment Compensation Program	
LB792	Mello	C	Change provisions relating to personal services contract review and approval duties of the Director of Administrative Services	7
LB793	Lautenbaugh	S	Limit frivolous civil actions filed by prisoners	3, 14, 15
LB793A	Lautenbaugh	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB794	Lambert	S	Redefine "byproduct material" under the Radiation Control Act	
LB795	Avery	S	Change provisions relating to applying for membership in veterans homes	
LB796	Avery	C	Adopt the Outdoor Outfitters and Guides Registration Act	
LB797	Avery	W	Define sexual contact to include kissing without consent	
LB798	Urban Affairs	C	Provide that certain assessments are levied and collected as special assessments	
LB799	Cornett	S	Change penalties for child abuse	11, 14
LB800	Louden	S	Change provisions relating to appraised value of school lands	
LB801	Fischer	S	Eliminate obsolete references to designated county officials	
LB802	Lautenbaugh	C	Authorize carrying of concealed handguns by certain authorities within the scope of their employment	
LB803	Lautenbaugh	GF	Require presentment of an operator's license and proof of insurance to a peace officer by a driver involved in an accident and mandate impoundment of the vehicle in certain situations	4
LB804	Lautenbaugh	S	Change provisions relating to justification for use of force	
LB805	Lautenbaugh	S	Remove the social security number requirement from certain firework permit and license applications	
LB806	Lautenbaugh	V	Authorize the State Racing Commission to regulate wagering on historic horseraces	4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15
LB806A	Lautenbaugh	V	Appropriation Bill	
LB807	Lautenbaugh	P (+538)	Change provisions relating to disposition of firearms seized or held by a law enforcement agency and concealed handgun permit applications and revocations	7, 15
LB808	Lautenbaugh	IPP	Appropriate funds for an environmental study of a hydroelectric dam project	
LB809	Lautenbaugh	IPP (>870)	Change provisions relating to evaluation of certificated employees of schools	4
LB810	Gloor	S	Prohibit insurance policy provisions relating to fees for dental services	
LB811	Harr	S	Change provisions relating to disclosure of confidential business or financial information	
LB812	Harr	C	Change garnishment provisions	
LB813	Karpisek	C	Prohibit counties, cities, and villages from imposing credentialing requirements	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB814	Schilz	GF (>670)	Include additional substances in the schedule of controlled substances under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	3, 13, 14
LB815	Fulton	C	Change penalty and statute of limitations regarding concealing the death of another person	3
LB816	Pirsch	GF (>817)	Change provisions relating to evidentiary use of set-aside convictions	
LB817	Pirsch	S (+816, 1046)	Change provisions relating to law enforcement certification and continuing education, evidentiary use of set-aside convictions, and duties of the Community Corrections Division of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	
LB817A	Harr	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB818	Harr	GF (>536)	Exempt certain deeds from the documentary stamp tax	
LB819	Price	S	Provide for the treatment of military medals as unclaimed property	12, 14
LB820	Health & Human Services	S (+874, 926)	Create the Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee and the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, provide a temporary foster care stipend, and change foster care licensure requirements	3, 9, 10, 14
LB820A	Campbell	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB821	Health & Human Services	S (+837, 957)	Create the Nebraska Children's Commission and adopt the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act	5, 9, 10, 13, 14
LB821A	Campbell	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB822	Adams	S	Change notice provisions relating to changes in real property valuations	3, 12, 14
LB823	Adams	S	Change powers and duties of county treasurers relating to the holding of certain school district funds	
LB824	Karpisek	S (+781)	Define flavored malt beverage and change bond provisions under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	11, 14
LB825	Dubas	S (+1016)	Provide requirements for staffing, services, and contracts for public assistance programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services	4, 13, 14
LB825A	Dubas	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB826	Dubas	C	Change provisions relating to legislative consideration of proposed rules and regulations under the Medical Assistance Act	
LB827	Dubas	C	Require mediation for budget disputes between a county board and a county officer	
LB828	Dubas	S	Change provisions relating to wind and solar energy agreements	
LB829	Louden	C	Create alcohol impact zones	
LB830	Hadley	S	Provide a sales and use tax exemption for biochips	8, 14
LB831	Howard	S	Adopt the Genetic Counseling Practice Act	3, 7, 10
LB832	Howard	C	Require a report on qualifications by proposed appointee as chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services	
LB833	Krist	GF	Change provisions relating to surcharges for 911 services	
LB834	Gloor	S	Change the Nebraska Regulation of Health Professions Act	9, 14
LB835	Nordquist	C	Adopt the Nebraska Health Benefit Exchange Act	8
LB836	Pahls	S	Change provisions relating to deposit and investment of public funds in certificates of deposit and time deposits	5, 9
LB837	Howard	C (>821)	Create a task force to review use of certain drugs by wards of the state	3
LB838	Pahls	C	Adopt the Nebraska Health Benefit Exchange Act	8
LB839	Council	C	Require reporting of sexual misconduct by a school employee	4
LB840	Council	C	Provide powers and duties relating to inmate mail	
LB841	Harms	S	Change provisions relating to permits for exceeding vehicle size and weight limitations	4, 10
LB842	Harms	S	Change the termination date relating to self-sufficiency activities under the Welfare Reform Act and provide ADC data collection duties for the Department of Health and Human Services	10, 14
LB843	Schumacher	C	Authorize a cause of action relating to no-reserve auctions	
LB844	Hadley	C	Change child support, medical support, and parenting time provisions	
LB845	Sullivan	S	Provide reclamation requirements under the Oil Pipeline Reclamation Act	7, 11, 14
LB846	Sullivan	C	Require employers to maintain employee emergency contact information	
LB847	Sullivan	C	Change the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act	
LB848	Sullivan	C	Change the Funeral Directing and Embalming Practice Act	
LB849	Sullivan	S	Authorize the Game and Parks Commission to transfer Pibel Lake State Recreation Area to the Lower Loup Natural Resources District	7, 10
LB850	Hadley	C	Create the incentive area tax credit program and authorize tax credits	4
LB851	Fischer	S	Change provisions relating to tax receipts	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB852	McCoy	S	Change provisions relating to corporations and professional corporations	
LB853	McCoy	S	Change provisions relating to secured transactions filing information	
LB854	McCoy	S	Change provisions relating to business entity dissolution and reinstatement	
LB855	Fulton	C	Change sales and use tax collection fees	
LB856	Larson	W	Change provisions relating to reporting of cruelty to animals and create the offense of obtaining employment at an animal facility with intent to disrupt operations	
LB857	Larson	C	Provide for repayment of certain grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund as prescribed	
LB858	Avery	S (+1006)	Change requirements and exceptions for certain state contracts	7, 12, 13, 14
LB859	Avery	C (>968)	Provide funding for renovation of Centennial Mall	4
