

Medical marijuana legalization requested



Sen. Tommy Garrett (left) and Sen. Sue Crawford (right) presented two options for medical marijuana use in Nebraska.

Marijuana would be used for medical treatment in Nebraska under two bills heard by the Judiciary Committee March 6.

LB643, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Tommy Garrett, proposes the Cannabis Compassion and Care Act to regulate the use of cannabis in Nebraska for medical purposes.

The act would be administered by the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and specify terms and legal protections for medical cannabis use by practitioners and patients.

The bill would establish nonprofit care centers to cultivate and dispense cannabis to qualified patients with

debilitating medical conditions. Patients would be limited to 6 ounces of cannabis every 30 days and care centers could obtain cannabis only from within Nebraska.

The bill also would create an 11-member board to advise DHHS and require the development of a computerized verification system.

(continued page 2)

Winner-take-all election bill advances after cloture

After four days of general file debate, lawmakers voted March 2 to cease debate and advance a bill to select file that would reinstate a winner-take-all system for allocating Nebraska's presidential electoral votes.

Currently, the winner of Nebraska's statewide popular vote receives two Electoral College votes. The state's three congressional districts also award one electoral vote each based on the popular vote winner in each district. Maine is the only other state to use this system.

LB10, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy, would reinstate a winner-take-all system and award all five elec-

toral votes to the winner of the state's popular vote.

McCoy said the current system disadvantages voters in rural parts of the state.

"I see LB10 as giving a voice to rural Nebraskans and [as] a way of unifying our state's five electoral votes as one winner-take-all vote in presidential elections," he said.

Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion supported the bill, saying other states are not following Nebraska's lead and moving to the district plan. While the state has many unique systems that work well—such as the unicameral Legislature and public power—district allocation of electoral votes is

(continued page 3)

Medical marijuana legalization requested

(continued from front page)

Implementation of the act is estimated to cost \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$828,000 in FY2016-17.

Garrett said 23 other states have passed similar laws permitting cannabis for medical use. LB643 represents the best aspects of all of those measures, he said.

“It’s time for us to stop talking about this [issue],” Garrett said. “People are suffering.”

Robert Mikos, a professor at Vanderbilt University specializing in drug law, testified in support of the bill, saying the state would suffer no federal legal consequences for legalizing medical marijuana. Despite a federal ban on marijuana, he said, Nebraska, like 23 states before it, simply can remove sanctions on the possession and distribution of the drug.

“State laws that legalize marijuana are constitutionally sound,” Mikos said. “The state has no obligation to punish private citizens [who use marijuana].”

Paige Figi of Colorado also spoke in favor of the bill. Cannabidiol reduced her daughter’s seizures from 100 to one per month, she said. Nebraska does not have to replicate Colorado’s marijuana law, she said, but it should create regulations that best fit its patients’ needs.

“There is an absolute medical need and validity to this as a treatment,” she said.

Sarah Lyon, who suffers from multiple health issues, said medicinal marijuana immediately improved her health and allowed her to discontinue 11 prescriptions. But because the drug is illegal, she said, she has to hide her use to avoid prosecution.

“Medical cannabis users are not criminals,” she said.

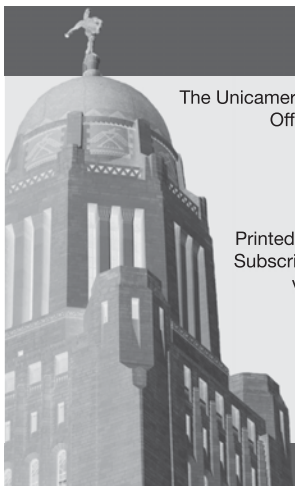
Joseph Acierno, acting CEO of DHHS, testified in opposition to the bill, saying that too many questions exist regarding the efficacy of medical marijuana. Additionally, he said, time frames to establish and monitor the act would be difficult, if not impossible, to meet.

Ann Frohman, representing the Nebraska Medical Association, also spoke against the bill. While medical marijuana holds promise as a treatment for cancer and epilepsy patients, she said, there is not enough scientific data to support it being prescribed by the state.

“Without more evidence via research ... physicians charged with prescribing medical marijuana would be uncomfortable with the bill,” Frohman said.

“It’s time for us to stop talking about this [issue]. People are suffering.”

-- Sen. Tommy Garrett



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

LB390, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, would create a pilot study at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to allow access to low-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) oil for patients who suffer severe, treatment-resistant or untreatable epileptic seizures.

The bill would authorize UNMC to be Nebraska's sole producer and prescriber of cannabidiol for research. The cannabidiol could contain up to three-tenths percent of THC, the active ingredient of the cannabis plant. Practitioners, patients and their parents or legal guardians participating in the study would be exempt from prosecution for possession of a controlled substance.

The Legislature would appropriate \$250,000 in FY2015-16 and again in FY2016-17 for two part-time neurologists and operating expenses.

Crawford said the bill would allow Nebraska to contribute to research about the use of cannabidiol oil, which has been shown to reduce seizures for treatment-resistant children.

Frohman testified in support of the bill, saying it not only would provide information about a new medical treatment, but also would help people who have no other medical options.

"We cannot fault patients for wanting to try any kind of medical treatment," Frohman said.

Nicole Perry also spoke in favor of the bill, saying the brain surgery her son endured in an attempt to cure seizures may have been avoided had he had access to cannabidiol. Because he continues to have seizures, she said, the oil remains an option her family hopes to be able to pursue.

"If it doesn't work for my son," she said, "it might work for somebody else's."

Speaking in support of the bill, Shari Lawlor said 50,000 people die from epilepsy every year. People like her daughter should not be required to wait or move to another state for a drug that been shown to reduce seizures by 50 percent in more than 73 percent of the patients who use it, she said.

Susie Dugan, retired executive director of PRIDE Omaha, testified in opposition to LB390. Nebraska should wait for the Federal Drug Administration to complete its testing of cannabidiol before prescribing it to its citizens, she said.

"I want relief for these patients as much as anybody," she said, "but we need to look at all of the options."

The committee took no immediate action on the bills. ■

Winner-take-all election bill advances after cloture

(continued from front page)

not among them, he said.

"This is not one of the unique characteristics of Nebraska that I believe is to the advantage of Nebraskans," Smith said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers offered an amendment that would have required the secretary of state to divide Nebraska into five presidential elector districts. Each district would be allocated one of the state's five Electoral College votes, and would cast it on behalf of the winner of the district's popular vote.

Such a system would better represent voters across the entire state, Chambers said, calling LB10 an effort to silence the voting minority in Nebraska.

"The Republican Party is overwhelmingly in command in this state; nobody denies that," Chambers said. "And because of that very great imbalance, they should not go the next step to deliberately, notoriously [and] consciously take away what little bit of opportunity those who are not Republican would have to cast a vote that would indeed mean something."

McCoy offered a motion to invoke cloture—or cease debate and force a vote on the bill—which senators narrowly approved on a 33-16 vote. A successful cloture motion requires at least 33 votes in support.

Following the cloture vote, the Chambers amendment failed 17-31. The bill then advanced to select file on a vote of 31-17. ■



Sen. Beau McCoy said a winner-take-all electoral allocation system would give Nebraska a unified voice in presidential elections.

MEET THE SENATOR

Senator finds finish line at Capitol

Marathon running provides valuable lessons in politics for new Sen. John McCollister. “Running for office is a marathon,” said the Omaha senator. “You have to be tenacious. I knocked on over 11,000 doors during my campaign.”

Having completed three full marathons, several half-marathons and countless 10K races, McCollister knows whereof he speaks.

“I don’t run as far as I used to, or as fast,” he said, but the new senator has learned from experience that—both in politics and road races—life is about the long-term rather than any individual mile.

His father, John Y. McCollister, served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. The younger McCollister took a semester off from his studies at UNL to campaign for his father, but said the experience didn’t inspire him to want to follow in his dad’s footsteps and serve in Congress.

“I saw what he had to go through,” he said. “You have to spend at least a third of your time raising money in order to retain your seat.”

Instead, McCollister found ways to engage in public service closer to home, including 30 years on the Metropolitan Utilities District board of directors. He also was able to explore a wide range of public policy issues for four years as the executive director of the Platte Institute for Economic Research.

McCollister credits the experience of working with diverse organizations such as the state and Omaha chambers of commerce, ACLU Nebraska and Nebraska Applesed with broadening his perspective on a number of issues and nurturing an independent streak.

