

## Governor prioritizes tax relief

Saying tax relief for Nebraskans is his top priority, Gov. Pete Ricketts delivered his annual State of the State address to lawmakers Jan. 14.

Ricketts focused on the strain that rising property tax valuations place on the state's agricultural sector. He offered an example of a Nebraskan whose property tax bill increased by nearly 10 percent in one year.

"While farm incomes are subject to variation and fluctuations each year, property taxes go up and up."

The governor encouraged lawmakers to pass a proposal this session that would make structural changes to the state's property tax system. Such changes would help to improve the state's "sluggish" economic growth rate, he said.

Ricketts said his proposal would tighten current spending limits on local governments, control growth



Gov. Pete Ricketts shared his priorities with lawmakers during his State of the State address.

within the school funding formula and limit the statewide aggregate increase in agricultural land valuations to 3 percent per year.

"I look forward to working with

you to bring about tax relief to our property owners," he said. "It is my number one priority this session."

The governor also highlighted the importance of infrastructure to

(continued page 2)

## Arena financing bill amended, advanced

Senators debated a general file carry-over bill Jan. 11 that would change the way turnback taxes are distributed to cities that build qualifying sports arena facilities.

Sen. Merv Riepe of Ralston introduced LB285 last session and made it his priority bill. Originally, the bill would have extended the period during which new state sales taxes from nearby retailers are turned back to political subdivisions to pay for sports arena facilities.

Under current state law, 70 percent of state sales taxes generated by new and existing retailers near an arena are turned back to the city to help pay for the new facility. Thirty percent is directed to the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund



Sen. Merv Riepe

(CCCFF), which provides development grants to smaller communities across the state.

Under an amendment proposed by the Revenue Committee last session, any funds in excess of \$1 million at the end of the year would be distributed proportionally to the cities that generated the turnback revenue to help pay for convention centers and sports arenas.

Senators voted 35-2 to adopt the amendment.

Sen. Paul Schumacher of Columbus called the proposal a "bailout" for Ralston, which he said was too optimistic when planning and financing its new arena. He said that the bill would set a precedent of the Legislature bailing out a city when it makes poor financial decisions.

"It's going to encourage the notion of risk being taken on by communities that may not do their due diligence," he said.

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# Governor prioritizes tax relief Arena financing proposal advanced

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Nebraska's economic development.

Every industry in the state depends on 21st century roads and bridges, he said, which could be achieved through passage of an initiative to provide a one-time infusion of \$150 million to accelerate completion of the state's expressway system and improve county bridges.

"Let's help our local leaders keep and attract business," he said. "Let's pass the transportation and infrastructure bank [proposal]."

Ricketts also acknowledged the 11 state senators who are beginning their last session due to term limits and praised the Legislature's past work on sentencing and corrections reform.

"It's an honor to be a part of the work that we do here in our State Capitol," he said. "Thank you for your dedication, for the long hours you put in and the service you provide to the citizens of our state."

Ricketts' remarks also praised the spirit of volunteerism in Nebraska and the work that agencies have done to



Gov. Pete Ricketts and First Lady Susanne Shore greet senators before the Governor's State of the State address Jan. 14.

improve service provision across the state. He cited improvements in wait times for the AccessNebraska system and the success of a new reemployment program at the state Department of Labor.

"We are embracing new ideas to make government work and to make the business of life happen for our citizens," he said. ■

(continued from front page)

Riepe said the CCCFF distributed about \$2 million for projects in 2015 but that Ralston likely would see no additional revenue in the near future if the measure passed.

"[The amended bill] is not a bailout," he said. "It is an incentive for the Department of Economic Development to grant out funds. There are a number of cities around the state who have benefited from this legislation."

Schumacher introduced an amendment that also would make some county agricultural societies and county fair boards eligible to receive CCCFF funds. The amendment failed on a 10-27 vote.

The bill advanced to select file on a 34-3 vote. ■



## UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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## GENERAL AFFAIRS

### Special poker license bill stalls

After six hours of discussion, an attempt to force a vote on a bill on that would grant the state taxing and regulatory authority over community card games failed during general file debate Jan. 14.

LB619, as introduced last session by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson, would authorize the state Liquor Control Commission to oversee licensing for two types of poker games—draw and community card games. The bill defines community card games as those, such as Texas Hold'em, in which a player combines the cards he or she is holding with community cards that all players share.



Sen. Tyson Larson

Larson acknowledged that a recent state attorney general's opinion concluded that draw poker is a game of chance. In response, he offered an amendment to a pending General Affairs Committee amendment to limit the bill's provisions only to community card games such as Texas Hold'em.

Larson said such games are games of skill—rather than games of chance—and therefore would not violate the Nebraska Constitution, which prohibits the Legislature from authorizing additional games of chance.

Players do not have control over the cards they are dealt, Larson said, but skill is required to succeed at poker. Larson said courts in several states that have examined the issue have agreed with this interpretation, and he predicted that Nebraska courts

would as well.

"We have to remember that we're looking at the predominance of skill," Larson said. "The Nebraska Supreme Court has said that any game that has a predominance of skill is constitutional."

Under the bill, current liquor licensees and nonprofits that otherwise would qualify for a special designated liquor license (SDL) could apply for a poker endorsement or for a special designated poker license (SPL) for events on or off the licensee's premises.