LB860	Hansen	S	Change qualification and training requirements for truth and deception examiners	
LB861	Cornett	S	Change hours of sale provisions under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	4, 7, 13
LB862	Coash	S	Change the salary of Supreme Court judges	3, 7, 14
LB862A	Ashford	LV	Appropriation Bill	
LB863	Coash	S	Include film production under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act	10, 13
LB864	McGill	GF	Change bond recording duties of city clerks and city treasurers	
LB865	McGill	S	Authorize the voluntary waiver of compensation by jurors	
LB866	Haar	C	Adopt the Nebraska Fair Employment Opportunity Act	
LB867	Karpisek	S	Change employer contribution provisions under certain county retirement plans	6, 12, 14
LB868	Urban Affairs	GF	Authorize a city of the first class to adopt a biennial budget	3
LB869	Janssen	S	Change provisions relating to the State Athletic Commissioner and change membership of the Athletic Advisory Committee	
LB870	Adams	S (+809, 1144)	Provide, change, and eliminate school accountability assessment provisions and provide for career academies	3, 11, 13, 14
LB871	Gloor	S	Provide for policies on financial eligibility and schedules of fees and copays under the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act	
LB872	Hadley	S	Change provisions relating to apportionment of income between states	
LB873	Schilz	S	Extend sunset of the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund	
LB874	Howard	C (>820)	Change foster care licensure provisions	
LB875	Howard	C	Prohibit driving while using wireless communication devices in school crossing zones and construction zones	
LB876	Wallman	C	Change insurance policy, subscriber contract, and other policy provisions relating to mammography	
LB877	Wallman	IPP	Require disclosure of hydraulic fracturing treatment information	
LB878	Wallman	S	Change election calendar, vacancy, ballot, and counting machine provisions	
LB879	Pahls	S	Change a security requirement for depositories of public funds	
LB880	Pahls	S	Provide duties relating to reducing costs and adopting modern methods of state and local records management	
LB881	Coash	S	Change medical services payment provisions relating to jails and correctional facilities	
LB882	Nordquist	S	Require certain cancer treatment insurance coverage	8, 13, 14
LB883	Cook	C	Provide for contributions to the Nebraska educational savings plan trust from income tax refunds	
LB884	Sullivan	C	Create the Agricultural Literacy Task Force	5
LB885	Haar	C	Provide powers and duties to the state building division relating to the energy efficiency of state facilities	
LB886	Schumacher	S	Change provisions relating to trademarks and trade names	
LB887	Pahls	S	Change provisions relating to insurance	
LB888	Cornett	C	Adopt the Historic Property Restoration and Reuse Act and authorize an income tax credit	8
LB889	Avery	C	Change provisions relating to rates, fares, and certificates of convenience and necessity for taxicabs	5
LB890	Pirsch	S	Provide for the electronic transmission of notice under the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act	
LB891	Nordquist	GF	Provide for a medicaid waiver to provide coverage for certain low-income HIV-infected individuals	
LB891A	Nordquist	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB892	McGill	C	Provide for credentialing military applicants and spouses under the Uniform Credentialing Act	
LB893	McGill	C	Provide for Nebraska Armed Forces Pride Plates and distribution of fees	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB894	McGill	C	Provide for issuance of certain license plates to spouses of veterans	
LB895	McGill	IPP	Provide for teacher certification for military spouses	
LB896	Fischer	S	Change motor vehicle industry regulations	
LB897	Pahls	S	Change provisions relating to the completion of tax lists	
LB898	Fischer	S	Redefine minitruck for vehicle titling, registration, and insurance statutes and rules of the road	
LB899	Lathrop	S	Provide procedures for a legal separation decree and change parenting plan hearing requirements	
LB900	Lathrop	GF (>1160)	Require a report concerning individuals in need of multiple division services from the Department of Health and Human Services	4
LB901	Lathrop	C (>968)	Designate funds to be used for services for persons with developmental disabilities	5
LB902	Harr	S	Redefine a term relating to property tax exemptions and change provisions relating to a sales tax exemption for purchases by the state or a governmental unit	11, 13
LB903	Cornett	C (>727)	Exempt youth sports from sales and use tax	9
LB904	Gloor	S	Change Vital Statistics Act reporting requirements for annulments and dissolutions of marriage	
LB905	Carlson	S	Change the Nebraska Wheat Resources Act	6, 12, 14
LB905A	Carlson	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB906	Wallman	C	Change death benefits under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB907	Carlson	S	Change provisions relating to agricultural tractor permitting and a sales tax exemption	10, 14
LB908	Lautenbaugh	GF	Change the disposition of indigent defense court fees	
LB909	Lautenbaugh	C	Provide an employer defense under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB910	Lautenbaugh	C	Define "certified traffic personnel" and authorize their use at special events	
LB911	Lathrop	S	Clarify use of a fund under the Employment Security Law	
LB912	McCoy	C	Provide requirements for local laws regulating discrimination	8
LB913	Adams	C	Change base limitation provisions and certain dates relating to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	
LB914	McGill	C	Change provisions relating to reductions in sex offender registration periods	
LB915	Larson	C	Change provisions relating to animal cruelty and create the offense of obtaining employment at an animal facility with intent to disrupt operations	5
LB916	Nebraska Retirement Systems	S (+973, 1036)	Change provisions relating to retirement	14
LB917	Cornett	C	Change truancy provisions for absences relating to military employment activities	7
LB918	Cornett	C	Change provisions of the Community Development Law	4
LB919	Schilz	C	Change court fees, sheriff's fees, and handgun certificate fees	
LB920	McGill	GF (>310)	Change harassment protection order and domestic abuse protection order provisions	
LB921	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to metropolitan utilities districts	
LB922	Mello	C	Change provisions relating to vehicle load contents and spillage	
LB923	Mello	C	Adopt the Nebraska Buy American Act	
LB924	Mello	FR	Change the Nebraska Redevelopment Act	
LB925	Fischer	C	Provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to contracts with providers under Budget Program No. 514, Health Aid	
LB926	Dubas	C (>820)	Provide for a minimum base rate for foster care payments	5
LB927	Louden	GF (>1050)	Authorize cattle brands as official identification as prescribed	
LB928	Louden	S (+1163)	Provide for mountain lion hunting permits and a deer donation program	15
LB928A	Langemeier	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB929	McGill	C	Provide a membership requirement for State Foster Care Review Board members	
LB930	Brasch	GF (>1155)	Allow operation of golf car vehicles on highways as prescribed	
LB931	Karpisek	C	Change provisions relating to flood protection and water quality enhancement bonds	
LB932	Krist	IPP	Provide voting rights for residents of sanitary and improvement districts	
LB933	Ashford	S	Change provisions relating to truancy	7, 9, 14
LB934	Karpisek	C	Provide for appointment of all election commissioners by the county board	
LB935	Smith	C	Change grandparent child visitation provisions to person with a legitimate interest	6
LB936	Karpisek	S	Change provisions relating to termination of the township board	