“When you work with a wide variety of partners with different political philosophies, you see sides of an issue that you may not have otherwise noticed,” he said.

So far, McCollister said he’s enjoying the fast-paced environment at the Capitol and looking forward to tackling tough issues like taxation, prison reform and reorganizing the state Department of Health and Human Services.

When not focused on policy issues at the Legislature, however, McCollister said time with his family is a top priority. He and wife Deborah have three children—Lauren, Daniel and Jeffrey—and two grandchildren. McCollister said his wife helps him focus on what really matters in life.

“The best day of my life was the day I married her,” he said. “She is a remarkable woman and absolutely the world’s best grandmother.” ■



Sen. John McCollister and wife Deb enjoy some quality time with grandsons David and Andrew Ledger.

AGRICULTURE

Prairie dog management repeal advanced

Senators gave first-round approval March 4 to a bill that would repeal the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act.

LB128, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, would repeal the act, which was passed by the Legislature in 2012. Chambers said the management act does not take into account that prairie dogs are indigenous to Nebraska and an important part of the state's ecosystem. Instead, he said, the act was modeled on noxious weed laws.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

"When that is the approach taken with these animals, it is premised upon the idea that they are an invasive species, which they are not, and that they should be eradicated, which they should not," he said.

Wahoo Sen. Jerry Johnson spoke in favor of the bill. While prairie dogs can be a problem, he said, there are more humane ways of dealing with them.

"There are situations in the western part of the state where there is an abundance of prairie dogs doing extensive damage to property and lowering property values," he said. "They do need to be controlled, but there are other ways to control them on your own property [besides poisoning them]."

A prairie dog colony that migrates to a neighbor's land should not be that landowner's problem, said Hyannis Sen. Al Davis.

"I don't care if a neighbor wants to have prairie dogs on his land, but if they migrate it should not be my responsibility to poison the dogs because it can be very costly and time consuming."

Senators advanced the bill to select file on a 31-12 vote.

APPROPRIATIONS

Funds sought for university projects

The Appropriations Committee heard testimony March 3 on a variety of proposals that would provide funding to the University of Nebraska for a range of projects.

LB154, introduced by Kearney Sen. Galen Hadley, would appropriate \$10 million in general funds in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$20 million in FY2016-17 to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for economic competitiveness initiatives.



Sen. Galen Hadley

The board would distribute the funds to advance strategic, multi-campus initiatives intended to advance Nebraska's economic competitiveness, including but not limited to:

- Peter Kiewit Institute;
- Nebraska Innovation Campus;
- Building a Healthier Nebraska Kearney Health Science Programs;
- Rural Futures Institute;
- National Strategic Research Institute;
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives;

- Nebraska Advanced Biomedical Technology Innovation and Discovery Institute;
- Nebraska Business Development initiatives; and
- Veteran workforce development initiatives.

Hadley said the bill represents an investment that would result in new companies, jobs and profits that would provide the state tax revenues for future growth. Traditionally, he said, Nebraska has used tools such as infrastructure development and tax incentives to encourage economic growth.

"In a lot of states, the model has shifted from tax incentives ... to economic development through the technology that universities have," Hadley said.

Interim University of Nebraska President Jim Linder testified in support of the bill, saying the funding would impact every part of the state. He cited a study done by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which projected that 1,100 jobs and \$58 million in labor income would be produced by the bill.

"[The] analysis points to a five to one return on our \$20 million investment," Linder said.

The committee also heard joint testimony on LB532 and LB533.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Robert Hilke-



Sen. Robert Hilke

mann, LB532 would appropriate \$25 million in general funds and \$5 million from the Cash Reserve Fund in FY2015-16 to the university to design and build the Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

The bill also would authorize a \$20 million transfer from the cash reserve in FY2016-17, conditioned on evidence provided by the Board of Regents that \$20 million in private or other funds have been received for the project.

LB533, introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner, would appropriate \$1.5 million in general funds in FY2015-16 and \$3 million in FY2016-17 for start-up operations for the center. The bill also would state legislative intent to provide \$5 million in general funds in FY2017-18 and FY2018-19 for ongoing operations.



Sen. John Stinner

Hilkemann said the center—a \$105 million project at UNMC—will include a virtual learning center where medical students can safely practice procedures. The center will employ a “hub and spoke” model, he said, which will engage health profession students in rural parts of the state as well.

“This is really going to transform the way we do medical education,” Hilkemann said.

Stinner said adequately funding the operation of the center is key to the future of health care provision in Nebraska.

“The training provided will not only improve health care provider performance,” he said, “but also lower costs and, most importantly, improve the outcome for patients.”

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey Gold testified in support of both bills, saying they would help ease the state’s health care provider shortage. He said the bills would allow UNMC to leverage federal dollars and private investment for the center.

“This is a truly transformational investment in the future of health care education and commercialization,”

Gold said.

LB560, introduced by Gothenburg Sen. Matt Williams, would appropriate \$25 million in general funds in FY2015-16 to the university for building projects at the Nebraska Innovation Campus. The bill would transfer \$25 million from the Cash Reserve Fund to the General Fund to finance the project.



Sen. Matt Williams

The bill also would create the Nebraska Innovation Campus Building Acceleration Fund as a repository for proceeds from the sale of projects funded as a result of the appropriations made in the bill and any private funds received. The fund could be expended for new building projects at Innovation Campus on the same basis as the initial funding.

Williams said innovation campus is a “startup company” that needs state dollars to leverage private funds in order to benefit all of Nebraska through research and development.

“Our role as legislators should be to use the limited assets at our disposal in a manner to help grow our state by linking great students with great faculty, with great private companies,” he said.

UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman testified in favor of LB560, saying it is difficult to attract private sector partners to innovation campus without the proper facilities.

“We began this project on a clean slate,” Perlman said. “The former state fair grounds lacked any usable infrastructure or buildings.”

No opposition testimony was offered on any of the bills.

The committee also heard testimony on the following proposals:

- LB110, introduced by O’Neill Sen. Tyson Larson, which would

appropriate \$500,000 in general funds in FY2015-16 and FY2016-17 to the university for pediatric cancer research and clinical care at UNMC;



Sen. Tyson Larson

- LB417, introduced by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, which would appropriate \$1.8 million in general funds in FY2015-16 and \$1.8 million in FY2016-17 to the university for pediatric cancer research at the UNMC;



Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

- LB593, also introduced by Nordquist, which would appropriate \$250,000 in general funds in FY2015-16 to the university to fund a study of current health data systems;

- LB108, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, which would appropriate \$250,000 in FY2015-16 and FY2016-17 to establish



Sen. Sue Crawford

12 one-year behavioral health, master’s level internships in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska;

- LB436, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook, which would appropriate additional



Sen. Tanya Cook

general funds to the university to establish a pilot program to expand pediatric dental residencies from eight to 10; and

- LB496, introduced by Heartwell Sen. John Kuehn, which would appropriate \$1.25 million in general funds in FY2015-16, FY2016-17 and FY2017-18 to the Board of Regents for the Yeutter Institute for International Trade and Finance.

The committee took no immediate action on the proposals.

Educational training funds sought

The Appropriations Committee heard testimony March 2 on two bills intended to provide funds for post-secondary education in key fields of study.

Heartwell Sen. John Kuehn, sponsor of LB565, said the bill would provide financial aid to students enrolled in fields of study or training that are integral to the future economic well-being of Nebraska.



Sen. John Kuehn

LB565 would transfer \$3 million from the General Fund, \$1 million from the Health Care Cash Fund and \$1 million from the Job Training Cash Fund to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17. The funds would be used to provide financial support to qualified public and private nonprofit two- and four-year postsecondary educational institutions in Nebraska to support students enrolled in high-need programs.

The bill defines “high-need” fields as construction trades, transportation, warehousing and distribution logistics, science, technology, engineering,

mathematics, health care and health services, business administration and teacher education.

The bill would not provide financial support to individual students, Kuehn said, but would instead provide institutional support for programs.

“I think we’ve identified something critical here in targeting these [high-need] fields,” he said.

Fred Ohles, president of Nebraska Wesleyan University, testified in support of the bill. The best way to retain college graduates in Nebraska is for them to have jobs when they graduate, he said.

“I believe LB565 is a good starting point for discussion about how to better utilize state funds for higher education,” Ohles said.

LB584, introduced by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz, would create an oral health clinic grant fund that would be used to help expand facilities and programming for the Creighton University School of Dentistry.



