

## Wind energy exemption proposed

A bill heard by the Natural Resources Committee Jan. 27 would make changes to state power regulations to encourage private renewable energy development.

LB824, introduced by Sen. John McCollister of Omaha, would exempt private renewable energy generation facilities from certain laws that regulate the construction or acquisition of electric generation facilities.



Sen. John McCollister

The bill would eliminate the requirement that a developer have a power purchase agreement, in which a customer agrees to buy most of a proposed facility's electricity, before the facility is built. The bill also would exempt a private developer from a requirement that it prove that a new facility would not create stranded assets. Finally, the bill would prohibit other power suppliers from acquiring the private facility's property through eminent domain.

To qualify for the exemption, a private company would be required to notify the Power Review Board, which oversees most of the state's electric generating facilities, at least 30 days before it begins construction. The company also must certify that it will pay for any decommissioning costs if the facility fails.

McCollister said the bill would  
**(continued page 3)**

## Statewide gun bill stalls

After six hours of debate spanning several days, an attempt to force a vote on a bill that uniformly would apply firearms regulations throughout the state failed Jan. 27. The bill is unlikely to be scheduled for further debate this session.

Introduced by Crete Sen. Laura Ebke, LB289 would repeal individual city and village ordinances governing the registration, possession, transportation, transfer and storage of firearms and ammunition. Cities and villages would retain the authority to enforce prohibitions on firearm discharge.

Ebke said the bill would protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners by allowing them to travel throughout the state without fear of having their guns confiscated.

"[LB289] would provide consistent statewide uniformity with local firearm enactments while continuing to allow communities to enact regulations on gun discharge," she said. "Gun owners should not have to worry or wonder whether a hunting firearm or handgun transported in their vehicle is in violation of the law in the city that they're travelling through."

Several Omaha and Lincoln sena-



Sen. Laura Ebke said local communities should not be able to pass gun ordinances that are more restrictive than state law.

tors expressed concerns about the bill preempting local ordinances already in existence. Of particular concern was Omaha's handgun registry ordinance, which Omaha Sen. Heath Mello said was intended to help law enforcement protect public safety.

"If we pass [this bill] as it's drafted, you'd be able to see someone carrying a semi-automatic rifle walking down the street, in the highest crime area of the state," Mello said. "There would be nothing [police] could do about it because we got rid of Omaha's gun ordinance. [LB289] makes some very serious changes to what cities have done for years to curb gun violence."

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, who filed a motion to recommit the bill to  
**(continued page 2)**

# Statewide gun regulation bill stalls

(continued from front page)

the Judiciary Committee, said public safety needs vary by community and require individualized solutions.

“[Supporters of LB289] are saying that the largest city in the state should not have the right to tailor ordinances to the specific issues facing that city,” he said. “This has nothing to do with the constitution. This has to do with paranoia.”

Sen. Adam Morfeld of Lincoln opposed the bill as drafted, saying it is vital to preserve the ability of local communities to draft ordinances addressing concerns specific to them.

“We value local control in Nebraska because we know that the people on local boards are closer to the people [and issues] they represent than we are,” he said.

Henderson Sen. Curt Friesen supported LB289, saying it is not an attack on local control.

“This is about making uniform laws across the state,” Friesen said. “Explain to me how any of these local ordinances have made any of us safer.”

The motion to recommit the bill to the Judiciary Committee failed on a 10-31 vote.

Ebke offered a motion to invoke

cloture, or cease debate and take an immediate vote on the bill. The motion failed 32-10. Thirty-three votes were needed.

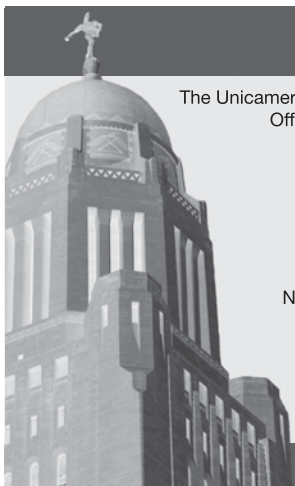
A failed cloture motion prevents further debate on the bill for the day. ■

## 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.

January 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01	02
03	04	05	06 Day 1 104th Leg. 2nd Session	07 Day 2 104th Leg. 2nd Session	08 Day 3 104th Leg. 2nd Session	09
10	11 Day 4 104th Leg. 2nd Session	12 Day 5 104th Leg. 2nd Session	13 Day 6 104th Leg. 2nd Session	14 Day 7 104th Leg. 2nd Session	15 Day 8 104th Leg. 2nd Session	16
17	18	19 Day 9 104th Leg. 2nd Session 5 Hearings	20 Day 10 104th Leg. 2nd Session 6 Hearings	21 Day 11 104th Leg. 2nd Session 5 Hearings	22 Day 12 104th Leg. 2nd Session 6 Hearings	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



## 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](mailto:uio@leg.ne.gov). Visit us online at [Update.Legislature.ne.gov](http://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: Kyle Harpster, Kate Heltzel, Ami Johnson; Photographer: Bess Ghormley

Printed copies of bills, resolutions and the Legislative Journal are available at the State Capitol room 1104, or by calling 402-471-2709 or 800-742-7456. Status of bills and resolutions can be requested at that number or can be found on [NebraskaLegislature.gov](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov). Live video of hearings and floor debate can be viewed on NET2 and at [NetNebraska.org/capitol](http://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

# Wind energy exemption proposed

(continued from front page)

eliminate regulatory hurdles that deter private companies—especially wind energy developers—from building renewable energy generation facilities in the state. He said more private development would lead to billions of dollars in capital investment, high-paying jobs and new property tax revenue in rural Nebraska.

“Our state’s current regulatory structure is decades old,” McCollister said, “but the industry and the market have changed dramatically over the last six years and major simplification of existing structures is required to remove barriers that place our state at a significant disadvantage with regards to renewable energy.”

Thomas Budler, president of BHE Wind, said the company announced plans last year to build a 400-megawatt wind farm in northeast Nebraska that will create approximately 350 temporary construction jobs, 12 to 15 permanent jobs, \$4 million per year in lease payments to landowners and \$2.6 million per year in property taxes. However, that facility is the only investment the company has made in Nebraska because of the regulations that LB824 would remove, he said.

“BHE Renewables is very interested in making additional major investments in the state of Nebraska,” he said, “but

the current regulatory environment makes it a much more difficult proposition than doing so in neighboring states.”

Bruce Bostelman, a member of the Center for Rural Affairs advisory board, opposed the bill. It would restrict the Power Review Board’s oversight of private energy developers, he said, and the state’s electrical grid does not have the capacity to handle the amount wind energy that developers could generate. Private developers hope to sell electricity to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a group of utilities, power generation and transmission companies that oversees electricity infrastructure in 14 states including Nebraska, but Bostelman said the market is already saturated.

“There is no market need within the SPP,” he said. “There is nowhere to go with the power.”

Tom Kent, vice president and chief operating officer for the Nebraska Public Power District, testified in a neutral capacity. He said the state would benefit from new privately developed energy facilities. However, as those facilities put more electricity onto the market, prices will go down, reducing the margin that public power utilities earn on the energy they generate. That could result in higher rates for customers, he said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill. ■

## UNICAMERAL YOUTH LEGISLATURE



**H**igh school students with an interest in law, government, leadership or public speaking are encouraged to register for the 2016 Unicameral Youth Legislature, which will convene June 5-8.

The Unicameral Youth Legislature is a four-day legislative simulation conducted at the State Capitol Building and coordinated by the Clerk’s Office of the Nebraska Legislature. Student senators will sponsor bills, conduct committee hearings, debate legislation and discover the unique process of the nation’s only unicameral.

Students will learn about the inner workings of the Legislature directly from senators and staff. Bills will be based on legislation considered during the current legislative session.

**Registrants are encouraged to apply for a Speaker Greg Adams Civic Scholarship award, which covers the full cost of admission. Applicants must submit a short essay. Other \$100 scholarships are also available.**

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Extension 4-H Youth Development Office coordinates housing and recreational activities for the camp as part of their Big Red Summer Camps program.

Registration forms can be obtained from the Legislature’s Unicameral Youth Legislature page: [www.NebraskaLegislature.gov/uyl](http://www.NebraskaLegislature.gov/uyl).

The registration deadline is May 15.

**BANKING, COMMERCE  
& INSURANCE**



**New insurance reporting standard proposed**

The Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee heard testimony Jan. 26 on a bill that would provide new corporate governance reporting standards for insurers and risk retention groups (RRGs).

LB819, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Insurance, would adopt the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act and make changes to the Risk Retention Act, which governs RRGs.



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

Lindstrom said the bill is model legislation from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and would incorporate changes necessary for Nebraska to retain its accreditation with the NAIC.

“The act would require all insurers based in Nebraska to annually file a confidential disclosure regarding its corporate governance practices with the Nebraska Department of Insurance,” he said.

Under the bill insurers and insurance groups domiciled in Nebraska would provide a confidential disclosure regarding their corporate governance practices by June 1 annually. The bill also would enact governance standards for RRGs licensed and chartered in the state. All RRGs would be required to be in compliance with the new standards by Jan. 1, 2018.

Bruce Ramage, director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance,

testified in support of the bill.

Ramage explained that RRGs are companies owned by members with similar insurance needs that pool their risks and are creatures of both state and federal law. While there currently are no RRGs in Nebraska, he said, the bill provides needed updates to the law should an RGG decide to be chartered here.

“Accreditation is very important for the department and for the state because it allows for our financial regulation to be accepted by all other states,” Ramage said.