LB937	Smith	C	Regulate dealers in the business of buying and reselling precious items	
LB938	Nelson	C	Require a uniform reimbursement rate for adult day services	
LB939	Harr	C	Change certain notice provisions for conservators	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB940	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to guardians ad litem in adoption proceedings	
LB941	Smith	S	Change restrictions on disposition of pawned and secondhand goods	
LB942	McCoy	S	Change certain notice provisions under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act	
LB943	McCoy	S	Adopt the Insured Homeowners Protection Act	
LB944	McCoy	C	Prohibit campaign expenditures for personal services of elective officeholders	
LB945	Haar	C	Require licensees under the Child Care Licensing Act to provide proof of radon levels at child care locations	
LB946	Adams	S	Adopt the Community College Aid Act	4, 5, 6
LB947	Hadley	C	Change averaging adjustment and a certification date under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	
LB948	Lambert	GF	Change provisions and a penalty relating to intimidation by telephone call	4
LB949	Performance Audit	S	Require reports and a strategic plan by the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services	6, 9, 10, 14
LB949A	Harms	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB950	Christensen	S	Provide for transfers of funds to the Water Resources Cash Fund	9, 13, 14
LB950A	Christensen	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB951	Harr	C	Provide for assault with a bodily fluid against a first responder	
LB952	Nordquist	C (>968)	Change appropriation provisions relating to the medical assistance program	
LB953	Fulton	GF	Create state fleet card programs and a fund	
LB954	Fulton	C (>1104)	Change provisions of the college savings plan	
LB955	Nordquist	C (>968)	Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development	
LB956	Ashford	C	Authorize an increase in city sales tax rates	7
LB957	Health & Human Services	C (>821)	Adopt the Office of Inspector General for Nebraska Child Welfare Act	
LB958	Howard	C	Provide for appropriations to the Nursing Faculty Student Loan Act	
LB959	Janssen	S	Provide immunity to employers for job references	6, 12, 13
LB960	Heidemann	C (>969)	To state intent relating to certain transfers of funds	
LB961	Health & Human Services	S	Change provisions relating to case management, caseloads, contracts, and contract extensions for child welfare services	4, 9, 10, 14
LB962	Pahls	S	Change provisions relating to tax expenditure reporting and name the Tax Rate Review Committee	10, 14
LB963	Pahls	S	Change provisions relating to banking and finance	
LB964	Pahls	GF	Adopt the Nebraska Money Transmitters Act	
LB965	Pahls	S	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Installment Sales Act, the Residential Mortgage Licensing Act, and the Nebraska Installment Loan Act	10, 13
LB966	Karpisek	C (>1035)	Change vote canvassing procedures	
LB967	Schumacher	C	Change an interest rate relating to delinquent taxes and special assessments	
LB968	Speaker Flood	S (+859, 901, 952, 955, 1017, 1019, 1048, 1055, 1066, 1089)	Provide for deficit appropriations	11, 12, 13
LB969	Speaker Flood	S (+960, 994, 1037)	Provide for fund transfers and change provisions relating to various funds	11, 13
LB970	Cornett	S	Change income tax rates, brackets, and determinations	4, 12, 14
LB971	Harms	GF	Merge the Department of Labor into the Department of Economic Development	5
LB972	Ashford	S	Change provisions relating to youth rehabilitation and treatment centers	4, 13, 14
LB973	Coash	C (>916)	Provide for the use of retirement benefits to pay civil damages	9, 14
LB974	Pirsch	C	Change the income tax rate	
LB975	Smith	C	Adopt the Fair Bidding Act	
LB976	Nordquist	C	Exempt social security benefits from state income taxation	6
LB977	Mello	C	Adopt the Property Tax Relief Act	
LB978	Karpisek	C	Prohibit sales of alcohol or beer for consumption off the premises at less than cost	
LB979	Lambert	S	Change licensure provisions under the Nebraska Pickle Card Lottery Act	15

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LB980	Ashford	C	Change provisions relating to an adjustment to income for certain capital gains and extraordinary dividends	
LB981	Ashford	C	Appropriate funds for renovation of certain living units at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney	
LB982	Harr	C	Provide for the removal of improper or fraudulent liens	7
LB983	Cornett	S	Change provisions relating to a research tax credit	10, 14
LB984	Krist	C	Increase requirements for uninsured and underinsured motor vehicle liability coverage	
LB985	Krist	S	Provide for a juvenile justice pilot program	
LB985A	Krist	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB986	Dubas	C	Exempt repair or replacement parts for commercial agricultural machinery and equipment from sales and use tax	
LB987	Karpisek	C	Create the Liquor Control Enforcement Division within the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	
LB988	Howard	C	Provide a rate of payment for certain medical services in emergency protective custody situations	
LB989	Haar	C	Allow exceptions to property tax levy limitations and school district budget authority for 21st Century Community Learning Centers	
LB990	Fulton	C	Change flag display provisions for schools and require recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance	6
LB991	Krist	C	Provide for a study relating to countywide school districts	
LB992	Fulton	IPP	Prohibit the presence of minors on premises of certain liquor licensees and provide a penalty	
LB993	Ashford	S	Change provisions relating to child abuse and neglect teams and child advocacy centers	9, 14
LB993A	Ashford	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB994	Heidemann	C (>969)	Create the State Colleges Sport Facilities Cash Fund and provide for transfers to the fund	
LB995	Heidemann	S	Change provisions relating to county medical facilities and public hospitals	7, 10, 13
LB996	Wightman	S	Change provisions relating to compulsory attendance	5, 8, 13, 14
LB997	Wightman	S	Change provisions relating to high voltage conductor safety	
LB998	Krist	S	Create the Foster Care Review Office and eliminate the State Foster Care Review Board	4, 10, 13, 14
LB998A	Krist	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB999	Price	SF	Authorize the display of an honor and remember flag at public buildings	
LB1000	McGill	C	Change certain marriage related fees	
LB1001	McGill	S	Eliminate provisions relating to the state building code	
LB1002	Sullivan	C	Change long-term care bed moratorium provisions	
LB1003	Schumacher	C	Change motor vehicle liability insurance and financial responsibility requirements	6
LB1004	Schumacher	C	Authorize credit unions to receive deposits of public funds	
LB1005	Lambert	S	Include state emergency response teams under the Volunteer Emergency Responders Job Protection Act	
LB1006	Fulton	GF (>858)	Change bidding provisions relating to vendors who are blind or visually impaired	13
LB1007	Fulton	IPP	Require production costs of reports submitted to the Legislature to be stated on the reports	
LB1008	Fulton	C	Provide for utilization and treatment guidelines for medical services under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB1009	Ashford	C	Provide that probation records are not subject to disclosure	
LB1010	Nordquist	C	Change eligibility provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	7
LB1011	Dubas	C	Adopt the Property Tax Relief Act	
LB1012	Lautenbaugh	C	Change medical treatment and temporary disability provisions under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB1013	Mello	C	Change the Administrative Procedure Act and provide for attorney's fees and costs as prescribed	
