

Safety requirement for novelty lighters advances

Cigarette lighters sold in Nebraska that resemble children's toys would require a safety feature under a measure advanced by senators Jan. 23.

LB403, as introduced by Hastings Sen. Les Seiler, would have banned the sale of novelty lighters in Nebraska. Violation of the proposed law would be a Class IV misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500.

Adopted 31-3 on the third day of debate, an amendment brought by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz changed the bill to outlaw only lighters sold without a child-proof safety feature. The amendment "keeps in mind the safety of children," he said, "and keeps the option to sell these items where appropriate."

The bill defines a novelty lighter as a mechanical or electrical device typically used for lighting cigarettes, cigars or pipes and designed to resemble a cartoon character, toy, gun, watch, musical instrument, vehicle, animal, food or beverage container or a similar item that plays musical notes, has flashing lights or has more than one button or function.



Sen. Les Seiler explains the dangers of novelty lighters during floor debate on LB403.

The law would not apply to lighters:

- manufactured prior to Jan. 1, 1980;
- incapable of being fueled or lacking a device necessary to produce combustion or flame; and
- that are disposable and printed or decorated with a logo, label, decal, artwork or heat shrinkable sleeve.

Novelty lighters being transported through Nebraska or stored in nonretail facilities in the state also would be exempt from the ban.

(continued page 2)

Online voter registration proposed

Nebraskans could register to vote online under a bill heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee during a hearing Jan. 23.

Under LB661, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, individuals with a valid driver's license or state identification card could complete voter registration through a secure secretary of state website. The state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would provide the applicant's signature from their records to complete the online voter registration.

Krist said the new process would provide more convenience to voters.

"The technical side of this has finally caught up to the forward thinking," he said. "This will do nothing but increase the number of people who want to participate in the democratic process."

LB661 also would require the development of a paperless registration system, which would allow the DMV to electronically transmit completed registrations to the proper county election officials. Further, the bill would authorize the DMV to provide applicants' social security numbers to the secretary of state for voter registration purposes.

Jack Gould, issues chairman for Common Cause Nebraska, testified in support of the bill. He said the technology is finally in line with the desire for online voter registration.

(continued page 3)

Safety requirement for novelty lighters advances

(continued from front page)

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 35-0, added refillable standard lighters to the proposed list of exempted devices.

Seiler said the bill would protect children from injury who might mistake a novelty lighter for a toy. The senator recounted his inspection of a tractor-shaped lighter that likely would send flames “right in the chest” of a child who played with it.

Malcolm Sen. Ken Haar supported the bill, saying children have no way of telling the difference between a toy and a dangerous item such as a novelty lighter.

“Common sense tells us that lighters that look like toys will cause harm,” he said. “They’re dangerous and not necessary.”

Papillion Sen. Bill Kintner opposed LB403, saying the responsibility of protecting children should be left to parents. He brought several technical amendments that either failed or were withdrawn.

“At what point do we stop regulating parents?” Kintner asked.

Hoskins Sen. Dave Bloomfield said he opposed the bill because of the negative effects it could have on mer-

chants who sell the lighters. Passing LB403 “would create another reason that makes Nebraska retail struggle,” he said.

Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, who opposed the bill, introduced an amendment that would have delayed the bill’s enactment date until Jan. 1, 2015. Coash said he was concerned that a ban on novelty lighters would burden retailers with products they could no longer sell. Moving the operative date of the law would give them a chance to exhaust their supply, he added.

The amendment failed on a 17-29 vote.

Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch brought an amendment that would have prevented the sale of novelty lighters to those younger than 18. Her amendment failed 10-25.

Calling them “attractive nuisances,” Seiler compared toy-shaped lighters to other

dangerous things children are drawn to, such as swimming pools. A ban on novelty lighters is no different from a law requiring pools to be surrounded by fences, he said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers agreed.

“Children need protection of society,” he said.

Senators advanced the amended bill to select file on a 33-5 vote. ■



Sen. Lydia Brasch brought an amendment to prevent sales of novelty lighters to minors. The amendment was not adopted.

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

The Unicameral Update is a free, weekly newsletter published during the legislative session. It is produced by the Clerk of the Legislature's Office through the Unicameral Information Office. For print subscriptions, call 402-471-2788 or email uio@leg.ne.gov. Visit us online at Update.Legislature.ne.gov and follow us on [Twitter.com/UnicamUpdate](https://twitter.com/UnicamUpdate).

Clerk of the Legislature: Patrick J. O'Donnell
Editor: Heidi Uhing; Writers: Kate Heltzel, Ami Johnson, Jon Taylor; Photographer: Bess Ghormley

Printed copies of bills, resolutions and the Legislative Journal are available by calling the 24-Hour Request Line at 402-471-2877. Subscriptions are available by calling 402-471-2271 or visiting Room 2108 in the State Capitol. For status of bills and resolutions, visit NebraskaLegislature.gov/bills or call the Legislative Hotline (during session) at 402-471-2709 or 800-742-7456. Live video of hearings and floor debate can be viewed on NET2 and at NetNebraska.org/capitol.

Senators may be contacted by mail at this address:
Senator Name, District #, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Assistance provided by the Clerk of the Legislature's Office, the Legislative Technology Center, committee clerks, legal counsels, journal clerks, pages, transcribers, mail room and bill room staff and the State Print Shop.

THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE'S OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1977

Online voter registration proposed

(continued from front page)

“Online registration will not only improve access, but also efficiency and accountability,” Gould said. “This is the hour to get this done.”

Sarpy County Election Commissioner Wayne Bena also supported the bill, saying it would make the registration process more cost-efficient.

“I’m supportive of ideas that will streamline the process and give access to the voters of Nebraska,” he said.

The committee also heard testimony on LB663, introduced by Krist, which would expand the number of counties that may request mail-in elections.

Currently, counties with a population of less than 10,000 may apply to have certain precincts eliminate polling sites and conduct elections by mail. The bill would allow any county to apply for mail-in elections for certain precincts.

The bill also would allow all special elections, including recall elections and elections to fill vacancies, to be

conducted by mail.

Adam Morfeld, executive director of Nebraskans for Civic Reform, supported the bill, saying it would “increase turnout, accessibility and

awareness of certain election issues and candidates.”

No one testified in opposition to the bills and the committee took no immediate action on them. ■



Sen. Bob Krist explains the benefits of online voter registration.

SEARCH FOR BILLS

Learn more about bills considered by the Unicameral by logging on to www.NebraskaLegislature.gov.

The Legislature’s website offers a bill search on the upper-right portion of the home page. Entering a bill number will retrieve the bill’s text, fiscal note, statement of intent, transcripts and more.

You also can search current laws using the keyword search found below the bill search.

The screenshot shows the Nebraska Legislature website interface. At the top, it says "NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE" and "The official site of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature". Below this, there is a navigation menu on the left with links like Home, About the Legislature, Bills and Laws, Calendar, Committees, Contact, FAQs, Glossary of terms, Legislative Divisions, News, Reports, and Senators. The main content area features "103rd Legislature, 2nd Session - Day 3*" and "The Legislature is adjourned until Friday, January 10, 2014 at 10:00 am." On the right side, there are two search boxes: "Search Current Bills" with a dropdown for "LB" and a "Go" button, and "Search Laws" with a "Keywords" input field and a "Go" button. A red circle highlights the "Search Current Bills" section.

AGRICULTURE

County ag societies could levy for equipment

County agricultural societies would see increased levy authority under a bill advanced from general file Jan. 23.

Introduced by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson, LB597 would expand the use of an agricultural society levy to include purchase of equipment. Larson said it would benefit counties throughout the state.



Sen. Tyson Larson

"This bill brings statutes in line with practices that have been ongoing with county agricultural societies for some time," he said.

An Agricultural Committee amendment, adopted 32-0, also would allow county agricultural societies to exchange real estate and improvements.

Senators voted to advance the bill to select file on a 31-0 vote.

future costs to the school district — would be publicly posted at least five days before being considered for approval by a school board.

Scheer said public notice would bring needed transparency to the forefront.

"[The bill] is a benefit for not only school districts but also superintendents," he said. "It gives you a simple way to find out what other districts are paying their superintendents. It just makes sense."

An Education Committee amendment, adopted 27-0, replaced the bill and additionally would require educational service unit (ESU) boards to publish the current and future costs associated with administrators' contracts.

Education Committee chairwoman Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan said the amendment provides plenty of flexibility to districts and ESUs in meeting the new requirements.

"This simply gives the public, as well as school districts, a chance to see what their neighboring districts are doing," she said. "We are giving a lot of latitude to comply with this amendment, but we want people to know we are serious about this."

Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist supported the bill, saying that citizens have a right to know what administrators are earning.

"Our school administrators have a great number of demands and responsibilities and their compensation should reflect that," he said. "However, as some of the highest paid public employees in the state, it requires a higher level of scrutiny."

The amended bill would require that contracts for existing superintendents and ESU administrators be published three days prior to approval and two days after approval for new officials. Electronic publication on a school district website would satisfy the

requirement if public access to the entire contract is prominently displayed.

After approval of a contract, the bill would require the school board to file a copy of the contract and any amendments with the state Department of Education by Aug. 1. If a school board fails to meet this requirement, all state aid granted under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act would be withheld until the school board is compliant.

Additionally, the county treasurer would be directed to withhold all school money until the contract is filed with the department.