Thomas Mays of Pacific Life Insurance also testified in support of the bill, saying NAIC standards allow insurers domiciled in Nebraska to do business across the country.

“Uniformity among all 50 states is important to us to make sure that all states are adopting the same language,” he said.

No one testified in opposition to LB819 and the committee voted 7-0 to advance the bill to general file.

**EDUCATION**



**Aid for students in teaching, health care programs proposed**

A bill heard by the Education Committee Jan. 25 is intended to help young Nebraskans become teachers and health care providers.

LB691, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, would provide grants to Nebraska residents with financial need who are enrolled in teaching or health care undergraduate programs at Nebraska’s public or pri-



Sen. Adam Morfeld

vate nonprofit colleges and universities.

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education would administer the grants, which would be funded by an appropriation from the Legislature. The amount has not been determined, but Morfeld said a “meaningful” grant would be \$2,000 to \$3,000 per student per year.

The grants, to be used for tuition, room, board, books and fees, would be allocated to the schools based on the number of bachelor’s and master’s degrees awarded in teacher education and health care profession programs the previous year. The school then would distribute the grants to students based on financial need.

Although the state’s public university system has worked to stay affordable, Morfeld said, the cost of higher education still puts it out of reach for many middle-income families. Morfeld said LB691 would reduce student loan debt for Nebraskans who seek four-year degrees in health care and education, fields that do not have high starting salaries but provide important services to society.

“We need talented teachers and health care workers if our state is to continue to prosper,” he said.

Scott Seevers, the senior vice president of enrollment management and marketing at Concordia University, spoke in support of the bill. He said the cost of a four-year degree presents a financial barrier to students in health care and education programs, leading to a statewide shortage of workers.

“I think LB691 directs the right aid at the right Nebraskans and helps the right problem and does it in the right manner,” he said. “I can attest that there are students who have a passion, a gift for teaching who ultimately steer clear of it because they are concerned about the initial compensation and debt load.”

Paula Kohles, director of financial aid at Creighton University, also spoke in favor of the bill. The state soon will face a critical shortage of nurses with advanced degrees, she said. Alleviating a student's undergraduate debt would provide an incentive to continue his or her education in graduate school, she said.

"If we can keep their debt down, maybe they will stay on as faculty members," Kohles said.

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

### Changes to special education reimbursement proposed

The state would use money from its general fund to reimburse schools for most of their special education costs under a bill heard by the Education Committee Jan. 26.

LB826, introduced by Sen. Al Davis of Hyannis, would require the state Department of Education to reimburse school districts for at least 80 percent of the total excess allowable costs for special education programs and support services. Excess allowable costs are the costs to educate a student with a disability that exceed the average annual amount spent per student.

The bill would require an additional \$125 million in state general funds to reimburse school districts for those costs for fiscal year 2016-17 and an additional \$152 million for FY2017-18. LB826 would repeal current law authorizing up to a 10 percent annual increase in state aid for special education.

Davis said special education represents an unfunded mandate for Nebraska's schools, which have seen increasing costs for these programs



Sen. Al Davis

and services. He said providing more state aid to schools would have the added benefit of reducing property taxes, the main source of education funding in the state.

Under this bill, Davis said, the districts with a high proportion of students who require special education services would receive more money to reimburse those costs.

"This is aid that's going to districts where the need is," he said.

Jane Byers, director of special services for the Papillion-La Vista School District, spoke in favor of the bill. Fifteen years ago the state served 43,000 students with disabilities, she said. That number has grown to approximately 49,000, Byers said, and an increasing proportion of those students have mild or severe disabilities. As the cost of special education services rise, she said, schools have less money to spend on general education.

"Not funding special education has a direct impact on students not receiving special education services," she said.

Brenda Tracy, special education director for the Norris School District, also supported the bill. She said approximately 10 percent of Norris students qualify for special education programs. State law requires schools to teach students with disabilities the same content and give them the same assessments as other students, Tracy said. To do this, the school must keep on staff or contract with speech language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists and teachers who are certified to work with students with disabilities.

"It's not that we want to increase costs," she said. "We're doing what's best for kids."

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

### Eleventh-graders would be required to take college admission test

All Nebraska 11th-graders would take a college admission test under a bill proposed to the Education Committee Jan. 25.

LB930, introduced by Sen. Jim Scheer of Norfolk, would require public school students in the 11th grade to take a college admission test, such as the ACT or SAT, instead of current Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments.



Sen. Jim Scheer

Scheer said requiring students to take a college admission test in place of the state assessment would encourage them to think seriously about college or their careers after high school. The bill would help families who want their children to take a college admission test but cannot afford the registration fee, he said.

"The intent is not to add another test," Scheer said. "It is simply replacing it with one that the students find more beneficial and useful."

Bob Evnen, a former member of the state board of education, testified in support of the bill, saying that there is a strong correlation between the ACT and the state's current testing standards for reading, math and science. If all students instead were required to take a college admission test, he said, it would help teachers identify promising students who otherwise might have been overlooked.

Students also feel more motivated to do well on the ACT than on the state assessments, Evnen added.

"Students care about the ACT," he said. "They really can't find a reason to care about the NeSA test."

The bill would require the state Department of Education to reimburse school districts the difference between the cost of registration and administration fees for the college admission test and the cost for administering the current statewide tests.

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

## GENERAL AFFAIRS

### Naturally occurring event lottery proposed

Nebraskans would have a new lottery option under a bill heard by the General Affairs Committee Jan. 25.

LB820, introduced by Venango Sen. Dan Hughes, would allow a lottery or raffle in which the winners are determined based on the timing of a naturally occurring event, such as a weather event.

The possible timing of the naturally occurring event would be indicated on tickets sold to participants in the lottery or raffle. A licensed organization using this method would be required to comply with all other requirements of the Nebraska Lottery and Raffle Act.

Hughes said the bill would provide additional fundraising opportunities for worthwhile causes across Nebraska.

"It would be available to all non-profits in the state who would want to use it as a fundraising [tool]," he said.

Ted Tietjen, long-range planning chairperson for the Nebraska Lions Club, testified in support of the bill, saying it would allow the Lions Club to pursue a raffle based on weather



Sen. Dan Hughes

events in Nebraska. He said the idea is based on a raffle in which players guess the exact time that the ice breaks up on an Alaskan river.

"I first ran into this when I was in Alaska and was very intrigued by the Nenana Ice Classic,"\* he said, adding that winners recently were awarded \$363,000."

Al Riskowski, executive director of the Nebraska Family Alliance, testified in opposition to LB820, saying it would result in unconstitutional expanded gambling in Nebraska. He said the type of contest outlined in the bill does not fit the existing definition of a charitable raffle because a winner is not chosen at random.

In addition, he said, the bill lacks definition regarding what kinds of lotteries or raffles would be included under its provisions.

"The term 'naturally occurring event' could include a vast array of events," Riskowski said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

### Measure would change lottery proceeds distribution

The distribution of lottery proceeds in Nebraska would change under a measure heard Jan. 25 by the General Affairs Committee.

LR380CA, introduced by Hoskins Sen. Dave Bloomfield, would place a proposed change to the division of lottery proceeds on the next general election ballot.

If approved by voters, the amendment to the state constitution would:

- increase from 44.5 to 65 percent the amount designated for education;

- decrease from 44.5 to 26.5 percent the amount designated to the Nebraska Environmental Trust; and
- decrease from 10 to 7.5 percent the amount designated to the Nebraska State Fair Board.

Bloomfield said that education in Nebraska would benefit from additional funding, while the environmental trust appears not to be in need of its current level of funding.

"I know the environmental trust does many good things," he said, "but they seem to consistently sit on an excess of \$30 million. I think they could survive on a little less, just like everyone else [does]."

Scott Japp of Omaha testified in support of the measure, saying an increase in education funding may help to ease the property tax burden on Nebraskans. The environmental trust receives adequate funding, he said, and lottery proceeds could be put to better use.

"I surely think that we can put more funds back into the school system," Japp said.

Mark Brohman, executive director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, testified in opposition to the measure. All of the dollars currently in the fund are allocated to ongoing projects aimed at preserving the state's natural resources, he said.

The trust funds conservation projects in all of Nebraska's 93 counties, he said, and consistently must turn down grant requests due to lack of funds.

"All of those dollars [in the trust] are spoken for," Brohman said, "we're not sitting on a big piggy bank."

Joseph McDermott, executive director of the Nebraska State Fair, also spoke against the proposal. Voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2004 to allocate 10 percent of lot-



Sen. Dave Bloomfield

tery proceeds to the state fair, he said, which amounts to approximately \$3 to \$4 million annually.

McDermott said the fair board has used that money to construct facilities in Grand Island and to promote the fair statewide. The proposed reduction would result in the fair losing \$1 million annually, he said.

“Those funds contribute greatly to the success and momentum that the state fair currently enjoys,” he said.

The committee took no immediate action on the proposal.

**GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Bill would allow revelation of photographed ballots**

Nebraska voters could take photos of their ballots and display them publicly under a bill heard Jan. 28 by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, sponsor of LB787, said the change would protect a voter’s right to free expression and promote young people’s excitement about the electoral process.



Sen. Adam Morfeld

Calling the measure the “ballot selfie bill,” Morfeld said it would provide a narrow exception to the current prohibition in Nebraska law on public display of a marked ballot. He said that the prohibition is too broad and makes it a crime for a voter to post a photo with his or her own ballot on social media.

The bill would allow a voter to photograph his or her ballot after it is marked and reveal that photograph in

a manner that allows it to be viewed by another person. The bill would retain the prohibition on solicitation of a voter for the purpose of voter coercion or vote selling.