LB1014	Conrad	C	Authorize the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Roads	
LB1015	Conrad	C	Change the child care reimbursement rate	
LB1016	Conrad	C (>825)	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with certain community-based organizations as prescribed	
LB1017	Conrad	C (>968)	Transfer funds to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund	
LB1018	Conrad	S	Change provisions relating to business mergers, consolidations, and conversions	
LB1019	Harms	C (>968)	Appropriate funds for capital improvements at the state colleges	
LB1020	Nordquist	V	Adopt the Nebraska Coordinated School Health Act	15
LB1020A	Nordquist	V	Appropriation Bill	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB1021	Schilz	C	Change provisions relating to actions involving motor vehicle collisions with domestic animals	
LB1022	Nordquist	C	Change officer and employer contribution rates under the Nebraska State Patrol retirement Act	
LB1023	Avery	GF	Provide for the waiver of education-related fees for dependents of veterans	
LB1024	Avery	C	Provide exceptions to the State Personnel System	
LB1025	Avery	C	Prohibit accepting gifts and contributions by Public Service Commission members	6
LB1026	Avery	S	Change the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act to change provisions relating to confidential records	
LB1027	Cook	C	Change licensure requirements for head injury facility administrators	
LB1028	Cook	C	Require Department of Health and Human Services to apply for a grant relating to long-term care services	
LB1029	Lambert	C	Require an address from a complainant or trustee for acceptance of demands of payment relating to real property	
LB1030	Hansen	S	Change provisions relating to obligations of drivers	6, 12, 14
LB1031	Harr	S	Change provisions relating to name of debtor for Uniform Commercial Code financing statements	
LB1032	Wightman	C	Change advertisement and display of credential provisions under the Uniform Credentialing Act	
LB1033	Cornett	C	Provide tax incentives under the Nebraska Advantage Act for renewable energy projects	5
LB1034	Nordquist	C	Adopt the College Choice Grant Program Act	
LB1035	Sullivan	S (+757, 966)	Change political party provisions and vote canvassing procedures and provide for automatic nomination of airport authority board members	
LB1036	Nordquist	C (>916)	Provide for a cash balance benefit election for certain county and state employees and create county and state retirement funds	9, 14
LB1037	Nelson	C (>969)	Change matching requirements for arts funding	
LB1038	Council	S	Provide for a lead poisoning prevention program for children	12, 14
LB1039	Brasch	S	Change provisions relating to school bus safety requirements	10, 13
LB1040	Schilz	C	Change provisions relating to snow removal on state highways and encroachments and regulation of state rights-of-way	
LB1041	Cook	C	Adopt the Department of Health and Human Services Delivery Improvement and Efficiency Act	5, 14
LB1042	Campbell	S	Authorize nurse practitioners to sign death certificates	
LB1043	Langemeier	S	Eliminate provisions relating to contracts or agreements for discounted rates involving public power districts	5, 9
LB1044	Haar	C	Provide for Public Service Commission regulation of hazardous liquid pipeline facilities	
LB1045	Haar	C	Authorize school district expenditures in case of disaster or emergency as prescribed	
LB1046	Harr	GF (>817)	Change provisions relating to law enforcement certification and continuing education	7
LB1046A	Harr	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB1047	Howard	C	Require safe injection practices as prescribed	
LB1048	Howard	C (>968)	Increase an appropriation for nurse visitation services as prescribed	
LB1049	Cornett	S	Create and change provisions relating to the purchase of certain metals	
LB1050	Cornett	SF (+927)	Provide for identification requirements for importation of certain cattle	
LB1051	Coash	S	Change registry provisions regarding adult protective services and child protection cases	
LB1052	Christensen	C	Change provisions relating to maintenance of drainage facilities on county roads	
LB1053	Louden	S	Create Nebraska Tourism Commission and transfer powers and duties from the Travel and Tourism Division of the Department of Economic Development	5, 12, 14
LB1053A	Louden	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1054	McCoy	S	Change contract coverage under the Motor Vehicle Service Contract Reimbursement Insurance Act	7, 12, 14
LB1054A	McCoy	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1055	Hadley	C (>968)	Appropriate funds for a Kearney Division nursing and allied health professions facility	5
LB1056	Pirsch	C (>310)	Change provisions relating to harassment and domestic abuse protection orders	13
LB1057	Carlson	S	Change the Nebraska Corn Resources Act	12, 14
LB1057A	Carlson	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1058	Carlson	S	Change the Employment Security Law and the New Hire Reporting Act	
LB1059	Avery	IPP	Adopt the State Officers Compensation Act	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB1060	Avery	C	Change procedures for adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations	
LB1061	Heidemann	C	Change provisions relating to valuation of agricultural land	
LB1062	Nordquist	S	Change provisions relating to adoption assistance	
LB1063	Cook	S	Adopt the Children's Health and Treatment Act	14
LB1063A	Cook	IPP	Appropriation Bill	
LB1064	Fulton	S	Permit the procurement of certain disability insurance from a nonadmitted insurer under the Surplus Lines Insurance Act	
LB1065	Fulton	C	Appropriate facility construction funds for the Lincoln Division of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing	5
LB1066	Hansen	C (>968)	Appropriate funds for planning and design of a veterinary diagnostic laboratory facility	5
LB1067	Karpisek	GF	Change restrictions on keno	5, 9, 10
LB1068	Adams	C	Create and provide duties for the Medicaid in the Public Schools Task Force	8
LB1069	Wightman	C	Change provisions relating to tax sales to collect delinquent property taxes	
LB1070	Wightman	GF	Change eligibility provisions for petitioning on the general election ballot	
LB1071	Cornett	C	Extend the deadline for acceptance of applications under the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act	
LB1072	Business & Labor	VO	Provide for payment of claims against the state	11, 13, 14
LB1073	Business & Labor	C	Deny payment of certain claims against the state	
LB1074	Schilz	C	Provide duties for the State Department of Education relating to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	
LB1075	Cornett	C	Provide for assessment of rent-restricted housing projects by the Property Tax Administrator	8
LB1076	Karpisek	C	Change requirements for copies of public records and speaking at public meetings	
LB1077	Howard	S	Require certain health care facilities to offer vaccinations to residents and patients	
LB1078	Lautenbaugh	C	Require manager of a liquor licensee to complete training as prescribed	
LB1079	Mello	S	Provide grants for educational bridge programs for low-income adults	10, 14
LB1079A	Mello	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1080	Cornett	S	Provide a property tax exemption and a sales and use tax exemption relating to data centers	
LB1081	Christensen	C	Provide for free antlerless deer hunting permits for farmers as prescribed	
LB1082	Karpisek	S	Change police officers and firefighters retirement systems provisions	15
LB1083	Bloomfield	S	Clarify permitted practices under the Nurse Practice Act	6, 12, 14
LB1084	Christensen	IPP	Require all land leased by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds be open to the public for hunting, fur harvesting, and fishing	