Following the adoption of a technical amendment, senators voted to advance the bill to select file on a 28-0 vote.

Earlier decrease in local effort rate proposed

The local effort rate (LER) used to calculate aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) would be decreased one year earlier than planned under a bill heard by the Education Committee Jan. 21.

Currently, the LER is scheduled to be decreased from \$1.03 to \$1.00 for the 2015-16 school fiscal year. Under LB725, introduced by Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan, that decrease would be implemented for the 2014-15 school fiscal year and continue into the foreseeable future.



Sen. Kate Sullivan

Sullivan said it is important to continue to put school districts back into a more secure financial position for the future.

"The only reason we didn't return to the lower LER last year was because we didn't think we had the money,"

EDUCATION

Public notice proposal for superintendent, ESU contracts

Public notice of potential fiscal impacts of superintendent and ESU administrator contracts would be required under a bill advanced from general file Jan. 23.

Under LB470, as originally introduced by Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, a superintendent's contract — including all current and



Sen. Jim Scheer

she said. "By doing this now, the increases in TEEOSA in the next biennium will not be so dramatic."

Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association executive director Jon Habben testified in support of the bill. He said it represents a preservation of funds for education in Nebraska.

"To leave money that was intended for educational use on the table does not help the state of Nebraska at all," he said. "This bill is intended to keep that from happening. It's making sure that money that was intended for pre-K12 education is used for pre-K12 education."

No one testified in opposition to the bill. The committee advanced LB725 on a 7-0 vote.

Veterans would receive in-state tuition rates under residency bill

The Education Committee heard a bill Jan. 21 that would grant residency to recently separated veterans, their spouses and dependents for the purposes of in-state tuition.

Under LB740, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, veterans who have separated from a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States within the past two years would be eligible for in-state tuition.



Sen. Sue Crawford

Crawford said current policy prevents many veterans from using GI Bill benefits once they have separated from service.

"Currently the Veterans Administration only pays in-state tuition, requiring the veteran to make up the difference between that and out-of-state tuition," she said. "Veterans represent a highly skilled, disciplined

workforce. Waving the residency requirements allows Nebraska to recruit and retain these workers from states with high separation rates."

To receive the residency status, a veteran must demonstrate intent to become a permanent resident of the state by registering to vote and obtaining a state driver's license.

Rob Schafer, representing the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry, testified in support of the bill. He said attracting recently separated veterans is vital to helping Nebraska businesses grow.

"The veteran unemployment rate is double the national average," he said. "As we prepare Nebraska for the next generation, we need to address our pending work shortages. Offering in-state tuition is a solid investment for growing enrollment at our higher education institutions."

Military spouse Julia Converse also supported the bill, saying that frequent relocations have made it nearly impossible to complete her degree while her husband serves.

"I won't be able to finish my degree before we move again and it's no longer cost effective to continue transferring my credits each time we move," Converse said. "I'd love to be able to come back and complete my degree in Nebraska. This bill would give veterans, spouses and their dependents a chance to finish their goals by welcoming them into a community that has benefitted from their service."

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



County Visitors Promotion Fund requirement advanced

A bill that would place restrictions on how money from the County Visitors Promotion Fund could be spent was advanced from general file Jan. 23.

Currently, if county attractions do not require improvement, the county's governing body may use the money to promote attractions in the county. Under LB215, introduced by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz, the governing body would be required to use the funds to promote, encourage and attract visitors to the county.



Sen. Ken Schilz

Schilz said the bill is simple but important to tourism in Nebraska.

"When we do spend these dollars, we need to ensure they're spent in a way that brings tourists to town," he said. "If [the spending] is questioned, we need to be able to defend it. These are tax dollars being spent for the benefit of the members of the community."

Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist supported the bill, saying it would protect tourism in the state.

"Without this bill, we could jeopardize the successful promoting and hosting of out-of-state tourists," he said.

Following the adoption of two technical amendments, senators advanced the bill to select file on a 34-0 vote.

Fee cap elimination advances

Lawmakers gave first-round approval Jan. 24 to a bill that would make changes to a fee charged by the Nebraska secretary of state.

Currently, the office charges a fee

of 45 cents for images of records accessed over the Internet, not to exceed \$2,000 per request for batch requests. LB278, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch, would eliminate the fee cap and make additional technical changes.



Sen. Pete Pirsch

Pirsch said most data requests from individuals and businesses in Nebraska are small and would not be impacted by the bill. No data-mining request has ever been made that would incur a fee higher than the current cap, he said, but the ability to charge a fee commensurate with such a request should be a legal option for the future.

"This is largely theoretical," Pirsch said.

Senators voted 27-2 to advance the bill to select file.

Government procurement transparency bill amended, advanced

Lawmakers advanced a bill from general file Jan. 23 that would adopt the Transparency in Procurement Act. As introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, LB371 would require state agencies to report to the Legislature the total number and dollar value of contracts for goods and services.



Sen. Heath Mello

A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment, adopted 30-0, limits the bill's provisions to contracts awarded by the state Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on or after July 1, 2013.

Mello offered an amendment, adopted 31-0, which pushed back that date to July 1, 2014.

Mello said current law does not

require sufficient transparency regarding how tax dollars are spent on state contracts, which account for approximately \$2 billion of state spending.

"[This] is one area where I feel that transparency still may be lacking," he said.

As amended, LB371 would require DAS to create an annual report that would include the total number and value of contracts awarded by the department. The report also would differentiate between contracts awarded within the state and to foreign contractors and include the number of contracts for which a preference was given.

The report would be submitted to the governor and the Legislature annually, beginning Sept. 1, 2015. The report would not include information regarding subcontractors or suppliers.

Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery supported the bill, saying the committee amendment's removal of references to subcontractors and suppliers was an attempt to reduce the cost to DAS of complying with LB371.

"These are significant changes that [will] have a significant impact on the fiscal note," Avery said.

Lawmakers voted 31-0 to advance the bill to select file.

Veteran job preference bill amended, advanced

Senators gave first-round approval Jan. 24 to a bill that would update laws pertaining to preferences for veterans seeking employment.

LB588, introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier, would create the Veterans Preference Act. A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs amendment, adopted 37-0, re-



Sen. Dan Watermeier

placed the bill.

Watermeier said the amended bill reflects language currently in use by the state Department of Labor and is meant to modernize Nebraska's long-standing policy of offering employment preference to veterans.

"The current program was put in place more than 40 years ago," he said.

Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery supported the bill, saying it would compliment recent efforts by the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce to recruit military veterans to the state.

As amended, LB588 would require that 5 percent be added to all parts of an examination or numerical scoring if a veteran receives a passing score and makes a claim for the preference on the application.

If no examination or numerical scoring is used, preference would be given to a qualifying veteran if two or more equally qualified candidates were being considered for a position.

Notices of all positions of employment available for veterans preference would be required to state that the position is subject to the preference. A veteran desiring to use the preference would be required to provide the hiring authority with a copy of his or her Defense Department Form 214.

The bill also would allow the spouse of a veteran who has a 100 percent permanent disability to claim the preference. The spouse would be required to provide a copy of the veteran's DD214 form, disability verification and proof of marriage.

A Watermeier amendment, adopted 40-0, delayed the bill's operative date to Jan. 1, 2015.

The bill was advanced to select file on a 37-0 vote.

New voter identification requirements proposed

First-time voters would no longer

be allowed to present certain forms of identification when registering by mail under a bill heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 23.

Currently a first-time voter registering by mail can use several forms of identification including utility bills and bank statements. Under LB662, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, these no longer would be considered valid forms of identification. Krist said documents like utility bills and bank statements are more easily forged than others.



Sen. Bob Krist

“This seeks to increase the integrity of the election process by addressing two areas that are at a higher risk for potential fraud,” he said.

Various forms of government identification documents from federal, state and local agencies containing the applicant’s name and address would still be permitted under the bill.

Voters who have moved from their original precinct but attempt to vote at that same precinct also would be required to show a current government identification document that contains a photograph or image of the voter.

Jefferson County Election Commissioner Sandra Stelling supported the bill, saying it would help workers in smaller counties.

“In small villages, when you send a statement it usually asks for a [post office] box number,” she said. “This would help because the driver’s license would actually state the voter’s physical address. It would definitely help our poll workers because they’d only have to look for one form of ID.”

Nebraskans for Civic Reform Executive Director Adam Morfeld opposed the measure, saying it would

disproportionately affect younger, rural and low-income voters.

“When restricting fundamental rights, there should be a compelling state interest with a clearly identifiable problem,” he said. “We should instead focus on modernizing election and voter registration processes.”

Sherry Miller, League of Women Voters Nebraska president, also opposed the bill.

“The voters most likely to be impacted are college students, senior citizens who no longer drive, as well as low-income adults,” she said. “We just don’t have a problem that needs to be addressed.”

Agency reporting changes considered

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee heard testimony Jan. 24 on two bills that would change agency reporting requirements.

LB718, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, would require agencies subject to the Administrative Procedure Act to publish an agenda for rules under development or revision on a semiannual basis. The agenda would be published within 30 days following the end of each regular legislative session and by Oct. 15.



Sen. Sue Crawford

Crawford said decisions regarding regulations often are made when the Legislature is not in session, and the bill’s reporting requirements would allow for greater oversight of how agencies carry out laws in practice.

“Rulemaking, like lawmaking, should be democratic, accessible and transparent,” she said.