“LB787 retains the tools needed to deter and punish voter coercion and solicitation while allowing for ballot selfies,” Morfeld said.

Bri McLarty, director of voting rights for Nebraskans for Civic Reform, testified in support of the bill. The current prohibition dates from the 1990s, she said, long before the advent of social media and smart phones.

“The goal [of the bill] is to avoid a \$100 fine and a misdemeanor for a kid who’s excited about voting,” she said.

Neal Erickson, deputy secretary of state for elections, testified in opposition to the bill, calling it bad public policy.

Erickson said the prohibition on the public display of a marked ballot is meant to protect against electioneering and vote buying. Sharing a photo of a marked ballot could be used to influence how other people vote, he said.

“Selfies could be taken by partisan activists and shared just as frequently as by those voting for the first time,” Erickson said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

**Lower public office age requirement discussed**

Senators began debate Jan. 28 on a measure that would allow an 18-year-old to hold any public office in Nebraska.

Introduced by O’Neill Sen. Tyson Larson last session, LR26CA would place a proposed constitutional amendment on the



Sen. Tyson Larson

November 2016 general election ballot that would change age eligibility for public office in Nebraska to the federal voting age. Eligibility requirements other than age would not be changed by the proposed amendment. Currently, an individual must be 21 to serve in the Legislature and 30 to serve as governor, lieutenant governor or as a Nebraska Supreme Court judge.

Larson said the age to run for office should mirror the federal voting age, adding that 17 states allow those who are 18 to run for a seat in the state legislature.

“Individuals who already hold the right to vote and feel qualified and motivated to serve should be allowed to make their case to voters,” Larson said. “Nebraskans should be able to choose who they believe will best be able to represent them in the Legislature and any other elected office.”

Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld supported the proposal, calling age a “poor proxy” for determining an individual’s wisdom, responsibility or maturity. In addition, he said, allowing young people to run for office may increase their interest in the electoral process.

“This is something that’s important for young voters who are turning the age of 18, to know that they cannot just vote and serve their county in the military but that they can also be elected to serve the people in their community if they so choose,” he said.

Sen. Matt Hansen of Lincoln also spoke in support, saying the current age restriction on running for the Legislature mirrored the voting age when it originally was placed in the state constitution. Since that time, the voting age was lowered to 18, but Nebraska’s age requirements for holding public office have not kept up, he said.

Being able to vote—as well as volunteer for or donate to a campaign—while

not being able to run for office is inconsistent, Hansen said.

“That is an uncomfortable imbalance of political rights,” he said.

Hoskins Sen. Dave Bloomfield opposed the measure, saying that the prospect of an 18-year-old governor or chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court should give senators pause.

“We are sent here as legislators to decide issues,” he said. “If we’re going to dump everything back on the ballot—and let every single item go to a vote of the people—we might as well adjourn today.”

Bloomfield offered a motion to bracket the proposal until April 20.

Gretna Sen. John Murante opposed the bracket motion, noting that the question must be put to a public vote and is not one that lawmakers could resolve themselves.

“Age requirements for numerous public offices in the state of Nebraska are located in the constitution,” he said, “and we cannot amend the constitution without submitting the question to the voters. We are required to go to the people.”

The bracket motion failed on a vote of 5-28.

Sen. Paul Schumacher of Columbus expressed concern that any decision made by the Legislature to place the issue on the ballot may be thrown out by the state Supreme Court.

He said the ballot question would address the age requirement for several different public offices, which the court likely would deem a violation of the rule that ballot measures contain only one subject.

Schumacher said some voters would be fine with an age restriction of 18 for the Legislature, but would be reluctant to lower the age to 18 to run for governor.

“If we’re going to pursue this road, we’re going to have to divide this ques-

tion for the voters,” he said. “They cannot be asked to choose between conflicting beliefs.”

Schumacher offered an amendment that would have divided the measure into five separate ballot questions.

Hastings Sen. Les Seiler agreed that passing court scrutiny likely would be a problem for the measure in its original form. He said the state Supreme Court has tightened the rules regarding ballot language in recent years.

“Even with Sen. Schumacher’s amendment, I think it’s still highly suspect that this bill would receive the backhand of the current Supreme Court,” Seiler said.

The amendment failed on a vote of 17-21. The Legislature adjourned for the week before voting on the advancement of LR26CA.



**Prescription drug monitoring changes advance**

Lawmakers gave first-round approval Jan. 27 to a bill intended to enhance Nebraska’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

As introduced last session by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard, LB471 would strengthen the program by:

- prohibiting patients from opting out of the system;
- allowing prescribers and dispensers to access the system at no cost;
- requiring all controlled substance prescriptions to be entered into the system; and



Sen. Sara Howard

- capturing information relating to all payers, including Medicaid.

Howard said the bill would close loopholes in the existing PDMP without a cost to the state.

LB471 originally included a \$500,000 fiscal note to cover the cost of developing a new platform to implement the changes, Howard said, but that cost would be eliminated by two grants secured by the state Department of Health and Human Services.

“We will have about \$500,000 for the next two years to fund this,” she said, adding that Douglas County alone estimates that 90 to 100 deaths in the county each year can be attributed to opioid painkiller overdose.

A Health and Human Services Committee amendment, adopted 46-0, would require prescription dispensers to report to the system and specifically lists the information to be reported.

Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, chairperson of the committee, said the amendment would better address the problem of drug-seeking patients, which has been a concern of the committee for a number of years.

“Lest we think that prescription drug overdoses are not happening in Nebraska,” she said, “we are the same, as this is a national epidemic.”

Heartwell Sen. John Kuehn, a veterinarian, brought an amendment that replaced the bill while incorporating the original proposal and the committee amendment. In addition, his amendment would include veterinarians under the bill’s provisions beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

Kuehn noted that veterinarians are able to obtain a Drug Enforcement Administration number, which allows them to prescribe and dispense controlled substances. As a result, he said, veterinarians should be a part of



the state's PDMP.

"I think it is critical that as we address the issue of prescription drugs, and the diversion of controlled substances, that all providers be on the same footing," Kuehn said.

The amendment also would establish a 10-member Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force. The task force would study and develop recommendations regarding which controlled substances veterinarians should report under the system, as well as appropriate reporting procedures.

Membership would include three senators, six licensed veterinarians and a representative of the PDMP. The task force would report its findings and recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee by Dec. 1, 2016.

Sen. Robert Hilkemann of Omaha supported the proposal, calling it long overdue.

"Nebraska is just about dead last—49th in the country—in dealing with this issue," he said. "This is important legislation that we should have had a long time ago."

Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford agreed, saying Nebraska has become a magnet for drug seekers because of current loopholes in the state's monitoring system.

"The bill and the grants together will help us create an effective information system to tackle prescription drug overdoses and prescription drug diversion and to address this important issue in our state," Crawford said.

Sen. Mark Kolterman of Seward also supported the bill, saying he has seen the result of painkiller addiction first-hand in his family.

"There are a lot of people on the streets today who have the same story and it's time we do something about it," he said. "We're never going to eliminate the problem, but we're going

to do what we can."

Following adoption of the Kuehn amendment on a 46-0 vote, lawmakers advanced the bill to select file 47-0.

### Memory care endorsement proposed

Assisted living facilities in Nebraska could apply for a memory care endorsement under a bill heard Jan. 28 by the Health and Human Services Committee.

LB708, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, would require the state Department of Health and Human Services to develop an endorsement for facilities that provide high quality care for individuals with cognitive impairment, dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Qualifications for the endorsement would include staffing enhancements, staff training, dedicated programming and security requirements. The department also would be required to examine the Medicaid rate structure and make recommendations regarding a higher or supplemental reimbursement rate for facilities that qualify for the endorsement.

Bolz said the bill would benefit providers by allowing them to promote the endorsement to families seeking the best quality care for their loved ones. In addition, she said, an increased reimbursement rate for qualified assisted living facilities could incentivize facilities to care for high-need individuals suffering from Alzheimer's.

"Statistics show that the prevalence of this disease is increasing," she said, "and the number of people in Nebraska is expected to rise to over

40,000 by the year 2025."

Julie Kaminski, executive director of Leading Age Nebraska, testified in support of the bill. Most of the providers in the state that specialize in Alzheimer's care are located in Lincoln and Omaha, she said, and an enhanced reimbursement rate for Medicaid-eligible individuals could help bring that type of care to rural Nebraska.

"It would create memory care communities that have a secure environment that is staffed appropriately by individuals who really understand the subtle nuances of [the disease]," Kaminski said.

Christopher Kelly, associate professor of gerontology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, also testified in support. Individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's and dementia benefit from aging in place, he said, and can suffer transfer trauma if required to move to nursing care facilities.

"The picture of the resident that is hopefully helped by this bill is that of the resident who is aging in place in our state's assisted living facilities," he said.

Kelly said the bill would allow facilities to seek the endorsement if they chose, but wouldn't result in greater regulation or red tape for those that do not.

"For those providers that do want to do this, it is providing not only the recognition but also the compensation that is commensurate with the care," he said.

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

### Dental assistant licensure proposed

Nebraska dental assistants would have the option of becoming licensed



Sen. Kate Bolz

under a bill heard Jan. 27 by the Health and Human Services Committee.

LB901, introduced by Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman, would create a new category of licensed dental assistant. Licensure would be optional under the bill, which also would create the position of expanded function dental assistants.



Sen. Mark Kolterman

Kolterman said some dental practices in the state would benefit from dental assistants being able to obtain licensure and perform more procedures. However, he said, the goal of the bill also is to allow individuals currently employed as dental assistants to remain unlicensed if they choose.