LB1085	Harr	C	Adopt the Tourism Development Act and provide for the transfer of state sales tax revenue	
LB1086	Lautenbaugh	C	Provide an additional ground for seeking grandparent visitation	6
LB1087	Nordquist	S	Create the Natural Gas Fuel Board	
LB1087A	Nordquist	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1088	Ashford	C	Change notice, summons, and warrant provisions of the Nebraska Juvenile Code	
LB1089	Nelson	C (>968)	Appropriate funds for construction of a cancer research facility	5
LB1090	Wallman	S	Provide for the awarding of grants and the distribution of information relating to the Summer Food Service Program by the State Department of Education	10, 14
LB1090A	Wallman	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1091	Fischer	S	Adopt the Prepaid Wireless Surcharge Act and eliminate certain charges on prepaid wireless service	7, 13, 14
LB1091A	Fischer	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1092	Fulton	C	Require information and training regarding the disposal of mercury-containing light bulbs	
LB1093	Hadley	C	Change provisions relating to foreclosure proceedings for delinquent real estate taxes	
LB1094	Harms	C	Provide for an election in certain counties to require elections by mail	
LB1095	Larson	C	Provide for Beef State license plates	
LB1096	Ashford	C	Prohibit entry into a motor vehicle without permission of the owner or for the purpose of committing a crime	
LB1097	Pirsch	S	Exempt purchases of nonprofit mental health centers from sales and use tax	12, 14
LB1098	Council	C	Repeal the Build Nebraska Act and change distribution of sales and use tax revenue	7
LB1099	Council	C	Change expense provisions under the Nebraska Juvenile Code	
LB1100	Wightman	C	Create a legislative advisory committee to study and report regarding health care services and health care insurance	
LB1101	Wightman	S	Change provisions relating to election of county assessors	

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LB1102	Wightman	C	Change inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts	
LB1103	Wightman	C	Provide access to deceased family member's medical records	
LB1104	Adams	S (+954)	Change postsecondary education provisions relating to recurrent authorization to operate, community college levy limits, and the Nebraska educational savings plan program	
LB1105	Adams	GF	Change and eliminate provisions relating to schools	
LB1106	Schilz	S	Change provisions relating to assessment of improvements on leased public land	
LB1107	Pirsch	C	Change provisions relating to the movement of vehicles and other property after an accident and provide immunity	6
LB1108	Pirsch	C	Change provisions relating to a sales and use tax exemption for manufacturing machinery and equipment	
LB1109	Brasch	C	Provide for classification of flooded agricultural land as inundated land	
LB1110	Brasch	C	Provide for assistance for temporary and permanent housing after a natural disaster	8
LB1111	Flood	C	Change provisions relating to penalties involving operator's license revocation	
LB1112	Flood	C	Change provisions relating to state highway system plans	6
LB1113	Flood	S	Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Power of Attorney Act	7, 14
LB1114	Flood	S	Change provisions relating to the Municipal Equalization Fund	
LB1115	Flood	S	Authorize construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities by jurisdictional utilities	6, 13, 14
LB1116	Flood	S	Change Nebraska Capitol Commission membership provisions	
LB1117	Cornett	C	Change income tax calculations relating to the federal alternative minimum tax	
LB1118	Cornett	S	Provide tax incentives for large data center projects	6, 8, 9
LB1119	Karpisek	C	Prohibit sale, possession, and use of flying lantern-type devices	
LB1120	Karpisek	C	Limit liability for bucking bull activities	
LB1121	Lambert	S	Change signature requirements for recall petitions for sanitary and improvement districts	
LB1122	Bloomfield	S	Change the Medical Assistance Act with respect to certain home health services	
LB1123	Council	C	Adopt the Nebraska Healthy Food Financing Initiative Act	7
LB1124	Council	C	Provide for designation of priority schools	
LB1125	Christensen	S	Change provisions relating to natural resources district occupation tax	7, 14, 15
LB1126	Christensen	S	Provide and change extraterritorial jurisdiction of a village	
LB1127	Christensen	C	Change provisions and penalties relating to issuing or passing a bad check or issuing a no-account check	
LB1128	Schumacher	S	Adopt the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act and provide tax credits	12, 14
LB1128A	Schumacher	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1129	Coash	C	Provide requirements for insurance coverage of autism spectrum disorders	6
LB1130	Coash	S	Provide for entertainment district licenses under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	6, 10, 13
LB1131	McGill	C	Adopt the Innovation, Discovery, and Entrepreneurial Act	
LB1132	McGill	C	Change the Community Development Law	7
LB1133	Avery	IPP	Adopt the Redistricting Act	
LB1134	Avery	C	Change agency procedures for eminent domain	
LB1135	Haar	C	Provide an income tax credit relating to purchases of energy star certified materials and equipment	
LB1136	Mello	C	Create and provide for a wage subsidy program	7
LB1137	Mello	GF	Adopt the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act	
LB1138	Mello	C	Change community betterment organization and tax credit provisions under the Community Development Assistance Act	
LB1139	Mello	GF	Prohibit receiving certain types of wagers on horseracing	
LB1140	Mello	S	Provide for licensure instead of registration under the Professional Landscape Architects Act	
LB1141	McGill	S	Change provisions relating to reimbursement of travel expenses for Nebraska National Guard members	
LB1142	Nordquist	GF	Adopt the Health Care Transparency Act	
LB1143	Cornett	C	Change and eliminate provisions relating to stacking of insurance coverages	
LB1144	Ashford	C (>870)	Provide for career academy schools	5
LB1145	McGill	S	Change the penalty for pandering and create a task force and require training of certain officials regarding human trafficking	7, 12, 14
LB1145A	McGill	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1146	McGill	C	Appropriate funds to carry out the Nebraska Prostitution Intervention and Treatment Act	
LB1147	Dubas	C	Provide for public wireless Internet access in the State Capitol	

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LB1148	Gloor	S	Change certification provisions for marriage and family therapists	8, 12, 14
LB1149	McGill	C	Change provisions relating to child guardianships and child welfare caseloads	
LB1150	McGill	C (+927)	Adopt the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Services Act	5
LB1151	Lathrop	C	Eliminate a sunset provision under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act relating to certain first responder injuries	
LB1152	Lathrop	C	Provide job training programs for recipients of unemployment insurance benefits	6
LB1153	Lathrop	C	Require timely provision of juvenile court-ordered treatment or services	8
LB1154	Lathrop	W	Provide job training programs for recipients of unemployment insurance benefits	
LB1155	Lathrop	S (+930)	Allow operation of golf car vehicles as prescribed, provide powers for counties, cities, and villages, and change penalties relating to operating a motor vehicle while under orders not to operate a motor vehicle	
LB1156	Carlson	C	Exempt non-equalized schools from expenditure limits in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	7
LB1157	Larson	IPP	Change late filing fee provisions under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	
LB1158	Krist	S	Provide requirements for medical assistance behavioral health managed care contracts	13, 14