Under the bill, agencies also would

be required to post fiscal impact statements on the Nebraska secretary of state’s website and to provide specific statutory authority for each new rule or regulation.

An agency would be prohibited from adopting, amending or repealing a rule or regulation not included on the semiannual agenda except when the rule or regulation is:

- in response to a natural disaster or declaration of emergency;
- required by federal law;
- related to the loss of or access to additional federal funds; or
- the result of a state or federal court decision.

Nick Faustman of the Nebraska Health Care Association testified in support of the bill. Health care providers are among the most regulated industries in the state, he said, and keeping up on regulatory changes is essential.

“[It] can mean the difference between staying in business or shutting down,” Faustman said.

Ron Jensen of Mosaic agreed, saying rule changes sometimes are put in place before being officially adopted.

“It is a challenge to stay abreast of those rules and to stay in compliance,” he said.

Also introduced by Crawford, LB719 would add a public comment summary to the required information that an agency must submit to the secretary of state, attorney general and governor regarding a proposed rule change.

Agencies would be required to attach a written summary of testimony offered at the public hearing that lists any specific issues or questions presented at the hearing or in written testimony.

The report also would be required to contain written responses from the agency and a copy of the public com-

ment summary would be submitted to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

Julie Kaminski of LeadingAge Nebraska testified in support of the bill, saying public hearings often are held by agencies after rule changes already have been implemented and posted on agency websites.

“The public hearings seem more like a perfunctory obligation,” she said.

Robert McEwen of Nebraska Appleseed also testified in support of LB719, saying it would provide additional oversight and help hold agencies publicly accountable for their decisions. He said citizens who testify at hearings often are frustrated and confused when their concerns go unaddressed by agencies.

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

Sesquicentennial commission proposed

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee heard testimony Jan. 24 on a bill that would establish a planning commission for the 150th anniversary of Nebraska statehood.

Under LB744, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, the governor would appoint 17 members to the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission. The commission would work with state agencies, boards and commissions to develop programs to celebrate the state’s anniversary in 2017.

The bill would require that no more than eight members be affiliated with the same political party and that all regions and major interests in the



Sen. Bill Avery

state be represented. The commission would terminate June 30, 2018.

Avery said the commission would build on work started by a group – Friends of the Nebraska 150 Sesquicentennial – which has been raising money and awareness in preparation for the anniversary.

“This is an opportunity for us to show the rest of the United States what Nebraska is all about,” Avery said. “I think that they will be surprised and we will be proud.”

Jeff Searcy, chair of Friends of the Nebraska 150 Sesquicentennial, supported the bill, saying statewide coordination is necessary for a successful celebration.

“[The anniversary] is an opportunity for all Nebraskans to reflect on who we are, where we’ve come from and the bright future ahead,” Searcy said.

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

State of emergency declaration would not be needed under bill

Increased emergency funding for aerial fire suppression or hazardous material response would be authorized under a bill heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 22.

Currently, the state may grant up to \$10,000 per event from the Governor’s Emergency Program without the governor first declaring an emergency. LB722, introduced by Hyannis Sen. Al Davis, would raise that threshold to \$25,000 per event.

“It really is important that we get a quick response to a fire situation,” Davis said.

Jerry Stilmock, representing the Ne-



Sen. Al Davis

braska State Volunteer Firefighters Association, supported the bill, saying flexibility is important in managing wildfires.

“In these fires, what is critical is proper action on a moment’s notice,” he said. “We’re just asking for another tool.”

Nebraska Forest Service director Scott Josiah testified in a neutral capacity. He said being able to address a fire quickly can prevent considerable damage.

“Rapid and efficient dispatch is a vitally important component of the aerial wild firefighter’s toolbox,” Josiah said. “It can have a huge impact on the size of a wildfire and the damage it can cause.”

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



Health care database bill advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval Jan. 23 to a bill intended to promote transparency in the cost and quality of health care services in Nebraska.

LB76, introduced by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, would establish a Health Care Data Base Advisory Committee tasked with making a series of recommendations to improve transparency in the state’s health care system.

Nordquist said the goal is to provide information on how health care dollars are being spent in Nebraska.



Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

Knowing how much health care services cost in different areas of the state and within different health care plans will benefit all stakeholders in the system, he said.

“This is the type of information that is needed at the consumer level [and] at the policymaking level,” Nordquist said.

Grand Island Sen. Mike Gloor agreed, saying a database could help Nebraskans better understand the complicated process of purchasing health care services.

“We don’t have data, as consumers, to allow us to make intelligent decisions,” he said.

Committee members would be appointed by the state Department of Insurance director and would include a member of academia with experience in health care and cost efficiency research. Other members would include representatives of hospitals, physicians, consumer advocates, the insurance industry and local public health departments.

The committee would be tasked with making recommendations regarding creation and implementation of the Nebraska Health Care Data Base. The database would be used to:

- provide information to consumers and purchasers of health care;
- determine the capacity and distribution of existing health care resources;
- identify health care needs and inform health care policy;
- evaluate the effectiveness of intervention programs on improving patient outcomes;
- review costs among various treatment settings, providers and approaches; and
- improve the quality and affordability of patient health care and health care coverage.

A Nordquist amendment, adopted 28-0, delayed until Dec. 15, 2014, the deadline for the department director to report the advisory committee’s recommendations to the governor and the Legislature.

Lawmakers advanced LB76 to select file on a 28-0 vote.

Bill could extend child welfare pilot project

A pilot project authorized as part of the Legislature’s response to the state’s troubled child welfare reform effort would be extended under a bill heard by the Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 22.

Efforts undertaken by the 2012 Legislature to address child welfare reform included returning child welfare case management to the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) except in the eastern service area (ESA), where the department was allowed to contract for lead agency case management as a pilot project.

As introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, LB660 would extend that pilot project, currently under contract with the Nebraska Families Collaborative (NFC).



Sen. Bob Krist

Krist offered an amendment to the committee that would allow DHHS to extend the contract before June 30, 2014. The amendment also would require that the pilot project be evaluated to determine whether case management should be returned to DHHS and whether private contractors should be utilized in the case management process.

Evaluation results would be reported to the committee, DHHS and NFC by Dec. 31, 2014.

Krist said extending the pilot

project would provide stability and continuity to case management in the ESA, which contains approximately 40 percent of the child welfare cases in the state.

“We can’t afford any more destabilizing efforts,” Krist said.

Lawrence Kelley, an ESA foster parent for over 10 years, testified in support of the bill. Kelley said the more than 100 children he and his wife have cared for in that time have suffered from continued disruptions in the child welfare system.

“Stability is the greatest gift we can offer a child while they are in care,” Kelley said. “Their world is already rocked when they come into care; they’ve lost everything.”

Sara Forrest of Voices for Children in Nebraska also supported the bill, saying continued evaluation of service provision in the ESA will assist with ongoing reforms in the system.

“We need the best information to make those improvements and decisions,” she said.

William Reay, CEO of OMNI Behavioral Health, testified in opposition, saying he believes the bill violates a constitutional prohibition against special legislation.

Reay said the state’s “ongoing favoritism” toward NFC would be perpetuated by LB660.

“Legislation that benefits a single entity ... is unconstitutional,” he said.

Krist said the amended version of the bill would give DHHS the option to extend the pilot project and would not require that the contract be awarded to NFC. As a result, he said, the bill would appear to be constitutional.

“I believe we’re on solid ground with that,” Krist said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

JUDICIARY



Inmate placement bill bracketed

Senators bracketed a bill on general file Jan. 24 that would transfer authority to place inmates in a Nebraska rehabilitation facility.

LB313, introduced by Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen, would allow only the director of Correctional Services to assign inmates to the Work Ethic Camp in McCook. Currently, the director, courts and the Nebraska Board of Parole place prisoners at the camp.



Sen. Mark Christensen

Christensen said the purpose of the bill is to address prison overcrowding by giving the state Department of Correctional Services the ability to ensure the “most appropriate” inmates are placed at the work camp and that the facility is “utilized to its fullest extent.”

Currently, Christensen said, the courts are not sending enough inmates to fill the 12-15 spaces being reserved for them at the camp. Additionally, courts occasionally have sent minors to the camp, which, he said, is a violation of federal guidelines.

Omaha Sen. Bob Krist filed a motion to bracket the bill. He said elements of LB313 should be considered as part of the Legislature’s upcoming discussion about prison reform this session.

LB313 was bracketed until March 4, 2014 on a 34-0 vote.

Bill would make harassment a separate crime

Harassment would become a separate and distinct crime from stalking

in Nebraska under a bill heard Jan. 23 by the Judiciary Committee.

LB707, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Danielle Conrad, also would specify that use of an electronic communication device to stalk or harass could be prosecuted either where the communication originated or where it was received.



Sen. Danielle Conrad

Under the bill, an individual would be guilty of harassment if he or she, without a lawful purpose, engages in conduct directed at a specific person or family with the intent to cause a person to feel alarmed, harassed, terrified, threatened or intimidated.

A person convicted of harassment would be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor. A second or subsequent violation would be a Class I misdemeanor.

Additionally, the bill would clarify that prior out-of-state sexual assault offenses can be considered by Nebraska courts for admissibility.

Conrad said the National Center for Victims of Crime reports that 6.6 million people over age 18 will be stalked in the U.S. in any given year. Of those victims, she said, 76 percent are women.