Sen. Ken Schilz

The bill would transfer \$16.3 million from the Cash Reserve to the Dental Clinic and Educational Facility Grant Fund by July 1, 2016.

Schilz said the state has an interest in expanding dental education in Nebraska and a one-time expenditure from the Cash Reserve Fund would be justified in order to do so.

“Nebraska is sitting on a large cash reserve,” he said. “In my estimation, the cash reserve is too high and some dollars should be invested in this area.”

Mark Latta, dean of the Creighton University School of Dentistry, spoke in favor of the bill. The dental college receives approximately 2,300 applications for the 85 positions it has open

each year, he said. The university needs to expand to meet the demand and address the shortage of dentists in 50 of Nebraska’s 93 counties, he said.

“We know good oral health is a significant component for overall wellness for our citizens,” Latta said.

The university has raised \$23 million toward the \$81.5 million expansion project, he said, and the state funds in LB584 would allow Creighton to expand outreach and scholarship programs to encourage graduates to practice in shortage areas.

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

EDUCATION

Scholarship for dual enrollee students proposed

High school students enrolled in college courses could receive a scholarship under a bill heard by the Education Committee March 3.

LB102, introduced by Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan, would provide up to \$1,500 in need-based aid to students in their first or second year of full-time attendance at a qualified Nebraska postsecondary institution.



Sen. Kate Sullivan

Sullivan said that the Access College Early Plus Scholarship Program (ACE Plus) already exists at the federal level but those funds no longer will be available starting fiscal year 2015-2016.

“Last year nearly 380 students received scholarships under [the ACE Plus program],” Sullivan said. “[LB102] would put the program

into state statute and provide state funding.”

Mike Baumgartner, executive director of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, spoke in favor of the bill.

“The ACE Plus program helps kids succeed as they move on to college,” he said. “When ACE Plus students finish college, 81 percent of them have accomplished at least a 3.0 grade point average. [LB102] is a critical first step for this program.”

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

Private college grants proposed

Students attending private, not-for-profit colleges or universities in Nebraska could receive additional financial aid under a bill heard by the Education Committee March 3.

LB401, introduced by Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman, would provide grants to students attending an eligible institution and demonstrating significant financial need. Kolterman said that many students looking for a more personalized experience end up leaving the state for college.



Sen. Mark Kolterman

“Nebraska as a state has not provided significant resources for students who prefer a smaller, more personal college experience,” he said. “[LB401] gives students a real choice about where to continue their college education.”

The grants would be available to students in their freshman and sophomore years who maintain minimum educational standards. Full-time students would receive priority, but grants also would be available to part-time students

who meet eligibility requirements.

Grants distributed under the bill could not exceed the average taxpayer subsidy provided for instruction of an undergraduate student at a four-year public college or university.

College of Saint Mary President Maryanne Stevens spoke in favor of the bill. She said the bill would encourage more first generation college students to attend Nebraska institutions.

“Often it’s these students that thrive in smaller environments that most of the private, not-for-profit schools offer,” she said. “This would be an important tool for our colleges to use in helping financially needy students attend college.”

Preston Harris also spoke in favor of the bill, citing his experience as a former student at Concordia University.

“I was very sheltered as a kid and I needed a smaller environment to thrive in my education,” he said. “Unfortunately, I had to work after football games to pay for my tuition. I hated that because I wasn’t able to focus on my school work like I wanted to.”

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

School repair bill advanced

Senators gave first-round approval March 3 to a bill that would give school districts increased spending authority.

Currently, school districts are not required to initiate a bidding process for construction, remodeling or repairs when the expenditure is estimated to cost



Sen. Roy Baker

less than \$40,000. LB431, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Roy Baker, would increase the threshold to \$100,000.

Baker said that the initial threshold was established decades ago and never has been adjusted for inflation.

“That \$40,000 level was enacted by the 1979 Legislature, 36 years ago,” he said. “Adjusted for today’s numbers, that would be over \$130,000. [LB431] would allow school districts to move faster to make necessary repairs.”

The state Board of Education would adjust the threshold to account for inflation every five years, based upon the percentage change in the consumer price index.

Omaha Sen Rick Kolowski supported the bill, saying that the proposed changes are long overdue.

“This would not only save time but also money,” he said. “It would be useful for them to be able to draw this new line in bidding for future projects.”

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

Funding changes proposed for opportunity grants

Members of the Education Committee heard testimony March 2 on two bills that would adjust the funding source of Nebraska Opportunity Grants.

Currently, 24.75 percent of net lottery receipts are dedicated to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund. Beginning in fiscal year 2016-2017, that funding will be discontinued and redirected to the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund.

LB520, introduced by Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan, would phase out the funding over three years



Sen. Kate Sullivan

as opposed to eliminating all funds in FY2016-17.

“We recognize the importance of these grants and the financial support they provide for need-based students,” Sullivan said. “This provides a mechanism for phasing out the use of lottery dollars and phasing in more general funds.”

The lottery dollars allotted for the opportunity grants would decrease by 6.5 percent in FY2016-17, FY2017-18 and FY2018-19.

The bill also includes intent language that would direct the Legislature to replace the lost revenue from the general fund.

Mary Sommers, director of student financial aid at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, opposed the bill. She said that LB520 would put her students’ academic success at risk.

“I really cannot overstate the importance of a stable funding mechanism for this program,” she said. “My students really cannot afford vulnerability. Moving [the funding source] to general fund dollars makes it much riskier.”

The committee also heard testimony on LB519, also introduced by Sullivan. The bill would provide funding to the state Department of Education and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to establish competitive innovation grant programs.

Sullivan said the bill would provide a stable funding source for the programs.

“Lottery proceeds are unpredictable and are voluntarily generated from a limited sector of the population,” she said.

The department and commission would receive 40 percent of the money available in the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund and would award grants to school districts, educational

service units or postsecondary institutions.

The bill also would establish a new best practices allowance in the state aid to schools formula.

Jon Habben, representing the Nebraska Rural Community Schools, supported the bill, saying that it would help to grow education statewide.

“Identifying best practices and, equally as important, spreading those best practices, are critical in the future of education in Nebraska,” he said.

The committee took no immediate action on either bill.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Legislative authorization of gaming stalls

After briefly debating the issue March 2, senators voted to indefinitely postpone a proposal that would allow the Legislature to authorize gaming in Nebraska. The vote ended further action on the proposal.

Currently, the Nebraska Constitution specifically prohibits the Legislature from authorizing any additional games of chance. Gaming can be expanded in Nebraska only through constitutional amendment.

LR10CA, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, would place a proposed constitutional amendment on the 2016 general election ballot that would allow the Legislature to authorize and regulate any other game of chance, lottery or gift enterprise.

Schumacher said the proposal

would not implement any new games of chance, but simply would allow the Legislature to authorize gaming in the future if senators choose to do so. The Legislature has broad regulatory powers, he said, and voters should be able to decide whether gaming should be included in those powers.

“This is a very simple proposition to let the people decide,” Schumacher said.

Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy offered the motion to indefinitely postpone the measure, saying decisions on expanded gambling should remain with the voters and not the Legislature.

“I believe it should stay with a vote of the people, because that’s where we’ve had it for all these years,” McCoy said.

The motion was adopted on 27-16 vote, ending consideration of the measure for the session.

GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

Public power board change approved

Senators gave final approval March 6 to a bill that changes provisions relating to public power district boards in Nebraska.

Currently, public power district employees are prohibited from serving on the board of directors of the public power district by which they are employed.

Under LB177, introduced by Malcolm Sen. Ken Haar, a high-level manager employed by a district is prohibited from serv-



Sen. Paul Schumacher



Sen. Ken Haar

ing as a member of the board of directors of any public power district.

A high-level manager includes a chief executive officer, president, vice president, chief financial officer, chief operations officer, general manager or assistant general manager.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.



Bill would extend behavioral health pilot program

The Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony March 4 on a bill that would extend a behavioral health screening and referral pilot program.

In 2013, the Legislature created the Behavioral Health Screening and Referral Pilot Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to develop ways to address unmet children's behavioral health needs that could be replicated statewide.

LB240, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, would remove the Sept. 6, 2015, termination date for the program and an existing cap on the number of clinic sites.



Sen. Matt Hansen

Hansen said the screening program is included in UNMC's budget, so LB240 would have no fiscal impact on the state.

"We seem to have great consensus that this is an effective program to make sure that behavioral health care is available in more and more communities throughout our state," he said.