LB1159	Krist	C	Provide additional requirements and duties relating to state contracts for services valued at twenty-five million dollars or more	7
LB1160	Health & Human Services	S (+774, 900)	Require Department of Health and Human Services to develop an information system and provide for reports and an evaluation	9, 10, 14
LB1160A	Campbell	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1161	Smith	S (+756)	Change provisions relating to oil pipelines and provide for an evaluation of routes	7, 13, 14, 15
LB1162	Nelson	C	Provide for appointment of nonresidents as notaries public	
LB1163	Fulton	C (>928)	Provide for a deer donation program and for redistribution of deer permit fees	
LB1164	Fulton	C	Prohibit the Attorney General from bringing an action pursuant to a certain federal statute that addresses the distribution in commerce of general service incandescent lamps	
LB1165	Fulton	C	Change provisions relating to truancy and excessive absenteeism	7
LB1166	Ashford	W	Eliminate certain elective county offices when approved by the voters and provide for appointments	
LB1167	Lautenbaugh	IPP	Require certain provisions in highway and bridge construction and maintenance contracts	
LB1168	Lautenbaugh	C	Adopt the School District Purchasing Act	
LB1169	Pirsch	C	Require reporting of disappearance or death of a child as prescribed	8
LB1170	Christensen	C	Change provisions of separate segregated political funds under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	
LB1171	Christensen	C	Adopt the Nebraska Balance of Powers Act and create the Committee on Nullification of Federal Laws	
LB1172	Pirsch	C	Provide an additional ground for termination of parental rights	
LR19CA	Avery	P	Constitutional amendment to provide that a civil officer is liable to impeachment for misdemeanors in pursuit of office	4, 9
LR40CA	Pirsch	P	Constitutional amendment to establish the right to hunt, to fish, and to harvest wildlife and that public hunting, fishing, and harvesting of wildlife is a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife	13
LR358CA	Carlson	P	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three terms	5, 8, 14
LR365	Lathrop	C	Provide for continuation of the Developmental Disabilities Special Investigative Committee	7
LR371	McCoy	C	Request for a federal amendments convention limited to amending the Constitution of the United States providing that an increase in the federal debt requires certain approval	
LR372CA	Fulton	IPP	Constitutional amendment clarifying one-half of a term for legislative term limits	5
LR373CA	Lautenbaugh	P	Constitutional amendment to change annual legislative salaries to twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars	6, 10, 14
LR375CA	Schumacher	IPP	Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to authorize games of chance, lotteries, and gift enterprises, provide for compacts with bordering states, and distribute revenue	5
LR376CA	Mello	C	Constitutional amendment to change provisions relating to redevelopment projects	7
LR377CA	Avery	IPP	Constitutional amendment to terminate legislative compensation provisions and provide for creation of a compensation commission for state constitutional officers and members of the Legislature	6
LR387	Lautenbaugh	C	Interim study to analyze the feasibility, process, and profitability of selling Omaha's Metropolitan Utilities District from the public domain to a private entity	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR452	Nordquist	C	Interim study to examine the public employees retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board	
LR462	McCoy	C	Interim study to examine whether Nebraska's insurance laws should be amended to address the sale of ancillary service contracts and ancillary protection product warranties	
LR464	Smith	C	Interim study to examine the procurement procedures of governmental units with respect to contracts for publicly funded construction projects	
LR465	Smith	C	Interim study to examine the impact of the pulse oximetry procedure in testing for critical congenital heart disease in newborns	
LR473	Avery	P	Approve the gift of materials, labor, and in-kind services from the Norfolk Veterans' Home Heroes Foundation to the Norfolk Homes Heroes Park Project	
LR476	Conrad	C	Interim study to determine whether Nebraska's business entity statutes should be updated	
LR478	Nordquist	C	Interim study to examine the issue of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Nebraska	
LR479	Haar	C	Interim study to examine Nebraska's laws and regulations on radon gas exposure, particularly the effect of radon gas on children	
LR480	Haar	C	Interim study to examine how Nebraska's public power utilities can partner with private energy efficiency companies to offer "On Bill Pay," a process in which a consumer contracts with an energy service company to audit, finance, and manage energy efficiency	
LR481	Haar	C	Interim study to examine funding sources for the United States Dept. of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program	
LR482	Mello	C	Interim study to examine the use of eminent domain by political subdivisions for the taking of private land for the use of development or management of recreational trails or corridors	
LR483	Harr	C	Interim study to examine whether Nebraska should update the Uniform Commercial Code with regard to rejection or removal of fraudulent or otherwise improper financing statements or other records offered for filing with the Secretary of State	
LR486	Mello	C	Interim study to examine the issues surrounding state procurement policies	
LR487	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding restrictions on registered sex offender participation in state and federal holiday activities that are centered around children	
LR488	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the use of state settlement funds	
LR489	Adams	C	Interim study to examine early childhood education programs in Nebraska	
LR490	Adams	C	Interim study to examine funding for educational service units	
LR491	Adams	C	Interim study to examine the effectiveness of the current systems for seeking medicaid reimbursements from the federal government for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and administrative claims	
LR492	Adams	C	Interim study to examine the system of financing public education in Nebraska	
LR493	Dubas	C	Interim study to examine the use of the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund and to make recommendations on future use	
LR494	Dubas	C	Interim study to examine uninsured and unlicensed drivers and associated penalties	
LR495	Mello	C	Interim study to examine the flood control needs of Omaha and the greater Omaha metropolitan area	
LR496	Mello	C	Interim study to examine the issues surrounding the adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations	
LR498	Pahls	C	Interim study to examine the processes, legislative and administrative, necessary for the establishment in Nebraska of a health insurance exchange in response to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	
LR500	Lautenbaugh	C	Interim study to examine the purchasing policies and practices of school districts and educational service units	
LR501	Mello	C	Interim study to examine intergovernmental relations between municipal and state governments in Nebraska	
LR502	Mello	C	Interim study to examine the issues surrounding governmental transparency	
LR503	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding project labor agreements	
LR504	Haar	C	Interim study to examine Nebraska's statutes and regulations on hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking	