Harassment is an escalation of stalking, Conrad said, and should incur a stricter penalty.

John Freudenberg of the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office testified in support of the bill, saying that laws related to sexual assault and harassment need to be updated as society becomes more mobile.

“State lines are of no significance to sexual and domestic predators,” he said. “Nebraska state boundaries should not be allowed to act as a shield for them.”

Denise Frost of the Nebraska Crim-

inal Defense Attorneys Association testified in opposition to the bill, saying many of the changes contained in LB707 are unnecessary. For example, Frost said, most individuals charged with the type of crimes outlined in the bill would have that offense “stacked” with other similar offenses.

“There is no need to increase penalties for these types of crimes,” Frost said. “There is no need to change the law when it comes to sentencing.”

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Termination of rapists’ parental rights discussed

Convicted sex offenders would be prevented from seeking parental rights under legislation heard by the Judiciary Committee Jan. 22.

LB748, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, would terminate the parental rights of the biological father of a child conceived as a result of a first, second or third degree sexual assault. The bill also would deny similarly convicted sex offenders custody, unsupervised parenting time or visitation with children.



Sen. Bill Avery

If a biological father has been charged with a sexual assault, the bill would require a court to delay paternity action until guilt or innocence is determined.

Avery said the purpose of the bill is to protect women who are victims of sexual assault from further physical and psychological harm by their attackers.

“We must not have cases in our state where a person is faced with a choice between a lifetime tethered to a rapist or moving forward with a meaningful life for herself and her

child,” he said.

“I don’t think anyone who has been raped should have to deal with the ongoing contact from the rapist for life, if they decide to keep their child,” said a rape victim from Norfolk, who testified in support of the bill. She said she had been pressured by her rapist and his lawyers into allowing access to her daughter.

Without legal protection, she said, “those of us who choose to keep our child have to face the overwhelming fear of being bullied and being controlled by the rapist if he wants access to the baby.”

Liane Bode, a licensed mental health practitioner from Norfolk, also testified in support of the bill. As a therapist who works with rape victims, Bode said women do not feel protected by the current legal system and changes must be made.

No testimony was given in opposition to LB748 and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Expanded visitation for military families proposed

A bill that would allow parenting plans designed specially for deployed military parents was heard by the Judiciary Committee at a hearing Jan. 22.

LB769, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, would allow a deployed military parent to delegate some or all of their parenting time to a family member or other adult who has a preexisting, significant relationship with their child. The bill also would permit military parents who are deployed and unable to attend hearings to present testimony and evidence by electronic means.

Crawford said the purpose of the



Sen. Sue Crawford

bill is to provide military parents and judges another option “when determining the best interests of a child during the stress and uncertainty of deployment.”

“Regular visits with a grandparent or other trusted adult can bring stability and consistency to a military child during this tumultuous time in their life,” she added.

Amie Martinez, an attorney from Lincoln, testified in support of the bill. She said the measure would address situations in which parents cannot exercise their parenting time. Visitation with extended family is in the best interests of children because it helps maintain relationships, she said.

The bill would not change a military parent’s duty to pay or receive child support under existing parenting plans, nor would it establish separate rights to parenting or visitation for the delegates.

No one testified in opposition to the bill.

The Judiciary Committee took no immediate action on LB769.

Deceased tenants’ property discussed

Landlords would have another option when administering property of deceased tenants under legislation heard by the Judiciary Committee Jan. 24.

LB796, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, would allow landlords to request that tenants identify a person who could retrieve and store the tenants’ property upon their death. Landlords would be required to contact that person within 10 days of the tenant’s death.

The authorized person would have



Sen. Burke Harr

20 days to remove the property, after which the landlord would be able to dispose of any remaining property as stated in the Disposition of Person Property Landlord and Tenant Act.

Currently, Nebraska law directs the landlord to secure the residence of a deceased tenant until a court authorizes someone to claim the property.

Kristy Lamb of NP Dodge Management Company in Omaha testified in favor of the bill. She said the current system creates a substantial “emotional and financial hardship” on the relatives of deceased tenants.

Because of the time it takes the court to appoint representatives to claim the property, Lamb said, “we become the bad guys while we’re holding their belongings.”

No one testified in opposition to LB796.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.



Shorter NRD notification advanced

Natural resources districts would be able to enforce actions more quickly under a bill advanced from general file Jan. 23.

LB513, introduced by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson, would reduce from 10 to three the number of days required before a natural resources district could issue a cease and desist order. Carlson said the bill would help districts more effectively manage groundwater through rules and regulations.



Sen. Tom Carlson

“Regulation during a drought must be very timely to be effective,” he said. “A lot of water can be pumped in those seven days.”

Senators voted to advance the bill on a 27-0 vote.

Water pollution loan program advanced

A program to fund wastewater treatment efforts was advanced from general file Jan. 23.

Introduced by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson, LB514 would authorize the state Department of Environmental Quality to create and regulate a linked deposit program. The program would promote loans for the construction, rehabilitation and enhancement of water pollution control projects.



Sen. Tom Carlson

Carlson said the bill would help address clean water issues in the state.

“With this program, the state would be able to support a large number of projects,” he said. “This not only helps individuals, but entire communities.”

The bill also would authorize a portion of loan funds to be deposited with eligible financial institutions in low-yielding deposit accounts, certificates of deposit or other agreed upon deposits for loans at a rate lower than the prevailing rate.

The department also could buy or refinance debt of municipalities for wastewater treatment works under LB514.

A Natural Resources Committee amendment, adopted 25-0, further defined eligible financial institutions to include banks chartered in other states and authorized to conduct business in Nebraska.

Senators voted to advance the bill on a 27-0 vote.

Bill would authorize hunting permits for developmentally disabled

A developmentally disabled person could purchase a hunting permit under a bill considered by the Natural Resources Committee Jan. 22.

Under LB699, introduced by O’Neill Sen. Tyson Larson, a license-purchase exemption certificate issued by the state Game and Parks Commission would allow a developmentally disabled person to purchase a hunting permit.



Sen. Tyson Larson

Larson said the bill would allow more people to experience the outdoors.

“There are people who want to participate [in hunting programs] but because of their disabilities, they are unable to pass the required certifications to successfully get a hunting permit,” he said. “This bill will allow these individuals to participate safely.”

Benjamin Greenfield, representing the Muscular Dystrophy Association, testified in support of the bill. As someone who deals with limb girdle muscular dystrophy every day, he said he understands how important LB699 would be to developmentally disabled persons.

“I’ve worked with these kids and they want nothing more than to feel and appear like any other normal kid,” Greenfield said. “This is just another step we can take to allow these kids these freedoms.”

Akacia Wentworth, a volunteer with Special Youth Challenge ministries, also supported the bill, saying that the benefits would extend far beyond the individual hunters.

“It’s not only special for those kids, but also very special for their families,”

she said. “They know those kids don’t get to experience everything they want to from the beginning. This is an opportunity to make memories they will always remember.”

The bill also would consolidate current hunter education programs to form one program covering all hunting implements including firearms, crossbows, bow and arrows, and air guns.

Nebraska Firearms Owners Association president Rodney Moeller supported the expansion of hunting opportunities, but opposed the consolidation of hunter education programs.

“The quality of the existing hunter education program is very high, with many wonderful instructors,” he said. “But there is a concern this bill would damage the programs we currently have.”

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.



Bill would require retirement plan reports

Certain political subdivisions would be required to file an annual retirement plan report under a bill heard Jan. 22 by the Retirement Systems Committee.

Under LB759, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, any political subdivision that offers a defined benefit retirement plan would be required to file a report with the committee if plan contributions do not equal the actuarial requirement for funding or



Sen. Heath Mello

the funded ratio of the plan is less than 80 percent.

The report would include an analysis of the conditions and recommendations for corrective actions.

Mello said the state currently engages in minimal oversight of such defined benefit plans and should encourage local government to adopt best practices to ensure their financial solvency.

“These are common sense changes that should improve the long-term health of local retirement plans,” Mello said.

Platte Institute for Economic Research director Dick Clark testified in support of the bill, saying pension shortfalls in other states frequently have played a role in government entity bankruptcies.

“This bill is an important first step to achieving full transparency in these retirement plans,” Clark said.

Gary Krumland of the League of Nebraska Municipalities testified in a neutral capacity. He said an exception to the bill’s requirements should be made for police and firefighter defined benefit plans in cities of the first class, which have been closed to new membership since 1984.

These plans have so few members, Krumland said, that annual actuarial reports would not be worth the cost to conduct them.

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

tain agricultural machinery purchases from state sales tax.

Under LB96, introduced by Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas, the sale of repairs and replacement parts for agricultural machinery or equipment would be exempt from state sales tax.



Sen. Annette Dubas

Any qualifying purchases made prior to Oct. 1, 2013 still would be eligible for refund.

Dubas said Nebraska is one of only eight states that still charges sales tax on these purchases.

“Agriculture is highly competitive and the profit margins are slim, even when prices are good,” she said. “[The sales tax] puts Nebraska’s dealers at a distinct disadvantage.”

Kearney Sen. Galen Hadley supported the bill, saying it is necessary for Nebraska implement dealers to compete.

“Right now people are leaving the state to get their products,” he said. “We have to increase access to the local dealers.”

Hyannis Sen. Al Davis also supported LB96, saying cities near the border have been especially affected.