An SPL would require approval of the local governing body, which could establish criteria for approval of an application. The fee for an SPL would be \$40 for each day of the event.

In addition, a licensee would remit 10 percent of the gross proceeds of a poker tournament and 5 percent of the final amount in each pot of a cash game to the LCC. Fifty percent of proceeds would be directed to the state's Property Tax Credit Cash Fund.

Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz supported the bill and the amendments, saying legalization of community card games could provide property tax relief and bring economic development to rural areas of the state.

"In my community, if you would open up a poker hall—as Sen. Larson says—the tourist traffic would be huge," Schilz said.

Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman opposed LB619, citing concerns regarding the bill's constitutionality. In addition, he said, Nebraskans already have access to keno, Powerball and bingo, among other forms of legal gaming.

"I just don't think we need to expand gambling," Kolterman said. "We have enough opportunity to gamble in this state."

The amendment failed on a 14-16 vote during debate Jan. 13. Larson of-

fered a motion to reconsider that vote, which failed 19-22 on Jan. 14.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers offered an amendment to the committee amendment, which would strike a section of the bill stating that the Legislature deems poker to be a game of skill. He said that the assertion was not supported by data or research.

The amendment failed on a 12-0 vote.

Larson then filed a series of procedural motions to end debate on the bill until later this session, finally offering a motion to invoke cloture—or cease debate and force a vote on the bill and any pending amendments.

The motion failed on a vote of 16-29.

A failed cloture motion prevents further debate on a bill for the day. LB619 is unlikely to be scheduled for further debate his session.

## JUDICIARY

### Senators debate inmate medical co-pays

Lawmakers considered a bill Jan. 14 and 15 that would establish a co-payment system for inmates requesting non-emergency medical visits. The bill remains on general file.

LB113, introduced by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson, would allow a county jail or the state Department of Correctional Services to charge at least \$10 for every self-initiated, non-emergency visit to a health care provider.

Larson said that 40 states and the federal government already have implemented inmate co-payment systems.

"In a world of rising health care costs, [LB113] can give at least some assistance to state and counties that

are providing expensive medical care to inmates,” he said. “It ensures that [inmates] receive medical care and are not unduly punished in situations where medical care is necessary.”

Treatment for a chronic illness, emergency care of any kind and staff initiated care all would be exempt from the co-payment.

The co-payment would be deducted from the inmate’s account. If the account balance were insufficient to cover the co-payment at the time of the visit, 50 percent of each deposit into the account would be garnished until the co-payment were paid in full.

A pending Judiciary Committee amendment would limit the co-payment amount to no more than \$10. It also would exempt from the co-payment any medical, surgical or hospital services covered under the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Act.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers opposed the bill and filed a motion to recommit the bill to committee.

“I will fight any bill that makes money on the sickness of people in [the counties’] care.”

Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook supported the motion, saying that a \$10 co-payment represents a significant amount of money for many people.

“The prison population, while they have been convicted of charges through jury or judgments, disproportionately represent the poor in the United States,” she said. “When we talk about getting \$10 [from an inmate’s account], it’s not because the person is earning \$10 an hour within that facility. It’s also unlikely that they have family members and friends who have extra money to put into that [account].”

Sen. Matt Williams of Gothenburg said the bill would ease the current demand on correctional resources.

“In the last six months, Dawson

County has spent nearly \$20,000 paying directly for [inmate health care] services. A significant number of these trips to medical facilities are not warranted by a real health issue,” Williams said. “[LB113] is an attempt to curb those unneeded trips, not an attempt to stop people from going to the doctor if it’s necessary.”

Omaha Sen. John McCollister supported the motion to recommit the bill to the Judiciary Committee.

“Conceptually, I support LB113. It would be a good way to control some of our health care expenses [as a state],” he said. “However it may not be worth the time and money some counties would have to devote to [its implementation].”

The motion to recommit LB113 to committee failed on a 16-23 vote.

Chambers filed several motions to delay a vote on the bill. The Legislature adjourned for the week before voting on them.

## TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### Organ donor status requirement advanced

Lawmakers advanced a bill Jan. 12 that would require Nebraskans to indicate their organ donor status when applying for a driver license.

Introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier, LB47 would require a person to indicate whether or not they wish to be an organ donor when applying for a state driver license or identification card.

Watermeier said 90 percent of

Nebraska’s more than 750,000 organ and tissue donors were registered through the current driver license and state identification card application process. Requiring an answer to the organ donation question likely could increase the number of donors by as much as 8 percent, he said.

“Just 50 percent of Nebraska’s drivers are registered as donors, yet in nearby states where it is mandatory [there are] much higher participation rates,” he said. “We’ve made great strides in registering Nebraskans as donors, however, at any given time there are up to 500 people waiting for an organ or tissue donation.”

A Transportation and Telecommunications Committee amendment, adopted 37-2, would exempt license and permit applicants younger than 16 from answering the organ donor question. The amendment would clarify that donors who want to specify which organs and tissues they intend to donate must contact the state’s donor registry.

Watermeier introduced an amendment to the committee amendment, adopted 30-2, which would add a third “elect to not answer” option for applicants. It also would ensure that no applicant is denied a driver license if they choose to not answer the question.

Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch supported the measure, saying it has the ability to save many lives.

“I understand the concerns with this bill, but I also understand what it can do,” she said. “At the end of someone’s life [it could allow] their family to save the life of another.”

Sen. Dave Bloomfield of Hoskins opposed the measure. He said forcing people to answer the question is not worth a potential minimal gain in tissue and organ donors.

“The idea that we might force a Nebraskan, particularly under the



Sen. Dan Watermeier

age of 21, to make that decision while standing in line to get a driver's license just doesn't make sense," he said.

Bloomfield introduced an amendment that would have raised to 21 the age at which an applicant would be required to respond to the organ donation question. The amendment failed on an 18-19 vote.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers filed a motion to bracket the bill until April 20.

He said that the state has no compelling interest in encouraging tissue or organ donations for the benefit of private organizations.

"We're not talking about organ donation or saving lives. We are talking about state processes or procedures," Chambers said. "Everybody of a certain age has a right to apply for a driver's license. That should not be mixed up with what [LB47] is trying to do."

Sen. Dan Hughes of Venango opposed the bracket motion. He said concerns about requiring minors to answer the question about organ donation status were unfounded.

"If they're old enough to drive a car—to drive 75 miles per hour down the interstate—they're certainly old

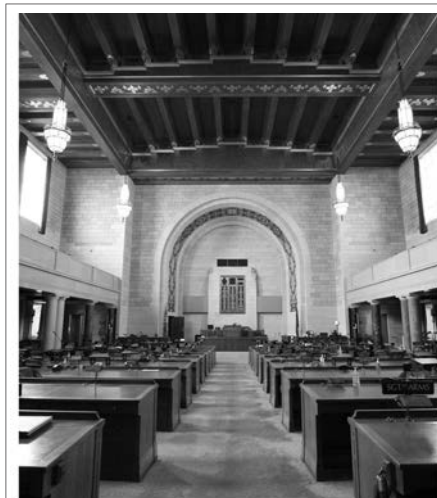
enough to make this determination," Hughes said. "We have an opportunity to have people think about the good that they could do, should they ever be in that situation."

The bracket motion failed on a 6-35 vote.

After six hours of debate, Watermeier filed a motion to invoke cloture—or cease debate and force a vote on the bill—which senators approved on a 37-7 vote. A successful cloture motion requires at least 33 votes in support.

Senators advanced the bill to select file on a 32-8 vote. ■

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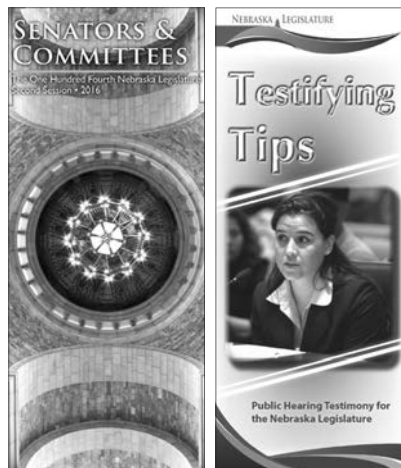