LR505	Howard	C	Interim study to examine methods of ensuring that medical professionals, who as part of their scope of practice provide injections to human patients, are following safe injection practices	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR506	Sullivan	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the moratorium on long-term care beds under the Nebraska Health Care Certificate of Need Act	
LR507	Sullivan	C	Interim study to examine establishing a statewide Farm to School initiative in Nebraska to encourage partnerships between farmers and school districts to increase fresh local food availability in schools	
LR508	Gloor	C	Interim study to review, assess, and provide recommendations relating to the implementation and sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act	
LR509	Lautenbaugh	C	Interim study to examine the feasibility of a hydroelectric dam on the Platte River near Interstate 80	
LR510	Nordquist	C	Interim study to provide that a select committee gather information and provide recommendations for an early childhood learning and development reform agenda	
LR511	Sullivan	C	Interim study to examine Nebraska's kindergarten through twelfth grade education standards and curricula to determine whether agriculture is incorporated as an essential component	
LR512	Avery	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	
LR513	Wightman	C	Interim study to examine ways in which health benefit policies and contracts could provide coverage for patient-centered medical homes	
LR514	Wightman	C	Interim study to conduct a comprehensive review and revision of the laws governing the process for sales of real property for delinquent real property taxes	
LR515	Nordquist	C	Interim study to examine new ways to pay for and deliver health care services through the medicaid program that improve the quality of care and health of participants while lowering costs	
LR516	Nordquist	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to the crime of destruction of property through the use of graffiti and to develop recommendations to prevent, combat, and abate graffiti in communities	
LR517	Nelson	C	Interim study to examine the benefits of adult day service programs currently provided to Nebraska seniors	
LR518	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the investment of state funds	
LR519	Mello	C	Interim study to examine wage subsidy programs	
LR520	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to land banking	
LR521	Larson	C	Interim study to evaluate whether the courts are utilizing the provision which provides that a court may order a parent to pay a reasonable sum to cover support, study, and treatment of a juvenile in the custody of the Dept. of Health and Human Services	
LR525	Coash	C	Interim study to examine how Nebraska's system for screening, assessing, and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect contributes to Nebraska's rates of out-of-home care	
LR528	Larson	C	Interim study to evaluate whether Knox County producers and sales facilities would benefit from the entire county being either inside or outside the brand inspection area	
LR529	Campbell	C	Interim study to provide for review and assessment and make recommendations relating to the entry of children into the child welfare system	
LR532	Schumacher	C	Interim study to assess mechanisms in place for school districts to detect any cause and correlation of unusual health patterns among staff and students arising during construction, renovation, or other school projects in public school buildings	
LR533	McGill	C	Interim study to examine whether there are enough resources currently present in schools to detect and treat mental illness in school-age children	
LR534	McGill	C	Interim study to determine whether services are available in Nebraska for victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking	
LR535	McGill	C	Interim study to examine the conditions, use, and effectiveness of Nebraska's youth rehabilitation and treatment centers	
LR536	McGill	C	Interim study to examine methods used by schools in Nebraska to foster creativity, critical thinking, and innovation in their students	
LR537	McGill	C	Interim study to gather data and develop recommendations on the unmet needs of and gaps in services available to youth who transition or age out of Nebraska's foster care system	
LR538	Dubas	C	Interim study to examine eminent domain authority and judicial approval and interpretation of the public interest determination	
LR539	Schilz	C	Interim study to examine ways in which to manage water and provide benefits to landowners and other entities for their ability to store and manage water in recharge areas	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR540	Schilz	C	Interim study to examine the concept of a philanthropic entity investing in an area of state government instead of investing in the capital market	
LR541	Schilz	C	Interim study to examine changing the percentage of municipal sales and use tax receipts given to municipalities to accommodate those that have been adversely affected by large municipal sales and use tax refunds	
LR542	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the creation of a state infrastructure bank	
LR543	Mello	C	Interim study to examine the potential adoption of an energy efficiency resource standard in Nebraska	
LR544	Mello	C	Interim study to examine economic development programs designed to promote international trade	
LR545	Mello	C	Interim study to examine statutes and regulations that deal with the Nebraska Power Review Board's approval of major investments in electric utility power plants	
LR546	Nordquist	C	Interim study to examine the potential impact of implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the state budget in upcoming years	
LR547	Nordquist	C	Interim study to gather information about what health benefits are important to Nebraskans evaluate benchmark plan options available to our state, and allow public input into the process of selecting what benefits will be available	
LR548	Cook	C	Interim study to examine the Nebraska state 529 educational savings plan and make recommendations on ways to increase plan participation	
LR549	Conrad	C	Interim study to determine the range of investment returns on the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund over the next ten years and the actual demands upon the current recipients of the funds over the next ten years	
LR550	Conrad	C	Interim study to examine the impact of the federal cuts to Nebraska anticipated due to the Budget Control Act of 2011	
LR551	Conrad	C	Interim study to assess the effectiveness of ACCESSNebraska for clients, community-based partners, and workers using qualitative and quantitative analysis	
LR552	McGill	C	Interim study to examine economic development in the more rural areas of the state, with a focus on cities of the first class and second class and villages	
LR553	Nordquist	C	Interim study to examine strategies to promote the restoration and revitalization of historic business districts throughout Nebraska	
LR555	Gloor	C	Interim study to review and examine the ongoing issues within Nebraska's Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities, also known as Nebraska's Medicaid Buy-In, enacted in 1999	
LR556	Carlson	C	Interim study to examine the current ground water policy contained in Nebraska's statutes	
LR557	Carlson	C	Interim study to examine the progress of the creation of a blender fuel pump infrastructure in Nebraska	
LR558	Carlson	C	Interim study to examine legislation that has been proposed or enacted in several states to protect against disruptions of agricultural operations	
LR559	Carlson	C	Interim study to examine potential structural models for commodity development programs to enhance flexibility, resources, and accountability to producers	