“The goal was to create safe and quality care at the least cost and to be able to allow Medicaid providers the ability to appropriately delegate functions,” he said.

Under the bill, a licensed dental assistant applicant must be a graduate of an accredited dental assisting program or have performed a minimum of 1,500 hours of dental assisting. Passage of an exam and completion of continuing education also would be required.

A licensed dental assistant would be authorized, under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist, to:

- take dental impressions for fixed prosthesis;
- cement prefabricated fixed prosthesis on primary teeth; and
- monitor and administer nitrous oxide analgesia.

In addition to creating the position of licensed dental assistant, the bill would provide the option for credentialing in expanded duties for licensed dental assistants, dental hygienists and

public health hygienists.

Cynthia Cronick, representing the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association, testified in support of the bill. Allowing dental assistants to become licensed would provide a career path for individuals who desire it, she said, without placing an undue burden on dental practices.

“A current dental assistant can remain a dental assistant,” she said. “No one loses a job, no one has extra criteria that they have to scramble to meet.”

Jessica Meeske, a children’s dentist with practices in Hastings and Grand Island, also testified in support. Allowing other members of a dental team the option of taking on more procedures in a dental practice would improve access to care and oral health in rural Nebraska, she said.

Meeske said that Medicaid covers nearly half of the children in Nebraska, including 70 percent of those seen in her practice. As long as Medicaid reimbursement remains stagnant, she said, the reality of these numbers puts pressure on dental practices.

“So, allowing us to delegate those duties where the dentist’s expertise is not needed, so we can be more efficient in how to deliver that care, is going to have a huge impact,” she said.

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

## JUDICIARY



### Personal privacy bill advanced

Lawmakers advanced a bill from general file Jan. 28 that automatically would seal certain criminal proceeding records.

Currently arrests are removed from public record when criminal court

charges are dismissed. However, such criminal proceeding records remain available on the state trial courts’ electronic case management system.

LB505, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, would ensure that such records are excluded from public record by mandating that state courts seal the records. Krist said the bill would strengthen already existing privacy provisions.

“[LB505] would protect legally innocent Nebraskans from the stigma of permanent public criminal records,” he said.

The bill would expand the types of arrests eligible for privacy protection to include those of individuals who are acquitted of criminal charges and offenders who successfully complete drug court or a similar problem-solving court.

When an arrest is removed from public record, a person would not be required to disclose the arrest in response to a public inquiry.

Following the adoption of a technical amendment, the bill advanced to select file on a 35-0 vote.

### Consumer protection enhancements proposed

Members of the Judiciary Committee heard testimony Jan. 28 on a bill that would strengthen consumer protection laws.

LB835, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, would make changes to several consumer protection statutes including the Credit Report



Sen. Bob Krist



Sen. Heath Mello

Protection Act, the Consumer Protection Act, the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act and the Financial Data Protection and Consumer Notification of Data Security Breach Act.

Mello said the bill would bring them up to date to address modern threats to consumer safety.

“Our consumer protection laws are out of date, some of which haven’t been updated since 1974,” he said.

Currently, if a minor has no credit file established, a consumer reporting agency can deny a request for a security freeze. LB835 would amend the Credit Report Protection Act to require the agency to create a credit file for the minor upon receiving a security freeze request.

Abigail Stempson, chief of the state attorney general’s public protection bureau and consumer protection division, spoke in favor of the bill. She said over 10 percent of minors have had their Social Security numbers stolen.

“[Identity theft] affects a minor’s ability to obtain student loans, buy a car or even get a job,” she said. “This gives the attorney general a strong tool with which to hold these scammers accountable.”

Proposed changes to the Financial Data Protection and Consumer Notification of Data Security Breach Act include requiring any entity that suffers a data breach to notify customers if personal information—including email addresses or user names in combination with a password or security question—is acquired by an unauthorized party. It also would require the entity to notify the attorney general’s office.

Ken Smith, a staff attorney at Nebraska Appleseed, also supported LB835. He said that consumer protection provisions are especially important for low-income individuals and families.

“[The bill] would implement

changes that would benefit many Nebraskans, including children and low-income families,” Smith said. “Identity theft can result in loss of utility services, improper child support garnishment or difficulty obtaining a bank account.”

The attorney general’s office would be permitted to share documentary material obtained through a Civil Investigative Demand with other law enforcement agencies under the Consumer Protection Act. It also would increase from \$25,000 to \$500,000 the maximum civil penalty for anti-trust violations, including restraint of trade and monopolization.

Finally, the bill would add two additional deceptive trade practices under the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act: a person representing that goods do not contain ingredients or characteristics that the goods actually contain and a person employing any deception or fraud while soliciting funds or assets for a charitable purpose.

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

**Removal of marriage in constitution proposed**

Members of the Judiciary Committee heard testimony Jan. 27 on a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would remove a provision regarding marriage in response to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

LR389CA, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, would remove a provision of the state constitution that defines marriage as the legal union of a man and a woman and does not recog-



Sen. Burke Harr

nize the union of a same-sex couple.

If passed by the Legislature, the proposed amendment would be placed on the November 2016 ballot.

Because the Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges that marriage is a fundamental right for same-sex couples, Harr said, the Nebraska provision is moot and unenforceable.

“We have a state constitution that’s currently in conflict with the U.S. Constitution. [LR389CA] would make our state constitution match the law of the land,” he said.

The committee took no immediate action on the measure.



**Increase in power board representative pay proposed**

A bill heard by the Natural Resources Committee Jan. 28 would increase the pay for Nebraska’s representative on a committee that oversees the region’s electric transmission infrastructure.

LB914, introduced by Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala, would increase from \$60 to \$250 per day the compensation for the Nebraska Power Review Board member who represents the state on the Southwest Power Pool’s regional state committee. Total compensation would be capped at \$20,000 per year. Another board member who serves as proxy would receive the same daily compensation when serving as representative.



Sen. Ken Schilz

The Nebraska Power Review Board authorizes and oversees electric generation and transmission facilities

in the state. The regional committee provides guidance on the development and operation of electric transmission infrastructure within the Southwest Power Pool—a group of utilities, power generation and transmission companies that oversees electricity infrastructure in 14 states including Nebraska. The Nebraska Public Power District, Omaha Public Power District and Lincoln Electric System are members.

Steve Lichter, board chairman and Nebraska’s regional state committee member for the past two years, spoke in support of the bill. In that time, he said, the Southwest Power Pool approved more than \$8 billion of transmission infrastructure work in the region.

Lichter, who will step down as chairman next year, spends about two weeks every month attending or preparing for committee hearings, he said. The current compensation for Nebraska’s representative on the committee is not adequate, Lichter said.

“It’s my belief that this role is too important and the potential impact is too great,” he said.

Kevin Wailes, testifying on behalf of the Nebraska Power Association, spoke in support of the bill. Wailes, administrator and CEO of Lincoln Electric System, said Nebraska’s utilities are tied closely to the Southwest Power Pool and work hard to ensure Nebraska’s interests are represented.

“We can’t emphasize too much how important the [board] representation on the [committee] is as it relates to protecting ratepayers and customers in Nebraska,” he said.

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

## REVENUE

### Businesses would receive tax credits on student loan repayments

Nebraska businesses that make repayments on employees’ student loans would be eligible for a tax credit under a bill heard by the Revenue Committee Jan. 27.

LB685, introduced by Sen. Kate Bolz of Lincoln, would establish a tax credit for businesses that pay the principal and interest on qualifying employees’ student loans. A business



Sen. Kate Bolz

would receive a credit of up to \$1,800 per employee for up to 20 employees. The bill would set aside 25 percent of the credits for businesses with no more than 50 employees and limit the total credits to \$1.5 million per fiscal year.

To qualify, an employee must have graduated with a two- or four-year degree from a Nebraska college or university and worked at least 480 hours during the year. The employee also would be eligible if he or she graduated from a Nebraska high school and returned to the state after receiving a degree from an out-of-state university.

Bolz said an average of 4,000 educated Nebraskans leave the state every year, making workforce quality and availability major concerns for Nebraska businesses. She said the bill would give the state’s employers an incentive they could use to recruit and retain workers. It also would help Nebraska graduates, 63 percent of whom graduate with student loan debt, she said.

Bolz said she does not know of any other state with a similar tax credit,

and it could help set Nebraska apart when students decide where to take a job after graduation.

“I think this is a targeted incentive,” she said, “and I think it will help to keep young people in Nebraska.”

Nick Devine, testifying on behalf of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, supported the bill. He said the average UNL student graduates with \$21,000 in student loan debt.

“While this bill will not limit the amount of debt a student leaves with, it will help them overcome the incredible burden that student debt has become,” he said. “It will let them build a firm foundation in our state, keeping them here and growing our economy further.”

Evan Fullmer, testifying on behalf of the Greater Omaha Young Professionals Council, also supported the bill. She said it would help Nebraska businesses retain talented employees and help those employees with student loan debt.

“Talent is a top concern for employers across the state,” Fullmer said. “We believe this bill creatively incents grads to stay in the state and fill Nebraska jobs.”

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

## TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### Organ donor status question advanced

Lawmakers advanced from select file Jan. 27 a bill that would update the process for indicating one’s organ donor status when applying for a driver license.

As introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier, LB47 would have required an applicant to indicate whether or not they wish to be an organ donor when applying for a state driver license or identification card. On general file, some senators voiced concerns that requiring the answer was the same as compelling speech, which is unconstitutional.



Sen. Dan Watermeier

Watermeier introduced an amendment on select file, adopted 35-0, making an answer to the question optional rather than mandatory. The question would read: Do you wish to include your name in the Donor Registry of Nebraska and donate your organs and tissues at the time of your death?