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# NEW BILLS

**Bill      Introducer      One-line description**

**January 11, 2016**

|         |                   |  |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| LB853   | Stinner           | Change provisions relating to the Public Accountancy Act   |
| LB854   | Coash             | Adopt the Self-Service Storage Facilities Act and provide for a lien on certain property   |
| LB855   | Ebke              | Require rounding a certain dollar amount in the Employment Security Law to the nearest whole dollar amount   |
| LB856   | B. Harr           | Change the Insured Homeowners Protection Act   |
| LB857   | Hadley            | Change population threshold for a city of the first class to employ a full-time fire chief   |
| LB858   | Hadley            | Create the University of Nebraska Facilities Program of 2016   |
| LB859   | Campbell          | Change cease and desist orders under the Uniform Credentialing Act   |
| LB860   | Hughes            | Add a type of economic development program under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act   |
| LB861   | Schumacher        | Provide for court review of inmate restrictive housing placement as prescribed   |
| LB862   | Larson            | Permit conducting or participating in a fantasy contest as prescribed  |
| LB863   | Schilz            | Adopt the Wind Energy Expansion Act  |
| LB864   | Crawford          | Change provisions relating to a municipality requesting additional extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction  |
| LB865   | Crawford          | Change provisions relating to handicapped parking  |
| LB866   | Bolz              | Adopt the Transition to Adult Living Success Program Act   |
| LB867   | Performance Audit | Change provisions relating to the Administrative Procedure Act and require the Department of Correctional Services to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations         |
| LB868   | Krist             | Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation  |
| LB869   | Crawford          | Require that certain providers under the Medical Assistance Act be subject to a national criminal history record information check                                       |
| LB870   | B. Harr           | Provide an income tax credit to graduates of certain educational institutions  |
| LB871   | Murante           | Provide for a presidential preference primary election   |
| LB872   | Murante           | Change a provision relating to the use of blue and amber rotating or flashing lights   |
| LB873   | Murante           | Authorize escheatment to the state of unclaimed United States Savings Bonds as prescribed  |
| LB874   | Murante           | Change procedures for filling vacancies on school boards   |
| LB875   | Murante           | Change conditions for approval of a planned unit development for certain second-class cities and villages  |
| LB876   | Murante           | Authorize electronic voting devices for public bodies in public meetings   |
| LB877   | Murante           | Change a provision relating to review of proposed subdivision plats by certain county planning commissions   |
| LB878   | Murante           | Provide and change rulemaking duties relating to veterans homes and the Veterans' Homes Board  |
| LB879   | Murante           | Change signature requirements for partisan candidates  |
| LB880   | McCollister       | Change provisions relating to Military Honor Plates  |
| LB881   | Schilz            | Change provisions relating to energy financing contracts   |
| LB882   | Scheer            | Change provisions relating to school budgeting   |
| LB883   | Scheer            | Provide for foundation aid pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act  |
| LB884   | Scheer            | Change the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act and the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act  |
| LB885   | Davis             | Provide student journalists the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press   |
| LB886   | Davis             | Adopt the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act and provide income tax credits  |
| LB887   | Schilz            | Extend sunset of the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund   |
| LB888   | Mello             | Change provisions relating to tax credits under the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act  |
| LB889   | Mello             | Adopt the School Readiness Tax Credit Act  |
| LB890   | Brasch            | Change provisions relating to actions involving motor vehicle collisions with domestic animals   |
| LB891   | Brasch            | Adopt the Down Syndrome Diagnosis Information and Support Act  |
| LB892   | Kintner           | Change provisions relating to intimidation by telephone call   |
| LB893   | Pansing Brooks    | Modify jurisdiction of juvenile courts and change provisions relating to temporary custody and disposition of juveniles  |
| LB894   | Pansing Brooks    | Change provisions relating to appointment of counsel in juvenile cases   |
| LB895   | Coash             | Require a report regarding the Beatrice State Developmental Center and the Bridges program   |
| LB896   | Hansen            | Require pay increases for state employees to recognize length of service   |
| LB897   | Lindstrom         | Allow certain public power agencies to engage in hedging transactions  |
| LB898   | Fox               | Exempt persons solely engaged in natural hair braiding from credentialing requirements under the Uniform Credentialing Act   |
| LB899   | Baker             | Change lead content provisions relating to the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act  |
| LB900   | Bloomfield        | Change motorcycle and moped helmet provisions, motorcycle registration fees, rename the Health Advisory Board, and create the brain injury services program and a fund   |
| LB901   | Kolterman         | Change dental assistant and licensed dental hygienist provisions   |
| LB902   | Kolowski          | Change the Nebraska Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Act   |
| LR394CA | Hughes            | Constitutional amendment to authorize taxing bodies to exclude their taxes from pledges made by cities to pay indebtedness on redevelopment projects                     |
| LR395   | Hilkemann         | Congratulate the Millard North High School football team on winning the 2015 Class A state championship  |
| LR396   | Hilkemann         | Congratulate the Elkhorn South High School football team on winning the 2015 Class B state championship  |
| LR397   | Gloor             | Interim study to monitor the health care transformation in Nebraska  |
| LR398CA | Bloomfield        | Constitutional amendment to provide for election of judges and eliminate the merit plan for selection of judges  |
| LR399CA | Davis             | Constitutional amendment to require cities and villages to obtain voter approval before pledging taxes for the payment of indebtedness related to redevelopment projects |

# NEW BILLS

**Bill      Introducer      One-line description**

**January 12, 2016**

|       |                |  |
|-------|----------------|--|
| LB903 | Baker          | Change and eliminate provisions relating to learning communities   |
| LB904 | Baker          | Provide for school districts to opt out of a learning community  |
| LB905 | Ebke           | Adopt the Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys Establishment Act of 2016   |
| LB906 | Lindstrom      | Adopt the Law Enforcement Education Act authorizing tuition waivers  |
| LB907 | B. Harr        | Change provisions relating to the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act  |
| LB908 | Kolterman      | Provide for temporary licenses for veterinary technicians  |
| LB909 | Kolterman      | Change powers, duties, and fee and penalty provisions relating to the Department of Agriculture  |
| LB910 | Bolz           | Change provisions relating to parole administration  |
| LB911 | Bolz           | State intent relating to fund transfers for behavioral health systems of care  |
| LB912 | Smith          | Change requirements for presentation of identification for purposes of voting  |
| LB913 | Smith          | Adopt the Facilitating Business Rapid Response to State Declared Disasters Act   |
| LB914 | Schilz         | Change compensation for certain members of the Nebraska Power Review Board as prescribed   |
| LB915 | McCollister    | Create a veterans' treatment court pilot project   |
| LB916 | Howard         | Provide immunity from criminal or civil liability for removal of an animal from a motor vehicle by forcible entry as prescribed                |
| LB917 | Krist          | Change provisions relating to access to records for and investigations by the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare                      |
| LB918 | Murante        | Provide for the redistribution of motor vehicle taxes as prescribed  |
| LB919 | Williams       | Change provisions relating to problem solving court programs   |
| LB920 | Pansing Brooks | Add members to the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council  |
| LB921 | Riepe          | Eliminate provisions relating to organic food  |
| LB922 | Kolterman      | Change terms of Public Employees Retirement Board members as prescribed  |
| LB923 | Stinner        | Appropriate funds for federally qualified health centers   |
| LB924 | Kolterman      | Provide an additional withholding procedure for certain payments under the Income Withholding for Child Support Act                            |
| LB925 | B. Harr        | Change provisions relating to issuing a treasurer's tax deed and bringing a tax lien foreclosure action as prescribed                          |
| LB926 | B. Harr        | Adopt the Nebraska Rural Jobs Act and provide tax credits  |
| LB927 | Hilkemann      | Change provisions relating to surcharges for 911 service   |
| LB928 | Mello          | Change provisions relating to discriminatory wage practices based on sex   |
| LB929 | Brasch         | Update certain references to federal regulations regarding motor vehicles and motor carriers   |
| LB930 | Scheer         | Change provisions relating to statewide assessments and college admission testing as prescribed  |
| LB931 | Bolz           | Provide for financial incentives for certain assisted-living facilities and change distribution of the Behavioral Health Services Fund         |
| LB932 | Crawford       | Redefine not-for-profit organization for purposes of liability provisions  |
| LB933 | Coash          | Adopt the Payroll Processor Regulation Act   |
| LB934 | Coash          | Change provisions relating to the Office of the Public Guardian  |
| LB935 | Schilz         | Change provisions relating to the Auditor of Public Accounts   |
| LR400 | Fox            | Recognize Beauchamp Alejandro and all other contributors to the "You Look Good, You Feel Good" event in Omaha                                  |
| LR401 | Fox            | Congratulate the Omaha South High School Magnet School dance team on performing at the 2016 Sugar Bowl and winning the Sugar Bowl Spirit Award |
| LR402 | Johnson        | Congratulate the David City Aquinas Catholic High School football team on winning the 2015 Class C-2 state championship                        |
| LR403 | Hansen         | Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint the Election Technology Committee as a special committee of the Legislature     |