LR560	Harms	C	Interim study to review federal and state laws on the practice of businesses such as gas stations, hotels, or other businesses, placing holds on credit cards for more than the amount of the purchase	
LR561	Harms	C	Interim study to examine the feasibility of a merger between the Dept. of Economic Development and the Dept. of Labor, as proposed in LB971	
LR562	Pahls	C	Interim study to examine the impact of the banking and finance industry on the economy of the state	
LR563	Christensen	C	Interim study to examine the constitutionality of AM1603 to LB514, which would provide an additional recovery amount for compensatory or actual damages sustained due to an unreasonable delay or denial by an insurance company	
LR564	Christensen	C	Interim study to examine the constitutionality of creating standing secondary surface water appropriation rights to unappropriated surface water for interbasin transfers to mitigate flood damage which are inferior in right to any future surface water appropriations that may be issued in the basin of origin	
LR565	Cornett	C	Interim study to examine issues pertaining to tax incentives for affordable housing, including but not limited to, whether other states allow such tax incentives to be used for graffiti removal and abatement	

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

BILL STATUS TABLES: S = signed by the governor, P = passed by the Legislature, V = vetoed, LV - line-item vetoed, VO = veto overridden, FR = final reading, SF = select file, GF = general file, C = held in committee, IPP = indefinitely postponed, W = withdrawn, > = amended into bill #, + = includes bill # ISSUES: coverage in issue # of the 2012 Unicameral Update

BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR566	Cornett	C	Interim study to examine a funding mechanism for all cities and villages to assist in the financing of new projects that will address the need for Nebraska residents currently leaving the state to experience tourist and other destinations that are currently not located in Nebraska	
LR567	Cornett	C	Interim study to examine tax burdens and fiscal conditions in Nebraska communities	
LR568	Cornett	C	Interim study to examine any aspect of the state tax structure and tax policy	
LR569	Fulton	C	Interim study to examine implementation of utilization and treatment guidelines in cases before the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court	
LR571	Ashford	C	Interim study to review matters under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee	
LR572	Fischer	C	Interim study to review matters under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee	
LR573	Hadley	C	Interim study to examine reporting provisions for tax incentives and analysis methods used to analyze the impacts of tax incentives	
LR574	Carlson	C	Interim study to review the anticipated disease traceability final rule by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Dept. of Agriculture	
LR575	Carlson	C	Interim study to examine the interests and any role of the Dept. of Agriculture relating to incidents of livestock neglect and abandonment, particularly with respect to safeguarding livestock health	
LR576	Wightman	C	Interim study to conduct a review of the laws governing the powers of a court appointed representative of a deceased individual to take control of or terminate any accounts or message services that are considered digital assets	
LR577	Nordquist	C	Interim study to research needs and resources related to food insecurity in Nebraska	
LR578	Bloomfield	C	Interim study to assess the State of Nebraska's compliance with both the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, and to make recommendations for improvements	
LR579	Pirsch	C	Interim study to examine issues pertaining to statutory and constitutional limitations on bond indebtedness of municipalities	
LR580	Haar	C	Interim study to examine the potential for research development, and deployment of liquid fluoride thorium reactors in the State of Nebraska	
LR581	Lautenbaugh	C	Interim study to analyze the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation in workers' compensation cases in Nebraska	
LR582	McGill	C	Interim study to conduct a comprehensive review of the laws governing powers of a city to enter into a redevelopment project for property within a radius of three miles of the boundaries of a city	
LR583	Avery	C	Interim study to examine the structure authority and mission of the Public Service Commission in its administration of transportation by passenger motor carriers	
LR584	Avery	C	Interim study to examine the authority and execution of eminent domain and condemnation proceedings	
LR585	Avery	C	Interim study to examine the structure, maintenance, and mission of the parole system and the Board of Parole	
LR586	Karpisek	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the General Affairs Committee	
LR587	Coash	C	Interim study to determine if there is a need for safeguards to protect adults with developmental disabilities, who require a guardian or conservator, from being unduly influenced in certain situations	
LR588	Harr	C	Interim study to examine ways to encourage tourism throughout the State of Nebraska	
LR589	Harr	C	Interim study to analyze the Nebraska Advantage Act	
LR590	Adams	C	Interim study to review matters under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee	
LR591	Adams	C	Interim study to examine the progress toward the development of a state longitudinal education data system	
LR592	McCoy	C	Interim study to examine autism and the ways in which the educational, medical, and insurance industries can collaborate to provide successful treatment to children	
LR593	Christensen	C	Interim study to examine the taxing of flavored malt beverages at a separate, higher rate category than the current beer rate under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	
LR594	Christensen	C	Interim study to examine several policy issues regarding the definition of a flavored malt beverage	
LR595	Pirsch	C	Interim study to examine possible methods to increase direct investment from both domestic and foreign sources in Nebraska's economy	

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR596	Pirsch	C	Interim study to examine methods of enhancing the budgetary coordination between the Revenue Committee and Appropriations Committee of the Legislature	
LR597	Pirsch	C	Interim study to examine methods to enhance educational and employment opportunities involving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in Nebraska	
LR598	Pirsch	C	Interim study to examine methods to more equitably value agricultural lands for tax purposes in Nebraska	
LR600	Lathrop	C	Interim study to examine the Municipal Equalization Fund including the formula and the sources of funding	
LR601	Lathrop	C	Interim study to determine the workforce training opportunities that renewable energy projects can provide in Nebraska communities and how Nebraska can be more strategic and competitive in its job training approaches	
LR602	Schilz	C	Interim study of the intent of LB919, and the current fees paid to sheriffs for performing their statutory responsibilities and increasing docket fees to cover the actual costs associated with using the court system	
LR608	Transportation & Telecommunications	C	Interim study to examine the issues surrounding the One-Call Notification System Act	
LR628	Nebraska Retirement Systems	C	Interim study to examine the pensions provided for firefighters in cities of the first class	
LR644	Revenue	C	Interim study to examine alternative sources of county revenue if the inheritance tax is repealed	

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

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