The amendment also provided that a donor's status would remain effective until revoked or amended by the license holder. Expiration of the driver license would not change the license holder's donor status.

License and permit applicants younger than 16 would be exempt from answering the organ donor question. Donors who want to specify which organs and tissues they intend to donate must contact the state's donor registry.

Omaha Sen. John McCollister supported the amendment and said the intent of the bill is commendable.

"If we can generate an additional 50,000 to 80,000 organ donors, that's fantastic," he said.

The bill advanced to final reading by voice vote.

### Bill authorizing mountain lion license plates advanced

Nebraska drivers could show their support for mountain lions with

special license plates under a bill advanced by lawmakers Jan. 28.

Under LB474, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, the mountain lion protection plate would be available in alphanumeric or personalized versions with designs supportive of Nebraska's mountain lion population. The alphanumeric plate would display up to five characters and not use a county designation.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

The fee for the alphanumeric plates would be \$5, credited to a newly created Nebraska Game and Parks Commission educational fund. Personalized plates would cost \$40, with \$10 credited to the Department of Motor Vehicles cash fund and \$30 credited to the commission's educational fund.

The commission would be required to use the educational fund to teach youth about wildlife conservation practices.

Besides creating a fund and an educational program, Chambers said, the bill is designed to direct attention to Nebraska's dwindling mountain lion population. Because of the excessive number of female mountain lions killed this hunting season, he said, survival of the species is in jeopardy.

"There is a tremendous amount of support for conserving the small population of mountain lions we have in this state," he said.

A Transportation and Telecommunications Committee amendment, adopted 36-0, changed the proposed mountain lion protection plate to mountain lion conservation plates.

North Platte Sen. Mike Groene supported the bill, saying that conservation efforts are the reason the state's mountain lion population continues to exist.

"The reason we have mountain lions in this state is because of the conservation efforts by Game and Parks," Groene said. "They were nearly extinct and they came back to the state because of the efforts of [Game and Parks]."

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

### Right of way clarification discussed

A bill that would clarify right of way laws for bicyclists and pedestrians was heard by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Jan. 25.

LB716, introduced by Omaha Sen. Rick Kolowski, would clarify that any bicyclist who is riding on a designated path that intersects with a street or highway would have the right of way within the crossing if he or she follows all traffic signals.



Sen. Rick Kolowski

In the event that a motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian all are present at an intersection, the pedestrian would have right of way.

Kolowski said the bill would make state laws pertaining to bicyclists and motorists easier to understand.

"These common-sense clarifications [would] strengthen the rights of cyclists and pedestrians, clarify the expectations of motorists and assist law enforcement's ability to enforce the laws," he said.

Roger Hirsch, president of the Great Plains Trails Network, spoke in favor of the bill.

"Bicycle riding on multi-use trails can lead to injury or even death, especially when trails intersect with roadways," he said. "Passage of LB716 would clarify the responsibilities of

motor vehicle drivers and cyclists at those critical intersections.”

LB716 also would repeal a current statute commonly referred to as the mandatory sidepath provision. This states that whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a street, a bicyclist must use the path and not the street.

Julie Harris, executive director of the Nebraska Bicycling Alliance, also supported the bill. She said the mandatory sidepath provision has prevented construction of some new protected bike lanes on streets where a sidepath already may exist.

“People on bikes need to be able to legally ride on the road if there are other conditions that make a sidepath dangerous to ride on,” Harris said. “[LB716] gives the flexibility back to our local authorities to build projects that they think are the safest thing for their city.”

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

### Increased title fee considered for out-of-state vehicles

The cost of titles for out-of-state vehicles would increase under a bill heard by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Jan. 26.

LB765, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Tommy Garrett, would raise from \$10 to \$25 the fee for each original certificate of title issued in Nebraska for a vehicle from another state or country. Garrett said only five states currently have out-of-state title fees lower than Nebraska.

“Low motor vehicle title fees has led to out-of-state dealerships using



Sen. Tommy Garrett

Nebraska county treasurer offices to title their vehicles,” he said. “The processing of out-of-state titles takes much longer than processing an in-state title. [LB765] would help offices recoup those labor costs.”

The county processing the motor vehicle title would retain half of the fee. The remaining \$12.50 would be distributed as follows:

- \$6 to the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) cash fund;
- \$4.50 to the state general fund;
- \$1 for programs for persons suffering from a brain injury;
- 65 cents to the Nebraska State Patrol cash fund;
- 25 cents to the Motor Vehicle Fraud cash fund; and
- 10 cents to the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Fund.

The title fee for out-of-state all-terrain vehicles, utility-type vehicles, minibikes and trailers also would increase to \$25.

For titles issued by the DMV: \$10 would be remitted to the DMV cash fund, \$14 would be remitted to the Motor Carrier Division cash fund and \$1 would be remitted to programs for persons suffering from a brain injury.

Lancaster County Treasurer Andy Stebbing testified in support of the bill. He said he processed 5,579 titles for one out-of-state car dealership in 2015 alone.

“[The out-of-state title fee] has not been increased since 1988 when it was changed from \$6 to \$10,” Stebbing said. “I’m not a fan of raising fees, but this is a really good one to increase. It’s long overdue and would help offset costs for processing out-of-state titles.”

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

### Consolidation of driver licensing services advanced

Counties would no longer be required to administer driver licensing services under a bill heard by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Jan. 25.

Under LB785, introduced by Henderson Sen. Curt Friesen, the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would assume responsibility for providing all driver licensing services, including fee collection.



Sen. Curt Friesen

Friesen said the DMV wanted to proactively revise its business model to better meet the needs of Nebraskans.

“The current requirement to have services in every county has been in place since the 1950s,” he said. “Demographics have changed over time and the expectations of citizens have changed.”

Rhonda Lahm, Nebraska DMV director, supported the bill. She said it would allow the DMV to redistribute resources to where they’re needed most. In two counties—Douglas and Sarpy—32 percent of DMV staff provide services for nearly 40 percent of all applicants.

“[LB785] allows the DMV to improve flexibility in offering driver licenses to all Nebraskans,” she said. “I have no intention of reducing services in our largest three counties. I’m bringing this to improve customer services for everyone.”

Lahm said the department planned to offer more services online and potentially implement services by appointment only in some counties.

Larry Dix, representing the Nebraska Association of County Officials, also testified in support of the bill.

He said it would provide cost savings in counties that see little to no driver licensing applicants.

“Yes, there will be a reduction in fees for some of these counties but there also will no longer be a requirement to provide office space either,” Dix said.

In counties where the DMV administers all aspects of driver licensing services, the county portion of the application fee would be credited to the DMV.

No one testified in opposition to the bill and the committee advanced it to general file 7-1.

**Funding requested for DMV software upgrade**

The state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would have a new source of funding for software upgrades under a bill heard by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Jan. 26.

LB918, introduced by Gretna Sen. John Murante, would redistribute 1 percent of motor vehicle tax proceeds to the Vehicle Title and Registration Replacement and Maintenance cash fund. The money would be used to fund a new vehicle title and registration (VTR) system.

Murante said the current system is outdated and in need of replacement. The Legislature appropriated \$12.5 million in 2014 to the DMV to pay for the system upgrade, he said, which is estimated to cost \$24 million. Another \$5 million was later allocated, he said.

“The VTR system was developed in the late 1980s and the technology currently does not meet today’s business needs,” he said. “[LB918] would provide a funding mechanism



Sen. John Murante

to complete the project and ongoing maintenance of the system.”

Rhonda Lahm, DMV director, supported the bill. She said the department collected almost \$75 million for local government entities under the current VTR system.

“The partnership between the state and local governments has served the people of Nebraska well,” she said. “[LB918] would allow us to use the capacity of the current system to fund the new system without raising taxes or fees.”

Jack Cheloha, representing the city of Omaha, testified in opposition to the bill. He said the funding mechanism would divert valuable resources from the city.

“The impact of 1 percent for Omaha is approximately \$100,000. In terms of hiring, that’s two new rookie police officers,” he said. “Maybe a fairer way to pay for this would be to increase fees on people when they register their vehicles.”

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

**URBAN AFFAIRS**

**Annexation restrictions advanced**

Restrictions on asset expenditures by sanitary and improvement districts (SIDs) that have received notice of annexation were advanced from general file Jan. 27.

Under LB131, introduced by Omaha Sen. Joni Craighead last session, expenditures by an SID would be restricted for 90 days upon receiving notification



Sen. Joni Craighead

of a city or village’s intent to annex.

Craighead said that an SID is created with the expectation that it will be dissolved as a legal entity when annexed, so the bill would reduce the amount of risk taken on by cities proposing annexation.

An Urban Affairs Committee amendment, adopted 31-0 replaced the bill. Under the amendment, payments on construction bonds, construction fund warrants, general fund warrants and contracted labor and services would be exempt from the spending restriction.

Any proposed construction projects that have not been put to a public bidding process prior to receiving notice of annexation would be submitted to the city’s finance director for approval during the 90-day period.

Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, chairperson of the committee, said that SID spending prior to annexation was a high priority issue among SID concerns studied by the committee.

The bill advanced to select file on a 31-0 vote.

**Planned unit development changes proposed**

Procedures for approval of planned unit developments in some second-class cities and villages would change under a bill heard Jan. 26 by the Urban Affairs Committee.

Under current law, a county that has adopted a comprehensive development plan and is enforcing subdivision regulations must approve a planned unit development in a second-class city or village’s extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ).