Joe Evans, director of the psychol-

ogy department at UNMC, testified in support of the bill. Nebraska currently has a shortage and maldistribution of behavioral health care providers, he said, and having a program that can screen children during primary care provider visits has proven successful.

Evans said 88 of Nebraska's 93 counties are identified by the federal government as behavioral health provider shortage areas.

UNMC psychology professor Kathryn Menousek also testified in support, saying the program hopes to expand to five or six sites throughout the state.

"This would allow greater access to behavioral health services to many Nebraska families," she said.

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

Expanded licensure for sign language interpreters proposed

The Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony March 6 on a bill that would expand licensure requirements for sign language interpreters.

Malcolm Sen. Ken Haar, sponsor of LB287, said the bill was introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He said that 1 percent of Nebraskans are deaf and 9 percent are hard of hearing.



Sen. Ken Haar

"Passage of LB287 guarantees that all Nebraskans receiving sign language interpreting services will obtain a higher standard of communication access," Haar said.

Under the bill, all interpreters would be required to obtain licensure

by Jan. 1, 2016, and pay a licensure fee established by the commission. An individual or entity providing interpreting services without a license after that date would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500 for each offense.

LB287 also would create a licensure category for video remote interpreting services.

Interpreting services would be exempt from the licensure requirement if conducted:

- as part of a religious service;
- in a health care emergency until a licensed interpreter could be obtained;
- by a student under the direct supervision of a licensed interpreter;
- by an educational interpreter working under regulation of the state Department of Education; or
- by an individual licensed in another state who is awaiting commission approval in Nebraska.

John Wyvill, executive director of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, testified in support of the bill. Currently, only the courts, law enforcement and state agencies are required to use licensed sign language interpreters, he said.

"In other settings they may not [be licensed]," Wyvill said, "which means that if there is a complaint ... there would be no way for the state to remedy that situation or ensure the quality or proficiency of the interpreter."

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

Medicaid personal needs allowance increase advanced

Lawmakers amended and advanced a bill from general file March 4 that would increase the personal needs al-

lowance by \$10 for Medicaid eligible individuals who reside in an alternative living arrangement.

As introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, LB366 originally would have increased the allowance from \$50 to \$75. The change would reflect the higher cost of living, Pansing Brooks said, noting that the allowance has not been increased since 1999.



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

“This is basically an inflationary adjustment,” she said, adding that many Nebraskans living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities lack the funds to cover their discretionary personal needs.

Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash agreed, saying he had introduced the same bill last session after visiting a nursing home in his district during the holiday season. Residents had written their gift requests on the back of tree ornaments, he said, and most were for items like lotion or a pair of socks.

“These residents were not asking for luxury items,” Coash said. “They were asking for things that they needed.”

Coash offered an amendment, adopted 36-5, that lowered the proposed increase to \$60. He said a moderate increase would improve residents’ quality of life while lowering the bill’s original \$3 million General Fund fiscal impact.

“We haven’t kept up,” he said. “Fifty dollars doesn’t buy what it used to; it certainly doesn’t buy what it did in 1999.”

Sen. Roy Baker of Lincoln spoke in favor of increasing the allowance. Individuals must spend down their assets before becoming eligible for Medicaid, he said, and the personal needs allow-

ance represents the amount of their own money that they are able to keep each month.

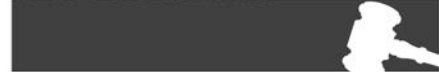
“It’s money that they need to maintain some kind of dignity,” Baker said.

Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy opposed the bill and the amendment, calling the proposal a component of Medicaid expansion. He said an increase in the personal allowance would reduce the amount of money available in the state’s budget to provide tax relief to all Nebraskans.

“Well-meaning or not, that’s what this legislation does,” McCoy said.

The amended bill advanced to select file on a 29-12 vote.

JUDICIARY



Marriage fees increased

Lawmakers passed a bill March 6 that increases county marriage license fees.

LB88, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, increases the fee charged by counties from \$15 to \$25 for issuing and recording marriage licenses and to administer oaths or affirmations for marriage. The bill also increases the fee charged by counties from \$5 to \$9 to make a certified copy of a marriage record.



Sen. Kathy Campbell

Senators passed the bill on a 42-4 vote.

Evidence testing measure amended, advanced

A bill was amended and advanced from general file March 3 that would

allow incarcerated individuals to request that a court reconsider evidence used in their trials.

Introduced by Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks of Lincoln, LB245 would allow a person in custody to request DNA testing of previously tested material if current technology could provide more accurate or probative results. Currently material can be retested only if a court determines that such forensic testing did not exist at the time of the trial.

Pansing Brooks said the bill would clarify language in the Nebraska DNA Testing Act to give more options to people who feel they were wrongly convicted.

“We need to make sure justice is done and that we are not keeping innocent people in prison,” she said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, who introduced the Nebraska DNA Testing Act in 2001, supported the bill. Lawmakers should always be attentive to scientific innovation and update laws accordingly, he said.

“We should never object to research and development, and, where necessary, experimentation,” Chambers said.

A Judiciary Committee amendment added provisions from LB244, also introduced by Pansing Brooks. Adopted 35-0, the amendment allows motions for new trials to be filed whenever new non-DNA evidence is discovered. Currently, motions may be filed only within three years of a verdict when based on discovery of new non-DNA evidence.

Hastings Sen. Les Seiler said the amendment and bill are important to ensure statutes keep pace with scientific progress.

“We need to catch up with science,” he said.

Senators advanced the amended bill to select file on a 35-0 vote.

Death penalty repeal considered

The Judiciary Committee heard a bill March 4 that would repeal Nebraska's death penalty.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, LB268 would replace death penalty provisions with a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. The bill would apply retroactively to inmates currently serving capital punishment sentences. It was the 38th time that Chambers has introduced such legislation.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

The bill would not prevent a sentencing court from ordering restitution, or alter the authority of the state Department of Correctional Services to determine appropriate measures for incarceration of an offender.

Chambers said that between 1903 and 2010, Nebraska executed 23 out of 72 people who had been sentenced to death. Executions do not occur frequently enough to stop people from killing one another, he said.

"It is clear that this is not a penalty of punishment that is relied on to do anything," Chambers said. "Something so seldom used could not be a deterrent."

Miriam Kelle, whose brother was murdered by Michael Ryan in Rulo, testified in support of the bill. Ryan is awaiting execution after being found guilty in 1985 of murdering Kelle's brother James Thimm and another person.

Kelle said her family has suffered for 30 years waiting for Nebraska's legal system to deliver the justice it promised. Sentencing Ryan to life in prison instead of death row would

have allowed her family to move forward, she said.

"Only when we end the death penalty in Nebraska will we stop making the painful promise to victims' families like mine," Kelle said.

Former Sarpy County District Judge Ronald Reagan also testified in support of the bill. Reagan said he decided that the death penalty had no deterrent effect while presiding on the panel that sentenced John Joubert to death in 1984.

Joubert, who was executed by electric chair in 1996 for the murder of two boys, ignored the fact that he could have taken one of his victims to Iowa, a state less than two miles away with no death penalty, Reagan said.

States without the death penalty do not have higher murder rates than states with capital punishment, he added.

"We can repeal the death penalty and there will be no detrimental harm to public safety," Reagan said.

Jeff Patterson, an attorney representing four of the six Nebraskans wrongly convicted for the 1985 murder of Helen Wilson in Beatrice, spoke in favor of the bill. The threat of execution can create false confessions, he said, and was a factor that caused two of his clients to experience psychotic delusions that they were involved in a crime they did not commit.

"For the Beatrice Six it certainly encouraged pleas, but it encouraged innocent people to plea to crimes they didn't commit," Patterson said. "The threat of a death penalty did not serve the interest of justice."

Don Kleine, representing the Nebraska County Attorneys Association, testified in opposition to the bill. The death penalty is sought only for especially heinous crimes, he said.

"In certain extreme, unique situations, we believe there needs to be the

death penalty," Kleine said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Senators discuss human trafficking prevention

Human trafficking prevention efforts would be strengthened by a bill heard by the Judiciary Committee March 4.

Introduced by Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, LB294 would:



Sen. Jim Scheer

- allow human trafficking victims to seek restitution for damages, deemed to be a minimum of \$150,000, plus attorney fees and costs associated with a civil action;
- increase penalties for solicitation of prostitution, pandering and keeping a house of prostitution;
- permit search warrants and subpoenas to be issued for entities located outside of Nebraska;
- allow juvenile courts to maintain jurisdiction over juvenile victims;
- define offenders' property that would be subject to forfeiture; and
- require all forfeited assets be deposited in a victim assistance fund.