**January 13, 2016**

|       |         |  |
|-------|---------|--|
| LB936 | Ebke    | Change inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts   |
| LB937 | Ebke    | Eliminate a prohibition on marriage of persons with venereal disease   |
| LB938 | Smith   | Adopt the 911 Service System Act and transfer funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund to the 911 Service System Fund               |
| LB939 | Mello   | Adopt the Nebraska Early Childhood Advantage Act   |
| LB940 | Johnson | Adopt the Tax Stabilization Act  |
| LB941 | Gloor   | Update references to the Internal Revenue Code   |
| LB942 | Scheer  | Provide a disclosure requirement to the Department of Banking and Finance for seller-assisted marketing plan contracts as prescribed |
| LB943 | Hansen  | Update references with respect to husband and wife   |
| LB944 | Hansen  | Change terminology relating to parentage and marital relationships   |
| LB945 | Hansen  | Adopt the Nebraska Healthy Food Financing Initiative Act   |

# NEW BILLS

| Bill  | Introducer | One-line description  |
|-------|------------|---|
| LB946 | Smith      | Change powers and duties of the chairperson of the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board                  |
| LB947 | Mello      | State intent relating to professional or commercial licenses for certain aliens                                     |
| LB948 | Morfeld    | Change an application period limitation for the designation of enterprise zones as prescribed                       |
| LB949 | B. Harr    | Change the commission allowed to cigarette stamping agents  |
| LB950 | B. Harr    | Allow a bad debt deduction relating to cigarette and tobacco product taxes  |
| LB951 | B. Harr    | Adopt the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act   |
| LB952 | Watermeier | Require availability of emergency medical services and change membership of the Board of Emergency Medical Services |
| LB953 | Kolterman  | Provide protection for qualified adults from financial exploitation   |
| LR404 | Kintner    | Congratulate Todd Nott on winning the Hitchcock Hundred ultramarathon   |