LB875, introduced by Gretna Sen. John Murante, would remove the requirement that the county must approve the plan in a county with a population between 100,000 and

200,000. A second-class city or village still would be required to submit a plan of the planned unit development to the county for review.

Murante said that planned unit development is used where development includes mixed uses, such as retail, office space and single and multiple-family housing. Under current law, the county has the final word on such projects when they involve the ETJ of second-class cities and villages, he said.

Sarpy is the only county that would be impacted by the bill, Murante said, and first-class cities in the county currently are not required to obtain county approval.

“LB875 would place cities of the second class and villages [in Sarpy County] on the same footing as cities of the first class when it comes to planned unit development,” he said.

Jeff Kooistra, Gretna city administrator, testified in support of the

bill. Requiring county approval of planned unit development projects isn’t needed, he said, because projects already are thoroughly vetted.

“We believe that it is unnecessary for the developer and the city to take this extra step,” Kooistra said, adding that such approval can slow projects and extend completion times.

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

## 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.

**UNICAMERAL UPDATE**  
The Nebraska Legislature's official news source since 1977

HOME | ABOUT | PHOTOS | TEACHER'S GUIDE

Committees Sections Senator Features Session Review 2015 Slideshows/Videos Announcement

RECENT HEADLINES: [Hair braiding license exemption proposed](#)

**Restrictions on juvenile detention proposed**  
Published January 21, 2016, in **Judiciary**

Members of the Judiciary Committee heard testimony Jan. 20 on a bill that would restrict the use of secure detention for juveniles. Under LB675, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, a juvenile could be detained only if he or she is considered a threat to the physical safety of others or at risk of failing...

**Hair braiding license exemption proposed**  
Published January 21, 2016, in **Health and Human Services**

Natural hair braiding would be exempt from cosmetology credentialing requirements under a bill heard Jan. 20 by the Health and Human Services Committee. Omaha Sen. Nicole Fox, sponsor of LB898, said the bill would remove a regulatory barrier for potential operators of natural hair braiding businesses. LB898 defines natural hair braiding as a service of...

**Confinement limits proposed for juvenile offenders**  
Published January 21, 2016, in **Judiciary**

The use of solitary room confinement for juvenile offenders would be limited under a bill heard by the Judiciary Committee Jan. 20. LB845, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, would require that solitary room confinement of more than

**Bill would end long-term care savings program**  
Published January 20, 2016, in **Revenue**

Nebraska's Long-Term Care Savings Plan would be eliminated under a bill heard Jan. 20 by the Revenue Committee. LB756, introduced on behalf of the Legislative Performance Audit Committee by chairperson Sen. Dan Watermeier,

Senators escort Chief Justice Michael Heavican and other members of the Nebraska Supreme Court to the Norris Chamber for Heavican's State of the Judiciary Address Jan. 21.

January 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16



# COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

## Monday, February 1

### Appropriations

#### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB956 (Hadley) Provide for deficit appropriations  
 LB957 (Hadley) Authorize additional uses for certain funds and provide for certain transfers  
 LB1092 (Mello) Change provisions relating to budget request reporting requirements  
 Agency 19: Dept. of Banking  
 Agency 22: Dept. of Insurance  
 Agency 36: State Racing Commission  
 Agency 58: Board of Engineers and Architects  
 Agency 63: Board of Public Accountancy  
 Agency 76: Nebraska Indian Commission

### Banking, Commerce & Insurance

#### Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Dentlinger, Courtney - Dept. of Economic Development  
 LB837 (Scheer) Change provisions relating to premium taxes and quarterly statements under the Surplus Lines Insurance Act  
 LB942 (Scheer) Provide a disclosure requirement to the Department of Banking and Finance for seller-assisted marketing plan contracts as prescribed  
 LB1035 (Williams) Redefine farm product and change provisions relating to the central filing system and the master lien list

### Business & Labor

#### Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.

LB928 (Mello) Change provisions relating to discriminatory wage practices based on sex  
 LB1089 (Hansen) Change the minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities  
 LB896 (Hansen) Require pay increases for state employees to recognize length of service  
 LB850 (Crawford) Adopt the Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Act  
 LB830 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to vacation leave for state employees

### Education

#### Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB1026 (Morfeld) Change provisions relating to education technology  
 LB1064 (Sullivan) Change option enrollment and student fee provisions as prescribed  
 LB1066 (Sullivan) Change provisions relating to education

### Executive Board

#### Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.

LB686 (Chambers) Provide for the publication and distribution of the Constitution of Nebraska  
 LB1016 (Watermeier) Redefine agency under the Legislative Performance Audit Act

### General Affairs

#### Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB748 (Lindstrom) Change import provisions under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act as prescribed  
 LB1046 (Ebke) Change license eligibility requirements under the Liquor Control Act  
 LB1105 (Larson) Change and eliminate beverage regulations and licensure provisions and create the Nebraska Craft Brewery Board  
 LB834 (Schumacher) Prohibit the retail sale of alcohol at a price below cost  
 LB969 (Larson) Provide and change duties for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of public libraries or reading rooms by cities or villages

### Transportation & Telecommunications

#### Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB927 (Hilkemann) Change provisions relating to surcharges for 911 service  
 LB938 (Smith) Adopt the 911 Service System Act and transfer funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund to the 911 Service System Fund  
 LB977 (Smith) Change provisions relating to implements of husbandry on highways  
 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

## Tuesday, February 2

### Appropriations

#### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 50: Nebraska State College System  
 Agency 51: University of Nebraska System  
 AM1897 to LB 560  
 LB713 (Stinner) State intent relating to appropriations for the Access College Early Scholarship Program  
 LB852 (Cook) Appropriate funds for aid to community colleges  
 LB755 (Watermeier) Appropriate funds to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges  
 LB858 (Hadley) Create the University of Nebraska Facilities Program of 2016

### Banking, Commerce & Insurance

#### Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB794 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act and corporate occupation taxes  
 LB817 (Riepe) Adopt the Direct Primary Care Agreement Act  
 LB1036 (Campbell) Change provisions of the Credit Services Organization Act, the Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act, and the Nebraska Installment Loan Act

### Education

#### Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB1086 (Davis) Change provisions relating to student self-management of asthma or anaphylaxis  
 LB1052 (B. Harr) State intent relating to appropriations for the Nebraska Whole Child Project and change provisions relating to school funding  
 LB1002 (Baker) Permit educational service unit boards to pay membership dues to associations of school boards

### Transportation & Telecommunications

#### Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB669 (Krist) Update certain federal references and change from a secondary to primary offense certain occupant protection system enforcement requirements  
 LB668 (Krist) Change certain federal references and provisions relating to provisional operator's permit

# COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

restrictions, use of interactive wireless communication devices, and occupant protection system enforcement  
LB989 (Murante) Change provisions relating to motor vehicles

## Urban Affairs

### Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB860 (Hughes) Add a type of economic development program under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act  
LB808 (Hansen) Change provisions relating to amending an economic development program under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act  
LB1059 (Crawford) Require certain disclosures under the Community Development Law and the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act  
LB1012 (Mello) Adopt the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act

## Wednesday, February 3

### Appropriations

#### Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 29: Dept. of Natural Resources  
Agency 54: Neb. State Historical Society  
Agency 91: Neb. Tourism Commission  
Agency 33: Game and Parks Commission  
LB810 (Davis) Eliminate the Nebraska Youth Conservation Program and transfer funds to the Cowboy Trail Fund  
LB1076 (Schilz) Appropriate funds to the Game and Parks commission for law enforcement at the Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area

### Executive Board

#### Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.

LB987 (Morfeld) Create the Bioscience Steering Committee  
LB1083 (Williams) Adopt the Next Generation Business Growth Act and change funding for tax credits under the Community Development Assistance Act

### Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

#### Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB753 (Crawford) Extend protection under federal Uniformed Services

Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to Nebraska employees serving in the National Guard of another state  
LB718 (Groene) Change requirements for an application for a waiver of college tuition and fees by a dependent of a veteran  
LB766 (Garrett) Change eligibility provisions for waiver of tuition and fees for veterans' dependents as prescribed

### Health & Human Services

#### Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB818 (Kolowski) Change provisions relating to immunity when submitting a complaint under the Children's Residential Facilities and Placing Licensure Act  
LB684 (Bolz) Change provisions relating to exemption from an adoptive home study as prescribed  
LB866 (Bolz) Adopt the Transition to Adult Living Success Program Act  
LB802 (K. Haar) Create the Health & Climate Resiliency Task Force

### Judiciary

#### Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB953 (Kolterman) Provide protection for qualified adults from financial exploitation  
LB780 (Schumacher) Change provisions relating to emergency protective custody  
LB1103 (Schumacher) Change provisions relating to medicaid reimbursements, provide for a lien, and change estate procedures  
LB934 (Coash) Change provisions relating to the Office of the Public Guardian  
LB1008 (Coash) Provide qualification requirements for guardians ad litem in guardianship, conservatorship, and other protective proceedings

### Natural Resources

#### Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB745 (McCullister) Change Game and Parks Commission fee and permit provisions  
LB902 (Kolowski) Change the Nebraska Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Act

### Revenue

#### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB889 (Mello) Adopt the School Readiness Tax Credit Act  
LB886 (Davis) Adopt the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act and provide income tax credits  
LB907 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act  
LB1015 (B. Harr) Change a sales tax exemption relating to museums

## Thursday, February 4

### Appropriations

#### Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 16: Dept. of Revenue  
Agency 65: Dept. of Administrative Services  
Agency 71: Nebraska Energy Office  
Agency 85: Public Employees Retirement Board  
Agency 93: Tax Equalization and Review Commission  
LB809 (Davis) Appropriate funds to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund

### Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

#### Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB687 (Bloomfield) Provide procedures for recall of state elective officers  
LR379CA (Bloomfield) Constitutional amendment authorizing recall of state elective officers  
LB742 (Hansen) Change county population thresholds  
LB867 (Legislative Performance Audit) Change provisions relating to the Administrative Procedure Act and require the Department of Correctional Services to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations

### Health & Human Services

#### Room 1510 - 1:00 p.m.

Annual Committee Briefing by DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Appointment: Miller, Courtney L. - Dept. of Health & Human Services  
LB895 (Coash) Require a report regarding the Beatrice State Developmental Center and the Bridges program  
LB1039 (Coash) Define and redefine terms relating to developmental disabilities

# COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

LB1033 (Campbell) Create an advisory committee relating to persons with disabilities within the Department of Health & Human Services

## Judiciary

### Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB710 (Hughes) Change provisions relating to hazing  
 LB861 (Schumacher) Provide for court review of inmate restrictive housing placement as prescribed  
 LB910 (Bolz) Change provisions relating to parole administration  
 LB679 (Krist) Change reporting requirements of the Community Corrections Division of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice  
 LB1023 (Ebke) Require development of treatment protocols for and a needs assessment of committed offenders and correctional facilities  
 LB1094 (Judiciary) Change provisions relating to evidence, sentencing, certain criminal penalties, criminal mischief, assault, theft, forgery, and probation

## Natural Resources

### Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB736 (Friesen) Change provisions relating to electric utilities and electric suppliers under the Rural Community-Based Energy Development Act  
 LB863 (Schilz) Adopt the Wind Energy Expansion Act

## Nebraska Retirement Systems

### Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.

AM 1865 to LB 467

## Revenue

### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB958 (Gloor) Change provisions relating to budgets, the valuation of agricultural land, and levy limitations  
 LB717 (Groene) Change provisions relating to the assessment and valuation of real property  
 LB940 (Johnson) Adopt the Tax Stabilization Act

## Friday, February 5

### Appropriations

#### Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 11: Attorney General  
 LB1006 (Coash) Appropriate funds for hiring forensic accountants by the Office of the Attorney General  
 LB1017 (Lindstrom) Eliminate a residency requirement for student interns under a grant program and transfer funds as prescribed  
 LB1028 (Morfeld) Change provisions relating to funding under the Business Innovation Act and require the Department of Economic Development to contract with certain entities  
 LB1091 (Hilkemann) State intent relating to appropriations for purposes of the Site and Building Development Fund

### Executive Board

#### Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.

LB1022 (Legislative Performance Audit) Change provisions relating to the office of Legislative Audit and change dates for application of tax incentives  
 LB1102 (Davis) Authorize legislative performance audits of tax-increment financing projects

### Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

#### Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB993 (Coash) Change provisions related to the Auditor of Public Accounts and require hours of work be recorded on a timesheet  
 LB935 (Schilz) Change provisions relating to the Auditor of Public Accounts  
 LB823 (Larson) Change powers and duties of the State Athletic Commissioner and provide administrative fine authority as prescribed

### Health & Human Services

#### Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB979 (Kuehn) Provide for selection of interchangeable biological products by pharmacists  
 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

### Judiciary

#### Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB991 (McCollister) Redefine crime victim  
 LB915 (McCollister) Create a veterans' treatment court pilot project  
 LB919 (Williams) Change provisions relating to problem solving court programs  
 LB1027 (Morfeld) Create and provide funding for the Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Grant Program and provide duties for the Attorney General  
 LB1007 (Coash) Change and provide provisions relating to protection of vulnerable adults and senior adults

### Natural Resources

#### Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB887 (Schilz) Extend sunset of the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund  
 LB897 (Lindstrom) Allow certain public power agencies to engage in hedging transactions

### Nebraska Retirement Systems

#### Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.

LB805 (Mello) Require a periodic study of certain retirement plans and a report filing by certain political subdivisions  
 LB922 (Kolterman) Change terms of Public Employees Retirement Board members as prescribed  
 LB986 (Nebraska Retirement Systems) Change duties of the Public Employees Retirement Board relating to an annual valuation report and experience study

### Revenue

#### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB774 (Scheer) Provide a sales and use tax exemption for purchases by nonprofit substance abuse treatment centers  
 LB671 (Krist) Repeal the Build Nebraska Act and change the distribution of sales tax revenue

## Monday, February 8

### Appropriations

#### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 25: Health & Human Services  
 LB911 (Bolz) State intent relating to fund transfers for behavioral health systems of care

LB923 (Stinner) Appropriate funds for federally qualified health centers  
LB931 (Bolz) Provide for financial incentives for certain assisted-living facilities and change distribution of the Behavioral Health Services Fund  
LB988 (Cook) Change distribution provisions for the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund  
LB1030 (Bolz) Change an expenditure limit relating to amino acid-based elemental formulas  
LB1093 (Mello) Eliminate cash funds, create programs, and transfer funds

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

Appointment: Booth, Patrick - Neb. Exchange Stakeholder Commission  
Appointment: Flowers, Shari - Neb. Exchange Stakeholder Commission  
Appointment: Rieker, Edward (Ed) - Neb. Exchange Stakeholder Commission  
LB770 (Groene) Change the termination date of the Nebraska Exchange Transparency Act  
LB1020 (Fox) Provide for amendments to declarations to correct scrivener's errors, omissions, or errors in the declaration under the Nebraska Condominium Act  
LB1096 (B. Harr) Change provisions relating to amendments to declarations regarding unit boundaries under the Nebraska Condominium Act

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

LB836 (Mello) Adopt the In the Line of Duty Compensation Act  
LB743 (Hansen) Clarify compensation for shoulder injuries under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act  
LB1001 (Ebke) Change provisions relating to a compensation schedule for injuries resulting in disability  
LB1005 (B. Harr) Provide for an evidence-based drug formulary under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act  
LB983 (B. Harr) Change the definition of disability under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act

**Executive Board  
Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.**

LR403 (Hansen) Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint the Election Technology Committee as a special committee of the Legislature

LR413 (Watermeier) Create the Task Force on Behavioral and Mental Health  
LR418 (Howard) Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint a special committee to be known as the ACCESSNebraska Oversight Committee of the Legislature

**Transportation & Telecommunications  
Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB872 (Murante) Change a provision relating to the use of blue and amber rotating or flashing lights  
LB799 (Bolz) Include capital acquisition costs in the Nebraska Public Transportation Act's assistance program  
LB973 (Smith) Change penalty, permit, and notice provisions relating to electric utility lines, poles, and structures  
LB996 (Friesen) Change provisions relating to the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act

**Tuesday, February 9**

**Appropriations**

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

Agency 13: Dept. of Education  
LB800 (Bolz) State intent relating to an appropriation to the State Department of Education for job-driven training and education  
LB838 (Bolz) State intent relating to an appropriation to the State Department of Education for an educational specialist  
LB1053 (B. Harr) Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education  
LB1074 (Kolowski) Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education

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

LB706 (Coash) Define habilitative services for purposes of insurance  
LB801 (Bolz) Require educational material and a report relating to long-term care insurance  
LB1060 (Fox) Adopt the Pharmacy Benefit Fairness and Transparency Act and provide duties for the Director of Insurance

**Nebraska Retirement Systems  
Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.**

LB1069 (K. Haar) Provide duties for the state investment officer relating to investment in energy-related companies or funds

**Transportation & Telecommunications  
Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB795 (B. Harr) Establish the Wireless in Nebraska Program under the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act  
LB1003 (Smith) Change the prepaid wireless surcharge determination under the Prepaid Wireless Surcharge Act  
LB994 (Davis) Change provisions under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act relating to financial responsibility as applied to nonresident owners

**Urban Affairs**

**Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB719 (Groene) Change provisions relating to undeveloped vacant land under the Community Development Law  
LB1042 (Friesen) Change provisions relating to tax-increment financing  
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  
LR394CA (Hughes) Constitutional amendment to authorize taxing bodies to exclude their taxes from pledges made by cities to pay indebtedness on redevelopment projects

**Wednesday, February 10**

**Appropriations**

**Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.**

Agency 78: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice  
Agency 46: Dept. of Correctional Services  
LB733 (Watermeier) Appropriate funds to the Department of Correctional Services

**Thursday, February 11**

**Appropriations**

**Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.**

Agency 9: Secretary of State  
Agency 10: Auditor of Public Accounts  
Agency 14: Public Service Commission  
Agency 24: Dept. Motor Vehicles  
LB715 (Stinner) Provide for transfers from the General Fund to the Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund  
LB789 (Cook) Change provisions regarding appropriations for the installation of art in public buildings  
LB1018 (Coash) Appropriate funds to the Nebraska Arts Council ■

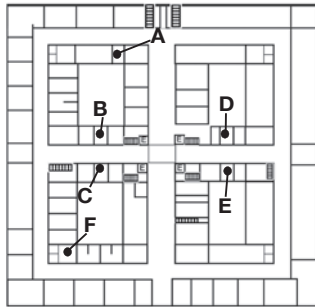
# PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings on bills are typically held in the afternoons during the first half of the legislative session. Committees have regularly scheduled rooms and meeting days, although they sometimes meet in different rooms at varying times in order to accommodate testifiers or large audiences.

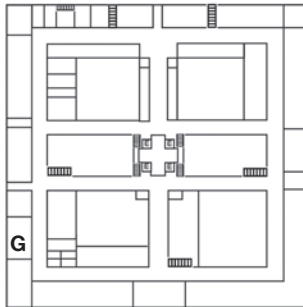
The weekly schedule of committee hearings is published on the last legislative day of the week throughout the legislative session. The schedule is available on a table in front of the Clerk's Office, in the Sunday editions of the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald, in the weekly Unicameral Update and at [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov).

Hearing Room	Committee	Meeting Days
2102 (G)	Agriculture	Tu
1524 (B)	Appropriations	M, Tu
1003 (A)	Appropriations	W, Th, F
1507 (E)	Banking, Commerce & Insurance	M, Tu
2102 (G)	Business & Labor	M
1525 (C)	Education	M, Tu
1510 (D)	General Affairs	M
1507 (E)	Government, Military & Veterans Affairs	W, Th, F
1510 (D)	Health & Human Services	W, Th, F
1113 (F)	Judiciary	W, Th, F
1525 (C)	Natural Resources	W, Th, F
1525 (C)	Nebraska Retirement Systems	(Meets at noon as scheduled)
1524 (B)	Revenue	W, Th, F
1113 (F)	Transportation & Telecommunications	M, Tu
1510 (D)	Urban Affairs	Tu

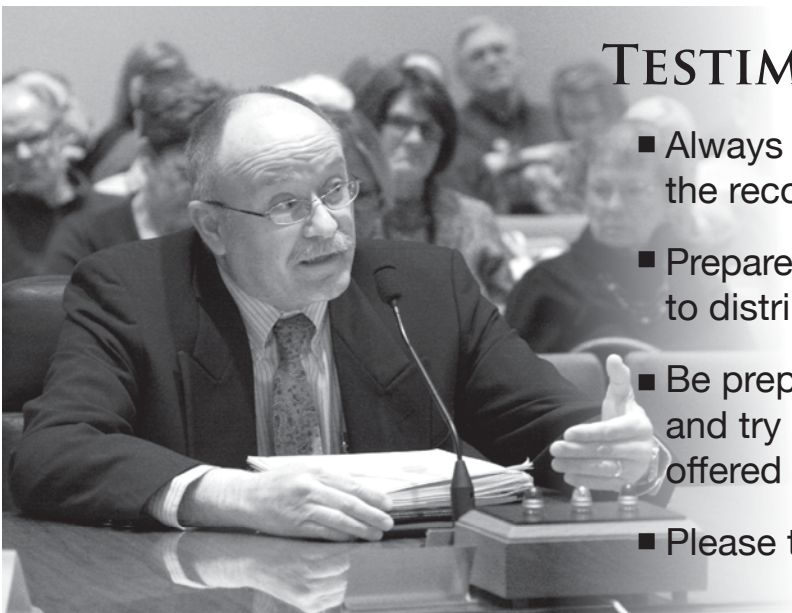
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



\* Hearing rooms labeled by letter – see chart at right



## TESTIMONY SUGGESTIONS

- Always state your name and spell it for the record, as hearings are transcribed.
- Prepare written copies of your testimony to distribute to the committee.
- Be prepared to limit your testimony, and try not to repeat the points offered by previous testifiers.
- Please turn off cell phones.

# 2016 Legislative Session

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>March</b>						
		1 DAY 35	2 DAY 36	3 DAY 37	4 RECESS	5
6	7 DAY 38	8 DAY 39	9 DAY 40	10 DAY 41	11 RECESS	12
13	14 RECESS	15 DAY 42	16 DAY 43	17 DAY 44	18 DAY 45	19
20	21 DAY 46	22 DAY 47	23 DAY 48	24 DAY 49	25 RECESS	26
27	28 RECESS	29 DAY 50	30 DAY 51	31 DAY 52		

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>April</b>						
					1 DAY 53	2
3	4 DAY 54	5 DAY 55	6 DAY 56	7 DAY 57	8 RECESS	9
10	11 RECESS	12 DAY 58	13 DAY 59	14 RECESS	15 RECESS	16
17	18 RECESS	19 RECESS	20 DAY 60	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Federal & State Holidays

January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 February 15 – Presidents' Day

### Legislative Recess Days

January 29  
 February 12, 26  
 March 4, 11, 14, 25, 28  
 April 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19

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

# SENATOR CONTACT INFO

Sen. Roy Baker Lincoln, District 30 Room 1522 (402) 471-2620 rbaker@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist30	Sen. Al Davis Hyannis, District 43 Room 1021 (402) 471-2628 adavis@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist43	Sen. Burke J. Harr Omaha, District 8 Room 2010 (402) 471-2722 bharr@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist08	Sen. Tyson Larson O'Neill, District 40 Room 1019 (402) 471-2801 tlarson@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist40	Sen. Ken Schilz Ogallala, District 47 Room 1210 (402) 471-2616 kschilz@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist47
Sen. Dave Bloomfield Hoskins, District 17 Room 1206 (402) 471-2716 dbloomfield@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist17	Sen. Laura Ebke Crete, District 32 Room 1101 (402) 471-2711 lebke@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist32	Sen. Robert Hilkemann Omaha, District 4 Room 1115 (402) 471-2621 rhilkemann@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist04	Sen. Brett Lindstrom Omaha, District 18 Room 1202 (402) 471-2618 blindstrom@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist18	Sen. David Schnoor Scribner, District 15 Room 1118 (402) 471-2625 dschnoor@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist15
Sen. Kate Bolz Lincoln, District 29 Room 1120 (402) 471-2734 kbolz@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist29	Sen. Nicole Fox Omaha, District 7 Room 1115 (402) 471-2721 nfox@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist07	Sen. Sara Howard Omaha, District 9 Room 1012 (402) 471-2723 showard@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist09	Sen. John McCollister Omaha, District 20 Room 1017 (402) 471-2622 jmccollister@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist20	Sen. Paul Schumacher Columbus, District 22 Room 1124 (402) 471-2715 pschumacher@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist22
Sen. Lydia Brasch Bancroft, District 16 Room 1016 (402) 471-2728 lbrasch@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist16	Sen. Curt Friesen Henderson, District 34 Room 1403 (402) 471-2630 cfriesen@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist34	Sen. Dan Hughes Venango, District 44 Room 1117 (402) 471-2805 dhughes@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist44	Sen. Beau McCoy Omaha, District 39 Room 2107 (402) 471- 2885 bmccoy@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist39	Sen. Les Seiler Hastings, District 33 Room 1103 (402) 471-2712 lseiler@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist33
Sen. Kathy Campbell Lincoln, District 25 Room 1402 (402) 471-2731 kcampbell@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist25	Sen. Tommy Garrett Bellevue, District 3 Room 1208 (402) 471-2627 tgarrett@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist03	Sen. Jerry Johnson Wahoo, District 23 Room 1022 (402) 471-2719 jjohnson@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist23	Sen. Heath Mello Omaha, District 5 Room 1004 (402) 471-2710 hmello@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist05	Sen. Jim Smith Papillion, District 14 Room 1110 (402) 471-2730 jsmith@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist14
Sen. Ernie Chambers Omaha, District 11 Room 1114 (402) 471-2612 news.legislature.ne.gov/dist11	Sen. Mike Gloor Grand Island, District 35 Room 1116 (402) 471-2617 mgloor@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist35	Sen. Bill Kintner Papillion, District 2 Room 1000 (402) 471-2613 bkintner@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist02	Sen. Adam Morfeld Lincoln, District 46 Room 1008 (402) 471-2720 amorfeld@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist46	Sen. John Stinner Gering, District 48 Room 1406 (402) 471-2802 jstinner@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist48
Sen. Colby Coash Lincoln, District 27 Room 2028 (402) 471-2632 ccoash@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist27	Sen. Mike Groene North Platte, District 42 Room 1101 (402) 471-2729 mgroene@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist42	Sen. Rick Kolowski Omaha, District 31 Room 1018 (402) 471-2327 rkolowski@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist31	Sen. John Murante Gretna, District 49 Room 1423 (402) 471-2725 jmurante@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist49	Sen. Kate Sullivan Cedar Rapids, District 41 Room 1107 (402) 471-2631 ksullivan@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist41
Sen. Tanya Cook Omaha, District 13 Room 2011 (402) 471-2727 tcook@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist13	Sen. Ken Haar Malcolm, District 21 Room 1015 (402) 471-2673 khaar@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist21	Sen. Mark Kolterman Seward, District 24 Room 2004 (402) 471-2756 mkolterman@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist24	Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks Lincoln, District 28 Room 1523 (402) 471-2633 ppansingbrooks@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist28	Sen. Dan Watermeier Syracuse, District 1 Room 2000 (402) 471-2733 dwatermeier@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist01
Sen. Joni Craighead Omaha, District 6 Room 1529 (402) 471-2714 jcraighead@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist06	Sen. Galen Hadley Kearney, District 37 Room 2103 (402) 471-2726 ghadley@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist37	Sen. Bob Krist Omaha, District 10 Room 2108 (402) 471-2718 bkrist@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist10	Sen. Merv Riepe Ralston, District 12 Room 1528 (402) 471-2623 mriepe@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist12	Sen. Matt Williams Gothenburg, District 36 Room 2015 (402) 471-2642 mwilliams@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist36
Sen. Sue Crawford Bellevue, District 45 Room 1212 (402) 471-2615 scrawford@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist45	Sen. Matt Hansen Lincoln, District 26 Room 1404 (402) 471-2610 mhansen@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist26	Sen. John Kuehn Heartwell, District 38 Room 1117 (402) 471-2732 jkuehn@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist38	Sen. Jim Scheer Norfolk, District 19 Room 1401 (402) 471-2929 jscheer@leg.ne.gov news.legislature.ne.gov/dist19	

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



The west steps of the State Capitol provide a meeting place for rallies and events.