Scheer said Nebraska has the least stringent penalties for human trafficking compared to all of its neighboring states. The bill sends a strict message of intolerance, he said, by addressing all facets of trafficking's exploitative business model. Nebraska should not be a safe haven in the region for traffickers, he said.

"LB294 is really designed to de-

crease the profitability and increase the risk of engaging in this criminal enterprise,” Scheer said.

Weysan Dun, a retired FBI special agent and member of the governor’s task force on human trafficking, testified in support of the bill. Human trafficking is a problem in Nebraska, he said, but its victims are in too vulnerable a position to attempt escape.

“Human trafficking is vastly underreported because its victims ... are often completely dependent on the criminals who victimize them for even the most basic necessities of life,” Dun said.

Amber Schlote, a detective with the Omaha Police Department, also spoke in favor of the bill, saying human trafficking is the nation’s second fastest growing criminal enterprise behind sales of illegal narcotics. People can be sold thousands of times, she said, with pimps earning up to \$1 million annually.

“Money is the driver of this business,” Schlote said.

Allowing courts to detain victims would give law enforcement time to determine what services would best suit them, she said. Under current statute, she said, every child that law enforcement has placed in out-of-home care has run away.

Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson also supported the bill, calling it a first step toward stopping organized crime and providing services for its victims. Stronger penalties and forfeiture programs would provide law enforcement the tools needed for a strong start, he said.

“The first people we have to get by the neck are the guys that would do this type of business,” Peterson said.

Thomas Strigenz of the Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association testified in opposition to the bill. Without treatment programs in place,

he said, juvenile courts have no place to send human trafficking victims for rehabilitation. Additionally, he said, allocating money from fines and forfeitures to specific government programs rather than to education, as is now mandated, may be unconstitutional.

Juliet Summers of Voices for Children offered neutral testimony, saying the measure should more clearly define how victims of human trafficking would be viewed by the juvenile justice system.

“Labeling victims as delinquents is not the right way to protect them,” she said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Changes to marijuana-related crimes proposed

Penalties for possession and manufacture of some marijuana-based products would be created and enhanced under legislation heard by the Judiciary Committee March 6.

LB326, introduced by Gothenburg Sen. Matt Williams, would make several changes to the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, including creating crimes for manufacture and possession of edible products containing tetrahydrocannabinols (THC).

The bill would make the manufacture of edible marijuana products a Class III felony, punishable by up to 20 years’ imprisonment, a \$25,000 fine or both. Possession of edible marijuana products would be a Class IV felony, punishable by up to five years’ imprisonment, a \$10,000 fine or both.

The bill also would make possession of substances containing synthetic cannabinoids—also known as

K2—a Class IV felony, eliminate terms so that all cannabis products except marijuana fit under the umbrella of THC, add more items to the list of controlled substances and update the definition of THC.

Williams said marijuana use is a growing problem in Nebraska due to it being legalized in Colorado in 2012. Easier access to the drug and increased concentrations of THC in edible products is a dangerous trend, especially for young people, he said.

“I hope to send a clear message that marijuana ... and other drugs are harmful to their development and to their future,” Williams said.

Ronald Bartzatt of the University of Nebraska at Omaha chemistry department testified in support of the bill, saying marijuana is the most abused illicit drug. Marijuana smoke contains more than 50 carcinogens, he said, and despite its broad use and legalization in some areas of the country, Nebraska should continue to criminalize it.

“Marijuana should remain identified as a dangerous drug,” Bartzatt said.

Cheyenne County Sheriff John Jensen also spoke in favor of the bill. Felony penalties for edible marijuana products are appropriate, he said, because dealers can easily sell them to children.

“One of the dangerous things we face today is the increase in THC levels,” he said.

Kali Smith also spoke in favor of LB326, saying synthetic marijuana caused her son, Tyler, to commit suicide. There were no deaths attributed to synthetic marijuana in 2014, Smith said, which shows that stringent drug laws passed by the Unicameral have worked.

“That is a huge victory and we want to keep that going with this law,” Smith said.



Sen. Matt Williams

Tonja Peterson-Wendt of Omaha testified in opposition to the bill, saying penalties regarding edible marijuana products proposed in the bill are too strict.

“You should not punish people for trying to end their physical pain,” she said.

Aaron Weiler agreed. The felony charge for possessing edible marijuana products proposed in the bill could cause more people to try synthetic cannabinoids, he said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Increased compensation proposed for crime victims

Crime victims would receive more reparations under a bill heard by the Judiciary Committee March 4.

LB354, introduced by Omaha Sen. John McCollister, would amend the Nebraska Crime Victim’s Reparations Act by increasing the maximum compensation amount from \$10,000 to \$25,000, unless job retraining or similar employment-related rehabilitative services are necessary. The bill also would cap compensation for medical expenses at \$20,000, limit the amount for funeral expenses to \$10,000 and limit the amount for related costs to \$5,000.



Sen. John McCollister

The bill also would:

- permit only the names of victims and witnesses to be disclosed on any public court documents;
- add a third public member to the Nebraska Crime Victim’s Reparation Committee; and
- repeal the requirement that a victim’s compensation claim be notarized.

McCollister said the bill is designed to benefit victims of crime in the state and help protect their privacy.

Toni Jensen of the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime testified in support of the bill. Currently, crime victims seeking financial reparations in Nebraska face barriers such as rejected claims and delayed payment, she said. Citing the case of an assault victim who was denied medical expenses, Jensen said many victims feel abandoned by the state.

“She felt unsupported and condescended throughout a process that often loses sight of the person behind the claim,” Jensen said.

Rhonda Rolles, director of the Douglas County Victim Assistance Division, also spoke in favor of the bill. Many victims struggle financially, she said, and compensation for funeral expenses and lost wages helps keep families intact and debt-free.

“These victims are not profiting from being compensated,” Rolles said.

Shawn Renner, representing Media of Nebraska Inc., testified in opposition to the bill. He said the bill’s provision regarding name disclosure is unclear regarding what information would be public record.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.



Limited liability for agritourism proposed

Owners of agritourism businesses would see decreased legal liability under a bill heard by the Natural Resources Committee March 5.

Under LB329, introduced by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz, any owner who allows visitors on their land to partici-

pate in agritourism activities would not be liable for injury or death of a visitor resulting from inherent risk. Visitors must be warned of potential dangers by



Sen. Ken Schilz

a sign or in a contract by any owner that charges a fee for visitors to participate.

Schilz said that the threat of a potential lawsuit discourages many landowners from opening their properties to tourists.

“[This bill] encourages landowners to grant access to their farm and ranch land for recreation and tourism activities by reducing the risk of liability,” he said. “Encouraging agritourism is a great way for those landowners to add value to their land.”

The bill defines inherent risk as any condition, danger or hazard that is an integral part of land or water used for agritourism, including:

- surface and subsurface conditions and natural conditions of land, vegetation and waters;
- the behavior of wild or domestic animals;
- the ordinary dangers of structures or equipment used in farming or ranching operations; and
- the potential of a participant to act in a negligent way that may contribute to injury of the participant or others.

Liability would not be limited for any owner who knows of potential dangers or improperly trained staff members and takes no action to correct those issues. Owners also would be liable for any actions that constitute intentional or willful gross negligence.

Sarah Sortum, who co-owns Calamus Outfitters near Burwell, spoke in favor of the bill. She said that agritourism is the reason she and her brother returned to Nebraska to raise

their families.

"[Agritourism] is a wonderful tool that is underutilized right now and is a great way to encourage rural economic development. In a small community, one or two families makes a big difference," she said. "Our main problem has been liability and insurance; we're still spending nearly 10 percent of our revenue on insurance."

John Lindsay, representing the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys, opposed the bill, saying that liability provides accountability.

"Unless there's carelessness on the part of the person being sued, there isn't going to be liability. The good operators are not the problem," he said. "If this bill passes, the owners who aren't responsible have no incentive to be proactive and would be better off if they weren't."

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

REVENUE

Tax credit proposed for scholarship donations

Members of the Education Committee heard testimony March 4 on a bill that would encourage donations to a private school scholarship program.

LB26, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, would provide a nonrefundable income tax credit for contributions to a qualified scholarship-granting organization that provides scholarships to attend private schools. Krist said it is time to expand learning opportunities for Nebraska



Sen. Bob Krist

families.