## January 14, 2016

|       |                  |   |
|-------|------------------|---|
| LB954 | Krist            | Change provisions relating to access to records for and investigations by the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare                           |
| LB955 | Scheer           | Except the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State College System from participation in certain state contracts regarding electronic payments |
| LB956 | Hadley           | Provide for deficit appropriations  |
| LB957 | Hadley           | Authorize additional uses for certain funds and provide for certain transfers   |
| LB958 | Gloor            | Change provisions relating to budgets, the valuation of agricultural land, and levy limitations   |
| LB959 | Sullivan         | Change and eliminate provisions relating to school funding, budgets, and levy authority   |
| LB960 | Smith            | Adopt the Transportation Innovation Act and provide transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund  |
| LB961 | Chambers         | Eliminate provisions relating to hunting mountain lions   |
| LB962 | Fox              | Change requirements for the practice of acupuncture   |
| LB963 | Fox              | Change provisions relating to area plans and budgets under the Nebraska Community Aging Services Act  |
| LB964 | Hilkemann        | Change a veteran notation requirement on a motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card  |
| LB965 | Cook             | Provide for expungement of records for persons charged with or found guilty of a crime because of stolen identity or mistaken identity              |
| LB966 | Kintner          | Adopt the Refugee Resettlement Agency Indemnification Act   |
| LB967 | Kintner          | Change learning community provisions relating to enrollment and levies  |
| LB968 | Johnson          | Change provisions relating to an agriculture promotion and development program  |
| LB969 | Larson           | Provide and change duties for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of public libraries or reading rooms by cities or villages              |
| LB970 | Larson           | Change provisions relating to pickle cards and keno and authorize methods of payment for gambling   |
| LB971 | Gloor            | Change provisions relating to restoration of seized firearms  |
| LB972 | B. Harr          | Change a provision under the Employment Security Law relating to an exclusion from the definition of employment                                     |
| LB973 | Smith            | Change penalty, permit, and notice provisions relating to electric utility lines, poles, and structures   |
| LB974 | Kolowski         | Exempt sales of clothing, school supplies, computers, and computer-related accessories from sales and use taxes                                     |
| LB975 | Kolterman        | Adopt the Child Welfare Services Preservation Act   |
| LB976 | Seiler           | Change provisions relating to jury sequestration  |
| LB977 | Smith            | Change provisions relating to implements of husbandry on highways   |
| LB978 | Craighead        | Change provisions relating to the state purchasing card program and facilities construction and administration and eliminate obsolete provisions    |
| LB979 | Kuehn            | Provide for selection of interchangeable biological products by pharmacists   |
| LB980 | Morfeld          | Change penalty provisions for certain violations relating to or committed by persons experiencing or witnessing a drug overdose                     |
| LB981 | Business & Labor | Provide for payment of claims against the state   |
| LB982 | Business & Labor | Deny payment of claims against the state  |
| LB983 | B. Harr          | Change the definition of disability under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act   |
| LB984 | Schumacher       | Change provisions relating to mandatory minimum sentencing and sentencing of habitual criminals   |
| LB985 | Schumacher       | Provide reporting duties for regional behavioral health authorities   |
| LB986 | Retirement       | Change duties of the Public Employees Retirement Board relating to an annual valuation report and experience study                                  |
| LB987 | Morfeld          | Create the Bioscience Steering Committee  |
| LB988 | Cook             | Change distribution provisions for the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund   |
| LB989 | Murante          | Change provisions relating to motor vehicles  |
| LR405 | Murante          | Congratulate the Gretna High School play production team for winning the 2015 Class A Production state championship                                 |
| LR406 | Gloor            | Interim study to examine issues surrounding the blending of various fuels in Nebraska and the impact of right to blend laws in other states         |
| LR407 | Craighead        | Congratulate Alyssa Howell on being crowned Miss Nebraska 2015  |
| LR408 | Craighead        | Congratulate John "Jack" Koraleski on being named the 119th King of Aksarben  |
| LR409 | Craighead        | Congratulate Molly Kroeger on being named the 119th Queen of Aksarben   |
| LR410 | Craighead        | Congratulate Bruce Lauritzen on being named the 2015 Midlander of the Year by the Omaha World-Herald  |
| LR411 | Coash            | Congratulate Tim Aylward on his retirement from coaching and recognize his successful career  |



# NEW BILLS

**Bill      Introducer      One-line description**

**January 15, 2016**

|        |             |  |
|--------|-------------|--|
| LB990  | Davis       | Adopt the Fetal Dignity Protection Act   |
| LB991  | McCollister | Redefine crime victim  |
| LB992  | Ebke        | Provide a restriction on installment contracts for the purchase of real or personal property by political subdivisions   |
| LB993  | Coash       | Change provisions related to the Auditor of Public Accounts and require hours of work be recorded on a timesheet   |
| LB994  | Davis       | Change provisions under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act relating to financial responsibility as applied to nonresident owners   |
| LB995  | Davis       | Repeal provisions relating to the special valuation of agricultural land and provide for the agricultural value of agricultural land   |
| LB996  | Friesen     | Change provisions relating to the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act  |
| LB997  | Krist       | Change provisions regarding the Nebraska Capitol Commission and office space within the State Capitol  |
| LB998  | Schumacher  | Provide for emergency community crisis centers and change provisions relating to emergency protective custody  |
| LB999  | Garrett     | Change the disposition of proceeds from the sale of surplus personal property  |
| LB1000 | Mello       | Require certain law enforcement agencies to adopt policies on the use of body-worn cameras, provide that recordings from such cameras are not public records, and prohibit certain conduct involving such recordings |
| LB1001 | Ebke        | Change provisions relating to a compensation schedule for injuries resulting in disability   |
| LB1002 | Baker       | Permit educational service unit boards to pay membership dues to associations of school boards   |
| LB1003 | Smith       | Change the prepaid wireless surcharge determination under the Prepaid Wireless Surcharge Act   |
| LB1004 | Cook        | Change provisions relating to the Community Eligibility Provision and provide duties for the State Department of Education   |
| LB1005 | Harr        | Provide for an evidence-based drug formulary under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act  |
| LB1006 | Coash       | Appropriate funds for hiring forensic accountants by the Office of the Attorney General  |
| LB1007 | Coash       | Change and provide provisions relating to protection of vulnerable adults and senior adults  |
| LB1008 | Coash       | Provide qualification requirements for guardians ad litem in guardianship, conservatorship, and other protective proceedings   |
| LB1009 | Williams    | Prohibit the sale and use of certain synthetic drugs under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act   |
| LB1010 | Williams    | Change provisions relating to juvenile court petitions   |
| LB1011 | Campbell    | Change provisions relating to at-risk managed care contracts as prescribed   |
| LB1012 | Mello       | Adopt the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act   |
| LB1013 | Gloor       | Change tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products and provide for distribution of proceeds   |
| LR412  | Watermeier  | Interim study to improve communication access for movie theaters in Nebraska to ensure all persons can fully experience the movie theater experience   |
| LR413  | Watermeier  | Create the Task Force on Behavioral and Mental Health  |

## UNICAMERAL UPDATE ONLINE

While the Unicameral Update print edition is mailed out weekly, the web version of the publication, located at [update.legislature.ne.gov](http://update.legislature.ne.gov), is updated continually throughout the legislative day.