“Rural Nebraska already has a declining population problem,” Davis said. “The last thing we need is to have tax policy closing local businesses.”

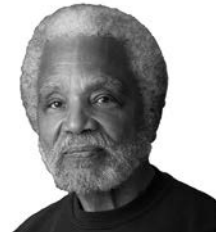
Senators advanced the bill to select file on a 44-0 vote.

Elimination of religious property tax exemption proposed

Property owned and used by religious organizations would be subject to property taxes under a bill heard by the Revenue Committee Jan. 24.

LB675, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, would eliminate tax exemptions on all real property,

tangible depreciable personal property and motor vehicles owned or used by religious organizations, effective Jan. 1, 2015.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

Chambers said everyone should pay their fair share of taxes, including religious organizations.

“When some do not put their part in, others have to pay more than what their share should be,” he said. “If taxes were paid on the many churches in this state, perhaps the state’s assistance to local governments and schools would be diminished considerably, leaving more in the state coffers for other purposes.”

Justin Evertson, representing the Secular Coalition for Nebraska, supported the bill, saying it is time to start taking a critical look at tax exemptions.

“We think this is definitely a violation of the separation of church and state,” he said. “We don’t think this will pass, but we definitely think it’s time to have this discussion.”

Nebraska Catholic Conference executive director Jim Cunningham opposed the bill, saying there is no compelling reason to terminate the traditional exemption.

“[The bill] would shatter public trust pursuant to the many ways that nonprofit religious organizations use their property to advance the common good,” he said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

REVENUE 

Ag machinery tax exemption advances

Senators gave first-round approval Jan. 24 to a bill that would exempt cer-

TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Rural mailbox locations examined

The location of mailboxes along highways was discussed in a Transportation and Telecommunications Committee hearing Jan. 21.

LB757, introduced by Papillion Sen. Jim Smith, also would change rules regarding the Nebraska Department of Roads management of state wayside areas and repeal obsolete language pertaining to the county road numbering system.

Smith called LB757 a cleanup bill that updates sections of statute concerning Nebraska roads.

Department Director Randy Peters testified in favor of the bill. He said LB757 would permit the placement of mailboxes within the shoulder line on highways where the surfaced shoulder area is wide enough for a vehicle to be off the highway when delivering or collecting mail. The current law dates from 1961 when the shoulders of Nebraska highways were narrower, he said, requiring mailboxes to be placed one foot outside of the shoulder line.

The bill also would remove the requirement that the department regulate Nebraska's diminishing wayside, or picnic, areas. Finally, Peters said, the bill would repeal an outdated county roads numbering system in favor of the more modern E-911 road numbering system.

No testimony was given in opposition to LB757 and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.



Sen. Jim Smith

URBAN AFFAIRS

Zoning notification changes considered

The Urban Affairs Committee heard testimony Jan. 21 on a bill that would change requirements for municipalities providing notice to neighborhood associations of zoning and redevelopment plan changes.

Currently, municipalities are required to provide notice by certified mail. Under LB679, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, a neighborhood association electing to receive notices could request a preferred method of notice, including email, regular, certified or registered mail.

Mello said the bill would acknowledge changes in communication since the original rules were adopted.

"These were written at a time when the Internet was not widely utilized," he said.

Mike Battershell of the United Neighborhood Alliances of Omaha testified in support of the bill. He said several days often pass before he is able to get to the post office to retrieve certified or registered mail.

In addition, Battershell said, the current process is expensive for city planning departments. Each item on a planning agenda results in a separate mailing to neighborhood associations, he said, at a cost to the city of \$6.11 per notice.

Battershell said he received six such notices last month, which easily could be sent via email instead.

Jack Cheloha, representing the City of Omaha, also supported the bill. He



Sen. Heath Mello

said the change would be in keeping with the transparency sought by current notification requirements while also saving money.

"We think that this could become a more efficient and a better way to do things," Cheloha said.

No one testified in opposition to LB679 and the committee voted 6-0 to advance the bill to general file.

Installment loan authority for cities proposed

Municipalities in Nebraska could borrow money from a bank or other financial institutions under a bill heard by the Urban Affairs Committee Jan. 21.

LB791, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill would authorize cities of the first and second class and villages to borrow money from financial institutions to purchase property. The loans could be repaid in installments.



Sen. Amanda McGill

McGill said the measure would provide cities with greater flexibility. Cities currently may issue bonds and tax notes, she said, and enter into lease/purchase agreements.

"[This method] might be quicker and less costly than the other alternatives," McGill said.

Lynn Rex of the League of Nebraska Municipalities testified in support of the bill, saying it would clarify existing law.

"There are a few cities that have city attorneys who think they have the authority to do it now," she said.

Rex said cities might need a loan for the same reason that an individual might need a short-term loan from a financial institution. The bill would provide an additional tool for cities

to address cash flow issues, she said.

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

Nuisance citation appeal process proposed

The Urban Affairs Committee heard testimony Jan. 21 on a bill that would establish a procedure for a property owner or occupant to appeal a nuisance citation in a first or second class city or village.

Current law allows an appeal but does not specify the appeal procedure for general nuisance citations. Last year the Legislature enacted a measure that established an appeal procedure specifically for nuisance vegetation citations. LB801, introduced by the committee, would extend the same appeal procedure to other nuisance citations. Under the bill, if a property owner files a written appeal of a nuisance citation within five days of notification, a city or village would be required to

hold an appeal hearing within 14 days.

Greg Butcher, city attorney for Beatrice, testified in support of the bill. He said the current lack of an appeal procedure means that once a defendant requests an appeal hearing, the case is over.

“At that point, they’ve essentially won the battle,” he said.

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



SEARCH FOR BILLS

Learn more about bills considered by the Unicameral by logging on to www.NebraskaLegislature.gov.

The Legislature’s website offers a bill search on the upper-right portion of the home page. Entering a bill number will retrieve the bill’s text, fiscal note, statement of intent, transcripts and more.

You also can search current laws using the keyword search found below the bill search.

Search Current Bills

LB

[Search Past Legislation](#)

Search Laws

Keywords

[Browse Statutes by Chapter](#)

Youth legislature registration now open

Registration for the 2014 Unicameral Youth Legislature is now open. Scheduled for June 8-11, the Unicameral Youth Legislature offers high school students the opportunity to learn what it’s like to serve as a state senator. Student senators will discover the unique process of our nation’s only unicameral by sponsoring bills, conducting committee hearings and debating legislation.

Participants will learn the details of the Nebraska Legislature directly from senators, staff and lobbyists using bill topics based on actual legislation considered during the most recent unicameral session. Students will conduct their legislative duties in the historic Warner Chamber, the former home of the Nebraska Senate.

If you know a student who has an interest in law, government, leadership or public speaking, encourage them to visit the Unicameral Youth Legislature website to learn more about this unique four-day event.

Early-bird registration is available until April 1. Registration and scholarship application forms can be obtained from NebraskaLegislature.gov/uyl or bigredcamps.unl.edu. The registration deadline is May 15.



NEW BILLS

Bill Introducer One-line description

Jan. 21, 2014

LB986	Revenue	Change homestead exemption income limitations
LB987	Revenue	Adjust individual income tax brackets for inflation and exempt social security benefits from income taxation
LB988	Schumacher	Provide for certain access to decedent's safe deposit box
LB989	Schumacher	Require a report relating to sales taxes under the Tax Expenditure Reporting Act
LB990	Nordquist	Add a penalty and change a record requirement for 911 service suppliers
LB991	Nordquist	Prohibit collection of interchange fees by payment card networks on certain taxes and fees
LB992	Howard	Create the Early Childhood Data Governing Body
LB993	Christensen	Provide that health care sharing ministries are not insurance
LB994	Health & Human Services	Change fees as prescribed for vital statistics
LB995	Hadley	Provide an income tax credit for state and local taxes paid
LB996	McGill	Require state agencies to respond to legislative requests for information
LB997	McGill	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Training and Support Trust Fund
LB998	Karpisek	Change provisions and penalties relating to prohibited acts regarding ignition interlock devices
LB999	Ashford	Adopt the Criminal Justice Reentry and Data Act and create the Reentry Programming Board
LB1000	Karpisek	Change provisions relating to parenting plans
LB1001	Wallman	Allow production and marketing of industrial hemp, exempt industrial hemp from the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and provide powers and duties for the Department of Agriculture
LB1002	Wallman	Add enforcement powers under the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act
LB1003	Kolowski	Provide for natural resources districts to issue general obligation bonds
LB1004	Avery	Authorize additional sources of funding for the Commission on Indian Affairs Cash Fund
LB1005	Avery	Create the Surface Water and Ground Water Review Board and provide powers and duties
LB1006	McGill	Change a provision of the Private Prison Contracting Act and prohibit state agencies from entering into contracts that include certain provisions
LB1007	Haar	Change provisions relating to the Security, Privacy, and Dissemination of Criminal History Information Act
LB1008	Haar	Change duties of the Climate Assessment Response Committee
LB1009	Haar	Establish a pilot program relating to problem-based learning
LB1010	Janssen	Adopt the Nebraska Enterprise Act and authorize the Governor to award economic development grants
LB1011	Janssen	Change the time limit on amending or repealing a municipal initiative
LB1012	Schilz	Change provisions relating to blighted areas under the Community Development Law
LR414	Davis	Request the federal government to reject changes to the current law governing country of origin meat labeling
LR415	Dubas	Congratulate Judge Michael J. Owens on his retirement
LR416CA	Karpisek	Constitutional amendment to authorize casino gaming, provide for a local vote, and provide for distribution of tax proceeds

Jan. 22, 2014

LB1013	Murante	Permit counties to regulate peddlers, hawkers, and solicitors by ordinance
LB1014	Murante	Change provisions for election of metropolitan utilities district board of directors
LB1015	Kintner	Include certain fire and rescue departments under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act
LB1016	Krist	Grant legislative authorization to purchase a state aircraft and provide for operation
LB1017	Krist	Change and transfer pharmacy, prescription, and drug provisions
LB1018	Hadley	Change public record provisions for withholding job application materials from the public
LB1019	Schumacher	Adopt the Development and Venture Enterprise Act
LB1020	Schumacher	Change provisions relating to liquor licensee violations
LB1021	Seiler	Change provisions relating to the sealing of records of a juvenile
LB1022	Seiler	Change legal procedure provisions of hearsay, disposition of untried charges, and speedy trial
LB1023	Mello	Change certain budgetary reports
LB1024	Mello	Permit the Nebraska Tourism Commission to adopt an official state symbol or slogan
LB1025	Bolz	Change the distribution of sales and use tax revenue
LB1026	Bolz	Create and provide for a Nebraska Educational Trust Fund
LB1027	Karpisek	Change provisions relating to restoration of seized firearms as prescribed
LB1028	Coash	Change the number of judges of the separate juvenile court as prescribed
LB1029	Coash	Change provisions relating to size, weight, and load with respect to vehicles transporting fertilizer
LB1030	Kintner	Adopt the State Firearms Rights Act
LB1031	Kintner	Change the distribution of sales and use tax revenue and provide for decreased income tax rates
LB1032	Kintner	Require posting of signs regarding abortion
LB1033	Watermeier	Appropriate funds to the Game and Parks Commission and state intent relating to operation and maintenance of Arbor Lodge State Historical Park
LB1034	McGill	Change provisions and penalties relating to unlawful intrusion

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1035	McGill	Require reports regarding records of persons unable to purchase or possess handguns because of disqualification or disability
LB1036	Wallman	Provide for biennial contracts for cities of the primary class under the Industrial Relations Act
LB1037	McGill	Authorize Auditor of Public Accounts to examine certain entities formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act
LB1038	Dubas	Provide an income tax credit for certain property taxes paid on agricultural land and horticultural land
LB1039	Dubas	Change provisions relating to size, weight, and load for farm equipment
LB1040	Karpisek	Create an energy conservation grant program
LB1041	Nordquist	Change retirement provisions relating to school employees
LB1042	Nordquist	Provide for repayments by school employees rejoining a retirement system
LB1043	Nelson	Exempt certain deeds from the documentary stamp tax
LB1044	Schilz	Provide procedures for abandoned mobile homes
LB1045	Harr	Redefine the term underground facility for purposes of the One-Call Notification System Act
LB1046	Carlson	Create the Water Sustainability Fund and transfer General Funds
LB1047	Carlson	Appropriate funds to the Department of Natural Resources
LB1048	Murante	Change and eliminate political party provisions
LB1049	Wightman	Change provisions for actions for recovery of title or possession of real estate or foreclosure of mortgages or deeds of trust as mortgages
LB1050	Campbell	Change provisions relating to inspections of certain child care facilities
LB1051	Howard	Adopt the Public Health Leadership and Development Act and appropriate funds to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
LB1052	Karpisek	Change restrictions on retailers under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB1053	Karpisek	Provide state aid to municipalities, counties, and natural resources districts
LB1054	Karpisek	Redefine treatment under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act
LB1055	Janssen	Provide for tuition-free credits for veterans and military personnel as prescribed
LB1056	Davis	Change individual income tax brackets and rates
LB1057	Davis	Change the distribution of sales and use tax revenue and provide duties for the Department of Revenue
LB1058	Murante	Adopt the Interstate Compact on the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote
LB1059	Lautenbaugh	Change membership of learning community coordinating councils
LB1060	Lautenbaugh	Change from elected to appointed boards for educational service units
LB1061	Lautenbaugh	Change from elected to appointed boards for community college areas
LB1062	Lautenbaugh	Require presentment of operator's license and proof of financial responsibility or evidence of insurance to a peace officer by a driver involved in an accident or impoundment of vehicle
LB1063	Lautenbaugh	Require juvenile court approval to obtain a juvenile court proceeding transcript
LB1064	Lautenbaugh	Adopt the Teach for Nebraska Program Act
LB1065	Lautenbaugh	Eliminate secret ballot provisions under the Open Meetings Act
LB1066	Lautenbaugh	Require a recorded roll call vote by certain county boards
LB1067	Hadley	Extend the sunset dates under certain tax incentive laws
LB1068	Sullivan	Change provisions relating to learning communities
LB1069	Sullivan	Change provisions relating to education
LB1070	Sullivan	Change provisions relating to state aid to schools
LB1071	Lathrop	Provide additional rules of the road for bicycles and bikeways
LB1072	Lathrop	Adopt the Prescription Monitoring and Health Information Exchange Act
LB1073	Lathrop	Require employers to e-verify immigration status of new employees
LB1074	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to the regulation of ground water
LB1075	Harr	Prohibit employment of certain persons leaving public positions
LB1076	Campbell	Provide for medicaid reimbursement rates and services for home health care
LB1077	Sullivan	Adopt the Shared Responsibility for Access and Success Act
LB1078	Nordquist	Change the Nebraska Telehealth Act, provide for the establishment of a patient relationship through video conferencing, and require insurance coverage for telehealth services
LB1079	Davis	Authorize grants to certain county agricultural societies under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act
LB1080	Bloomfield	Provide for nonprofit nursery stock distributors under the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act
LB1081	Karpisek	Change provisions relating to school-sponsored activities
LB1082	Brasch	Allow all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles to be operated as authorized emergency vehicles
LB1083	Garrett	Change job training grant provisions relating to veterans
LB1084	Garrett	Change provisions governing the filling of certain vacancies
LB1085	Cook	Require listing of employee salaries and job titles of certain private employers
LB1086	Pirsch	Transfer cash reserve funds to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund
LB1087	Pirsch	Create a homestead exemption for disabled veterans, widows, and widowers
LB1088	Conrad	Change income eligibility provisions relating to federal child care assistance
LB1089	Conrad	Provide for disposition of residual funds in class action litigation and charitable trusts
LB1090	Conrad	Adopt the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act
LB1091	Conrad	Transfer funds from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Job Training Cash Fund and change job training grant provisions

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1092	Dubas	Authorize issuance of highway construction bonds
LB1093	Brasch	Change provisions relating to juvenile facilitated conferencing and funding
LB1094	Davis	Change a fund transfer to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund
LB1095	Davis	Create the Tax-increment Financing Division of the Department of Economic Development and change the Community Development Law
LB1096	Ashford	Change provisions for expansion of a business improvement district
LB1097	Harr	Change individual income tax brackets and rates and corporate income tax rates
LB1098	Carlson	Change membership and powers and duties of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission
LB1099	Haar	Provide for a study relating to state aid to schools
LB1100	Haar	Create the Public Power Task Force
LB1101	Crawford	Change and eliminate provisions relating to state aid and learning communities
LB1102	Crawford	Redefine marijuana and authorize the medical use of hemp extract as prescribed
LB1103	Education	Provide for a strategic planning process for education
LB1104	Watermeier	Change farm winery licensing provisions
LB1105	McGill	Create veterans and servicemembers court programs
LB1106	McGill	Change provisions relating to career academies
LB1107	Conrad	Change medicaid payment provisions for federally qualified health centers as prescribed
LB1108	Conrad	Change a standard used by a court in finding a pregnant woman sufficiently mature to decide to have an abortion
LB1109	Conrad	Change provisions relating to consent and parental notification and eliminate certain penalties with respect to abortion
LB1110	Christensen	Change concealed handgun permit renewal provisions for members of the armed forces and their spouses
LB1111	Christensen	Provide duties relating to integrated management plans
LB1112	Christensen	Change provisions relating to an occupation tax on irrigated land
LB1113	Christensen	Provide powers and duties relating to surface water appropriations
LB1114	Mello	Change and state intent relating to funding for economic development programs and change a termination date
LB1115	Davis	Appropriate funds to the Nebraska Power Review Board for a study and state public policy
LR417	Mello	Designate September 15 through October 15, 2014 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the State of Nebraska
LR418	Seiler	Congratulate Morgan Nikkila on being named a 2013 Tribland Player of the Year for girls' volleyball
LR419	Seiler	Congratulate Seyler Monroe on being named a 2013 Tribland Player of the Year for six-man football
LR420	Seiler	Congratulate Jordan Slough on being named a 2013 Tribland Player of the Year for 11-man football
LR421CA	Lautenbaugh	Constitutional amendment to eliminate references to the State Board of Education, State Department of Education, and the Commissioner of Education
LR422	Campbell	Provide the Health and Human Services Committee, in cooperation with the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, be designated to develop policy recommendations towards transformation of Nebraska's health care system
LR423CA	Nordquist	Constitutional amendment to provide that residential real property may be classified separately for property taxation

FIND LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS

Committee hearing schedules, daily agendas and more can be viewed using the calendar on www.NebraskaLegislature.gov.

Clicking the "Calendar" link on the left side of the website's home page will open a calendar that is constantly updated with new information.

January 2014						
Jan	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01	02	03	04
	06	07	08 Day 1 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	09 Day 2 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	10 Day 3 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	11
	13 Day 4 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	14 Day 5 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	15 Day 6 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	16 Day 7 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	17 Day 8 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	18
	20	21 Day 9 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	22 Day 10 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	23 Day 11 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	24 Day 12 103rd Leg. 2nd Session	25
	27	28	29	30	31	



COMMITTEE HEARINGS

*Current hearing schedules are always available at: nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar

Monday, January 27

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB815 (Murante) Change provisions relating to fiduciary accounts controlled by a trust department
 LB819 (Wightman) Change provisions relating to future advances on mortgages or trust deeds
 LB717 (Gloor) Change provisions relating to the Real Property Appraiser Act and professional qualifications
 LB684 (Christensen) Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act
 LB685 (Christensen) Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Real Property Appraiser Act

Business & Labor

Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.

LB932 (Avery) Restrict public employer requests for criminal history information from an applicant
 LB895 (Scheer) Change compensation rate for certain volunteers under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
 LB820 (Davis) Authorize the Governor to execute a compact for prevention and control of forest fires and provide employment status for certain volunteer firefighters
 LB824 (Lautenbaugh) Change workers' compensation temporary disability provisions

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB741 (Murante) Require schools to have a policy relating to tornado drills as prescribed
 LB782 (Lathrop) Establish a return-to-learn protocol for students who have sustained a concussion
 LB923 (McGill) Require training on suicide awareness and prevention for school personnel
 LB872 (Kolowski) Create the position of state school security director and provide duties

General Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB680 (Mello) Amend the State Electrical Act and update the reference to the National Electrical Code

LB771 (Wallman) Change length of certification period under the Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity Act
 LB855 (Wallman) Change provisions for formation and operation of cemetery associations
 LB861 (Karpisek) Prohibit use and distribution of vapor products and other products derived from tobacco as prescribed and provide an exception and provide penalties

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Fagerland, Jerome - State Highway Commission
Appointment: Leafgreen, Doug - State Highway Commission
Appointment: Books, Ronald - State Highway Commission
Appointment: Militti, Jr., E.J. - State Highway Commission
 LB911 (Dubas) Adopt the Nebraska 911 Act and create the Next-Generation 911 Advisory Council
 LB736 (Dubas) Change the service of notice provision in the One-Call Notification System Act

Tuesday, January 28

Agriculture

Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Fahleson, Mark - Neb. State Fair Board
 LB884 (Hansen) Name and change the Exotic Animal Auctions and Swap Meets Act and change the Livestock Auction Market Act

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB755 (Gloor) Adopt the Standard Valuation Act for valuation of insurance reserves
 LB700 (Schumacher) Adopt the Risk Management and Own Risk and Solvency Assessment Act
 LB715 (Gloor) Add definitions relating to insurance
 LB688 (Christensen) Change provisions relating to cease and desist orders of the Director of Insurance
 LB799 (Carlson) Change a filing requirement for insurance companies

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB952 (Lautenbaugh) Adopt the Working to Improve Nebraska Schools Act
 LB682 (Scheer) Provide for formation of allied school systems as prescribed
 LB966 (Davis) Change provisions relating to the averaging adjustment in the state aid to schools formula

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB807 (Harms) Change provisions relating to provisional operator's permits, interactive wireless communication devices, and occupant protection systems and update references to certain federal provisions
 LB786 (Crawford) Adopt the Emergency Contact Registry Act and provide powers and duties for the Department of Motor Vehicles

Urban Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB702 (Johnson) Change provisions for organization of cities of the second class and villages
 LB915 (Crawford) Provide for a person to accept city or village ordinance violation notices during mortgage foreclosure or trust deed default
 LB924 (McGill) Redefine terms under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act
 LB968 (Scheer) Provide additional powers for certain sanitary and improvement districts

Wednesday, January 29

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB792 (Sullivan) Eliminate a report requirement by the county treasurers to the State Treasurer
 LB804 (Avery) Change and eliminate procedures for filling vacancies and removal of certain gubernatorial appointees
 LB833 (Dubas) Change selection provisions for county surveyors
 LB745 (Avery) Change various provisions relating to administrative governmental functions

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

*Current hearing schedules are always available at: nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB887 (Campbell) Adopt the Wellness in Nebraska Act

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB908 (Coash) Change child guardianship, ward, and adoption for child out of wedlock provisions
LB928 State-Tribal Relations Change provisions of the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act
LB920 (Coash) Adopt the Public Guardianship Act
LB722 (Kolowski) Adopt the Recognition and Enforcement of Tribal Court Civil Judgments Act
LB784 (Lathrop) Change a provision relating to juror disqualification

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB671 (Chambers) Eliminate provisions relating to hunting and killing of mountain lions

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB760 (Mello) Adopt the Combined Sewer Overflow Infrastructure Assistance Act and the Unfunded Federal Mandate Infrastructure Assistance Act
LB814 (Avery) Change the distribution of sales tax revenue to provide funding to the Game and Parks Commission
LB841 (Hadley) Change sales and use tax provisions relating to all-terrain vehicles, utility-type vehicles, and distribution of revenue

Thursday, January 30

Appropriations

Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

LB974 (Mello) Provide duties for certain divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to budgeting and strategic planning
LB678 (Mello) Change the funding allocation percentage for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
LB848 (B. Harr) Provide financial assistance under the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act for the development and acquisition of low-income housing

Executive Board

Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.

LB763 (Janssen) Require reports from state agencies on inefficient programs
LB871 (B. Harr) Require creation of fiscal notes as prescribed
LB917 (McCoy) Provide procedures for donation of real property to the Northeast Community College Area

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB676 (Chambers) Change filing and enforcement provisions of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act
LB778 (Chambers) Require certain entities to comply with provisions on open meetings, public records, and conflicts of interest
LB747 (Avery) Provide electioneering communication reporting requirements and restrictions under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB728 (Harms) Change provisions relating to criminal history record information checks for certain employees of the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Health and Human Services
LB901 (McGill) Provide for psychology internships through the Behavioral Health Education Center
LB931 (Bolz) Adopt the Nebraska Mental Health First Aid Training Act

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB770 (Wallman) Change provisions relating to explosives and destructive devices
LB877 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony
LB857 (Bloomfield) Change application provisions under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act regarding members of the armed forces to include spouses of such members
LB933 (McGill) Change provisions and define and redefine terms relating to labor trafficking and sex trafficking
LB934 (McGill) Establish the position

of Coordinator of Human Trafficking Prevention and provide duties

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Frenzen, Galen - Neb. Ethanol Board
Appointment: Kenney, Paul - Neb. Ethanol Board
LB686 (Christensen) Change a certification date relating to nonirrigated acres
LB710 (Christensen) Provide requirements for entering into certain ground water augmentation projects

Nebraska Retirement Systems

Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.

LB929 (Gloor) Define a term with respect to cities of the first class police officers' and firefighters' retirement
LB918 (Nordquist) Change provisions relating to investments for certain defined contribution plans

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB783 (Lathrop) Change distributions under the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act
LB794 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to the collection of sales and use taxes on credit and debit card transactions and change sales and use tax collection fees
LB829 (Schumacher) Exempt separately stated postage charges from sales and use taxes

Friday, January 31

Executive Board

Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.

LB975 (Murante) Change provisions for filling vacancies in the Legislature and Board of Regents
LB989 (Schumacher) Require a report relating to sales taxes under the Tax Expenditure Reporting Act
LB1016 (Krist) Grant legislative authorization to purchase a state aircraft and provide for operation

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB726 (Scheer) Provide for changing the number of school board members in Class II and Class III school districts

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

*Current hearing schedules are always available at: nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar

LB742 (Murante) Require instant run-off voting in primary elections
 LB743 (Murante) Provide definition of one-half of an elected term of office

**Health & Human Services
 Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB705 (Coash) Change personal needs allowance under medicaid
 LB732 (Kolowski) Change asset limitation for certain programs of public assistance
 LB916 (Crawford) Eliminate integrated practice agreements and change provisions regarding nurse practitioners

**Judiciary
 Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB939 (Wallman) Create the offense of false presentation of proof of financial responsibility under the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act
 LB998 (Karpisek) Change provisions and penalties relating to prohibited acts regarding ignition interlock devices
 LB921 (Nordquist) Prohibit possession, sale, offer for sale, trade, or distribution of shark fins
 LB674 (Chambers) Change provisions relating to abandonment or cruel neglect of an animal

**Natural Resources
 Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB798 (Christensen) Authorize power districts to use a fiscal year rather than a calendar year
 LB965 (K. Haar) Change public policy provisions and findings required by the Nebraska Power Review Board relating to the provision of electric service

**Revenue
 Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB809 (Coash) Exempt purchases by historic automobile museums from sales and use taxes
 LB894 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to applying for property tax exemptions

**Monday, February 3
 Appropriations**

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.
 LB905 (Speaker Adams) Provide for deficit appropriations

LB906 (Speaker Adams) Transfer funds and create and eliminate funds
 Agency 65: Dept. of Administrative Services
 Agency 18: Dept. of Agriculture
 Agency 19: Dept. of Banking
 Agency 29: Dept. of Natural Resources
 LB837 (Legislative Performance Audit) Change a provision relating to preaudits by state agencies
 LB704 (Avery) Create the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Fund
 LB797 (Nelson) Provide funding for fountains at the State Capitol

**Business & Labor
 Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB800 (Mello) Provide for designation of enterprise zones and preferences in certain business incentive programs
 LB765 (Conrad) Change the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act
 LB903 (Lathrop) Require a wage statement for employees under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act
 LB943 (Nordquist) Change the minimum wage rate
 LB947 (Lathrop) Change the minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities
 LB1085 (Cook) Require listing of employee salaries and job titles of certain private employers

**Education
 Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.**

Appointment: Shoemaker, J. Richard - Neb. Educational Telecommunications Commission
Appointment: Bird, Kenneth - Neb. Educational Telecommunications Commission
Appointment: Ohles, Frederik - Neb. Educational Telecommunications Commission
 LB692 (Sullivan) Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Act
 LB703 (Avery) Change the Nebraska Optometry Education Assistance Contract Program
 LB835 (Avery) Extend a pilot project relating to college entrance exams
 LB729 (Kolowski) Create the Task Force on Expanded Learning Opportunities

for School-Age Youth

**Tuesday, February 4
 Agriculture**

Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.
 LB673 (Chambers) Repeal the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act
 LB882 (K. Haar) Change duties of the Climate Assessment Response Committee

**Education
 Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB992 (Howard) Create the Early Childhood Data Governing Body
 LB864 (Mello) Allocate funds to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program
 LB984 (Sullivan) Change allocations from the Education Innovation Fund
 LB967 (Education) Change provisions relating to state aid to schools and funding for early childhood education programs
 LB1069 (Sullivan) Change provisions relating to education

**Thursday, February 6
 Executive Board**

Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.
 LB720 (Crawford) Provide and change complaint procedures for rules and regulations
 LB909 (Kintner) Require state agencies to submit to the Legislative Performance Audit Committee a list of certain rules and regulations and legislation requiring the rules and regulations
 LB996 (McGill) Require state agencies to respond to legislative requests for information

**Friday, February 7
 Executive Board**

Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.
 LB970 (Lautenbaugh) Provide that certain votes of public officials are public record
 LR397CA (Lautenbaugh) Constitutional amendment to require public recording and preservation of votes of public officials
 LB976 (Karpisek) Adopt the Redistricting Act ■

LEGISLATIVE GLOSSARY

“A” Bill - see Appropriation Bill.

Amendment On File - an amendment of 10 or more pages, not printed separately or in the Journal, that is available in the Clerk’s Office (Room 2018).

Amendment Printed Separate - an amendment of 10 or more pages, printed separately from the Journal, that is available in the Bill Room (Room 1102).

Appropriation Bill (“A” Bill) - a bill to appropriate funds to finance another bill bearing the same number.

Attorney General’s Opinion - a written analysis of a question of law prepared by the attorney general for the governor, the head of an executive department or any state senator.

Bill - see Legislative Bill.

Bracket - to delay consideration of a bill.

Call of the House - a procedure used to compel attendance of unexcused senators in the chamber.

Carry-over Legislation - bills and resolutions introduced during the regular session in an odd-numbered year and held over for consideration during the regular session in an even-numbered year.

Chair - the presiding officer.

Cloture - a parliamentary action to cease debate on a bill and vote immediately on its advancement. A motion for cloture may be made after eight hours of debate on most bills and after 12 hours on appropriation bills introduced by the Appropriations Committee.

Constitutional Amendment Resolution - a proposal to amend the state constitution, ratify or reject an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, or petition Congress about amending the U.S. Constitution. State CA resolutions have the suffix “CA” by the resolution number, and they must be approved by the voters as well as the Legislature.

Consent Calendar - a portion of the agenda in which relatively noncontroversial bills are considered and quickly advanced to the next legislative stage. Usually, a bill on consent calendar can be debated for no more than 15 minutes.

“E” Clause - see Emergency Clause.

E&R - see Enrollment and Review.

Emergency Clause (“E” Clause) - a provision that allows a bill or a portion of a bill to take effect immediately after the governor signs it or after the Legislature overrides the governor’s veto.

Engrossment - the process of preparing a bill for Final Reading by incorporating all adopted amendments.

Enrollment and Review (E&R) - the process of incorporating adopted amendments into a bill and reviewing the bill for technical and grammatical accuracy.

Executive Session - a closed meeting of a committee to discuss and act on bills and resolutions. An executive session is open only to committee members, committee staff and the media.

Final Reading - the third and last stage at which a bill is considered by the entire Legislature. The clerk reads the entire bill aloud, unless final reading is waived, and senators vote without debate on whether to submit the bill to the governor.

Fiscal Note - a statement prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Office estimating the effect a bill would have on state and/or local expenditures and revenue.

Floor - the area of the legislative chamber where the senators sit. When a committee advances a bill “to the floor,” that means the bill is being sent to the full Legislature for consideration.

General File - the first stage at which a bill is considered by the full Legislature. Bills on General File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Select File.

Hearing - a regularly scheduled committee meeting to receive public comment on proposed bills and resolutions.

House Under Call - the term used when all unexcused senators are required to be in their seats in the chamber and unauthorized personnel must leave the floor.

Indefinitely Postpone (IPP) - to kill a bill.

Interim - the period between regular legislative sessions.

Interim Study Resolution - a resolution authorizing a committee to study an issue following adjournment of a legislative session.

IPP - see Indefinitely Postpone.

Journal - see Legislative Journal.

Laws of Nebraska (Session Laws) - bound compilation of all laws and constitutional amendment resolutions passed in a legislative session, the state Constitution, and subject and section indexes.

Legislative Bill (LB) - a proposal to create, change or delete one or more laws.



Legislative History - the committee and floor debate records for any bill. A history includes transcripts of the bill's hearing and all floor debate.

Legislative Journal - official record of legislative floor action, including all motions, the number of yeas and nays on each vote, etc.

Legislative Resolution (LR) - a proposal to make a formal expression of opinion, intent or recognition; amend the state or federal constitution; or authorize a study of an issue during the interim. See also Constitutional Amendment Resolution, Interim Study Resolution.

Line-Item Veto - the power of the governor to make specific reductions in any part of a budget bill passed by the Legislature.

Machine Vote - a vote taken by electronic voting system. The voting board shows how each senator voted, but only vote totals are entered in the Legislative Journal.

Major Proposal - a bill or constitutional amendment resolution that the speaker designates as important enough for scheduling priority. Each session, up to five bills may be chosen as major proposals, all of which must be senator priority bills and must get the approval of two-thirds of the Executive Board.

One-liner - a one-line description of a bill or resolution.

Override a Veto - see Veto Override.

President of the Legislature - the lieutenant governor. While senators address whomever is in the chair as Mr. or Madame President, the lieutenant governor alone holds that official title.

Presiding Officer - the senator currently presiding over legislative proceedings.

Priority Bill - a bill that has priority status and generally is considered ahead of other bills in debate. Each senator may select one priority bill, each committee may select two priority bills, and the speaker may select up to 25 priority bills.

Record Vote - a vote on which a record is kept of how each senator voted. The vote is taken by electronic voting system, and the senators' names and corresponding votes are then printed in the Legislative Journal.

Regular Session - the annual session that begins the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January.

Resolution - see Legislative Resolution.

Revisor Bill - a bill, prepared by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, proposing a technical correction or the repeal of an obsolete statute.

Roll Call Vote - a vote during which the senators vote one at a time as the clerk reads their names. Senators cast their votes verbally, and their names and corresponding votes

may be printed in the Legislative Journal.

Select Committee - a permanent committee with a subject-matter jurisdiction related to the administration of the Legislature.

Select File - the second stage at which a bill is considered by the entire Legislature. Bills on Select File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Final Reading.

Session - a period of time, usually a number of days, during which the Legislature meets and transacts business.

Session Laws - compilation of all laws and constitutional amendment resolutions passed in a session.

Sine Die - without setting a future date for reconvening. When the Legislature adjourns sine die, the legislative session is finished for the year.

Slip Law - a bill or constitutional amendment resolution printed individually in its approved form after being enacted into law or submitted to voters.

Speaker of the Legislature - the officer of the Legislature, elected from among the senators, who prepares the daily agenda and the session calendar and who presides in the absence of the lieutenant governor.

Special Committee - a committee created by law for a specific reason. Except for the Executive Board, special committees have no jurisdiction over bills or resolutions.

Special Session - a limited legislative session called for a specific purpose by the governor or two-thirds (33 members) of the Legislature.

Standing Committee - a permanent committee with a subject-matter jurisdiction related to an area of public policy. Almost all bills and resolutions are referred to one of the 14 standing committees.

Summary Sheet - a daily list of all legislative activity that has taken place in one legislative day, including action taken on bills and resolutions.

Veto - the power of the governor to reject bills passed by the Legislature. The governor has five days, excluding Sundays, to either sign or veto a bill. The Legislature then has an opportunity to override the veto.

Veto Override - the power of the Legislature to pass a bill over the governor's veto. A veto override requires the approval of three-fifths (30 members) of the Legislature.

Voice Vote - a vote in which senators cast their votes orally and no totals are recorded.

Worksheet - a list, prepared daily, that indicates the status of all bills and resolutions at the end of that legislative day.



Unicameral Information Office
Nebraska Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509
03-23-05

PRESRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 212