"This would give more of Nebraska's low- and middle-income families the ability to choose the educational institution that is best for their children," he said. "And by doing so, [Nebraska] would join 43 other states and Washington, D.C. that offer the possibility of school choice for their children."

To qualify for a scholarship, a student must be a Nebraska resident and have a household gross income at least two times the income standard used to qualify for reduced-price meals.

The income tax credit would be 60 percent of the total contribution made by an individual, estate, trust or corporation. The credit could not exceed the taxpayer's income liability, however any amount over the limitation could be carried forward for up to five years.

The aggregate amount of tax credits could not exceed \$10 million in 2016. Starting in 2017, the limit would be the same as the previous year. However, if the aggregate amount of tax credits in the previous year is at least 90 percent of the limit, the limit in the current year would increase by 25 percent.

Scott Ernstmeyer, executive director of Lincoln Lutheran Schools, spoke in favor of the bill, saying that school funding is just as much of a challenge for private schools as it is for public schools.

"In the last few years we have seen a huge increase in costs, but the church has been unable to keep up," he said. "We have an opportunity to serve students in local communities, alleviate some of the strains on public schools and ease some of the financial burden that has been shifted to our parents."

Roger Breed, executive director of the Greater Nebraska Schools Association, opposed the bill. He said the

state's obligation is very clearly to the funding of public schools.

"For a variety of reasons, some families choose to send their children to schools other than public schools. Historically, even with all of these choices, 90 percent of school-aged children attend their public schools," Breed said. "[LB26] would in essence take funds that have been collected to fulfill a public obligation and be used, instead, to fund private entities."

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Fuel tax increase proposed

Members of the Revenue Committee heard testimony March 6 on a bill that would increase the fixed fuel tax.

Currently, the fixed fuel tax appropriated to the state Department of Roads is 7.5 cents on each gallon of gasoline. LB610, introduced by Papillion Sen. Jim Smith, would increase the tax by one-half cent annually for four years, starting in 2016. Smith said that the success of the state is dependent upon the nearly 100,000 miles of roads and 20,000 bridges in Nebraska.



Sen. Jim Smith

"Businesses and industries recognize that a well maintained road infrastructure is absolutely critical to our state," he said. "We're operating at a relatively low cost per mile, but our [road and bridge] conditions have suffered possibly as a result."

The proposed change to the fixed fuel tax would increase revenue to the department by \$2.1 million in fiscal year 2015-16, \$8.5 million in FY2016-17, \$14.8 million in FY2017-18 and \$21.2 million in FY2018-19.

The bill also would increase the fixed fuel tax distributed to cities and

counties from 2.8 to 3.8 cents per gallon for four years, starting in 2016.

Cities and counties would see increases of \$4.2 million in FY2015-16, \$16.9 million in FY2016-17, \$29.6 million in FY2017-18 and \$42.3 million in FY2018-19.

Lancaster County Engineer Pam Dingman spoke in favor of the bill. She said that funding has not kept up with the need for new and repaired roads and bridges.

“As our roads and bridges continue to deteriorate, so does the quality of life for [our citizens],” she said. “Our infrastructure must become a priority for our economy to prosper.”

Larry Hudkins, representing the Nebraska Farm Bureau, also supported the bill, saying that maintaining roads and bridges is essential to farmers and ranchers.

“The key to competing is to keep the shipping of the components low for our farmers and ranchers, who each year, face more global competition,” he said.

Americans for Prosperity Executive Director Matt Litt opposed the bill. He said the increase represents a regressive tax hike on low- and middle-income families.

“Our taxes are too high and the government must act to lower that burden,” he said. “This bill doesn’t fit with the priorities of our state government.”

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Driver’s licenses requested for young immigrants

Nebraska would join other states in allowing young immigrants to drive

under legislation heard by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee March 3.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, LB623 would allow Nebraska residents of driving age who are covered by the federal Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to secure a driver’s license or state identification card.



Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

Administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the DACA program is designed to protect from deportation individuals who were brought into the country illegally as children. Those who meet DACA guidelines are eligible for a work permit and may request deferred action for two years, subject to renewal. To qualify for the program residents must have:

- lived in the U.S. continuously since June 15, 2007;
- been no older than 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- entered the country prior to their 16th birthday;
- attended school, earned a diploma or general education certificate or been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces; and
- not been convicted of a felony or significant misdemeanors.

In August 2012, then Governor Dave Heineman directed the state Department of Motor Vehicles to deny driver’s licenses to DACA recipients on the grounds that state law forbids granting public benefits to illegal aliens. Lawsuits are pending against Heineman and the department to stop them from withholding the licenses.

Nordquist said Nebraska is the only

state in the country that prohibits young illegal immigrants, commonly referred to as “dreamers,” from having driver’s licenses. The Heineman administration acted erroneously, he said, because DACA recipients are given lawful status under federal law. Young immigrants need the ability to drive to pursue an education and careers, which, he said, ultimately would benefit the state socially and economically.

“Dreamers are not citizens yet, but lawfully present,” Nordquist said. “Why would we want to limit their ability to work and contribute to the economy?”

Jerry Kuenning of the Nebraska Cattlemen testified in support of the bill. He said the state’s 2,300 DACA recipients represent an important labor pool for Nebraska’s economy. The state’s agriculture-based businesses could not survive without those skilled workers, he said.

“This bill is an important step to promote the growth of this workforce in rural Nebraska,” he said.

Fatima Flores-Lagunas, a DACA recipient, also spoke in favor of the bill. Not being able to drive is an overwhelming barrier for immigrants who want to get degrees, jobs and give back to their communities, she said.

“I’m disappointed, saddened and hurt that the state I love has turned its back on me,” she said.

Maria Flores, another DACA recipient, agreed, saying that the state’s policy is preventing her from using the degree she earned in Nebraska to pursue a career as a social worker. Speaking in support of the bill, she said she is being forced to consider leaving her family and home to use her skills elsewhere.

“I have had many blessings here in Nebraska, but I wonder if it would be easier in another state,” Flores said.

Beverly Reicks, president of the National Safety Council Nebraska, spoke in favor of the bill. Besides serving as a critical piece of identification, a driver's license typically makes for a safer driver, she said. An unlicensed driver is 9.5 times more likely to leave the scene of an accident, she said, and in 2011, 11.5 percent of drivers involved in fatal accidents had no license.

"Denying driver's licenses to one segment of society makes everyone less safe," Reicks said.

Kristin Fearnow, an immigration attorney, also testified in support of the bill, saying that deferred action has benefited the country socially and economically. About 70 percent of DACA recipients reported getting their first job, 45 percent reported receiving higher wages, 50 percent opened their first bank account and 57 got their first driver's license, she said. A driver's license increases professional potential, she said, which increases spending power and grows the tax base.

"This bill will allow so many incredibly talented people to better contribute to the state," Fearnow said.

Susan Gumm of Nebraska Taxpayers For Freedom testified in opposition to the bill. People in the country illegally create unnecessary competition for jobs, benefits and classroom space in this country, she said.

"I am against granting privileges to those in the United States illegally at the expense of citizens who are in need of similar opportunities," she said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Ride-sharing regulations proposed

Ride-sharing companies such as Lyft and Uber would be regulated under a bill heard by the Transportation

and Telecommunications Committee March 2.

LB629, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, would designate a transportation network company (TNC) as a new class of transportation service provider. A TNC would fall under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission and be defined by the bill as a corporation, partnership or other entity that uses an online application or digital network to connect riders to drivers for transportation service.

The bill would establish regulations for a TNC regarding permits, insurance, driver background checks, vehicle inspections, fee collection and complaint investigation. Additionally, the bill would require a TNC to pay an annual fee of \$20,000 or up to \$80 per vehicle registered with the company.

Mello said ride sharing is a rapidly growing industry that cities and states find difficult to fit into existing regulatory frameworks. Unlike a traditional taxi service, he said, TNC drivers can serve only subscribers who request rides via online applications. Current statutes that were drafted decades before the invention of the smart phone need to be updated immediately, he said, because ride-sharing companies already are operating without regulation in Nebraska.

"Regardless of how they enter into business in the state," Mello said, "it is obvious they don't fit commercial carrier regulations."