The site provides links to get the Update's RSS and Twitter feeds. Readers may search Update stories by bill number, senator's name or keyword using the search box provided in the top-right corner.

The screenshot shows the website [update.legislature.ne.gov](http://update.legislature.ne.gov). The page features a search box in the top right corner and a navigation menu with links for Committees, Sections, Senator Features, Session Review 2014, Slideshows/Videos, and Announcement. The main content area displays 'RECENT HEADLINES' with two featured articles: 'State funding of probation administration proposed' and 'Carbon monoxide safety considered'. Each article includes a brief summary, a publication date, and a small photograph. At the bottom, there are two more headlines: 'Bill would change joint...' and 'Expansion of family planning services'.

# COMMITTEE HEARINGS

\*Current hearing schedules are always available at: [nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar)

## **Tuesday, January 19**

### **Agriculture**

#### **Room 2102 - 1:30 PM**

LB730 (Johnson) Change a security coverage provision for sellers of grain stored in a warehouse closed by the Public Service Commission  
LB798 (Johnson) Change provisions of the Nebraska Pure Food Act

### **Banking, Commerce & Insurance**

#### **Room 1507 - 1:30 PM**

LB676 (Craighead) Revise powers of state-chartered banks, building and loan associations, and credit unions  
LB760 (Scheer) Update certain references to the federal Electronic Fund Transfer Act  
LB761 (Scheer) Change and update certain federal references in the Consumer Rental Purchase Agreement Act  
LB771 (Lindstrom) Change provisions under the Securities Act of Nebraska relating to registration by coordination and federal covered securities  
LB778 (Williams) Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Money Transmitters Act and the Nebraska Installment Sales Act  
LB751 (Lindstrom) Provide that payment of certain expenses is not a condition precedent to certain approvals by the Director of Banking and Finance and change certain notice provisions  
LB759 (Scheer) Change provisions relating to stop-payment orders

### **Education**

#### **Room 1525 - 1:30 PM**

LB734 (Watermeier) Change residency provisions relating to Nebraska National Guard members for college tuition purposes  
LB773 (Stinner) Create the Early Childhood Workforce Development Task Force  
LB692 (Morfeld) Adopt the Student Online Personal Protection Act  
LB726 (Sullivan) Require information relating to federal student loans as prescribed

### **Transportation & Telecommunications**

#### **Room 1113 - 1:30 PM**

LB735 (Friesen) Provide a length limit exception for an articulated bus vehicle operated by a transit authority  
LB811 (Brasch) Change provisions relating to counties' use of alphanumeric and county number system license plates  
LB732 (Watermeier) Change provisions relating to Military Honor Plates  
LB880 (McCollister) Change provisions relating to Military Honor Plates

### **Urban Affairs**

#### **Room 1510 - 1:30 PM**

LB699 (Mello) Change the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act  
LB700 (Mello) Require notice to neighborhood associations for changes to business improvement districts and zoning ordinances in cities of the metropolitan class  
LB703 (Urban Affairs) Change provisions relating to nuisances in cities and villages  
LB704 (Urban Affairs) Change building code provisions applicable to political subdivisions

## **Wednesday, January 20**

### **Government, Military & Veterans Affairs**

#### **Room 1507 - 1:30 PM**

LB695 (Crawford) Provide for the counting of ballots in sanitary and improvement district elections  
LB702 (Urban Affairs) Harmonize provisions relating to the election of city council members in cities of the second class  
LB682 (Craighead) Change deadlines for ballots for early voting and special elections by mail

### **Health & Human Services**

#### **Room 1510 - 1:30 PM**

LB786 (Larson) Change requirements for completion of death certificates and cremation permits  
LB791 (Ebke) Change grounds for discipline under the Funeral Directing and Embalming Act  
LB898 (Fox) Exempt persons solely engaged in natural hair braiding from credentialing requirements under the Uniform Credentialing Act

### **Judiciary**

#### **Room 1113 - 1:30 PM**

LB709 (Howard) Provide for an alternative to detention for juveniles  
LB673 (Krist) Change provisions relating to appointment of guardians ad litem  
LB675 (Krist) Change provisions relating to placement and detention of juveniles  
LB845 (Pansing Brooks) Provide requirements relating to confinement of juveniles and provide a duty for the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare  
LB894 (Pansing Brooks) Change provisions relating to appointment of counsel in juvenile cases

### **Natural Resources**

#### **Room 1525 - 1:30 PM**

Appointment: Bell, Richard R. - Game and Parks Commission  
Appointment: Hawks, James W. - Environmental Quality Council  
LB737 (Friesen) Change provisions of the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Assistance Act