Dave Barmore, public policy associate for Uber, testified in support of the bill, saying that Nebraska is one of 30 state governments with which Uber is discussing ride-sharing legislation. Despite being a new industry, he said, ride sharing is making an impact in cities



Sen. Heath Mello

such as Pittsburgh and Seattle, where arrest rates of intoxicated drivers have declined 10 percent. Although questions remain about insurance coverage for service providers, Barmore said, he is confident ride-sharing companies will be able to find a permanent home in Nebraska.

"We are not anti-regulation; we are for smart regulation that takes into account this is a new technology," Barmore said.

Scott Hatfield, owner of Duffy's Tavern in Lincoln, also spoke in favor of the bill, saying Lincoln businesses always have been concerned about providing safe and plentiful transportation options to and from downtown for customers. Despite the recent expansion of taxi service in Lincoln, he said, patrons still experience one- or two-hour waits for cabs. This results in some people deciding to drive themselves home while possibly intoxicated, he said.

"Happy Cab has done a nice job in Lincoln, but it's far from enough," Hatfield said.

Inge Roettcher, an Uber driver from Omaha, also spoke in support of the bill. She said her experience as both a taxi operator and ride-sharing provider has shown her that there is room in Nebraska for many styles of transportation businesses. The more businesses that compete for riders, she said, the better the service will be.

"Competition is good," Roettcher said. "It makes us step up our game, it makes us provide a more professional service to the public."

Kelly Campbell, representing the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, testified in opposition to the bill. She said LB629 does not define clearly when a driver is considered to be working for a TNC, which creates potential gaps in how drivers are insured. Commercial use of a vehicle, she said, is not typically

covered by drivers' personal auto insurance policies.

"This new business model blurs the [coverage] lines," Campbell said.

Kirby Young, co-owner of Servant Cab Company in Lincoln, also spoke in opposition to the bill. He said ride-sharing companies have been able to provide the same service as his company in Nebraska without being subject to the same regulations. Numerous rules, such as those regarding rates charged and drivers' hours are not being applied to TNCs, he said.

"We're just asking for a level playing field," Young said. "Any way [TNCs] would be authorized to do business, we would want to be authorized to do business."

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

URBAN AFFAIRS

Dissolved HOA bill advanced

Lawmakers gave second-round approval March 3 to a bill that would provide a mechanism for a dissolved Home Owners Association (HOA) to achieve reinstatement.

LB304, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, would adopt the Municipal Custodianship for Dissolved Homeowners Associations Act. The bill would allow a municipal-



Sen. Matt Hansen

ity to be appointed custodian over a dissolved HOA.

Hansen said the bill would allow a municipality to take over maintenance of any common areas that previously had been maintained by the HOA.

"These dissolved HOAs present problems to the municipalities," he said, adding that there are currently 26 dissolved HOAs in Lincoln.

An Urban Affairs Committee amendment, adopted 26-0, made technical changes to the bill. The amendment also established a \$100 fee for an HOA seeking reinstatement after being dissolved for more than five years and limited the bill's provisions to HOAs located within the city limits of a municipality.

The bill advanced to select file on a 27-0 vote. ■

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 homepage of the Nebraska Legislature website. At the top, the URL is nebraskalegislature.gov/index.php. The main header features the text "NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE" and "The official site of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature".

On the left side, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, Chamber Viewer, About the Legislature, Bills and Laws, Calendar, Committees, Contact, FAQs, Glossary of terms, Legislative Divisions, News, Reports, Senators, Session Information, Transcripts, For Agencies, and For Citizens.

The main content area displays:

- 104th Legislature, 1st Session - Day 3*** with a note: "* click the day above to see Agenda and other calendar activity"
- The Legislature is adjourned until Friday, January 9, 2015 at 10:00 am.**
- Recent Legislative Information**
 - 2015 Committee List - final Committee on Committee report
 - 2015 Senator List
 - Tentative 2015 Session Calendar
 - Introduced Legislation

On the right side, there are two search sections:

- Search Current Bills**: Includes a dropdown menu for "LB", a text input field, and a "Go" button. Below it is a link for "Search Past Legislation".
- Search Laws**: Includes a "Keywords" text input field, a "Go" button, and a link for "Browse Statutes by Chapter".

At the bottom right, there is a "Live Video Streaming" section with icons for YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

Monday, March 9

Appropriations

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 69: Neb. Arts Council
Agency 13: Dept. of Education
Agency 32: Board of Educational Lands and Funds

Agency 34: Neb. Library Commission
LB185 (Bolz) Appropriate funds to implement the Master Teacher Program Act

LB274 (Hansen) Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education for mentor teacher programs

Banking, Commerce & Insurance 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Hicks-Sorensen, Brenda L. - Dept. of Economic Development
LB341 (Howard) Provide requirements relating to health benefit plan coverage for insureds in jail custody
LB488 (Scheer) Adopt the Transportation Network Insurance Act

Business & Labor

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB429 (Smith) Provide for medical utilization and treatment guidelines under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB288 (Ebke) Prohibit public employers from making certain deductions from wages

LB554 (Business & Labor) Provide for payment of claims against the state
LB555 (B. Harr) Deny claims made against the state

LB480 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to computing compensation under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB443 (Bolz) Redefine support services for purposes of the Special Education Act

LB507 (Cook) Require certain examinations for special education teachers

LB508 (Cook) Provide minimum requirements for acceptance to teacher education programs

LB489 (Sullivan) Change provisions relating to grants for early childhood education as prescribed

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB609 (Smith) Adopt the Nebraska Bridge Repair Act
LB626 (Campbell) Create a fund and change motor vehicle fees and taxes and their distribution

Tuesday, March 10

Appropriations

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 5: Supreme Court
Agency 11: Attorney General
Agency 94: Commission on Public Advocacy

Agency 15: Neb. Board of Parole

Agency 46: Dept. of Correctional Services

LB229 (Watermeier) Appropriate funds to the Supreme Court for court appointed special advocate state aid
LB237 (Coash) Appropriate funds for correctional facilities
LB654 (Seiler) Appropriate funds to the Department of Correctional Services

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB193 (Nordquist) Prohibit the collection of interchange fees on specified taxes and provide penalties

LB348 (Krist) Change provisions relating to automatic teller machines and point-of-sale terminals

LB395 (Schilz) Adopt the Nebraska Enterprise Act and authorize grants for economic development

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB572 (Davis) Provide duties for the state school security director relating to cyberbullying and digital citizenship issues

LB29 (McCoy) Change provisions relating to school health inspections

LB511 (Cook) Provide for return-to-learn protocols for pediatric cancer survivors

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB535 (Smith) Provide the Public Service Commission with exclusive jurisdiction over depth requirements

for underground oil and natural gas pipelines

LB652 (Transportation & Telecommunications) Adopt the 911 Emergency Services Communications Act

Wednesday, March 11

Appropriations

Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 23: Dept. of Labor

Agency 54: Neb. State Historical Society

Agency 52: State Fair Board

Agency 91: Neb. Tourism Commission

Agency 72: Dept. of Economic Development

LB161 (Schumacher) Adopt the Pairing Equity to Enterprises Act and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund

LB263 (Johnson) Appropriate funds to the Nebraska State Historical Society

LB318 (Kuehn) State intent to fund planning and development regions

LB449 (Mello) Change provisions relating to funding for microloans

LB450 (Mello) Authorize grants to aid tourism, create a fund, and change funding provisions

LB569 (Brasch) Change the Business Innovation Act

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LR73 (Ebke) Urge each state to adopt or continue the proportional method for allocating presidential electors

LB576 (Murante) Change election and membership provisions for learning community coordinating councils

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB333 (Gloor) Adopt the Health Care Services Transformation Act

LB516 (Bolz) Create the Brain Injury Council and the Brain Injury Trust Fund and provide powers and duties

LB411 (Cook) Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

LB411 (Cook) Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

LB411 (Cook) Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

LB411 (Cook) Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

LB411 (Cook) Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB362 (Krist) Change eminent domain

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

provisions relating to school sites
LB473 (Chambers) Eliminate the power of eminent domain for major pipelines

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

A portion of the Public Hearing on LB512 will be conducted via video conference

- *Hearing Time: 1:30 p.m. Central Time*
- *Video Conference Site: ESU #13, 4215 Avenue I, Conference Room C, Scottsbluff, NE*

LB512 (Stinner) Provide powers and duties to the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission regarding certain wastewater and charge an assessment for certain costs
LB581 (Nordquist) Adopt the Nebraska Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Act

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB645 (Nordquist) Adopt the Early Childhood Workforce Development Opportunity Act and provide tax credits
LB573 (Davis) Adopt the Health Enterprise Zone Act and provide for tax credits
LB591 (Bolz) Create the achieve a better life experience program and provide for adjustments to taxable income

Thursday, March 12

Appropriations

Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

LB374 (K. Haar) Direct transfers from the State Recreation Road Fund
LB537 (Watermeier) Appropriate funds relating to natural resources
LB461 (Pansing Brooks) Change appropriations for the Nebraska Tree Recovery Program
Agency 31: Military Dept.
Agency 29: Dept. of Natural Resources
Agency 84: Dept. of Environmental Quality
Agency 33: Game and Parks Commission

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB281 (Kolowski) Adopt the Child

Support for College Savings Act
LB437 (Ebke) Change provisions relating to the Parenting Act
LB497 (Hadley) Change provisions relating to distribution of marital assets
LB625 (Krist) Adopt the Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement Act

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB634 (Garrett) Provide for issuance of permits under the Game Law to prisoners of war
LB636 (Garrett) Provide for a discounted permit under the Game Law for deployed military members and spouses on leave
LB637 (Garrett) Provide for resident permits under the Game Law for spouses of military personnel as prescribed

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB574 (Davis) Adopt the Intangible Personal Property Tax Act
LB466 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to deductions of municipal sales and use tax refunds
LB550 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to the Municipal Equalization Fund

Monday, March 16

Appropriations

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 25: Health & Human Services
Agency 25: Health & Human Services - Operations
Agency 25: Health & Human Services - Medicaid and Long Term Care
Agency 25: Health & Human Services - Public Health
Agency 25: Health & Human Services - Veterans Homes
LB125 (Nordquist) Create a fund relating to health care homes for the medically underserved
LB98 (Bolz) State intent regarding appropriations for tobacco use prevention control
LB233 (Howard) Appropriate funds to the Department of Health & Human Services
LB332 (Kuehn) Appropriate funds

for the statewide prescription drug disposal project
LB397 (B. Harr) State intent relating to funding for a lead-based paint hazard reduction grant
LB418 (Nordquist) Change distribution of cigarette tax proceeds

Business & Labor

Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Bley, Steven - Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board
Appointment: Kirkpatrick, Robert - Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board
Appointment: Phipps, Thomas E. - Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB526 (Sullivan) Define a term related to teachers' and administrators' certificates
LB527 (Sullivan) Change provisions relating to teachers' loan programs
LB525 (Sullivan) Change provisions relating to education

Tuesday, March 17

Appropriations

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 25: Health & Human Services
Agency 25: Health & Human Services - Developmental Disabilities
Agency 25: Health & Human Services - Children and Family Services
Agency 25: Health & Human Services - Behavioral Health
LB381 (Cook) State intent relating to appropriations for housing services
LB485 (Stinner) State intent relating to appropriations for child welfare
LB506 (Krist) Increase funding for community-based developmental disability providers

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Baack, Dennis - Neb. Educational Telecommunications Commission
Appointment: (Hadley), Marilyn - Neb. Educational Telecommunications Commission
Appointment: Starman, Darlene - Neb. Educational Telecommunications Commission

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

Wednesday, March 18

Appropriations

Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 40: Neb. Motor Vehicle Licensing Board
 Agency 17: Dept. of Aeronautics
 Agency 27: Dept. of Roads
 LB633 (Stinner) Appropriate funds for state aid to municipalities and counties

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB631 (Scheer) Change medicaid provisions relating to acceptance of and assent to federal law
 LB518 (Riepe) Provide for changes to the medical assistance program
 LB548 (Campbell) Adopt the Surgical Assistant Practice Act

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB422 (Howard) Provide for reasonable fees and costs for proceedings involving a minor under the Probate Code
 LB114 (McCoy) Redefine ambulatory surgical center and health clinic under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act
 LB187 (Kintner) Require the Department of Health & Human Services and health care facilities to provide information regarding abortion
 LB358 (Garrett) Change paternity

provisions for a child conceived as a result of sexual assault
 LB463 (B. Harr) Adopt the Technology Information Management Act

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Allen, Robert - Neb.
 Game and Parks Commission

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB587 (McCollister) Change the motor vehicle tax schedules
 LB613 (Kintner) Provide duties for the Department of Revenue and change income tax rates and the distribution of sales and use tax revenue

Thursday, March 19

Appropriations

Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 7: Governor
 Agency 8: Lieutenant Governor
 Agency 9: Secretary of State
 Agency 10: Auditor of Public Accounts
 Agency 12: State Treasurer
 Agency 14: Public Service Commission
 Agency 3: Legislative Council

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB136 (Johnson) Prohibit flying lanterns
 LB289 (Ebke) Prohibit certain regulation

of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories by cities and villages as prescribed
 LB30 (McCoy) Prohibit disclosure of any applicant or permit holder information regarding firearms registration, possession, sale, or use as prescribed
 LB14 (Krist) Create the offense of use of a facsimile firearm or nonfunctioning firearm to commit a felony
 LB603 (Bloomfield) Provide for processing and certification of federal firearms forms as prescribed

Friday, March 20

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB225 (Schnoor) Change provisions relating to unlawful possession of a firearm at a school
 LB340 (Brasch) Provide signage requirements and duties for the Nebraska State Patrol under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act
 LB635 (Garrett) Change where a permit holder may carry a concealed handgun under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act
 LB638 (Garrett) Change permit expiration provisions for members of the armed forces or their spouses under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act ■

U.S. CONGRESS CONTACT INFORMATION

Senator Deb Fischer
 United States Senate
 383 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 Tel. (202) 224-6551

Senator Ben Sasse
 United States Senate
 B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington D.C. 20510
 Tel. (202) 224-4224

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry
 (District 1)
 1514 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 Tel. (202) 225-4806

Congressman Brad Ashford
 (District 2)
 107 Cannon House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 Tel. (202) 225-4155

Congressman Adrian Smith
 (District 3)
 2241 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 Tel. (202) 225-6435

2015 Legislative Session*

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
	DAY 36	DAY 37	DAY 38	DAY 39	DAY 40	
	DAY 41	DAY 42	DAY 43	DAY 44	RECESS	
	DAY 45	DAY 46	DAY 47	DAY 48	DAY 49	
	DAY 50	DAY 51	DAY 52	DAY 53	RECESS	
	DAY 54	DAY 55				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
			DAY 56	DAY 57	RECESS	
	RECESS	DAY 58	DAY 59	DAY 60	DAY 61	
	DAY 62	DAY 63	DAY 64	DAY 65	RECESS	
	DAY 66	DAY 67	DAY 68	DAY 69	HOLIDAY	
	RECESS	DAY 70	DAY 71	DAY 72		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
	DAY 73					
	DAY 74	DAY 75	DAY 76	DAY 77	RECESS	
	RECESS	DAY 78	DAY 79	DAY 80	DAY 81	
	DAY 82	DAY 83	DAY 84	DAY 85	RECESS	
	HOLIDAY	DAY 86	DAY 87	DAY 88	DAY 89	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	DAY 90	

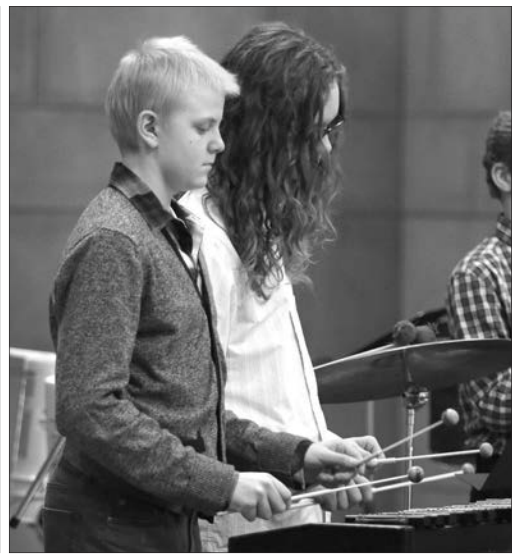
Federal & State Holidays

January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day April 24 – Arbor Day
 February 16 – Presidents' Day May 25 – Memorial Day

Legislative Recess Days

February 13 April 3, 6, 17, 27
 March 13, 27 May 8, 11, 22
 June 1, 2, 3, 4

*The Speaker reserves the right to revise the session calendar



March 2-6 was Music Education Week at the Capitol. Each day during the noon hour, students from across the state gave musical performances in the Rotunda.

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



March 2-6 was Music Education Week at the Capitol. Each day during the noon hour, students from across the state gave musical performances in the Rotunda.