### **Nebraska Retirement Systems**

#### **Room 1525 - 12:00 PM**

LB747 (Kolterman) Amend the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act to increase the amount of funds the state investment officer may offer as deposits  
LB790 (Kolterman) To alphabetize defined terms under various retirement statutes  
LB803 (Retirement) Change disposition of court docket fees as prescribed

### **Revenue**

#### **Room 1524 - 1:30 PM**

LB756 (Performance Audit) Terminate the Nebraska long-term care savings plan  
LB749 (Lindstrom) Change an income tax exemption relating to social security benefits  
LB763 (Garrett) Adopt the Nebraska is Honoring Our Military Exemption Act and provide an income tax exemption

**Thursday, January 21**

**Government, Military & Veterans Affairs  
Room 1507 - 1:30 PM**

LB741 (Hansen) Change electioneering provisions related to yard signs  
LB728 (Johnson) Authorize electronic voting devices for natural resources districts  
LB876 (Murante) Authorize electronic voting devices for public bodies in public meetings

**Health & Human Services  
Room 1510 - 1:30 PM**

LB690 (Morfeld) Change provisions relating to eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
LB698 (Mello) Adopt the Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights Act  
LB746 (Campbell) Adopt the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, change provisions for guardians ad litem and services for children, and create the Normalcy Task Force

**Judiciary  
Room 1113 - 1:30 PM**

Appointment: Briggs, JoAnna - Crime Victims Reparations Committee  
Appointment: Patlan, Virgil J., Sr. - Board of Parole  
Appointment: Wachman, Brian - Crime Victims Reparations Committee  
LB831 (Hansen) Adopt the Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act  
LB846 (Pansing Brooks) Require law enforcement agencies to adopt a policy regarding suspect identifications by witnesses  
LB738 (Ebke) Prohibit the use of cell-site simulator technology or devices by law enforcement agencies

**Natural Resources  
Room 1525 - 1:30 PM**

Appointment: Kreitman, Dan C. - Game and Parks Commission  
Appointment: Tenbenschel, Jan - Neb. Ethanol Board  
Appointment: Else, Timothy L. - Neb. Ethanol Board  
LB672 (Krist) Eliminate fees on tires as prescribed

**Revenue  
Room 1524 - 1:30 PM**

Appointment: Fulton, Tony - Dept. of Revenue  
LB775 (Gloor) Change property tax

provisions relating to motor vehicles  
LB776 (Gloor) Change revenue and taxation provisions  
LB777 (Gloor) Change provisions relating to partial payments for property taxes held in escrow  
LB725 (Schumacher) Provide an exception to a filing requirement relating to conveyances of real estate

**Friday, January 22  
Executive Board  
Room 2102 - 12:00 PM**

LB954 (Krist) Change provisions relating to access to records for and investigations by the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare

**Government, Military & Veterans Affairs  
Room 1507 - 1:30 PM**

LB677 (Craighead) Change a residency qualification and military service requirement for certain veterans service officers  
LB764 (Garrett) Authorize summary discipline for minor offenses in the Nebraska Code of Military Justice

**Health & Human Services  
Room 1510 - 1:30 PM**

LB721 (Baker) Adopt the Surgical First Assistant Practice Act  
LB722 (Baker) Adopt the Stroke System of Care Act  
LB849 (Crawford) Adopt the Assisting Caregiver Transitions Act

**Judiciary**

**Room 1113 - 1:30 PM**  
LB744 (Watermeier) Provide for communication and contact agreements in private and agency adoptions  
LB893 (Pansing Brooks) Modify jurisdiction of juvenile courts and change provisions relating to temporary custody and disposition of juveniles  
LB833 (Schumacher) Change provisions relating to child support enforcement actions  
LB924 (Kolterman) Provide an additional withholding procedure for certain payments under the Income Withholding for Child Support Act

**Natural Resources  
Room 1525 - 1:30 PM**

Appointment: Fassett, Jeff - Dept. of Natural Resources  
LB714 (Stinner) Provide for and change a provision relating to sufficient cause for nonuse of a water appropriation

**Revenue**

**Room 1524 - 1:30 PM**  
LB689 (Bloomfield) Eliminate a sales and use tax exemption relating to political events  
LB723 (Schumacher) Change sales and use tax collection fees  
LB724 (Schumacher) Change sales and use tax collection fees  
LB884 (Scheer) Change the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act and the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act ■

**FIND LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS**

Committee hearing schedules, daily agendas and more can be viewed using the calendar on [www.NebraskaLegislature.gov](http://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.

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**January 2015**

| Sun | Mon         | Tue         | Wed                                      | Thu                                      | Fri                                      | Sat |
|-----|-------------|-------------|--|--|--|-----|
|     |             |             |  | 01                                       | 02                                       | 03  |
| 04  | 05          | 06          | 07<br>Day 1<br>104th Leg.<br>1st Session | 08<br>Day 2<br>104th Leg.<br>1st Session | 09<br>Day 3<br>104th Leg.<br>1st Session | 10  |
| 11  | 12<br>Day 4 | 13<br>Day 5 | 14<br>Day 6                              | 15<br>Day 7                              | 16<br>Day 8                              | 17  |

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The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday Celebration was held in the Rotunda of the State Capitol Jan. 15. Left: Lincoln High School students performed music for the event. Right: University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Jesse "Trey" Foster, III read his winning entry in the McDonald's Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest.