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AGRICULTURE



Sen. Jerry Johnson, Agriculture Committee chairperson

Members of the Agriculture Committee considered bills on pork production and grain storage regulations this session as well as a proposed amendment to the state constitution guaranteeing the right to farm and ranch.

With the passage of LB176, introduced by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz last session, a person who owns, leases or holds a legal interest in a swine production operation can enter into a contract to produce swine for a meatpacking company. The producer, or contract grower, will own the land, while facilities used to raise the livestock and the meatpacking company will own the swine.



Sen. Ken Schilz

The bill ensures a producer's right to cancel a contract with a packer and allows the state Department of Agriculture to adopt contract regulations to protect producers from coercion and unfair business practices. Contracts between growers and packers may not contain confidentiality clauses that would prevent growers from sharing the details of the contract with others.

Schilz filed a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and vote on the bill, which prevailed 34-14. Thirty-three votes were needed.

LB176 passed on a 34-14 vote.

The committee also considered legislation that clarifies a provision regarding the distribution of assets if a grain warehouse fails.

Introduced by Sen. Jerry Johnson of Wahoo, LB730 clarifies a rule under which a person who recently has sold grain to a warehouse may regain his or her status as an owner eligible for distribution of assets if the Public Service Commission takes control of the warehouse.

Warehouses are required to post bonds for the benefit of those who own or store grain there in the event the warehouse fails. If that happens, only qualified owners are eligible for the distribution of assets.

An exception in current law provides that the grain seller may revert to the status of owner if he or she holds a check in payment issued within five days of the date the commission takes control of the warehouse. LB730 clarifies that the exception applies to the date of the sale and transfer of title regardless of whether the warehouse issued the seller a check.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

Lawmakers also considered a legislative resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that would guarantee Nebraskans the right to farm and ranch.

Sponsored by Sen. John Kuehn of Heartwell, LR378CA offered a constitutional amendment that would have prohibited the Legislature from passing laws that restrict the rights of Nebraskans to use agricultural technology and ranching practices without a compelling state interest. The resolution would have placed the amendment on the November 2016 general election ballot.



Sen. John Kuehn

Citing opponents' legal concerns about the amendment's language, Kuehn filed a motion to bracket the bill until April 20, the last day of the session. Senators accepted his motion with no objections.

A bill that would have created a financing program intended to increase underserved Nebraskans' access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthful food failed to advance from committee this session.

LB945, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, would have provided \$150,000 to the program for fiscal year 2016-17 and again for FY2017-18. The bill called for the state Department of Economic Development to contract with community development entities, which would have awarded grants for eligible projects such as grocery store renovations and the creation of farmers' markets, food cooperatives and community gardens. ■



Sen. Matt Hansen

APPROPRIATIONS



Appropriations Committee chairperson Sen. Heath Mello

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

LB956, introduced by Kearney Sen. Galen Hadley at the request of the governor, adjusts appropriations for state operations, aid and construction programs.

The bill includes provisions, originally introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier as LB733, which appropriate \$1.5 million in general funds this fiscal year to recruit and retain quality staff in workforce shortage areas within the state Department of Correctional Services.

The bill also includes \$1.8 million to address capacity and programming needs within the department while the Lincoln Community Corrections Center project is being completed.

The bill passed on a 46-1 vote.



Sen. Galen Hadley



Sen. Dan Watermeier

LB957, also introduced by Hadley at the request of the governor and passed 47-0, authorizes various fund transfers.

The bill transfers \$27.3 million from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund to cover the three-year cost of adding capacity to the Lincoln Community Corrections Center, and \$13.7 million to the Military Installation Infrastructure Fund.

The bill also includes provisions of LB923, originally introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner, which authorizes an annual transfer of 25 percent of the state portion of Medicaid fraud settlement funds to the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund for proportional distribution to the state's federally qualified health centers.



Sen. John Stinner

LB981, introduced by the Business and Labor Committee, approves claims against the state and agency write-offs. Among the claims approved in the bill are:

- \$800,000 for a tort claim against the state Department of Roads involving a vehicle accident resulting from a traffic control system problem;
- \$243,000 for a tort claim against the state Department of Health and Human Services for failure to provide Medicaid coverage for medically necessary autism treatment;
- \$230,000 in negotiated attorney fees to Nebraska Applesseed for a claim settled by the state regarding non-timely processing of applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and
- \$185,000 in negotiated attorney fees to the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska for a claim filed by seven couples who challenged the Nebraska constitutional prohibition against same-sex marriage.

The bill passed 46-0.

LB960, introduced by Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion, creates an infrastructure bank fund composed of three programs overseen by the state Department of Roads. The first will accelerate capital improvement projects, including the state's expressway system and other high-priority roads projects.

The second program will provide funds to repair and replace deficient county bridges and the third will finance improvements to the state's transportation infrastructure that will support new and expanding businesses.

The bank fund will receive a one-time transfer of \$50 million from the state's cash reserve in July 2016. More than \$400 million in state motor fuel tax generated be-



Sen. Jim Smith

tween July 2016 and June 2033 also will be directed to the fund.

The bill also authorizes the department to hire a construction manager who will advise the department on project scheduling and to enter into contracts in which a single contractor designs and builds a project.

The bill passed 48-0.

Senators also changed several economic development provisions.

LB1093, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, initially dealt with cash funds for tobacco prevention and stem cell research. Those provisions were replaced by amendments to include provisions of the following bills.

LB1028, introduced by Sen. Adam Morfeld of Lincoln, requires the state Department of Economic Development to contract with a statewide microenterprise development assistance organization and a statewide venture development organization.



Sen. Adam Morfeld

LB987, also introduced by Morfeld, creates a bioscience steering committee made up of five senators. The committee will study bioscience's impact on the state's economy, identify ways to stimulate job growth in science, technology and engineering and encourage biotechnology companies to locate in Nebraska.



Sen. Matt Williams

LB560, introduced by Sen. Matt Williams of Gothenburg, requires the

University of Nebraska's Board of Regents to report annually to the Legislature with benchmarks that lawmakers can use to evaluate the performance of the Nebraska Innovation Campus.

LB1017, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, eliminates a residency requirement for student interns under a grant program.



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

Lawmakers approved updates to certain administrative budget practices for state agencies.

Under LB1092, introduced by Mello, any department, office, institution or expending agency that proposes changes to its appropriation for the biennium in progress will be required to file budget forms with the office of the Director of Administrative Services (DAS). Forms must be filed by Oct. 24 of each odd-numbered year.

The bill passed on a 44-0 vote.

In addition, DAS is required to develop a certification form and procedure, to be included in each budget request, through which each department and agency will certify whether an administered program is an evidence-based program or practice. If not, the department or agency will be required to certify whether the program or practice is reasonably capable of becoming evidence based.

The bill passed 48-0. ■

BANKING, COMMERCE & INSURANCE



Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee chairperson Sen. Jim Scheer

Direct primary care, unclaimed property and governance reporting standards for insurers were among the topics considered by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee this session.

Lawmakers approved a proposal to provide legislative guidance for the state Department of Insurance regarding direct primary care agreements.

LB817, sponsored by Ralston Sen. Merv Riepe, adopts the Direct Primary Care Agreement Act and confirms that such agreements do not constitute insurance or function as qualified health plans pursuant to any federal mandate.

Among other provisions, the bill stipulates that a practitioner in a direct primary care agreement is prohibited from billing a patient in any form for primary care services provided under the contract. It also requires a practitioner



Sen. Merv Riepe

to provide 60 days' notice in advance of any changes to the contract.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

LB772, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, updates Nebraska law to address group-wide supervision of international insurance groups. Provisions of LB819, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, were amended into the bill and provide new corporate governance reporting standards for insurers and risk retention groups.



Sen. Paul Schumacher

The bill passed 46-0.

LB873, introduced by Sen. John Murante of Gretna, would have enabled the state of Nebraska to take title of unclaimed, mature U.S. savings bonds five years after the bonds become unclaimed property. The bill was considered by the committee but did not advance. ■



Sen. John Murante

BUSINESS & LABOR



Sen. Burke Harr, Business and Labor Committee chairperson

Lawmakers passed several employment measures this session that protect employees' rights to wage equity, compensation for earned vacation time and workplace privacy.

Businesses employing fewer than 15 people have been exempt from statute requiring equal pay for equal work regardless of an employee's gender. LB83, amended with provisions originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello in LB928, now subjects all businesses to the state's equal pay statute.



Sen. Heath Mello

Senators passed the bill on a 32-11 vote.

Under LB830, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, a state agency that denies an employee's reasonable request to use vacation leave before it is forfeited under the "use it or lose it" policy must pay the employee the cash equivalent of the forfeited leave that was denied.

The employing agency has discretion in approving or denying vacation requests. The length of vacation leave requested, the number of days left before forfeiture and

the prior notice given to management all are considered in determining what is and is not a reasonable request. These provisions also require that any cash payment for forfeited vacation leave be paid by the state agency within 30 days after the requested and denied leave is forfeited.

Employees of the Legislature and the court systems are exempt from the bill's provisions.

Cash payments made will be considered compensation in state employees' defined contribution and cash benefit plans but not for state employees' defined benefit plans. Currently only judges, state patrol and public school employees have defined benefit retirement plans.

LB830 contains provisions of LB972, also introduced by Harr, that add major, nontenured policymaking positions under the definition of employment to the Employment Security Law, making them eligible for compensation under LB830.

LB830 passed on a 48-0 vote.

The degree of online privacy an employee can reasonably expect at work also was discussed by senators this session.

LB821, sponsored by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson prohibits an employer from requesting or requiring that an employee or applicant disclose his or her user names or passwords to personal Internet accounts or log into a personal Internet account in the presence of an employer.



An employer also is prevented from taking adverse action against, failing to hire, or otherwise penalizing an employee or applicant for failure to disclose his or her personal Internet account setting information.

The bill passed 46-0.

Lawmakers passed legislation focused on identifying and addressing the state's workforce needs.

LB1110, introduced by Mello, outlines guiding principles for the state's workforce programs and services so they are responsive to the needs of employers, workers and students.

The bill was amended to include provisions of Mello's LB1029, which create a sector partnership program to study labor availability and skills gaps in the state. It calls for the state Department of Labor to provide technical assistance to public-private sector partnerships.

Senators passed the bill 44-0.

Two bills held in committee proposed benefits for employees' families.

Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford introduced LB850, which would have provided paid family medical leave for covered

individuals in the event of the birth of a new child, adoption or foster care placement, serious illness or pregnancy or illness of a family member.

Under the bill, any individual working for a covered employer—any employer subject to employment security law—could elect coverage, upon which a payroll tax would be deducted from the individual’s wages. The amount to be deducted would not exceed one-half of 1 percent of the individual’s wages in any 12-month period.



Sen. Sue Crawford

The bill proposed up to 12 weeks of paid leave for a serious illness, including pregnancy, which precludes the covered employee from performing his or her regular job duties. For all other leave requests, up to eight weeks of paid leave was proposed.

And LB836, introduced by Mello, would have provided monetary compensation to the family of a police officer, correctional officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty, including the family of those who work on a voluntary basis. For responders killed in 2016, the bill proposed compensation of \$50,000. ■

EDUCATION



Sen. Kate Sullivan, Education Committee chairperson

The Legislature's Education Committee considered bills this session that alter the state's school aid formula, eliminate the Omaha learning community's common levy and require high school students to take a college admission test.

School funding

Introduced by Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan on behalf of Gov. Pete Ricketts, LB959 is intended to slow the increase in property taxes, which are the main source of funding for Nebraska's K-12 schools.

Passed 47-0, the bill eliminates the minimum levy adjustment in the state's school aid formula beginning with the 2017-18 school fiscal year. The adjustment reduces state aid to schools with a levy below \$0.95 per \$100 of valuation.

It also changes an averaging adjustment that provides additional state aid to some school districts with more than 900 students. The adjustment, based on formula need per student and a district's levy, has ranged from 50 percent to 90 percent. The bill calculates the adjustment at 90 percent for all qualifying districts.

LB959 also limits provisions of the Qualified Capital Projects Undertaking Fund. School districts currently can levy an additional \$0.052 outside the \$1.05 levy limit to

fund projects related to life safety, environmental hazards, accessibility barriers and mold in existing school buildings and grounds and for new construction. New projects will be funded under a \$0.03 levy and the fund may not be used for new construction.

Sullivan also introduced LB1067, passed 40-7, which repeals the 95-cent common levy and 2-cent special building fund levy for the 11 school districts in Douglas and Sarpy counties that make up the learning community.

Member districts instead will have an individual levy and will retain a 2-cent levy used for early childhood education. The bill increases the amount of state aid for school districts with a high percentage of students in poverty and provides transition aid over two years.

Under the bill, learning communities will create a plan to address achievement equity and barriers to achievement such as poverty, mobility and truancy. Districts will be eligible for additional state aid after the State Board of Education approves the plans.

The proposal will increase state aid to learning community districts by approximately \$13.4 million, including \$5.7 million in community achievement plan aid.

A similar bill proposing to end the learning community's common levy did not advance from committee.

LB967, introduced by Sen. Bill Kintner of Papillion, would have eliminated the Omaha learning community's common levy and special building fund levy and replaced them with individual levies in the learning community's 11 member districts.



Sen. Bill Kintner

The bill also would have eliminated the requirement that learning community school districts transport students who participate in the open enrollment program.

A bill that would have required the state to use general funds to reimburse schools for most of their special education costs was held in committee.

LB826, introduced by Sen. Al Davis of Hyannis, would have required 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.



Sen. Al Davis

The bill would have required an additional \$125 million in state general funds to reimburse school districts for those costs for FY2016-17 and an additional \$152 million for FY2017-18.

Concepts of two bills intended to maintain state aid to schools for free student meals were amended into LB1066, a bill making several technical changes to education statutes.

LB1004, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook, and LB1065, introduced by Sullivan, will help Nebraska schools implement a federal provision that allows schools with high poverty rates to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without the need for an application.

The bill, passed 44-0, increases by 10 percent the number of students included in the state aid calculation for schools that implement the provision, helping schools maintain their state funding. It also offers schools the option of using that multiplier or the number of students who qualified for free meals in the most recent fiscal year for which data is available, whichever is greater.



Sen. Tanya Cook

Workforce development

A bill intended to increase coordination among the state's public education programs and increase enrollment in teacher education programs failed to advance from general file.

LB371, introduced by Sullivan, would have created the Nebraska Council for Educational Success. The 21-member council would have recommended to the Legislature ways to help students advance through the education system from early childhood to postsecondary school, increase enrollment in teacher education programs, align high school and college academic standards and increase parent involvement in children's education.

The bill failed to advance on a 21-21 vote, four votes short of the needed total.

A bill creating a task force that would recommend measures to increase the supply and quality of professionals providing early childhood care and education in Nebraska was held in committee.

LB773, introduced by Sen. John Stinner of Gering, would have created the Early Childhood Workforce Development Task Force. The group would have been charged with submitting a report to the Legislature outlining the state's current need for early childhood care and education workers, assessing the current system for training them and making recommendations for improving that system.

LB906, introduced by Sen. Brett Lindstrom of Omaha, authorizes a 30



Sen. John Stinner



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

percent tuition waiver for law enforcement officers who attend any state university, state college or community college in Nebraska.

Participating officers will have to maintain satisfactory job performance, meet all admissions requirements at their postsecondary institution and pursue an associate or baccalaureate degree related to a career in law enforcement.

Senators voted 46-0 to pass the bill.

A bill introduced by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld failed to advance from committee. LB691 would have provided grants to Nebraska residents with financial need who are enrolled in teaching or health care undergraduate programs at Nebraska's public or private nonprofit colleges and universities.



Sen. Adam Morfeld

Testing and admission requirements

Sponsored by Sen. Jim Scheer of Norfolk, LB930 requires 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 assessments.

The bill directs the State Board of Education to select the test and authorizes the state Department of Education to use lottery funds to pay for schools' expenses in administering the tests in the 2017-18 school year.

It also ends the requirement for a statewide writing assessment after the 2016-17 school year and instead requires that the statewide reading assessment contain a writing component.

The bill passed 46-1.

A bill that would have required Nebraska middle schoolers to be vaccinated for meningococcal disease failed to advance from select file.

LB18, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist last session, would have added the meningococcal vaccines recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the required immunizations for students enrolled in Nebraska schools. Two doses would have been required under the proposed bill—one when a student enters seventh grade and another after turning 16.

Krist's motion to invoke cloture failed 29-14, ending further consideration of the bill. Thirty-three votes were needed. ■



Sen. Jim Scheer



Sen. Bob Krist

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Sen. Bob Krist, chairperson of the Executive Board

Redistricting and expansion of legislative oversight topped the list of Executive Board issues considered by lawmakers.

Currently, the Legislature is responsible for drawing new governmental boundaries every 10 years after the decennial census for districts pertaining to the U.S. House of Representatives, the Legislature, Public Service Commission, University of Nebraska Board of Regents and the state Board of Education.

LB580, introduced by Gretna Sen. John Murante, would have created the Independent Redistricting Citizen's Advisory Commission to assist in the process beginning in 2021. The bill passed on a 29-15 vote but was vetoed by the governor April 18.



Sen. John Murante

The bill proposed that the commission be established by Jan. 30 of each redistricting year. Each of the three legislative caucuses would appoint three people to serve on the commission, with no more than five members of the commission with the same political party affiliation.

In his veto message, Gov. Pete Ricketts outlined several

objections to the bill, including that it “improperly delegates” redistricting authority.

Murante did not offer a motion to override the governor's veto and explained in a statement that concerns had arisen about the bill's constitutionality.

Oversight

Lawmakers adopted resolutions authorizing three special committees of the Legislature.

LR418, introduced by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard and adopted 26-7, creates the ACCESSNebraska Oversight Committee to provide oversight and ongoing dialogue between the Legislature and the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to ensure continued improvement of the system.



Sen. Sara Howard

ACCESSNebraska is an online and call center system developed and implemented by DHHS to determine public benefit eligibility and deliver benefits to clients.

The new committee replaces the ACCESSNebraska Special Investigative Committee of the Legislature, which was created in 2014 to investigate an array of problems, including long wait times for callers, lost paperwork and high worker turnover.

LR403, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, creates the seven-member Election Technology Committee to study the longevity of technology used by election commissioners and county clerks to conduct elections as of Jan. 1, 2016.



Sen. Matt Hansen

The committee also will study the feasibility of updating or replacing elections technology and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than Dec. 15, 2016.

The resolution was adopted 30-4.

LR413, introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier and adopted 32-0, establishes the Task Force on Behavioral and Mental Health to monitor the progress of a statewide needs assessment and the development of a strategic plan being undertaken by the DHHS division of behavioral health.



Sen. Dan Watermeier

Lawmakers also passed a bill that expedites delivery of confidential records to the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare.

A measure passed by the Legislature in 2015 expanded

the jurisdiction of the inspector general to include the state's juvenile services division of the Office of Probation Administration. It authorized the inspector general to access confidential information pertinent to investigations, including video testimony from victims of abuse.

LB954, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, additionally authorizes the inspector general to submit written requests for access to records—including sealed records—of juvenile probation officers. The records must be delivered within five days of a juvenile court order.

The bill also directs the juvenile court to provide confidential record information to the Foster Care Review Office.

LB954 passed 49-0 vote and took effect immediately.

Senators authorized the Legislative Audit Office to conduct performance audits of two judicial branch offices.

Introduced by Watermeier and passed 49-0, LB1016 subjects the Office of Probation Administration and the Office of Public Guardian to performance audits by the Legislative Audit Office. The office reviews state agency programs to ensure they effectively implement the Legislature's intent.

The Legislative Performance Audit Committee introduced LB1022, which gives the Legislative Audit Office direct access to data necessary for conducting performance audits of tax incentive programs. The bill allows the office to request confidential state Department of Revenue data and removes current provisions giving the speaker of the Legislature and the chairperson of the committee access to confidential data in certain circumstances.

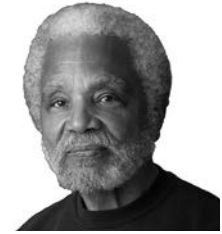
The bill passed 44-4.

Other measures

A bill that establishes a process for the development and publication of a certified version of the state constitution

was approved on a 45-0 vote.

Under LB686, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, the secretary of state, attorney general and the Legislature will cooperate in publishing a certified version of the Nebraska Constitution. The document will be updated annually to incorporate any changes made by the Legislature or the courts.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

The certified copy resulting from the process will serve as the official version of the Nebraska Constitution and may be cited as prima facie evidence of the law in all state courts. It also will be made available electronically on the Legislature's website and to the public in print form upon request.

Lawmakers voted 46-0 to create a legislative task force focused on innovation and entrepreneurship in Nebraska's economy.

LB1083, introduced by Gothenburg Sen. Matt Williams, adopts the Next Generation Business Growth Act and creates a Venture Development and Innovation Task Force, consisting of six senators appointed by the Executive Board.

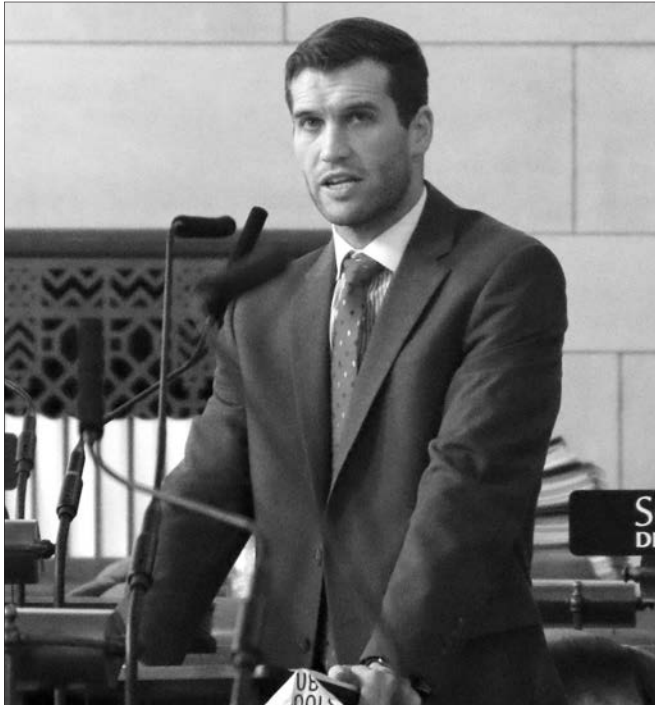


Sen. Matt Williams

In consultation with the Executive Board, the task force will employ a nonprofit organization to assist in development of a statewide strategic plan by Dec. 1, 2016, to cultivate a climate of entrepreneurship and innovation in Nebraska. The \$75,000 in funding for development of the strategic plan will come from the Community Development Assistance Act.

The Next Generation Business Growth Act terminates on Jan. 1, 2017. ■

GENERAL AFFAIRS



Sen. Tyson Larson, General Affairs Committee chairperson

Lawmakers considered several changes to gaming and liquor laws this year as well as a library regulation proposal.

A variety of changes to the state's Liquor Control Act were approved this session with passage of LB1105, introduced by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson. The bill establishes the Nebraska Craft Brewery Board, which will include seven governor-appointed members who have been involved in the beer industry.

The bill also creates the Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund to advance, market and promote the beer brewing process in Nebraska and the agricultural products grown and produced in the state for use in the beer industry. The fund will consist of money credited from beer manufacturer shipping licenses and a \$250 annual fee for craft brewery licensees.

In addition, the bill makes the following changes to the Liquor Control Act:

- allows an employee who is at least 16 years old to ring up tickets that include alcohol purchases as long as the employee does not handle alcohol;
- removes the requirement that a club must have a kitchen;

- repeals the prohibition on pull tab or pull tops on soda and beer cans;
- increases the penalty for the illegal manufacturing of spirits;
- removes the prohibition on “other fruit product nor any artificial product which imparts a fruit flavor other than apple” in the hard cider definition;
- establishes a liquor license class for small boutiques to sell a limited amount of alcohol;
- clarifies that a craft brewery licensee who has held the license for a minimum of three years, operates a brewpub or microbrewery and has a manufacturer's license, may continue to operate up to five retail locations;
- eliminates the requirement that a licensee must reapply for a license if the licensee's location is annexed by an adjacent municipality; and
- harmonizes the excise tax rate and makes the statute applicable to wholesale and manufacturing licensees, not just retail licensees.

The bill contains provisions of two additional bills.

LB748, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, allows an individual to import alcohol—up to 108 liters per calendar year—for personal use from a holder of a retail direct sales shipping license or its equivalent.



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

LB1046, originally introduced by Crete Sen. Laura Ebke, allows a Nebraska resident who is legally able to work in the state to be eligible for a liquor license regardless of U.S. citizenship.



Sen. Laura Ebke

The bill passed on a vote of 45-2.

Two gaming proposals were advanced from committee but stalled during general file debate.

The first, an omnibus bill that would have changed provisions of several gaming rules in Nebraska and regulate fantasy sports contests, was tabled at the request of the introducer.

LB970, as introduced by Larson, would have allowed any form of payment in U.S. currency under the various state acts that govern bingo, pickle cards, lotteries and raffles. Currently, only cash is allowed for keno transactions.

Among other provisions, the bill would have allowed more flexibility for pickle card operators and eliminated the mandatory five-minute wait time between keno games.

A General Affairs Committee amendment would have stricken the provision eliminating the five-minute wait between keno games. The amendment also would have

incorporated provisions from two additional bills.

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



Sen. Dan Hughes

Provisions of LB862, introduced by Larson, would have codified fantasy contests in Nebraska law. The provisions would have applied only to operators who offer fantasy contests for cash prizes to the general public upon payment of an entry fee.

A motion to bracket LB970 was pending when Larson requested that the bill be placed on hold for the remainder of the session.

After extended general file debate, an attempt to force a vote on a bill that would have granted the state taxing and regulatory authority over community card games failed.

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

Under the bill, current liquor licensees and nonprofits

that otherwise would qualify for a special designated liquor license could have applied for a poker endorsement or a special designated poker license for events on or off the licensee's premises.

After six hours of debate, Larson offered a motion to invoke cloture—or cease debate and force a vote on the bill and any pending amendments. The motion failed on a vote of 16-29.

Another gaming measure was indefinitely postponed by the committee on a 7-1 vote.

LR380CA, introduced by Hoskins Sen. Dave Bloomfield, would have placed 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 have:

- increased from 44.5 to 65 percent the amount designated for education;
- decreased from 44.5 to 26.5 percent the amount designated to the Nebraska Environmental Trust; and
- decreased from 10 to 7.5 percent the amount designated to the Nebraska State Fair Board.

Finally, LB969, sponsored by Larson, would have allowed all municipalities in the state to choose whether libraries within their community are governed by a board that is part of city government or by a separate advisory board.

The bill was considered by the committee but was not advanced to general file. ■

GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS



Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee chairperson
Sen. John Murante

Lawmakers considered bills this session that impact administrative leadership hires, election law and the state's military installations.

Transparency

Sen. John Murante of Gretna introduced LB1109, which requires the University of Nebraska's Board of Regents to provide public notice of a preliminarily selected candidate 30 days before the board votes on whether to hire the candidate as chancellor or president. The board is required to make public the candidate's application materials and provide a forum in which the candidate can meet with and answer questions from the public.

This replaces a process in which the names of the final four candidates are made public.

Lawmakers passed the bill 38-8.

Omaha Sen. John McCollister introduced LB851, which modifies the Taxpayer Transparency Act to include quasi-

public entities such as boards and commissions created by the Legislature. Entities are required to submit all expenditures of state receipts to the state treasurer for inclusion on the state's spending transparency website.



Sen. John McCollister

The bill defines a state entity as any agency, board, commission or department of the state and any other body created by state statute that includes a person appointed by the governor, the head of any state agency or department, an employee of the state of Nebraska or any combination of such persons that is empowered to collect and disburse state receipts.

State receipts are limited under the bill to revenue or income received by a state entity used to pay the expenses necessary to perform the state entity's functions and reported to the state treasurer in total amounts by category of income.

Data collected will be available on the state spending website beginning in fiscal year 2016-17.

LB851 passed 48-0.

LB867, introduced by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, amends the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

Among other provisions, the bill amends the definition of rule or regulation and clarifies that internal procedural documents used to guide agency staff on organization and operations, guidance documents and forms and instructions are not classified as rules under the APA.

The bill creates short-term emergency rules, which can be adopted outside of normal APA procedures and require the governor's approval. An emergency rule would remain in effect for 90 days and could be made permanent only through the full promulgation process.

Factors that an agency could consider in determining whether emergency rulemaking is necessary are limited to imminent peril to public health, safety or welfare or the unforeseen loss of federal funding for an agency program.

Rules and regulations made under the emergency rulemaking procedures will be filed with the secretary of state's office and published on the agency's website. Exemptions to the formal rulemaking requirements outlined in the bill may not be used if a change would alter the rights or obligations of the public.

The bill also requires the state Department of Correctional Services to develop rules and regulations for circumstances in which an inmate is outside of a correctional facility.

LB867 passed on a 33-0 vote.

Gov. Pete Ricketts vetoed a bill April 15 that would

have made several changes to the state's audit operations. LB935, introduced by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz, had been passed April 12 on a 37-8 vote.

The bill would have authorized a penalty for a political subdivision that fails to annually provide the state auditor's office information relating to interlocal agreements. The penalty for noncompliance would have been \$20 per day, not to exceed \$2,000 per delinquency.

In his veto message, Ricketts focused on provisions of the bill originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist as LB1099. Those would have changed reimbursement procedures for state employees to a per diem based on the federal rate.

The governor said the change would increase costs to the state and create a potential for misuse of tax dollars. Ricketts said he and State Auditor Charlie Janssen have agreed to study the issue further and will present a new alternative next year.

LB935 included provisions from two additional bills:

LB993, originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, would have allowed the state auditor to have his or her designee serve on the state Suggestion Award Board and would have allowed the auditor to share audit working papers with the Legislature, IRS, FBI, state tax commissioner, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and specified law enforcement agencies.

LB1084, originally introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner, would have prevented state agencies and the state purchasing bureau from extending contracts for more than 50 percent of the initial contract term and would have prohibited more than one duration amendment per contract.



Sen. Ken Schilz



Sen. Bob Krist



Sen. Colby Coash



Sen. John Stinner

Elections

Murante introduced LB874, which makes the process for filling vacancies on school boards consistent statewide by stipulating that an appointee will fill a vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The measure includes provisions of four additional bills.

LB879, originally introduced by Murante, changes the

requirement to place a candidate's name on the partisan general election ballot by petition to at least 10 percent of the registered voters entitled to vote for the office.

LB787, originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, allows a voter to voluntarily photograph his or her ballot after it is marked and reveal the photograph.

LB741, originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, removes from the list of banned electioneering practices the display of yard signs on private property within 200 feet of a polling place that is not under common ownership with the polling place.

LB682, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Joni Craighead, changes the deadline for a voter to request a vote-by-mail ballot from 4 p.m. of the Wednesday preceding the election to the close of business on the second Friday preceding the election.

The bill also designates the 22nd day before an election as the earliest date that an election commissioner or county clerk may send out vote-by-mail ballots. That date currently is the 20th day before an election.

LB874 passed on a 45-0 vote.

A measure that would have allowed an 18-year-old to hold public office in Nebraska stalled after two days of debate. As introduced by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson last session, LR26CA would have placed a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2016 general election ballot that would change age eligibility for public office in Nebraska to the federal voting age.

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 offered a motion to invoke cloture—or cease debate and force a vote on the bill. The motion was defeated on a 26-18 vote. Thirty-three votes were required.

A bill that would have reinstated the winner-take-all system for allocating Nebraska's presidential electoral votes stalled on final reading. Currently, the winner of Nebraska's statewide popular vote receives two Electoral College votes. The state's three congressional districts also award one electoral vote each based on the popular vote winner in each district. Maine is the only other state to use this system.

LB10, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy, would



Sen. Adam Morfeld



Sen. Matt Hansen



Sen. Joni Craighead

have reinstated a winner-take-all system and award all five electoral votes to the winner of the state's popular vote. After extended debate, McCoy offered a cloture motion, which failed on a vote of 32-17, one vote short of the number required.



Sen. Beau McCoy

Other measures

Sen. Sue Crawford of Bellevue introduced LB754, which establishes the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs to protect the state's military installations, attract new missions and serve Nebraska's military members and veterans.



Sen. Sue Crawford

Among other duties, the governor-appointed commission is authorized to:

- address matters of military significance in Nebraska;
- conduct activities relating to the welfare of veterans and the state's economic development; and
- advise the governor, Legislature, Nebraska's congressional delegation and other governmental officials where appropriate.

The bill also authorizes the Nebraska National Guard to utilize the Nebraska Code of Military Justice.

The bill passed 47-0.

Nebraska law recognizes four county classifications based on population. Counties had been classified as follows:

- Class I has a population of at least 300,000;
- Class II has a population of at least 200,000 and less than 300,000;

- Class III has a population of at least 100,000 and less than 200,000; and
- Class IV has a population less than 100,000.

Hansen introduced LB742, passed 46-0, which raised the Class I threshold to a population of 400,000 and adjusted the Class II threshold accordingly.

LB1080, introduced by Hastings Sen. Les Seiler, increases the purchasing limit for Cornhusker State Industries (CSI)—the state Department of Correctional Services industries program—from \$25,000 to \$50,000.



Sen. Les Seiler

The bill also authorizes recycling of materials used by CSI in the production of goods and services and allows CSI to retain the recycling proceeds in order to purchase raw materials for future projects.

LB1080 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Sen. Laura Ebke of Crete introduced LR35, which called for a convention of the states, authorized under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Congress would be compelled to call a convention of the states if a two-thirds majority—34 states—pass identical resolutions.



Sen. Laura Ebke

It would require a three-fourths majority—38 states—to ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The convention would deal only with proposed amendments, which would be sent to the states for ratification.

Senators voted 25-18 to recommit LR35 back to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, ending debate on the measure. ■

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



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

Child welfare, licensure and credentialing requirements and a fourth attempt to expand Medicaid topped the list of health and human services issues considered by lawmakers this session.

Child welfare

A bill designed to normalize life for Nebraska's foster youth was approved this session.

LB746, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, implements a federal law designed to promote normalcy for foster youth and encourage their involvement in developmentally appropriate activities.

Under the bill, a reasonable and prudent parent standard will be developed for caregivers—whether in-home or in an institutional setting—that will allow caregivers to use their best judgment in making day-to-day decisions about participation in extracurricular and social activities for youth in their care. To the extent possible, birth parents also will be involved in such decisions.

The bill establishes the Normalcy Task Force, with members appointed by the Nebraska Children's Commission, and includes provisions of LB1034, originally introduced

by Campbell. The provisions extend the termination date of the commission to June 30, 2019, and specify that no member may have a private financial interest, profit or benefit from any of the commission's work.

The bill also requires the commission to develop a system of care plan and analyze case management workforce issues. LB746 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Public benefits

LB1081, sponsored by Campbell and passed 47-0, will allow low-income Nebraskans to be part of a nationwide study on the impact of public assistance on early childhood development.

For participants in the grant funded research, the bill excludes income from participation in the study when determining eligibility for the child care subsidy program, low-income home energy assistance program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs.

The exclusion is limited to \$4,000 per year for four years and will be discontinued at the end of 2022.

The bill incorporated provisions of LB701, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, which remove a Dec. 31, 2016, termination date for a state law that allows certain educational opportunities to count toward core work requirements for the purposes of a self-sufficiency contract under the Aid to Dependent Children program.



Sen. Heath Mello

A fourth attempt to expand Medicaid was bracketed by lawmakers.

This year's proposal—LB1032, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John McCollister—would have created the Transitional Health Insurance Program (T-HIP) as an alternative means of providing health coverage to approximately 97,000 uninsured Nebraskans who are newly eligible under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).



Sen. John McCollister

LB1032 would have required the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to apply for a Medicaid waiver within 14 months of the bill's effective date. Under the waiver, individuals ineligible for Medicaid with incomes below 133 percent of the federal poverty level would be enrolled in private health insurance through a premium assistance model in which Medicaid dollars are leveraged to purchase private health plans.

The state's cost of the plan would have been paid from the state's Health Care Cash Fund under a Health and Human Services Committee amendment. The program

would have terminated in three years and been suspended automatically should federal funding fall below 90 percent.

Senators voted 28-20 to bracket the bill on general file, ending debate on it for the session.

Licensure and credentialing

Under LB721, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Roy Baker and passed 48-0, DHHS will provide licensure for surgical first assistants (SFA).

The bill requires that an applicant:

- be certified as an SFA by an approved certifying body;
- successfully complete an SFA education or other experiential or training program approved by the state Board of Medicine and Surgery;
- pass a nationally recognized SFA examination adopted by the board; and
- have a high school diploma or equivalent as determined by the board.



Sen. Roy Baker

An individual who submits evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she has been functioning primarily as an SFA in a licensed health care facility within the last five years prior to Sept. 1, 2016, will be exempt from the licensure requirements.

Also exempt are individuals who hold a current SFA certification issued by an approved certifying body or issued by another state that has standards substantially equivalent to Nebraska's.

LB722, also sponsored by Baker, develops a statewide stroke system of care in Nebraska.

The bill requires DHHS to designate Nebraska hospitals as comprehensive stroke centers, primary care stroke centers or acute stroke-ready hospitals based on nationally recognized standards.

DHHS will compile and maintain a list of such hospitals on the department's website. The department also will adopt and distribute a nationally recognized, standardized stroke triage assessment tool to each emergency medical service (EMS) licensed in the state. All EMS licensees will be required to use a triage tool and establish assessment, treatment and transport protocols for stroke patients.

In addition, a task force will be established by DHHS to address matters of triage, treatment and transport of stroke patients. The task force will provide advice and recommendations to the department regarding implementation of the Stroke System of Care Act.

The bill passed on a 45-2 vote.

LB19, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, requires DHHS to develop certification standards for private laboratories to test drinking water samples provided by public

water systems for all acute toxins.

The department will develop regulations regarding quality assurance and quality control procedures, communication of test results and staffing, equipment, procedures and methodology for conducting laboratory tests.

The bill passed on a 41-0 vote.

LB235, introduced by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard, places restrictions on eyeglass kiosks—defined as automated equipment or applications used to conduct an eye examination either in person or remotely.

Under the bill, a kiosk must:

- be approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration;
- meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements;
- carry liability insurance adequate to cover claims;
- comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act;
- have a recognized Current Procedural Terminology code; and
- display the name and state license number of the provider who will read and interpret the diagnostic data and information produced by the kiosk.

Violations may incur a civil penalty up to \$10,000 per violation and the attorney general may file a civil action at the request of DHHS. Investigation and complaint review will be done in accordance with the Uniform Credentialing Act.

The bill also limits the strength of over-the-counter eyeglasses to +3.25 diopters. LB235 passed on a 49-0 vote.

Natural hair braiding is exempt from cosmetology credentialing requirements under a bill passed 42-0.

Sponsored by Omaha Sen. Nicole Fox, LB898 exempts an individual engaged solely in the practice of natural hair braiding from the state's licensing requirements.

The bill defines natural hair braiding as a service of twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking or braiding hair by hand or with mechanical devices without the application of dyes, reactive chemicals, chemical joining agents or other preparations to alter the color or structure of the hair.

A bill passed 47-0 updates Nebraska barber laws to align with federal financial aid requirements.

LB842, introduced by Malcolm Sen. Ken Haar, requires a high school diploma or GED prior to admittance to a barber school if the school operates as a postsecondary barber college. The bill also allows the state barber board to continue to authorize licensed bar-



Sen. Bob Krist



Sen. Sara Howard



Sen. Nicole Fox



Sen. Ken Haar

ber schools at the non-postsecondary level.

A bill that would provide Nebraska dental assistants the option of becoming licensed in the state stalled during general file debate.

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



Sen. Mark Kolterman

The bill also would have provided the option for credentialing in expanded duties for licensed dental assistants, dental hygienists and public health hygienists.

The bill was debated briefly on the floor, but lawmakers moved on to another section of the agenda without taking action on LB901.

Other measures

Lawmakers enhanced Nebraska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program this session.

LB471, introduced last year by Howard, will strengthen the program by:

- prohibiting patients from opting out of the system;
- requiring prescription dispensers to report to 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
- capturing information relating to all payers, including self pay and Medicaid.

The provisions will apply to veterinarians beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

In addition, the bill establishes a 10-member Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force. The task force will study and develop recommendations regarding which controlled substances veterinarians will report under the system, as well as appropriate reporting procedures.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

LB698, sponsored by Mello, creates the Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights, which applies to individuals 60 and older, those 18 and older with a disability or who are incapacitated and to the parent or guardian of a minor who receives home care services.

A consumer of home care services, or the parent or guardian of a consumer who is a minor, will have the right to privacy and have grievances addressed in a timely manner. They also will have the right to participate in the approval of services and any changes in service and to receive care in a way that promotes his or her dignity and individuality.

An individual who violates the bill's provisions will be subject to a civil penalty of \$100 per violation, up to a maximum of \$2,000.

The bill was amended to include provisions from four additional bills.

LB963, introduced by Fox, updates state law to comply with changes to the federal Older Americans Act and equalizes the process for how the Area Agencies on Aging fund local programs.

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



Sen. Kate Bolz

The department also is required to examine the Medicaid rate structure and make recommendations regarding a higher or supplemental reimbursement rate for facilities that qualify for the endorsement.

LB849, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, requires a hospital to give each patient or the patient's legal guardian the opportunity to name an individual as a designated caregiver.



Sen. Sue Crawford

A designated caregiver will be consulted regarding the patient's discharge plan and the hospital will be required to describe the patient's aftercare needs post-release or transfer, including a description and demonstration of any aftercare tasks.

LB869, also introduced by Crawford, aligns Nebraska law with federal requirements for fingerprinting and background checks of high-risk Medicaid providers.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

LB804, introduced by Omaha Sen. Robert Hilkemann, would have allowed an eligible patient under the Investigational Drug Use Act to be treated with any drug, biological product or medical device that has suc-



Sen. Robert Hilkemann

cessfully completed Phase 1 of a clinical trial but has not yet been approved for general use by the FDA—provided that the drug remains in an FDA-approved clinical trial.

The bill advanced from committee 7-0 and but was not discussed on general file.

Also advanced to general file was a bill that would have allowed pharmacists to substitute biological products with FDA-approved interchangeable biologics. LB979, sponsored by Heartwell Sen. John Kuehn, advanced 5-0 from committee but was not debated on the floor. ■

JUDICIARY



Sen. Les Seiler, chairperson of the Judiciary Committee

Senators passed measures this session that will provide a more transparent grand jury process, prevent civil forfeiture without criminal charges and ensure wage equality for all Nebraskans.

A governor's veto of a bill that will make additional Nebraskans eligible for professional licensure was overridden by the Legislature April 20. Lawmakers voted 31-13 to override the veto. Thirty votes were needed.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, LB947 allows Nebraska residents who are covered by the federal Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to apply for professional or commercial licenses in order to practice their professions. Eligible residents can apply for credentials under the Uniform Credentialing Act.



Sen. Heath Mello

Administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the DACA program is designed to protect from deportation individuals who were brought into the country illegally as children. Those who meet DACA guidelines are eligible for a work permit and may request

deferred action for two years, subject to renewal.

Any professional license granted under the bill will be rescinded if a person's lawful status is rescinded. LB947 also ensures that recipients are ineligible for public benefits other than a professional license.

Courts

Ensuring people receive fair and equitable treatment during court proceedings was a priority of lawmakers this session.

Under LB894, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, juvenile courts can accept a juvenile's waiver of right to counsel only on the record in open court and confirmed in writing signed by the juvenile. The court must consider the juvenile's age, intelligence and emotional stability in determining whether to accept such waiver.



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

Under no circumstance will a waiver of right to counsel be accepted for a juvenile under age 14 or for a detention hearing, dispositional hearing requiring out-of-home placement or motion to transfer a case from juvenile to adult court.

The bill also requires the juvenile court, when appointing counsel, to do so after a juvenile petition is filed but before the juvenile appears before the court. It ensures a juvenile's timely right to counsel.

The provisions of LB894 will apply only to counties with a population of more than 150,000 people. The bill also authorizes the court to find parents in contempt of court if they have accepted free counsel despite an ability to afford such counsel.

The bill includes provisions of LB673, introduced by Sen. Bob Krist of Omaha, that enable counties to establish internal guardian ad litem divisions, similar to a public defender's office. A judge has the authority to appoint a guardian outside of a county's division as he or she sees fit.



Sen. Bob Krist

Provisions of three additional bills were incorporated into LB894, including:

- LB709, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard, which reclassifies secure and nonsecure detention as detention and alternatives to detention and requires additional court review of such programs;
- LB845, introduced by Pansing



Sen. Sara Howard

Brooks, which requires thorough documentation of each instance of solitary confinement of a juvenile, including the length of confinement and the race, ethnicity age and gender of confined juveniles; and

- LB893, also introduced by Pansing Brooks, which requires that a juvenile be at least 11 years old to be prosecuted or adjudicated for a criminal law violation and gives county juvenile courts jurisdiction of children who are 10 or younger who engage in conduct that otherwise would be considered a law violation.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

Pansing Brooks also introduced LB843, passed 42-0, which grants legal immunity from prostitution charges for any person proven by law enforcement to be a victim of labor or sex trafficking.

The bill includes provisions of LB1097, originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, that create the Sexual Assault Payment Program that will pay up to \$500 for out-of-pocket costs associated with sexual assault medical examinations.



Sen. Adam Morfeld

LB934, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, removed a requirement that the public guardian hire up to 12 associate guardians. Instead, the director of the Office of Public Guardian is charged with hiring a multidisciplinary team of up to 20 professionals and support staff, including at least one attorney licensed to practice law in Nebraska.



Sen. Colby Coash

The bill also limits the number of cases the public guardian can accept to a ratio of 20 public wards or protected persons to each member of the multidisciplinary team.

Provisions of LB1008 and LB1007, both introduced by Coash, were added to the bill.

These require that a guardian ad litem be a licensed attorney in good standing, complete relevant training and advocate for the best interests of the individual whom they defend, including their social, economic and personal safety interests.

Each guardian ad litem is required to make contact with the person he or she represents within two weeks of appointment and become familiar with that person's condition to the best of his or her ability.

The guardian ad litem is authorized to conduct discovery, present and cross-examine witnesses, file motions on behalf of the person they represent and request medical, psychological or other relevant examinations of the person

to whom they are appointed.

Provisions of LB1007 extend the statute of limitations to six years in cases of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable or senior adult from its current three-year limit.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

Gothenburg Sen. Matt Williams introduced LB919, passed 47-0, which allows new categories of problem-solving courts to address problems related to veterans, mental health, driving under the influence and reentry.

These court programs accommodate offenders already in the criminal justice system who have specific problems—including drug abuse and domestic violence—that cannot be adequately addressed in a traditional court setting.

LB710, introduced by Venango Sen. Dan Hughes, extends the prohibition on hazing by postsecondary students to include all primary and secondary school students.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with or continued membership with any organization.

The bill adds to the definition of hazing: acts of sexual penetration, exposure of genitals, lewd fondling and caressing of another person and coercing another person to commit an act of public indecency. A person found to have committed an act of hazing will be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail, a \$1,000 fine or both.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

Krist introduced LB505, passed 48-0, which ensures that arrest records are excluded from public record when criminal court charges are dismissed by mandating that state courts seal the records.

The bill expands 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.

The arrest record must be immediately sealed upon acquittal or successful completion of drug court. It also will be sealed after one or two years if a prosecutor does not file charges or the individual successfully completes a diversion program.

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

The bill takes effect Jan. 1, 2017.



Sen. Matt Williams



Sen. Dan Hughes

LB1098, introduced by Morfeld, increases civil court filing fees from \$5.25 to \$6.25. Revenue from the fee increase will be remitted to the Legal Aid and Services Fund, which provides legal services funding to the state's indigent population.

The bill passed on a 40-0 vote.

Correctional system

Senators again focused on reform of the state correctional system, continuing much of the work started during the 2015 session.

The Judiciary Committee introduced LB1094, passed 47-0, which clarifies several provisions of a bill pertaining to the state Department of Correctional Services passed last session. These were designed to slow Nebraska's prison population growth, ease prison overcrowding, contain department spending and reinvest a portion of savings in strategies to reduce offender recidivism and increase public safety.

The bill includes provisions of LB910 originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz. These continue a requirement that the parole administration office provide access for public counsel and the Office of the Inspector General to all computerized records, reports and documents maintained by the office in connection with the administration of parole. Release of medical or mental health records are subject to a parolee's consent.



Sen. Kate Bolz

It also requires the department director to submit a report detailing the race, gender and age of all inmates held in restrictive housing as well as the length of time spent in such housing no later than Sept. 15 each year. The report must include the number of inmates diagnosed with mental illness and behavior disorders held in restrictive housing.

O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson introduced LB113, which would have allowed a county jail or the state Department of Correctional Services to charge an inmate up to \$10 for every self-initiated, non-emergency visit to a health care provider.



Sen. Tyson Larson

After extended debate, Larson requested that the bill be bracketed until April 20, effectively killing the bill for the session. There were no objections.

Property rights

Senators considered several measures regarding individual property rights.

Bellevue Sen. Tommy Garrett introduced LB1106 to address the state's civil forfeiture law, which allows law enforcement to seize property associated with suspected criminal activity without necessarily filing criminal charges. The bill allows law enforcement agencies to dispense seized currency and property only after securing a criminal conviction. Persons not charged with a crime or later acquitted of a crime could recoup their property under the bill.



Sen. Tommy Garrett

The bill incorporates provisions of Garrett's LB1108 requiring law enforcement agencies to file annual reports detailing their seizure of property. Written reports must include the date, type, monetary value and location of each property seizure. If property is seized during a traffic stop, the agency must document the race or ethnicity of the person forfeiting the property and whether they were arrested or issued a citation.

LB1106 also allows law enforcement agencies to partner with a federal agency to conduct forfeiture litigation only if the seized property is valued at more than \$25,000, involved in a federal investigation or physically confiscated by federal authorities. The state will have jurisdiction in all other cases.

Thirty days after a criminal charge is filed, a defendant can request a hearing to determine if the seized property was used in the commission of a crime. A person with a legal interest in seized property but unaware the property was used in the commission of a crime also can file a motion for a hearing.

The court will hold a hearing within 30 days and the prosecuting attorney is required to prove by clear and convincing evidence that the seized property was used in the commission of a crime.

The bill also adds the manufacture, distribution and possession of illegal drugs and child pornography to the crimes eligible for property seizure and forfeiture.

The bill passed on a 38-8 vote.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, LB829 authorizes four types of fiduciaries—executors of estates, conservators of estates, agents appointed under power of attorney and trustees—to access a person's digital assets after they die or otherwise lose the ability to manage their own assets.



Sen. Burke Harr

The bill creates a tiered system of priorities for handling digital assets. If the custodian—the company that stores a person's assets on its servers—provides an online tool allowing the user to

authorize another person to have access to the data, those instructions take priority.

If no such tool is available or the user chooses not to use it, a will, trust, power of attorney or other written record will be enforced. The custodian's terms of service will determine access if neither an online tool nor a legal document applies. If none of those situations apply, the bill provides default terms that govern access.

The bill passed 49-0.

LB221, also introduced by Harr, allows a tenant to voluntarily designate a person to retrieve property upon the tenant's death. A landlord will have 10 days following the death of a tenant to make a reasonable attempt to contact the designated person. The designee will have 20 days to respond to the landlord, then 20 days to retrieve the property.

If a tenant's personal property is not removed within the appropriate time period, the landlord can dispose of the property and will not be held liable for any lost, damaged or stolen property. Likewise, if the tenant's authorized person does not respond within 20 days, the landlord can dispose of the property.

The bill includes provisions of LB385, originally introduced by Sen. Brett Lindstrom of Omaha. These permit a landlord or his or her representative to begin eviction litigation five days after notification of the termination of a rental agreement. Currently, the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act requires landlords to wait 30 days to evict a tenant after notification.

The expedited eviction process applies only in cases where tenants, roommates or their guests threaten the health, safety or peaceful enjoyment of the landlord or other tenants. Activities that can prompt a landlord to begin the eviction process include actual or threatened physical assault, illegal use of a firearm or possession of a controlled substance.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

Drug policy

Lawmakers passed a measure strengthening the state's ban on synthetic drugs while rejecting a proposal to legalize medical marijuana.

Williams introduced LB1009, passed 47-0, which bans the sale and marketing of "lookalike" substances.

The bill defines a lookalike substance as one that is not specifically categorized as a controlled substance but pos-



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

sesses one or more of the following characteristics:

- packaging or labeling that suggests a user would achieve euphoria, hallucination, mood enhancement or stimulation that mimics those of a controlled substance;
- images or labels that suggest it is a controlled substance;
- warning labels suggesting compliance with state and federal controlled substances; or
- disproportionately high pricing.

A person who knowingly offers, displays, markets, or sells a lookalike substance could be charged with a Class IV felony, which carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment with 12 months probation, a \$10,000 fine or both.

As originally introduced by Garrett, LB643 would have authorized the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to regulate the manufacture and use of cannabis in Nebraska for medical purposes.

The bill addressed the medical use of cannabis only in liquid, oil, pill or vaporized form. It would have enabled patients with qualifying conditions—including epilepsy, seizures, HIV or AIDS and Crohn's disease—to apply to the department for enrollment in a newly created patient registry.

After four hours of debate, Garrett filed a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and take an immediate vote on the bill. The motion failed 30-15. Thirty-three votes were needed.

Guns

Lawmakers expanded concealed handgun permit access for some, while reinforcing local control with regard to regulation of certain firearms.

Currently, members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Nebraska are considered state residents and may apply for concealed handgun permits. LB190, introduced by Hoskins Sen. Dave Bloomfield, allows their spouses to be considered state residents who also may apply for concealed handgun permits.



Sen. Dave Bloomfield

The bill also removes the U.S. citizenship requirement for eligibility for the permit.

The bill passed on a 43-2 vote.

After six hours of debate spanning several days, an attempt to force a vote on a bill that uniformly would have applied firearms regulations throughout the state failed.

Crete Sen. Laura Ebke introduced LB289, which would have repealed individual city and village ordinances governing the registration,



Sen. Laura Ebke

possession, transportation, transfer and storage of firearms and ammunition. Cities and villages would have retained the authority to enforce prohibitions on firearm discharge.

After six hours of debate, Ebke offered a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and take an immediate vote on the bill. The motion failed 32-10.

Law enforcement

The Legislature approved several bills this session calling for changes to law enforcement protocol.

LB1000, introduced by Mello, requires all law enforcement agencies to document in writing the procedures to be followed by officers wearing cameras by Jan. 1, 2017.

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice will develop a model policy for body-worn camera usage. An individual agency using body-worn cameras can either develop its own policy or adopt the commission's model policy.

Agencies choosing to develop individualized policies must include the minimum standards set forth by the commission, including:

- proper training for officers using cameras or accessing video and audio captured by the cameras;
- retention of recordings captured for at least 90 days from the date of such recording; and
- procedures governing the destruction of such recordings after the retention requirement has been met.

If video is determined to have evidentiary value in a criminal, civil or internal disciplinary proceeding, it must be retained until a final determination is reached. If an arrest or prosecution is not made, the video will be retained until a final determination is made or an investigation is officially closed or suspended.

Provisions of two additional bills were amended into the measure.

LB846, originally introduced by Pansing Brooks, requires each law enforcement agency in Nebraska to adopt a written policy on eyewitness suspect identification and provide a copy to the commission. Each policy must include standards for administration of a lineup, instructions given to an eyewitness and documentation of an eyewitness' level of certainty of identification.

LB1055, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, requires that the transcript, report of the proceedings and statement of no indictment associated with grand jury proceedings be made available for public review in cases involving death



Sen. Ernie Chambers

of a person while in law enforcement custody or detention.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote.

Currently, the state and subdivisions are held liable for the death, injury and property damage to an innocent third party caused by the action of a law enforcement officer during a vehicular pursuit. LB188, introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier, would have excluded certain passengers from the liability protections.



Sen. Dan Watermeier

As amended, the bill would have excluded any passenger who:

- fails to take reasonable steps to persuade the driver to stop the vehicle;
- promotes, provokes or persuades the driver to engage in flight from law enforcement; and
- is sought to be apprehended by law enforcement.

After four hours of debate, Watermeier offered a motion to invoke cloture and take an immediate vote on the bill. The motion failed 31-9.

Adoption

The state's role in adoptions was considered by the Legislature this session.

Watermeier introduced LB744, passed 46-0, which authorizes a court to incorporate a communication and contract agreement into a private adoption agreement. Failure to comply with the terms of an agreement will not be grounds to invalidate an adoption or the relinquishment of parental rights.

The bill allows a communication and contact agreement to be enforceable in civil action if the petitioner has participated or attempted to participate in good faith mediation. Parties seeking court enforcement of an agreement are required to participate in mediation first.

The bill also requires that a relinquishing parent be provided independent legal counsel and at least three hours of professional counseling at the expense of the adoptive parent or parents prior to relinquishment.

Other measures

LB835, introduced by Mello, makes changes to several consumer protection statutes including the Credit Report 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.

It amends the Credit Report Protection Act to require consumer reporting agencies to create a credit file for a minor with no established credit file upon receiving a security freeze request.

The bill extends the provision to an additional category of protected consumers, which includes individuals under 16 and incapacitated individuals under the guidance of a guardian ad litem. It also allows a protected consumer to have a security freeze removed from his or her record.

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. The bill also requires the entity to notify the attorney general's office of the breach.

The attorney general's office will be permitted to share documentary material obtained through a Civil Investigative Demand with other law enforcement agencies under the Consumer Protection Act. LB835 also increases from \$25,000 to \$500,000 the maximum civil penalty for antitrust violations, including restraint of trade and monopolization.

Finally, the bill adds 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.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

LB136, introduced by Wahoo Sen. Jerry Johnson, makes it illegal to sell, possess or use a flying lantern.

The bill defines flying lantern as any device that requires a flame that produces heated air trapped in a balloon-type covering, allowing the device to float in the air. The bill's provisions do not apply to hot-air balloons used



Sen. Jerry Johnson

for transportation.

Violations of the law will be considered a Class V misdemeanor, punishable by a \$100 fine.

The bill passed with an emergency clause on a 44-0 vote.

After six hours of debate, an attempt to force a vote on a bill intended to provide implementation guidance for liens on property for Medicaid reimbursement failed April 1.

Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher introduced LB1103, which would have authorized DHHS to file a property lien to secure reimbursement for Medicaid benefits in the event an applicant knowingly withheld his or her real estate holdings when applying for medical assistance. The bill would have required an applicant for Medicaid to disclose all interests in real estate, trusts, corporations or other entities.



Sen. Paul Schumacher

The department could have filed a property lien in the event an applicant for assistance transfers property to another person while retaining rights to the property and accepts payment for an amount less than full consideration. The lien would have been limited to the lesser of two amounts: the amount needed to satisfy Medicaid reimbursement obligations or the actual value of the real estate.

After six hours of debate and several attempts to bracket the bill, Schumacher offered a motion to invoke cloture and take an immediate vote on LB1103. The motion failed 29-19.

Introduced by Morfeld last session, LB586 would have prohibited employers, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill pertained to employers with 15 or more employees, employers with state contracts, the state of Nebraska, governmental agencies and political subdivisions.

Currently, the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act prohibits workplace discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status and national origin.

The bill was bracketed on a 26-18 vote. ■

NATURAL RESOURCES



Sen. Ken Schilz, chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee

Private wind energy development, oil and gas regulations and preservation of the state's waterways topped the list of issues considered this session by the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee.

Energy

LB824, introduced by Omaha Sen. John McCollister, exempts private renewable energy generation facilities—including wind farms—from certain laws that currently regulate facilities generating electricity.

The bill, passed 34-10, eliminates 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 exempts a private developer from a requirement that it prove that a new facility would not create stranded assets.

The bill contains provisions from LB914, introduced by Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala, that increase from \$60 to \$250 per day the compensation for the Nebraska Power Review



Sen. John McCollister

Board member who represents the state on the Southwest Power Pool's regional state committee. An appropriation of \$19,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 and again in FY2017-18 is provided to the board to cover the cost.

Schilz also introduced LB1082, passed 48-0, which enhances disclosure and public notice regulations on wells used to dispose of wastewater generated by oil and gas operations, including hydraulic fracturing, commonly called fracking. The bill requires commercial injection well operators to sample and analyze injected wastewater at least once per year and provide the resulting data to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which regulates Nebraska's oil and gas production.

The bill also requires the certification and monitoring of vehicles used to transport the wastewater and the periodic evaluation of an operator's ability to pay the costs of shutting down a well.

The commission is required to provide public notice of an injection well permit application to the county, city or village where the well would be located and could conduct public meetings to review them.

A bill that would have required liability insurance for injection and disposal wells was held in committee.

Under LB1070, introduced by Sen. Ken Haar of Malcolm, the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission would have required proof of liability insurance of at least \$1 million before issuing a permit for the drilling of an injection or recovery well. A commercial disposal facility that disposes of more than 500 barrels of injection well wastewater a day would have been required to have at least \$5 million in liability insurance.



Sen. Ken Haar

The bill also would have prohibited injection wells in areas where the drinking water aquifer begins less than 50 feet below ground or if the saturated depth of the aquifer extends more than 100 feet below ground.

LB897, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, authorizes any power-generating agency that operates in a regional transmission organization to participate in hedging transactions for fuel, power or energy.

The agency could use no more than 5 percent of its annual gross revenue averaged over the previous three years for the transactions. It could use only funds designated for the investments—not facilities or other assets—and the agency's governing body must authorize any hedging agreement.



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

The bill passed 48-0.

Water

Sen. Al Davis of Hyannis introduced LB1038, which allows a water appropriation used to generate hydropower at a facility on a natural stream to be changed to an instream basin management appropriation to be held jointly by the state Game and Parks Commission and at least one natural resources district. That appropriation would be used to maintain stream flow for fish, wildlife and recreation.



Sen. Al Davis

The bill incorporates provisions from LB711, introduced by Sen. Dan Hughes of Venango, that reestablish a task force with the goal of eradicating invasive plant species that reduce stream flows. The task force will be allocated \$1 million per year beginning in FY2016-17.



Sen. Dan Hughes

Further, the bill requires the state Department of Roads to provide permits to trim vegetation that obscures lawfully placed advertising signs or displays.

Senators voted 48-0 to pass the bill.

Sen. Curt Friesen of Henderson introduced LB737, which expands the eligible funded activities for public entities seeking loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The fund provides low-interest loans and community matching grants to towns and cities for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and sanitary sewer collection systems.



Sen. Curt Friesen

The purchase of land used for construction of water treatment facilities is now eligible for the loans, as are projects that conserve or reuse water. This includes the recycling or reuse of storm water, wastewater and subsurface drainage water, as well as the development and construction of watershed projects.

The bill increases the fund's loan terms from the current 20 years to a maximum of 30 years, or the projected life of the project, whichever is less.

The bill passed 46-0.

A bill authorizing natural resources districts to use bonds to pay for water management projects stalled on general file.

Introduced by Sen. Rick Kolowski of Omaha, LB344 would have authorized natural resources districts to issue general obligation bonds to pay for water management projects provided that two-thirds of the district's



Sen. Rick Kolowski

board of directors approve. The bonds would have been retired using the district's tax revenue.

After several hours of debate, Kolowski filed a motion to bracket the bill until April 20, the last day of the session. Senators obliged without objection, ending consideration of the bill.

A bill that would have added local beneficial use programs to the existing exemptions for nonuse of a water appropriation did not advance from committee.

LB714, introduced by Sen. John Stinner of Gering, would have expanded the circumstances under which a surface water appropriation could go unused for its originally intended purpose without the appropriation being cancelled by the state Department of Natural Resources.



Sen. John Stinner

Under the bill, a landowner could have transferred his or her water appropriation to a natural resources district for up to 15 years for use in aquifer recharge, depletion offsets, maintenance of instream flows and stream augmentation. The bill also would have allowed the water to be used for up to 15 years by local programs that manage waterways.

Game and Parks

McCollister introduced LB745, passed 45-3, which raises fees that the state Game and Parks Commission is authorized to charge for a wide range of permits, licenses and stamps. It also raises the caps on user fee ranges and increases the allowed growth rate for fees the commission is authorized to charge for hunting, fishing and other activities. The fee increases will generate an estimated \$2.5 million in FY2016-17 and a further \$5 million in FY2017-18.

Resident fee caps for an annual hunting permit will be raised from \$13 to \$18 and the cap on an annual fishing permit will increase from \$17.50 to \$24. The bill will raise the fee cap for a deer hunting permit for residents from \$29 to \$39.

The minimum fee for an annual park permit for a resident motor vehicle will increase from \$25 to \$30.

LB961, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, would have ended the state Game and Parks Commission's authority to establish a hunting season for mountain lions.

The bill was indefinitely postponed by the committee on a 6-0 vote.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

Other measures

Omaha Sen. Heath Mello introduced LB1101, passed 47-0, which directs the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to conduct a study examining the status of the recycling and solid waste management programs operated by the department.



Sen. Heath Mello

The DEQ will study the efficacy of current litter, waste reduction and recycling programs and conduct a needs assessment with regard to recycling and composting programs in the state. Potential funding sources, including public-private partnerships, also will be included in the study.

LB1101 authorizes the DEQ to create an advisory committee comprising no more than nine people. The committee will provide a report of its findings to the Legislature by Dec. 15, 2017. ■

NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS



Sen. Mark Kolterman, chairperson of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee

Senators made changes to the state patrol and Omaha school employee retirement systems this session.

LB447, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, makes a number of governance and benefit changes to the Class V (Omaha) School Employees Retirement (OSERS) Act, transfers investment authority for OSERS' assets and changes several benefits in the School Employees Retirement Act.



Sen. Heath Mello

The bill places OSERS staff under the control of the OSERS board of trustees and allows the board to appoint the OSERS administrator and oversee the administrator and staff. It also transfers investment authority for OSERS funds to the state treasurer, the Nebraska Investment Authority and the state investment officer.

State funding also changes under the bill. If the state appropriates funds for an actuarially required contribution (ARC) in the school employee plan, and the OSERS plan also has an ARC, the Omaha Public School District may request a public hearing before the Appropriations Committee to request additional state funding to pay its ARC.

If the committee recommends payment of the additional

funding, and it is approved by the Legislature, the school plan ARC will be computed as a percent of payroll and the state will contribute to OSERS the lesser of the same percent of payroll that was paid to the school plan or the percent of OSERS members' compensation needed to meet the OSERS plan ARC.

The bill limits the state service annuity and medical cost of living increase in the Omaha school plan to individuals who were members prior to July 1, 2016.

In addition, school plan members will no longer be able to work up to 20 hours per week while receiving the disability benefit. An employee hired after July 1, 2016, no longer will be able to vest with half year of service credit if he or she is at least 65.

The bill contains provisions of three other measures.

LB805, introduced by Mello, requires each political subdivision that has a defined benefit plan to conduct an actuarial experience study at least every four years.

LB922, introduced by Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman, adjusts the terms of the Public Employee Retirement Board (PERB) so that no more than two members will be appointed or reappointed in any one year. It also clarifies procedures for filling a vacated term.

LB986, introduced by the Retirement Systems Committee and passed 46-0, adds new duties for the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems executive director, the PERB and the actuary regarding experience studies and annual evaluation reports.

Lawmakers also approved changes to the retirement plan of new Nebraska State Patrol members.

LB467, sponsored by Kolterman, creates a second tier of reduced benefits for new members. The bill makes the following benefit changes for state patrol officers who are hired on or after July 1, 2016:

- increases the officer contribution rate from 16 to 17 percent;
- reduces the maximum cost of living adjustment (COLA) from 2.5 to 1 percent;
- prohibits participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan;
- increases from three to five the number of years of employment used to calculate a member's final compensation rate;
- limits the increase in compensation in each of the five years prior to retirement to 8 percent per year for benefit calculations; and
- excludes unused sick, vacation, holiday and comp leave converted to cash in the calculation of a member's final average monthly compensation.

If the plan is 100 percent funded, a maximum one-time supplemental payment of 1.5 percent may be granted at the discretion of the Public Employees Retirement Board.

LB467 passed on a 32-0 vote. ■

REVENUE



Sen. Mike Gloor, chairperson of the Revenue Committee

The Legislature's Revenue Committee considered bills this session that would provide agricultural property tax relief, grant tax credits for early childhood education professionals and modify arena turnback tax provisions.

Property tax relief

Introduced by Grand Island Sen. Mike Gloor on behalf of Gov. Pete Ricketts, LB958 grants \$224 million in property tax credits for tax year 2017—a continuation of credits offered last year totaling \$204 million. This year an additional \$20 million in credits will be allocated specifically to agricultural and horticultural landowners.

The bill passed 47-1.

Senators considered several other bills related to agricultural land valuation this session.

Current state law excludes land associated with buildings from being classified as agricultural or horticultural land. Under LB1037, introduced by Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch, farm sites and farm home sites would have been classified as agricultural or horticultural land and



Sen. Lydia Brasch

therefore would have been valued at 75 percent of market value like other agricultural land.

The dwellings, buildings and other enclosed structures on the land would continue to be valued at 100 percent of their market value.

After three hours of debate on general file, Brasch filed a motion to bracket the bill until April 20, the last day of session. The Legislature obliged, ending further debate on the bill.

Tax credits and exemptions

LB774, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, provides a sales and use tax exemption for purchases made by nonprofit substance abuse treatment centers.

The bill includes provisions of LB510 by Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook.

These provisions allow an employer a nonrefundable tax credit equal to 20 percent of its expenses used for an employee's postsecondary tuition or costs associated with a high school equivalency program. The tax credit is valid for no more than two years of an eligible employee's expenses.

Provisions of six additional bills were added to LB774, including:

- LB542, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, which creates a sales tax exemption for county agricultural societies;
- LB888, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, which clarifies that insurance companies are eligible for tax credits under the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act and reserves the first \$4 million for applications seeking a credit of less than \$150,000;
- LB1014, introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner, which exempts from levy limits any property taxes levied for bonds issued by a county airport authority;
- LB1015, introduced by Harr, which creates a sales tax exemption for museums that rent or



Sen. Jim Scheer



Sen. Tanya Cook



Sen. Burke Harr



Sen. Heath Mello



Sen. John Stinner

lease items of historical or cultural significance;

- LB1047, introduced by Harr, which adds the drying and aerating of grain in commercial facilities as a qualified activity under the sales tax exemption for energy used in manufacturing and processing; and
- LB1088, originally introduced by Hyannis Sen. Al Davis, which creates a sales tax exemption for centers that support independent living.

The bill passed on a 37-10 vote.

Davis also introduced LB886, passed 46-0, which creates a \$250 refundable tax credit for volunteer emergency responders, rescue squad members and firefighters who meet certain criteria. The bill establishes a point system to determine annual qualifications for the credit.



Sen. Al Davis

LB889, introduced by Mello, creates two tiered tax credits—one for providers of eligible early childhood care and education programs and another for staff members.

A child care or early childhood education program will have to be assigned a quality rating under the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act to qualify for the credit. The amount of the credit will be determined by the program's quality rating and the average monthly number of children who attend the program.

The bill also directs the state Department of Education to develop a classification system for employees of applicable early childhood care and education programs. An employee's rating will be based on his or her level of education, training and work history. The rating will determine the amount of credit the employee receives.

The total amount of credits will be capped at \$5 million per year and the credits will be available for five years beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

The bill passed 42-5.

Omaha Sen. Joni Craighead introduced LB683, passed 47-0, which allows a veteran's surviving spouse to retain his or her homestead exemption after remarrying.

Under current state law, surviving spouses of veterans who died on active duty or were honorably discharged and drew disability compensation are eligible to retain the veterans' homestead exemption only if they do not remarry. The bill allows a surviving spouse to retain the exemption if he or she remarries after age 57.



Sen. Joni Craighead

Turnback taxes

Senators passed two bills dealing with provisions of turnback taxes. Under current state law, 70 percent of state sales taxes generated by new and existing hotels near a convention center are turned back to the city to help pay for the new facility. Cities that build arenas receive 70 percent of state sales taxes generated by nearby retailers. The remaining 30 percent is directed to a fund that provides development grants to smaller communities across the state.

LB884, introduced by Scheer, extends turnback tax provisions to any publicly or privately owned hotel located within 600 yards of an eligible facility.

The bill allows Lincoln to use 10 percent of its turnback taxes to pay for low-income housing projects and extends to 48 months the period during which taxes are turned back to political subdivisions to pay for sports arena facilities.

The proposal allows cities to use the turnback tax to pay for capital improvements on the facilities, in addition to paying off the principal and interest on bonds used to pay for construction.

The bill passed 43-4.

Under LB285, introduced by Sen. Merv Riepe of Ralston, any development grant funds in excess of \$1 million at the end of each year will be distributed proportionally to the cities that generated the turnback revenue to help pay for convention centers and sports arenas.



Sen. Merv Riepe

Senators voted 41-3 to pass the bill.

Performance Audit

LB756, introduced by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, terminates Nebraska's Long-Term Care Savings Plan on Jan. 1, 2018. Any participant is entitled to receive the full balance of his or her account on that date.

Investment earnings from the plan will be deducted from an individual's adjusted gross income (AGI) and AGI will increase for unapproved withdrawals for tax years beginning before Jan. 1, 2018.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote. ■

TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Sen. Jim Smith, chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

Lawmakers considered several measures this session to make roads safer for cyclists and motorists, ease restrictions on certain farm vehicles and encourage organ donation.

Licensing and administration

Papillion Sen. Jim Smith introduced LB977, passed 49-0, which exempts implements of animal husbandry—such as tractors, fertilizer spreaders and mixer-feed trucks—from weight and load limitations on Nebraska highways. The exemption does not apply to vehicles on the interstate or in any instance where such an implement crosses a bridge or culvert.

The bill contains provisions of LB996, originally introduced by Henderson Sen. Curt Friesen, which place limitations on who can own an interest in, operate or control a franchise, franchisee or consumer care facility. Excluded from such ventures are vehicle manufacturers that own or



Sen. Curt Friesen

operate two or fewer dealerships in Nebraska, have owned or operated a warranty repair or service facility as of Jan. 1, 2016, or manufacture engines installed in vehicles with a gross weight rating of more than 16,000 pounds.

LB977 also contains provisions of six additional bills, including:

- LB799, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, which authorizes the use of funds collected under the Nebraska Transportation Act to be used for the purchase, replacement or rebuilding of public transportation vehicles;



Sen. Kate Bolz

- LB844, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, which creates a breast cancer awareness license plate to be available Jan. 1, 2017;



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

- LB872, introduced by Gretna Sen. John Murante, which allows vehicles operated by the state Department of Roads, as well as local authorities, to use blue and amber flashing lights when engaged in the inspection, construction, repair or maintenance of highways;



Sen. John Murante

- LB918, introduced by Murante, which retains 1 percent of proceeds from the motor vehicle tax to fund the replacement and ongoing maintenance of a state vehicle title and registration system;
- LB946, introduced by Smith, which authorizes the chair of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board to modify, approve or reject any board action in which a controlling number of board members are active participants in the relevant market; and
- LB989, introduced by Murante, which decreases from 500 to 250 the number of prepaid applications required to issue a qualified organization's specialty license plate and allows for electronic renewal and replacement of commercial driver licenses.

The state requires that each motor vehicle display both a front and back license plate, with exemptions for certain vehicles. LB53, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, broadens the exemption to include vehicles not manufactured to be equipped with a front license plate bracket.



Sen. Jim Scheer

Eligible vehicle owners will be issued a decal to be displayed on the lower left corner of the vehicle's front windshield. An annual \$100 fee will be charged.

The bill passed on a 44-0 vote.

Farm truck and trailer registrations in counties with populations over 100,000 will display alphanumeric license plates under LB811, introduced by Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch. These counties include Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha introduced LB474, passed 47-0, which authorizes the production of mountain lion conservation license plates to be available in alphanumeric or personalized versions with designs supportive of Nebraska's mountain lion population. The alphanumeric plate will display up to five characters and not use a county designation.

The license plates will be available Oct. 1, 2016.

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

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

LB47, introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier, will add a question to the state driver license and identification card application forms asking applicants to indicate whether or not they wish to be an organ donor. Answering the question is optional.

The question will 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?

A donor's status will remain effective until revoked or amended by the license holder. Expiration of the driver license will not change the license holder's donor status.

License and permit applicants younger than 16 are 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.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.



Sen. Lydia Brasch



Sen. Ernie Chambers



Sen. Dan Watermeier

Motorcycles and bicycles

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

While a cyclist has all the rights and duties of a pedestrian, he or she must yield the right of way to pedestrians when riding on a sidewalk, crosswalk or road shoulder.

LB716 also repeals 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.

The bill passed on a 38-3 vote.

Under LB900, introduced by Sen. Dave Bloomfield of Hoskins, motorcycle and moped riders 21 and older would no longer have been required to wear a protective helmet. Instead all riders would have been required to use eye protection such as goggles or a windshield.

After six hours of debate over two days, Bloomfield filed a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and vote on the bill. The motion failed 30-17. Thirty-three votes were needed.

The bill also would have increased the fine for operating a motorcycle without a license and prohibited anyone under the age of 8 from being a passenger on a motorcycle on public roads.

Other measures

A bill introduced by Friesen would make it possible for Omaha to adopt a rapid transit system beginning in the fall of 2018. LB735, which passed 48-0, increases the current 40-foot limit for an articulated bus operated by a transit authority to 65 feet.

Introduced by Smith, LB938 authorizes the Nebraska Public Service Commission to plan, implement, coordinate, maintain and organize funding for a statewide system capable of next-generation service. This will enable public safety answering points to receive 911 calls via voice, text or video using Internet protocol.

At least two public hearings on the plan are required. The commission will present the plan to the Legislature



Sen. Rick Kolowski



Sen. Dave Bloomfield

no later than Dec. 1, 2017, and it will be implemented sometime after July 1, 2018.

The plan will estimate the startup and ongoing costs of a statewide system and recommend the number of public safety answering points the state should maintain. The commission will ensure uniform statewide standards for technical support, training, efficiency and quality assurance at public safety answering points.

The bill also creates a fund to pay for the commission's expenses in developing the plan, estimated to be \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2016-17 and another \$1 million in FY2017-18.

The commission will provide an annual report to the Legislature assessing the level of wireless 911 location accuracy compliance for wireless carriers.

Senators voted 48-0 to pass the bill. ■

URBAN AFFAIRS



Sen. Sue Crawford, chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee

Economic development, zoning ordinances and city financing were among the Urban Affairs topics taken up by lawmakers this session.

A bill passed that will require businesses to disclose additional information before applying for certain local economic development programs.

The provisions of LB1059, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, apply to businesses seeking economic development incentives under the Local Municipal Economic Development Act or entering into a redevelopment contract using tax increment financing (TIF).

Before applying for local incentives, a business must certify:

- whether it has filed or intends to file an application to receive tax incentives under the Nebraska Advantage Act for the same project;
- whether such application includes or will include a refund of the municipality's local option sales tax revenue; and
- whether such application has been approved.

The bill was amended to include provisions of two

related bills.

LB860, originally introduced by Venango Sen. Dan Hughes, authorizes a municipality to use funds from a Local Municipal Economic Development plan for workforce housing. Currently funds from such plans may be used only for low- and moderate-income housing.



Sen. Dan Hughes

Originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, LB808 allows a municipality to amend an existing Local Municipal Economic Development plan to add or remove a qualifying business if its citizen advisory review committee recommends the addition or removal. The provisions require a public hearing and a supermajority vote—two-thirds of members—by the municipality's governing body.



Sen. Matt Hansen

The bill passed on a 44-1 vote.

LB1012, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, allows municipalities to create clean energy assessment districts. Property owners within such districts are eligible to apply for financing through the municipality to make energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on residential, commercial and industrial properties.



Sen. Heath Mello

Passed on a 45-0 vote, the bill authorizes a municipality to issue revenue bonds to finance qualifying projects, which can be paid back only through assessments levied on the property owners. Any single bond issued by a municipality that exceeds \$5 million will require voter approval.

LB699, also introduced by Mello, updates the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act.

Currently, the voting members of a land bank board must represent realtors, the banking industry, real estate developers, a chamber of commerce, a nonprofit involved in affordable housing and an owner of multiple residential or commercial properties.

Approved on a 46-0 vote, LB699 stipulates that a single voting member may satisfy more than one of the representational requirements if he or she has the required qualifications.

Lawmakers passed a bill that changes voter approval requirements for a first-class city to borrow funds for parks and recreation public improvements.

LB378, sponsored by North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, requires that the specific type of security pledged to secure financing be noted on the initial ballot. In addition, any refinance proposal to



Sen. Mike Groene

change the type of security from revenue bonds to general obligation bonds must be subject to a vote of the people.

The bill passed 47-0.

Restrictions on asset expenditures by sanitary and improvement districts (SIDs) that have received notice of annexation were approved this session.

Under LB131, introduced by Omaha Sen. Joni Craighead and approved 46-0, expenditures by an SID will be restricted for 90 days upon receiving notification of a city or village's intent to annex.



Sen. Joni Craighead

Payments on construction bonds, construction fund warrants, general fund warrants and contracted labor and services are exempt from the spending restriction.

The bill includes provisions of LB827, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr and originally heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, which makes clear that counties may collect ad valorem taxes and special assessments from SIDs.



Sen. Burke Harr

LB295, sponsored by Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, requires some municipalities to provide notification to a county board before changing zoning ordinances within their extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction (ETJ).



Sen. Jim Scheer

The bill requires a first- or second-class city or village to provide the county board of a county in which the municipalities' ETJ is

located with written notice of—and the opportunity to comment on—proposed zoning ordinance changes within the ETJ.

The bill does not apply to cities or villages located in a county with a population greater than 100,000 or counties in which the city and county have a joint planning commission or joint planning department.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

Procedures for approval of planned unit developments in some second-class cities and villages will change under LB875, introduced by Gretna Sen. John Murante.



Sen. John Murante

Currently, 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 ETJ.

LB875 removes the requirement that the county must approve the plan in a county with a population between 100,000 and 200,000. Sarpy is the only county impacted by the bill.

A second-class city or village still will be required to submit a planned unit development to the county planning and public works departments for review.

The bill passed 47-0.

LB806, introduced by Mello, would have authorized a metropolitan, primary, first- or second-class city to create a riverfront development district and appoint an authority to oversee and manage the district.

The bill was advanced to general file on a 6-0 vote but was not scheduled for debate. ■

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB10	McCoy	FR	Change provisions relating to presidential electors and political party conventions	14, 15
LB18	Krist	SF	Change provisions relating to immunizations for students	3
LB19	Krist	S	Change provisions relating to laboratory certification under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act	5, 9
LB47	Watermeier	S	Change provisions relating to anatomical gifts under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act	2, 4, 5
LB53	Scheer	S	Provide for issuance of one license plate for passenger cars as prescribed	5, 9
LB83	Cook	S (+928)	Change the definition of employer relating to wage discrimination on the basis of sex	9, 12
LB113	Larson	GF	Provide a co-payment for correctional inmates' health care services	2
LB131	Craighead	S (+827)	Provide restrictions on sanitary and improvement districts subject to municipal annexation and authorize certain fees for county treasurers	4, 7
LB136	Johnson	S	Prohibit flying lanterns	3, 7
LB176	Schilz	S	Change the Competitive Livestock Markets Act and provisions relating to contract swine operations	3, 5
LB188	Watermeier	SF	Change provisions relating to innocent third parties injured during a vehicular pursuit	5, 6, 8
LB190	Bloomfield	S	Change concealed handgun permit application provisions	5
LB221	Harr	S (+385)	Change provisions relating to forcible entry and detainer, the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, and disposition of a tenant's personal property upon death	5, 7, 9
LB235	Howard	S	Adopt the Consumer Protection in Eye Care Act	14, 15
LB289	Ebke	GF	Prohibit certain regulation of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories by cities and villages as prescribed	3, 4
LB295	Scheer	S	Require notice and a comment period regarding zoning ordinances affecting certain extraterritorial zoning jurisdictions	5, 9
LB311	Transportation & Telecommunications	S (+785)	Change provisions relating to the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act and CLP-learner's permit issuance and applications for commercial drivers' licenses	
LB344	Kolowski	GF	Provide natural resources districts with the power to issue general obligation bonds	10
LB371	Sullivan	GF	Create and provide duties for the Nebraska Council for Educational Success	9
LB378	Groene	S	Change requirements for voter approval of borrowing money for public improvements by a first-class city	5, 9
LB381	Cook	C (>956)	State intent relating to appropriations for housing services	
LB385	Lindstrom	GF (>221)	Change provisions relating to forcible entry and detainer and the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act	7, 9
LB447	Mello	S (+448, 805, 922, 986)	Change and provide provisions relating to retirement benefits and plans	8, 12
LB448	Nordquist	SF (>447)	Change membership of the Nebraska Investment Council and retirement provisions for Class V school districts	8
LB467	Kolterman	S	Change provisions relating to State Patrol retirement	5, 10, 15
LB471	Howard	S	Change prescription drug monitoring provisions and create the Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force	4, 7
LB474	Chambers	S	Provide for Mountain Lion Conservation Plates and create a fund	4, 7
LB505	Krist	S	Change provisions of the Security, Privacy, and Dissemination of Criminal History Information Act	4, 15
LB510	Cook	GF (>774)	Provide an income tax credit to employers of public assistance recipients	12, 15
LB537	Watermeier	C	Appropriate funds relating to natural resources	9
LB542	Harr	GF (>774)	Provide a sales tax exemption for purchases by county agricultural societies	12, 15
LB560	Williams	C (>1093)	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska and create a fund	10, 12, 13
LB580	Murante	V	Adopt the Redistricting Act	14, 15
LB586	Morfeld	GF	Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity	12
LB619	Larson	GF	Provide for a special designated poker license and a poker endorsement under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	2
LB639	Garrett	GF (>1038)	Provide authority for the Department of Roads to issue permits to control roadside vegetation as prescribed	
LB643	Garrett	SF	Adopt the Medical Cannabis Act	14
LB665	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to eliminate transfer provisions for the Water Resources Cash Fund	
LB666	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to eliminate obsolete provisions relating to the Department of Motor Vehicles	
LB667	Exec Board	S	Revisor bill to eliminate obsolete provisions in the International Fuel Tax Agreement Act	
LB668	Krist	C	Change certain federal references and provisions relating to provisional operator's permit restrictions, use of interactive wireless communication devices, and occupant protection system enforcement	6

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB669	Krist	C	Update certain federal references and change from a secondary to primary offense certain occupant protection system enforcement requirements	6
LB670	Krist	C	Require a hearing prior to release for persons taken into custody for mental health reasons	
LB671	Krist	IPP	Repeal the Build Nebraska Act and change the distribution of sales tax revenue	
LB672	Krist	C	Eliminate fees on tires as prescribed	
LB673	Krist	GF (>894)	Change provisions relating to appointment of guardians ad litem	12, 13
LB674	Krist	C	Provide financial compensation for care for disabled persons by family as prescribed	
LB675	Krist	C	Change provisions relating to placement and detention of juveniles	3, 10
LB676	Craighead	S	Revise powers of state-chartered banks, building and loan associations, and credit unions	
LB677	Craighead	S	Change a residency qualification and military service requirement for certain veterans service officers	
LB678	Craighead	S	Change provisions of the Nebraska Real Estate License Act	
LB679	Krist	S	Change reporting requirements of the Community Corrections Division of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	
LB680	Riepe	S	Change requirements for pharmacy technicians	
LB680A	Riepe	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB681	Schnoor	C	Change certain violation and penalty provisions under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act	
LB682	Craighead	C (>874)	Change deadlines for ballots for early voting and special elections by mail	12, 14
LB683	Craighead	S	Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions for surviving spouses	8, 15
LB684	Bolz	S	Change provisions relating to adoptive home studies and medical histories as prescribed	
LB685	Bolz	GF	Adopt the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit Act	4
LB686	Chambers	S	Provide for the publication and distribution of the Constitution of Nebraska	13, 14
LB687	Bloomfield	C	Provide procedures for recall of state elective officers	
LB688	Bloomfield	C	Require all examinations and test of applicants under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act be in English	
LB689	Bloomfield	GF	Eliminate a sales and use tax exemption relating to political events	
LB690	Morfeld	GF (>910)	Change provisions relating to eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	10, 12
LB691	Morfeld	C	Adopt the Teacher Education and Health Care Professions Student Grant Program Act	4
LB692	Morfeld	GF	Adopt the Student Online Personal Protection Act	
LB693	Morfeld	C	Change limitation of action provisions under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act	
LB694	Crawford	S	Change provisions relating to exempt contracts under the Taxpayer Transparency Act	
LB695	Crawford	S	Provide for the counting of ballots in sanitary and improvement district elections	
LB696	Howard	C	Provide for a medicaid state plan waiver to provide coverage for treatment of opioid abuse	
LB697	Howard	C	Provide for a medicaid state plan amendment application relating to functional family therapy	
LB698	Mello	S (+708, 849, 869, 963)	Adopt the Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights Act and the Assisting Caregiver Transitions Act, Alzheimer's Special Care Disclosure Act, and Nebraska Community Aging Services Act	3, 8, 10, 12
LB698A	Mello	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB699	Mello	S	Change the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act	3, 5, 7
LB700	Mello	S	Require notice to neighborhood associations for changes to business improvement districts and zoning ordinances	
LB701	Mello	GF (>1081)	Eliminate a termination date relating to a self-sufficiency contract	12
LB702	Urban Affairs	S	Harmonize provisions relating to the election of city council members in cities of the second class	
LB703	Urban Affairs	S	Change provisions relating to nuisances in cities and villages	
LB704	Urban Affairs	S (+705)	Change building code provisions applicable to political subdivisions and provisions relating to cities of the first class	
LB705	Urban Affairs	GF (>704)	Change provisions relating to cities of the first class	
LB706	Coash	C	Define habilitative services for purposes of insurance	
LB707	Coash	GF	Increase the number of judges of the separate juvenile court	
LB708	Bolz	GF (>698)	Provide for a memory care endorsement under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act	4, 8, 10, 12
LB709	Howard	C (>894)	Provide for an alternative to detention for juveniles	10, 12, 13
LB710	Hughes	S	Change provisions relating to hazing	5, 9, 12
LB711	Hughes	C (>1038)	Change provisions of the Noxious Weed Control Act and create the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force	7, 12, 15
LB712	Hughes	S	Change provisions relating to the regulation of aboveground motor vehicle fuel storage tanks	
LB713	Stinner	C (>956)	State intent relating to appropriations for the Access College Early Scholarship Program	
LB714	Stinner	C	Provide for and change a provision relating to sufficient cause for nonuse of a water appropriation	3
LB715	Stinner	C (>957)	Provide for transfers from the General Fund to the Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund	
LB716	Kolowski	S	Provide and eliminate provisions regarding pedestrians and bicyclists	4, 14, 15

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LB717	Groene	C	Change provisions relating to the assessment and valuation of real property	5
LB718	Groene	S	Change requirements for an application for a waiver of college tuition and fees by a dependent of a veteran	
LB719	Groene	C	Change provisions relating to undeveloped vacant land under the Community Development Law	
LB720	Kuehn	C	Change certain invasion of privacy provisions to include unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft systems	8
LB721	Baker	S	Adopt the Surgical First Assistant Practice Act	14, 15
LB722	Baker	S	Adopt the Stroke System of Care Act	3, 9, 15
LB722A	Baker	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB723	Schumacher	C	Change sales and use tax collection fees	
LB724	Schumacher	C	Change sales and use tax collection fees	
LB725	Schumacher	S	Provide an exception to a filing requirement relating to conveyances of real estate	
LB726	Sullivan	S	Require information relating to federal student loans as prescribed	
LB727	Schilz	IPP	Impose a tax on sales of tobacco at cigar shops	
LB728	Johnson	C	Authorize electronic voting devices for natural resources districts	
LB729	Johnson	S	Change provisions of the Real Property Appraiser Act	
LB730	Johnson	S	Change a security coverage provision for sellers of grain stored in a warehouse closed by the Public Service Commission	8, 12
LB731	Johnson	S	Change provisions relating to the Real Property Appraiser Act	
LB732	Watermeier	GF	Change provisions relating to Military Honor Plates	
LB733	Watermeier	C (>956)	Appropriate funds to the Department of Correctional Services	6, 11
LB734	Watermeier	S	Change residency provisions relating to Nebraska National Guard members for college tuition purposes	
LB735	Friesen	S	Provide a length limit exception for an articulated bus vehicle operated by a transit authority	3, 7, 9
LB736	Friesen	S	Change provisions relating to electric utilities and electric suppliers under the Rural Community-Based Energy Development Act	
LB737	Friesen	S	Change provisions of the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Assistance Act	3, 5, 7
LB738	Ebke	C	Prohibit the use of cell-site simulator technology or devices by law enforcement agencies	
LB739	Smith	C	Eliminate certain taxing authority of learning communities	
LB740	Hansen	C	Add an unfair claims settlement practice under the Unfair Insurance Claims Settlement Practices Act	
LB741	Hansen	C (>874)	Change electioneering provisions related to yard signs	12, 14
LB742	Hansen	S	Change county population thresholds	12, 13
LB743	Hansen	IPP	Clarify compensation for shoulder injuries under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB744	Watermeier	S	Provide for communication and contact agreements in private and agency adoptions	12, 14
LB745	McCullister	S	Change Game and Parks Commission fee and permit provisions	11, 14, 15
LB746	Campbell	S (+1034)	Adopt the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, change provisions for guardians ad litem and services for children, create the Normalcy Task Force, and eliminate a reporting requirement	3, 8, 10, 15
LB746A	Campbell	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB747	Kolterman	GF	Amend the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act to increase the amount of funds the state investment officer may offer as deposits	
LB748	Lindstrom	GF (>1105)	Change import provisions under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act as prescribed	10, 15
LB749	Lindstrom	C	Change an income tax exemption relating to social security benefits	
LB750	Lindstrom	S	Prohibit discrimination and retaliation against and provide for confidentiality of the identity of persons involved in making reports under the Uniform Credentialing Act	
LB751	Lindstrom	S	Provide that payment of certain expenses is not a condition precedent to certain approvals by the Director of Banking and Finance and change certain notice provisions	
LB752	Crawford	C	Create the Adult Career Pathways Task Force	
LB753	Crawford	S	Extend protection under federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to Nebraska employees serving in the National Guard of another state	
LB754	Crawford	S (+764)	Create the Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs and authorize summary discipline under the Nebraska Code of Military Justice	10, 11, 15
LB754A	Crawford	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB755	Watermeier	C (>957)	Appropriate funds to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges	
LB756	Performance Audit	S	Terminate the Long-Term Care Savings Plan Act	3, 14, 15
LB757	Brasch	GF	Change provisions relating to personal property exemptions in cases of forced sale or execution or attachment	
LB758	Scheer	S	Prohibit limited liability companies from operating as insurers	
LB759	Scheer	S	Change provisions relating to stop-payment orders	

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LB760	Scheer	S	Update certain references to the federal Electronic Fund Transfer Act	
LB761	Scheer	S	Change and update certain federal references in the Consumer Rental Purchase Agreement Act	
LB762	Kintner	C	Change the tax on cigars, cheroots, and stogies	
LB763	Garrett	C	Adopt the Nebraska is Honoring Our Military Exemption Act and provide an income tax exemption	
LB764	Garrett	GF (>754)	Authorize summary discipline for minor offenses in the Nebraska Code of Military Justice	
LB765	Garrett	C	Increase original certificate of title fees for vehicles transferred to Nebraska from another state or country	4
LB766	Garrett	GF	Change eligibility provisions for waiver of tuition and fees for veterans' dependents as prescribed	
LB767	Garrett	C	Prohibit dismemberment abortion as prescribed and provide for civil and criminal penalties	
LB768	Garrett	GF	Provide for Choose Life License Plates	
LB768A	Garrett	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB769	Garrett	C	Change provisions relating to firearms	9
LB770	Groene	S	Change the termination date of the Nebraska Exchange Transparency Act and the terms of certain members of the Nebraska Exchange Stakeholder Commission	
LB770A	Groene	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB771	Lindstrom	S	Change provisions under the Securities Act of Nebraska relating to registration by coordination and federal covered securities	
LB772	Schumacher	S (+819)	Adopt the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act and change provisions relating to insurance holding companies and risk retention groups	
LB773	Stinner	C	Create the Early Childhood Workforce Development Task Force	3
LB774	Scheer	S (+510, 542, 888, 1014, 1015, 1047, 1088)	Change revenue and taxation provisions	12, 15
LB774A	Scheer	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB775	Gloor	S	Change property tax provisions relating to motor vehicles	
LB776	Gloor	S	Change revenue and taxation provisions	
LB777	Gloor	C	Change provisions relating to partial payments for property taxes held in escrow	
LB778	Williams	S	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Money Transmitters Act and the Nebraska Installment Sales Act	
LB779	Schumacher	C	Change provisions relating to the partisan status of certain political subdivision offices	
LB780	Schumacher	C	Change provisions relating to emergency protective custody	
LB781	Schumacher	C	Require school districts to prepare for closure of nonpublic schools	
LB782	Schumacher	C	Provide for a medicaid state plan amendment relating to coverage for family planning services	7
LB783	Lindstrom	S	Provide for registration of public power district vehicles as prescribed	
LB783A	Lindstrom	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB784	Friesen	S	Change provisions relating to deficit expenditures by county boards	
LB785	Friesen	GF (>311)	Change provisions relating to the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act	4
LB786	Larson	S	Change requirements for completion of death certificates and cremation permits	
LB787	Morfeld	C (>874)	Allow a voter to photograph and reveal a marked ballot	4, 12, 14
LB788	Cook	C	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Professional Landscape Architects Act	
LB789	Cook	C (>956)	Change provisions regarding appropriations for the installation of art in public buildings	
LB790	Kolterman	S	To alphabetize defined terms under various retirement statutes	
LB791	Ebke	GF	Change grounds for discipline under the Funeral Directing and Embalming Act	
LB792	Kuehn	C	Prohibit certain former officeholders and public employees from being lobbyists	8
LB793	Watermeier	C	Change provisions and penalties relating to implements for escape and contraband and certain assaults	
LB794	Harr	S	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act and corporate occupation taxes	
LB795	Harr	C	Establish the Wireless in Nebraska Program under the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act	
LB796	Harr	C	Prohibit alterations to liability insurance coverage for claims under the Minor Alcoholic Liquor Liability Act	
LB797	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to the accrual of interest on denied and reduced homestead exemptions	
LB798	Johnson	S	Change provisions of the Nebraska Pure Food Act	
LB799	Bolz	C (>977)	Include capital acquisition costs in the Nebraska Public Transportation Act's assistance program	10, 15
LB800	Bolz	C (>956)	State intent relating to an appropriation to the State Department of Education for job-driven training and education	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB801	Bolz	IPP	Require educational material and a report relating to long-term care insurance	
LB802	Haar	C	Create the Health and Climate Resiliency Task Force	5
LB803	Retirement	S	Change disposition of court docket fees as prescribed	
LB804	Hilkemann	GF	Adopt the Investigational Drug Use Act	6
LB805	Mello	C (>447)	Require a periodic study of certain retirement plans and a report filing by certain political subdivisions	8, 12
LB806	Mello	GF	Adopt the Riverfront Development District Act	7
LB807	Williams	S	Allow counties of all sizes to waive quarterly reports by county attorneys	
LB808	Hansen	GF (>1059)	Change provisions relating to amending an economic development program under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act	8, 10, 12
LB809	Davis	C	Appropriate funds to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund	
LB810	Davis	C (>957)	Eliminate the Nebraska Youth Conservation Program and transfer funds to the Cowboy Trail Fund	
LB811	Brasch	S	Change provisions relating to counties' use of alphanumeric and county number system license plates	3, 7, 9
LB812	Smith	C	Provide a sales tax exemption relating to custom software	
LB813	Kolterman	S	Permit certain persons to consent to donate plasma	
LB814	Friesen	S	Change a requirement for issuance of a school permit	
LB814A	Friesen	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB815	Stinner	GF	Change provisions relating to petitions for removal of a person's firearms-related disabilities or disqualifications	9
LB816	Scheer	S	Change and eliminate provisions relating to state institution patients' records	
LB817	Riepe	S	Adopt the Direct Primary Care Agreement Act	6, 10
LB818	Kolowski	GF	Change provisions relating to immunity when submitting a complaint under the Children's Residential Facilities and Placing Licensure Act	
LB819	Lindstrom	GF (>772)	Adopt the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act	4
LB820	Hughes	GF	Provide a method of selecting winners for certain lotteries and raffles	4, 8
LB821	Larson	S	Adopt the Workplace Privacy Act	13, 15
LB822	Larson	C	Eliminate consent of the Legislature for appointment of State Electrical Board members	
LB823	Larson	S	Change powers and duties of the State Athletic Commissioner and provide administrative fine authority as prescribed	
LB824	McCollister	S (+914)	Provide for compensation of certain Nebraska Power Review Board members and for privately developed renewable energy generation facilities and appropriate funds	4, 12, 14, 15
LB825	Davis	C	Provide reporting requirements for tax-exempt property	
LB826	Davis	C	Change provisions relating to reimbursement under the Special Education Act	4
LB827	Harr	GF (>131)	Allow county treasurers to receive fees for services rendered to sanitary and improvement districts	
LB828	Harr	GF	Redefine terms under the Employment Security Law	
LB829	Harr	S	Adopt the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (2015)	14, 15
LB830	Harr	S (+972)	Redefine employment under the Employment Security Law and change provisions relating to vacation leave for state employees	8, 10, 15
LB831	Hansen	GF	Adopt the Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act	
LB831A	Hansen	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB832	Morfeld	C	Provide for seizure and sale of a motor vehicle illegally transporting household goods for hire	
LB833	Schumacher	C	Change provisions relating to child support enforcement actions	
LB834	Schumacher	C	Prohibit the retail sale of alcohol at a price below cost	
LB835	Mello	S	Change provisions relating to consumer protection	4, 13, 14
LB836	Mello	IPP	Adopt the In the Line of Duty Compensation Act	6
LB837	Scheer	S	Change provisions relating to premium taxes and quarterly statements under the Surplus Lines Insurance Act	
LB838	Bolz	C	State intent relating to an appropriation to the State Department of Education for an educational specialist	
LB839	Chambers	IPP	Require background checks and other requirements for persons purchasing certain types of tactical gear	
LB840	Fox	S	Change provisions relating to the time allowed for certain internal grievances under the Health Carrier External Review Act	
LB841	Bloomfield	GF	Change provisions relating to maximum annual benefits and disqualification for benefits under the Employment Security Law	
LB842	Haar	S	Change admission and graduation provisions relating to barber schools and colleges	9, 11, 13
LB843	Pansing Brooks	S (+1097)	Provide immunity from prosecution for prostitution and change forensic medical examination provisions	6, 11, 12, 13, 14

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LB844	Pansing Brooks	C (>977)	Provide for Breast Cancer Awareness Plates	10, 15
LB845	Pansing Brooks	C (>894)	Provide requirements relating to confinement of juveniles and provide a duty for the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare	3, 10, 12, 13
LB846	Pansing Brooks	GF (>1000)	Require law enforcement agencies to adopt a policy regarding suspect identifications by witnesses	3, 13, 14
LB847	Pansing Brooks	GF	Change provisions relating to juries	
LB848	Pansing Brooks	C	Change provisions relating to courts	
LB849	Crawford	GF (>698)	Adopt the Assisting Caregiver Transitions Act	3, 8, 10, 12
LB850	Crawford	IPP	Adopt the Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Act	5
LB851	McCollister	S	Change the Taxpayer Transparency Act	7, 14, 15
LB851A	McCollister	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB852	Cook	C (>956)	Appropriate funds for aid to community colleges	
LB853	Stinner	S	Change provisions relating to the Public Accountancy Act	
LB854	Coash	C	Adopt the Self-Service Storage Facilities Act and provide for a lien on certain property	
LB855	Ebke	GF	Require rounding a certain dollar amount in the Employment Security Law to the nearest whole dollar amount	
LB856	Harr	C	Change the Insured Homeowners Protection Act	
LB857	Hadley	S	Change population threshold for a city of the first class to employ a full-time fire chief	
LB858	Hadley	C (>957)	Create the University of Nebraska Facilities Program of 2016	
LB859	Campbell	S	Change cease and desist orders under the Uniform Credentialing Act	
LB860	Hughes	GF (>1059)	Add a type of economic development program under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act	8, 10, 12
LB861	Schumacher	GF	Provide for court review of inmate restrictive housing placement as prescribed	12
LB862	Larson	GF	Permit conducting or participating in a fantasy contest as prescribed	8
LB863	Schilz	C	Adopt the Wind Energy Expansion Act	
LB864	Crawford	S	Change provisions relating to a municipality requesting additional extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction	
LB865	Crawford	S	Change provisions relating to handicapped parking	
LB866	Bolz	GF	Adopt the Transition to Adult Living Success Program Act	
LB866A	Bolz	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB867	Performance Audit	S	Change provisions relating to the Administrative Procedure Act and require the Department of Correctional Services to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations	5, 10, 15
LB867A	Watermeier	LV	Appropriation Bill	
LB868	Krist	C	Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation	7
LB869	Crawford	GF (>698)	Require that certain providers under the Medical Assistance Act be subject to a national criminal history record information check	8, 10, 12
LB870	Harr	C	Provide an income tax credit to graduates of certain educational institutions	
LB871	Murante	C	Provide for a presidential preference primary election	
LB872	Murante	C (>977)	Change a provision relating to the use of blue and amber rotating or flashing lights	10, 15
LB873	Murante	C	Authorize escheatment to the state of unclaimed United States Savings Bonds as prescribed	8
LB874	Murante	S (+682, 741, 787, 879)	Change provisions of the Election Act	12, 14
LB875	Murante	S	Change conditions for approval of a planned unit development for certain second-class cities and villages	4, 11, 13
LB876	Murante	S	Authorize electronic voting devices for public bodies in public meetings	3, 5, 7
LB877	Murante	S	Change provisions relating to reviewing and commenting on proposed subdivision plats in certain counties	
LB878	Murante	C	Provide and change rulemaking duties relating to veterans homes and the Veterans' Homes Board	
LB879	Murante	C (>874)	Change signature requirements for partisan candidates	12, 14
LB880	McCollister	GF	Change provisions relating to Military Honor Plates	
LB881	Schilz	S	Change provisions relating to energy financing contracts	
LB882	Scheer	C	Change provisions relating to school budgeting	
LB883	Scheer	IPP	Provide for foundation aid pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	
LB884	Scheer	S (+951)	Change the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act and the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act and adopt the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act	13, 15
LB884A	Scheer	W	Appropriation Bill	
LB885	Davis	GF	Provide student journalists the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press	8

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB886	Davis	S	Adopt the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act and provide income tax credits	5, 12, 15
LB886A	Davis	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB887	Schilz	S	Extend sunset of the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund	
LB888	Mello	GF (>774)	Change provisions relating to tax credits under the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act	12, 15
LB889	Mello	S	Adopt the School Readiness Tax Credit Act	5, 13, 15
LB889A	Mello	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB890	Brasch	IPP	Change provisions relating to actions involving motor vehicle collisions with domestic animals	
LB891	Brasch	S	Adopt the Down Syndrome Diagnosis Information and Support Act	
LB892	Kintner	C	Change provisions relating to intimidation by telephone call	
LB893	Pansing Brooks	C (>894)	Modify jurisdiction of juvenile courts and change provisions relating to temporary custody and disposition of juveniles	10, 12, 13
LB894	Pansing Brooks	S (+673, 709, 845, 893)	Change provisions relating to juveniles	10, 12, 13
LB895	Coash	S	Require a report regarding the Beatrice State Developmental Center and the Bridges program	
LB896	Hansen	IPP	Require pay increases for state employees to recognize length of service	
LB897	Lindstrom	S	Allow certain public power agencies to engage in hedging transactions	8, 12
LB898	Fox	S	Exempt persons solely engaged in natural hair braiding from credentialing requirements under the Uniform Credentialing Act	3, 7, 9
LB899	Baker	S	Change lead content provisions relating to the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act	
LB900	Bloomfield	GF	Change motorcycle and moped helmet provisions, motorcycle registration fees, rename the Health Advisory Board, and create the brain injury services program and a fund	5, 11
LB900A	Bloomfield	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB901	Kolterman	GF	Change dental assistant and licensed dental hygienist provisions	4
LB901A	Kolterman	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB902	Kolowski	S	Change the Nebraska Clean-burning Motor Fuel Development Act	
LB903	Baker	C	Change and eliminate provisions relating to learning communities	
LB904	Baker	C	Provide for school districts to opt out of a learning community	
LB905	Ebke	C	Adopt the Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys Establishment Act of 2016	
LB906	Lindstrom	S	Adopt the Law Enforcement Education Act authorizing tuition waivers	10, 12
LB907	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act	
LB908	Kolterman	S	Provide for temporary licenses for veterinary technicians	
LB908A	Kolterman	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB909	Kolterman	S	Change powers, duties, and fee and penalty provisions relating to the Department of Agriculture	
LB910	Bolz	SF (+690, >1094)	Change provisions relating to the Office of Parole Administration, restrictive housing provided by correctional services, and ineligibility of certain felons for benefits as prescribed	10, 12, 15
LB910A	Bolz	SF	Appropriation Bill	
LB911	Bolz	C (>956)	State intent relating to fund transfers for behavioral health systems of care	
LB912	Smith	C	Change requirements for presentation of identification for purposes of voting	
LB913	Smith	S	Adopt the Facilitating Business Rapid Response to State Declared Disasters Act	
LB914	Schilz	GF (>824)	Change compensation for certain members of the Nebraska Power Review Board as prescribed	4, 12, 15
LB914A	Schilz	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB915	McCollister	C (>919)	Create a veterans' treatment court pilot project	5
LB916	Howard	C	Provide immunity from criminal or civil liability for removal of an animal from a motor vehicle by forcible entry as prescribed	7
LB917	Krist	W	Change provisions relating to access to records for and investigations by the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare	
LB918	Murante	C (>977)	Provide for the redistribution of motor vehicle taxes as prescribed	4, 10, 15
LB919	Williams	S (+915)	Change provisions relating to problem solving courts	9, 15
LB919A	Williams	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB920	Pansing Brooks	C	Add members to the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council	
LB921	Riepe	S	Eliminate provisions relating to organic food	
LB922	Kolterman	C (>447)	Change terms of Public Employees Retirement Board members as prescribed	8, 12
LB923	Stinner	C (>956)	Appropriate funds for federally qualified health centers	6, 11
LB924	Kolterman	S	Provide an additional withholding procedure for certain payments under the Income Withholding for Child Support Act	
LB925	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to issuing a treasurer's tax deed and bringing a tax lien foreclosure action as prescribed	
LB926	Harr	W	Adopt the Nebraska Rural Jobs Act and provide tax credits	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB927	Hilkemann	C	Change provisions relating to surcharges for 911 service	
LB928	Mello	IPP (>83)	Change provisions relating to discriminatory wage practices based on sex	5, 9, 12
LB929	Brasch	S	Update certain references to federal regulations regarding motor vehicles and motor carriers	
LB930	Scheer	S	Change provisions relating to statewide assessments and college admission testing as prescribed	4, 14, 15
LB931	Bolz	C (>956)	Provide for financial incentives for certain assisted-living facilities and change distribution of the Behavioral Health Services Fund	
LB932	Crawford	C	Redefine not-for-profit organization for purposes of liability provisions	
LB933	Coash	IPP	Adopt the Payroll Processor Regulation Act	
LB934	Coash	S (+1007, 1008)	Provide a penalty for exploiting senior adults, provide for appointment, powers, and duties of guardians ad litem, and change provisions of the Public Guardianship Act	5, 10, 15
LB934A	Coash	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB935	Schilz	V (+993, 1084, 1099)	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Budget Act, state agency contracts, reimbursement for expenses, the Suggestion Award Board, and the Auditor of Public Accounts	15
LB936	Ebke	C	Change inheritance tax rates and exemption amounts	
LB937	Ebke	C	Eliminate a prohibition on marriage of persons with venereal disease	
LB938	Smith	S	Adopt the 911 Service System Act, change a reporting requirement as prescribed, and transfer funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund to the 911 Service System Fund	5, 12, 15
LB938A	Smith	LV	Appropriation Bill	
LB939	Mello	GF	Adopt the Nebraska Early Childhood Advantage Act	
LB940	Johnson	C	Adopt the Tax Stabilization Act	5
LB941	Gloor	GF	Update references to the Internal Revenue Code	
LB942	Scheer	S	Require disclosure of noncompete agreements by sellers of seller-assisted marketing plans and provide for reformation of a franchise agreement which unreasonably restrains competition	
LB943	Hansen	C	Update references with respect to husband and wife	
LB944	Hansen	C	Change terminology relating to parentage and marital relationships	
LB945	Hansen	C	Adopt the Nebraska Healthy Food Financing Initiative Act	6
LB946	Smith	C (>977)	Change powers and duties of the chairperson of the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board	10, 15
LB947	Mello	VO	State intent relating to professional or commercial licenses for certain aliens and restrict credential issuance as prescribed	12, 14, 15
LB948	Morfeld	S	Change an application period limitation for the designation of enterprise zones as prescribed	
LB949	Harr	IPP	Change the commission allowed to cigarette stamping agents	
LB950	Harr	C	Allow a bad debt deduction relating to cigarette and tobacco product taxes	
LB951	Harr	C (>884)	Adopt the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act	
LB952	Watermeier	S	Change membership of the Board of Emergency Medical Services	
LB953	Kolterman	C	Provide protection for qualified adults from financial exploitation	
LB954	Krist	S	Change provisions relating to access to records for and investigations by the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare	3, 6, 9, 10
LB955	Scheer	C	Except the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State College System from participation in certain state contracts regarding electronic payments	
LB956	Speaker Hadley	S (+381, 713, 733, 789, 800, 852, 911, 923, 931, 1006, 1074)	Provide for deficit appropriations	5, 11, 12
LB957	Speaker Hadley	S (+715, 755, 810, 858, 988, 1091)	Provide, change, and eliminate fund provisions and change artwork, renovation, and replacement provisions for state buildings	5, 11, 12
LB958	Gloor	S	Change provisions relating to property tax credits	5, 12, 13, 14, 15
LB959	Sullivan	S	Change provisions relating to minimum levy adjustments and averaging adjustments under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and certain school district levy and bonding authority	6, 13, 15
LB959A	Sullivan	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB960	Smith	S	Adopt the Transportation Innovation Act and provide transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund	7, 11, 12, 15
LB960A	Smith	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB961	Chambers	IPP	Eliminate provisions relating to hunting mountain lions	8
LB962	Fox	GF	Change requirements for the practice of acupuncture	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB963	Fox	GF (>698)	Change provisions relating to area plans and budgets under the Nebraska Community Aging Services Act	10, 12
LB964	Hilkemann	C	Change a veteran notation requirement on a motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card	
LB965	Cook	C	Provide for expungement of records for persons charged with or found guilty of a crime because of stolen identity or mistaken identity	
LB966	Kintner	C	Adopt the Refugee Resettlement Agency Indemnification Act	
LB967	Kintner	C	Change learning community provisions relating to enrollment and levies	8
LB968	Johnson	C	Change provisions relating to an agriculture promotion and development program	
LB969	Larson	C	Provide and change duties for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of public libraries or reading rooms by cities or villages	5
LB970	Larson	GF	Change provisions relating to pickle cards and keno and authorize methods of payment for gambling	8
LB971	Gloor	GF	Change provisions relating to restoration of seized firearms	
LB972	Harr	IPP (>830)	Change a provision under the Employment Security Law relating to an exclusion from the definition of employment	8, 10, 15
LB973	Smith	S	Change penalty, permit, and notice provisions relating to electric utility lines, poles, and structures	
LB974	Kolowski	C	Exempt sales of clothing, school supplies, computers, and computer-related accessories from sales and use taxes	7
LB975	Kolterman	GF	Adopt the Child Welfare Services Preservation Act	7, 13
LB976	Seiler	W	Change provisions relating to jury sequestration	
LB977	Smith	S (+799, 844, 872, 918, 946, 989, 996)	Provide state assistance for public transportation, ordinance and resolution powers regarding weight restrictions, Breast Cancer Awareness Plates, electronic processing of commercial drivers' licenses and permits, and operation of implements of husbandry and change specialty license plate provisions, distribution of taxes and fees, use of blue and amber lights, and motor vehicle industry provisions	10, 15
LB977A	Smith	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB978	Craighead	S	Change provisions relating to the state purchasing card program and facilities construction and administration and eliminate obsolete provisions	
LB979	Kuehn	GF	Provide for selection of interchangeable biological products by pharmacists	5
LB980	Morfeld	C	Change penalty provisions for certain violations relating to or committed by persons experiencing or witnessing a drug overdose	6
LB981	Business & Labor	S	Provide for payment of claims against the state	11, 12
LB982	Business & Labor	IPP	Deny payment of claims against the state	
LB983	Harr	GF	Change the definition of disability under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act	
LB984	Schumacher	C	Change provisions relating to mandatory minimum sentencing and sentencing of habitual criminals	
LB985	Schumacher	C	Provide reporting duties for regional behavioral health authorities	
LB986	Retirement	C (>447)	Change duties of the Public Employees Retirement Board relating to an annual valuation report and experience study	8, 12
LB987	Morfeld	GF (>1093)	Create the Bioscience Steering Committee	5, 12, 13
LB988	Cook	C (>957)	Change distribution provisions for the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund	
LB989	Murante	C (>977)	Change provisions relating to motor vehicles	10, 15
LB990	Davis	GF	Adopt the Fetal Dignity Protection Act	9
LB991	McCollister	C	Redefine crime victim	
LB992	Ebke	C	Provide a restriction on installment contracts for the purchase of real or personal property by political subdivisions	
LB993	Coash	C (>935)	Change provisions related to the Auditor of Public Accounts and require hours of work be recorded on a timesheet	15
LB994	Davis	GF	Change provisions under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act relating to financial responsibility as applied to nonresident owners	
LB995	Davis	C	Repeal provisions relating to the special valuation of agricultural land and provide for the agricultural value of agricultural land	
LB996	Friesen	C (>977)	Change provisions relating to the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act	10, 15
LB997	Krist	C	Change provisions regarding the Nebraska Capitol Commission and office space within the State Capitol	
LB998	Schumacher	C	Provide for emergency community crisis centers and change provisions relating to emergency protective custody	8
LB999	Garrett	C	Change the disposition of proceeds from the sale of surplus personal property	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB1000	Mello	S (+846, 1055)	Require policies relating to body-worn cameras and eyewitness suspect identifications and change provisions relating to grand juries	7, 13, 14
LB1001	Ebke	IPP	Change provisions relating to a compensation schedule for injuries resulting in disability	
LB1002	Baker	S	Permit educational service unit boards to pay membership dues to associations of school boards	
LB1003	Smith	GF	Change the prepaid wireless surcharge determination under the Prepaid Wireless Surcharge Act	
LB1003A	Smith	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB1004	Cook	C (>1066)	Change provisions relating to the Community Eligibility Provision and provide duties for the State Department of Education	6
LB1005	Harr	IPP	Provide for an evidence-based drug formulary under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB1006	Coash	C (>956)	Appropriate funds for hiring forensic accountants by the Office of the Attorney General	
LB1007	Coash	GF (>934)	Change and provide provisions relating to protection of vulnerable adults and senior adults	15
LB1008	Coash	C (>934)	Provide qualification requirements for guardians ad litem in guardianship, conservatorship, and other protective proceedings	5, 15
LB1009	Williams	S	Prohibit transactions involving lookalike substances, provide and change seizure and forfeiture authority, and prohibit conduct as deceptive trade practices	10, 12
LB1010	Williams	S	Change provisions relating to juvenile court petitions	
LB1011	Campbell	S	Change provisions relating to at-risk managed care contracts as prescribed	
LB1012	Mello	S	Adopt the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act	13, 14
LB1013	Gloor	C	Change tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products and provide for distribution of proceeds	6
LB1014	Stinner	GF (>774)	Change provisions relating to levy limitations and budget limitations for public airports	12, 15
LB1015	Harr	C (>774)	Change a sales tax exemption relating to museums	12, 15
LB1016	Watermeier	S	Redefine agency under the Legislative Performance Audit Act	6, 9
LB1017	Lindstrom	C (>1093)	Eliminate a residency requirement for student interns under a grant program and transfer funds as prescribed	10, 12, 13
LB1018	Coash	C	Appropriate funds to the Nebraska Arts Council	
LB1019	Davis	GF (>1038)	Change provisions relating to support of the Niobrara Council by the Game and Parks Commission, require legislative confirmation of certain appointments to the council, and require an annual report	
LB1020	Fox	C	Provide for amendments to declarations to correct scrivener's errors, omissions, or errors in the declaration under the Nebraska Condominium Act	
LB1021	Crawford	C	Change provisions relating to access to sales and use tax information by municipalities	
LB1022	Performance Audit	S	Change provisions relating to the office of Legislative Audit and change dates for application of tax incentives	8, 10, 15
LB1023	Ebke	C	Require development of treatment protocols for and a needs assessment of committed offenders and correctional facilities	
LB1024	Larson	C	Change a provision of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act relating to an interest in a government contract	
LB1025	Morfeld	C	Change experience requirements under the Public Accountancy Act	
LB1026	Morfeld	C	Change provisions relating to education technology	
LB1027	Morfeld	C	Create and provide funding for the Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Grant Program and provide duties for the Attorney General	5
LB1028	Morfeld	C (>1093)	Change provisions relating to funding under the Business Innovation Act and require the Department of Economic Development to contract with certain entities	10, 12, 13
LB1029	Mello	GF (>1110)	Adopt the Sector Partnership Program Act and provide duties for the Department of Labor	12, 14
LB1030	Bolz	C	Change an expenditure limit relating to amino acid-based elemental formulas	
LB1031	Hansen	C	Change the levy authority of railroad transportation safety districts	
LB1032	McCollister	GF	Adopt the Transitional Health Insurance Program Act and provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services	6, 13
LB1032A	McCollister	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB1033	Campbell	S	Create an advisory committee relating to persons with disabilities within the Department of Health and Human Services	
LB1034	Campbell	GF (>746)	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Children's Commission	7, 10
LB1035	Williams	S	Redefine farm product and change provisions relating to the central filing system and the master lien list	
LB1036	Campbell	C	Change provisions of the Credit Services Organization Act, the Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act, and the Nebraska Installment Loan Act	
LB1037	Brasch	GF	Change property tax provisions relating to agricultural land and horticultural land	13
LB1038	Davis	S (+639, 711, 1019)	Change provisions relating to vegetation and natural resources	12, 15
LB1038A	Hughes	S	Appropriation Bill	

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LB1039	Coash	S	Define and redefine terms relating to developmental disabilities	
LB1040	Johnson	C	Adopt the Travel Agency Registration Act	
LB1041	Cook	C	Provide for disapproval of certain insurance rate filings if they use price optimization	
LB1042	Friesen	IPP	Change provisions relating to tax-increment financing	
LB1043	Howard	C	Create a palliative care program and advisory council for the Health Care Facility Licensure Act	
LB1044	Ebke	IPP	Terminate the Commission of Industrial Relations	
LB1045	Ebke	IPP	Provide for the treatment of certain contractors as independent contractors as prescribed	
LB1046	Ebke	GF (>1105)	Change license eligibility requirements under the Liquor Control Act	10, 15
LB1047	Harr	C (>774)	Change sales tax exemption provisions relating to purchases of energy and fuel	12, 15
LB1048	Harr	GF	Adopt the Nebraska Agriculture and Manufacturing Jobs Act and provide tax credits	
LB1049	Harr	C	Redefine terms to include students in virtual schools in the state aid formula	6
LB1050	Harr	S	Authorize conversion of domestic partnerships and domestic limited liability partnerships into domestic limited liability companies or foreign limited liability companies	
LB1051	Harr	GF	Redefine qualified business under the Nebraska Advantage Act	
LB1052	Harr	C	State intent relating to appropriations for the Nebraska Whole Child Project and change provisions relating to school funding	
LB1053	Harr	C	Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education	
LB1054	Hilkemann	C	Change provisions relating to the DNA Identification Information Act	
LB1055	Chambers	GF (>1000)	Open grand jury proceedings to the public as prescribed and change procedures in cases of death during apprehension by law enforcement officers or while in custody	8, 13, 14
LB1056	Chambers	IPP	Adopt the Patient Choice at End of Life Act	8, 14
LB1057	Murante	C	Change provisions of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	
LB1058	Crawford	C	Change provisions relating to enforcement of certain tobacco restriction provisions	
LB1059	Crawford	S (+808, 860)	Change provisions of the Community Development Law and the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act	8, 10, 12
LB1060	Fox	C	Adopt the Pharmacy Benefit Fairness and Transparency Act and provide duties for the Director of Insurance	
LB1061	Kolterman	C	Adopt the Surgical Technologist Registry Act	
LB1062	Krist	C	Provide for waiver of a certificate to administer as prescribed	
LB1063	Sullivan	C	Change provisions relating to state aid to schools	
LB1064	Sullivan	C	Change option enrollment and student fee provisions as prescribed	
LB1065	Sullivan	C (>1066)	Change school provisions relating to the community eligibility provision	6
LB1066	Sullivan	S (+1004, 1065)	Change provisions relating to education	
LB1067	Sullivan	S	Change provisions relating to learning communities and funding for education	8, 13, 14, 15
LB1067A	Sullivan	LV	Appropriation Bill	
LB1068	Haar	IPP	Adopt the Electric Customer Protection Act and provide duties for the Public Service Commission	
LB1069	Haar	IPP	Provide duties for the state investment officer relating to investment in energy-related companies or funds	6
LB1070	Haar	IPP	Change powers and duties of the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to require liability insurance and restrict permits as prescribed	7
LB1071	Haar	C	Adopt the Solar Energy Economic Development Act	
LB1072	Haar	C	Adopt the Fair Repair Act and provide a penalty	
LB1073	Kolowski	GF	Authorize the display of the Honor and Remember flag as prescribed	
LB1074	Kolowski	C (>956)	Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education	
LB1075	Schilz	S	Change provisions of the Disposition of Personal Property Landlord and Tenant Act	
LB1076	Schilz	C	Appropriate funds to the Game and Parks commission for law enforcement at the Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area	
LB1077	Pansing Brooks	GF	Change provisions under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act relating to operator's license revocation	
LB1078	Pansing Brooks	C	Provide and change certain conflict of interest statement requirements under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	
LB1079	Pansing Brooks	C	Redefine law enforcement agency and change provisions relating to law enforcement officer jurisdiction	
LB1080	Seiler	S	Change provisions relating to direct purchases and use of recyclable material by correctional industries	7, 11, 13
LB1081	Campbell	S (+701)	Change provisions relating to eligibility for public assistance and eliminate termination dates for self-sufficiency contracts	11, 12

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LB1082	Schilz	S	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and provide for a periodic well fluid analysis, report, and notice as prescribed	7, 10, 12
LB1082A	Schilz	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1083	Williams	S	Adopt the Next Generation Business Growth Act and change funding for tax credits under the Community Development Assistance Act	5, 12, 13, 15
LB1083A	Williams	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1084	Stinner	C (>935)	Change and provide duration requirements for certain state agency contracts	15
LB1085	Davis	C	Change a renewable energy tax credit	
LB1086	Davis	S	Change provisions relating to student self-management of asthma or anaphylaxis	
LB1087	Davis	C	Change sales tax provisions relating to the definition of engaged in business in this state	
LB1088	Davis	C (>774)	Provide a sales and use tax exemption for nonprofit centers for independent living	12, 15
LB1089	Hansen	IPP	Change the minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities	
LB1090	Hansen	C	Require notification of law enforcement by the Nebraska State Patrol of denials of handgun certificates as prescribed	
LB1091	Hilkemann	C (>957)	State intent relating to appropriations for purposes of the Site and Building Development Fund	
LB1092	Mello	S	Change provisions relating to budget request reporting requirements	5, 10, 12
LB1093	Mello	S (+560,	Create the Bioscience Steering Committee, redefine a term relating to an internship grant	10, 12,
13,		987, 1017,	program, change the Business Innovation Act, and require reports on the Nebraska	15
		1028)	Innovation Campus	
LB1093A	Mello	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1094	Judiciary	S (+910)	Change provisions relating to evidence, sentencing, certain criminal penalties, criminal mischief, assault, theft, forgery, probation, parole, and the Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System	12, 15
LB1095	Kintner	C	Require employer identification numbers and the use of the federal immigration verification system	
LB1096	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to amendments to declarations regarding unit boundaries under the Nebraska Condominium Act	
LB1097	Morfeld	C (>843)	Change provisions relating to sexual assault forensic testing	11, 12
LB1098	Morfeld	S	Increase legal services fees as prescribed	7, 13, 14
LB1098A	Morfeld	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1099	Krist	C (>935)	Change provisions relating to expense reimbursement	15
LB1100	Schilz	IPP	Adopt the Petroleum Education and Marketing Act	
LB1101	Mello	S	Require the Department of Environmental Quality to examine the status of solid waste management programs	6, 11, 13
LB1102	Davis	C	Authorize legislative performance audits of tax-increment financing projects	5
LB1103	Schumacher	GF	Change provisions relating to medicaid reimbursements, provide for a lien, and change estate procedures	13
LB1103A	Schumacher	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB1104	Larson	C	Provide for tax incentives, intent provisions, and revenue-sharing agreements relating to Native Americans	
LB1105	Larson	S (+748,	Change and eliminate beverage regulations and licensure provisions and create the	10, 15
		1046)	Nebraska Craft Brewery Board	
LB1105A	Larson	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1106	Garrett	S (+1108)	Change forfeiture provisions as prescribed	14, 15
LB1107	Garrett	C	Create the Nebraska Election System Initiative	
LB1108	Garrett	C (>1106)	Require reporting to the Auditor of Public Accounts and the Legislature regarding civil forfeiture proceedings	14, 15
LB1109	Murante	S	Change public records provisions and provide for an enhanced public scrutiny process for certain University appointees	10, 11, 12
LB1110	Mello	S (+1029)	Adopt the Nebraska Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Sector Partnership Program Act	12, 14
LB1110A	Mello	FR	Appropriation Bill	
LR26CA	Larson	SF	Constitutional amendment to change the age for eligibility to public office	4, 5, 7
LR35	Ebke	GF	Resolution to petition Congress to call a convention of the States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States	8
LR378CA	Kuehn	GF	Constitutional amendment to guarantee the right to engage in certain farming and ranching practices	8, 12
LR379CA	Bloomfield	C	Constitutional amendment authorizing recall of state elective officers	
LR380CA	Bloomfield	IPP	Constitutional amendment to change the distribution of state lottery proceeds	4

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 ISSUES: coverage in issue # of the 2016 Unicameral Update

BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR381	Ebke	P	Resolution to ratify the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution regarding compensation for members of Congress	
LR389CA	Harr	C	Constitutional amendment to remove provisions regarding marriage from the Constitution of Nebraska	4
LR390CA	Davis	C	Constitutional amendment requiring community colleges funding by sales and income taxes and not property taxes	
LR394CA	Hughes	IPP	Constitutional amendment to authorize taxing bodies to exclude their taxes from pledges made by cities to pay indebtedness on redevelopment projects	
LR397	Gloor	C	Interim study to monitor the health care transformation in Nebraska	
LR398CA	Bloomfield	C	Constitutional amendment to provide for election of judges and eliminate the merit plan for selection of judges	
LR399CA	Davis	IPP	Constitutional amendment to require cities and villages to obtain voter approval before pledging taxes for the payment of indebtedness related to redevelopment projects	
LR403	Hansen	P	Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint the Election Technology Committee as a special committee of the Legislature	6, 9, 10
LR406	Gloor	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the blending of various fuels in Nebraska and the impact of right to blend laws in other states	
LR412	Watermeier	C	Interim study to improve communication access for movie theaters in Nebraska to ensure all persons can fully experience the movie theater experience	
LR413	Watermeier	P	Create the Task Force on Behavioral and Mental Health	6, 9, 10
LR414	Chambers	GF	Prohibit meals or beverages from being provided to legislators by lobbyists in the Capitol while the Legislature is in session	
LR415	Riepe	P	Urge the Nebraska congressional delegation to support and co-sponsor Senate Bill 1989 entitled Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2015	
LR418	Howard	P	Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint a special committee to be known as the ACCESSNebraska Oversight Committee of the Legislature	6, 9, 10
LR430	Scheer	C	Interim study to examine whether the Nebraska Banking Act should be updated	
LR431	Scheer	C	Interim study to examine whether the Securities Act of Nebraska should be updated	
LR439	Crawford	C	Interim study to examine the use of tax-increment financing by municipalities for residential development	
LR452	Bolz	C	Interim study to establish a study group to examine issues surrounding the need to provide financial assistance for home accessibility modifications for people with disabilities, including the elderly	
LR455	Haar	P	Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint a special committee to examine issues related to the impacts of climate change on the State of Nebraska	15
LR463	Campbell	C	Interim study to examine ways to improve the coverage of hearing aid costs for Nebraska families	
LR464	Groene	C	Interim study to examine the effects of the use of tax-increment financing by municipalities	
LR483	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine the public employees retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board	
LR489	Crawford	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to housing authorities	
LR490	Crawford	C	Interim study to examine the enforcement of state and local building codes	
LR493	Scheer	C	Interim study to examine whether the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act should be updated	
LR495	Urban Affairs	C	Interim study to examine state law governing cities of the second class and villages in Chapter 17 of the Nebraska statutes	
LR496	Urban Affairs	C	Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee	
LR498	Johnson	C	Interim study to examine the Nebraska Right to Farm Act	
LR499	Campbell	C	Interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee	
LR502	Stinner	C	Interim study to examine the use of revolving funds within the Dept. of Administrative Services	
LR504	Murante	C	Interim study to examine the numerous deadlines involved in the election process	
LR506	Seiler	C	Interim study to examine the efficacy of testing and monitoring programs, particularly the 24/7 sobriety program, in reducing recidivism for driving under the influence and controlled substance offenses	
LR507	Davis	C	Interim study to examine the development of a public notification system to broadcast alerts when vulnerable adults go missing	
LR508	Harr	C	Interim study to examine possible changes to the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act	
LR509	Mello	C	Interim study to examine the funding history, programs, and services offered by the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR510	Howard	C	Interim study to examine how to best integrate palliative care into the overall medical care structure of our health care system	
LR511	Davis	C	Interim study to examine existing law governing the collection of sales and use tax on remote sales	
LR512	Business & Labor	C	Interim study to examine the Commission of Industrial Relations	
LR513	Howard	C	Interim study to examine workforce issues within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems	
LR514	Bolz	C	Interim study to examine the availability of transition services for youth who will leave or have left the juvenile justice system while in an out-of-home placement	
LR517	Howard	C	Interim study to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund	
LR518	Hadley	C	Interim study to review issues surrounding child custody proceedings and parenting time determinations as they pertain to families of divorce	
LR519	Smith	C	Interim study to examine whether the One-Call Notification System Act should be updated	
LR520	Harr	C	Interim study to provide a review of the administration and enforcement of the Employee Classification Act by the Dept. of Labor	
LR521	Fox	C	Interim study to examine the business practices of pharmacy benefit managers as those practices relate to such managers' arrangements with private entities, insurers, pharmacies, and the State of Nebraska	
LR522	Howard	C	Interim study to examine the issue of how to best educate the public and create awareness about the risks associated with sun exposure and ultraviolet radiation exposure	
LR523	Howard	C	Interim study to examine Nebraska law regarding the protection of children who have reached eighteen years of age but have not yet reached the age of majority	
LR525	Seiler	C	Interim study to examine issues associated with treating an individual licensed under the Nebr. Real Estate License Act as a professional for purposes of civil actions for professional negligence	
LR526	Hansen	C	Interim study to examine municipal classifications	
LR527	Schumacher	C	Interim study to examine possible legislative reforms to Nebraska's mandatory minimum sentencing laws	
LR529	Howard	C	Interim study to examine the ongoing implementation of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 and related state law and policy	
LR530	Howard	C	Interim study to examine the voting processes and procedures available for citizens who are hospitalized or who reside in nursing homes or extended care facilities	
LR532	Bolz	C	Interim study to evaluate the effectiveness and success of the Office of Violence Prevention	
LR533	Bolz	C	Interim study to examine promoting career education and training that can lead to job readiness for middle-skill jobs	
LR534	Haar	C	Interim study to examine the extent that state funds are invested in fossil fuels and clean energy, and the feasibility of divestment consistent with the state's fiduciary responsibilities	
LR535	Johnson	C	Interim study to examine how the Legislature can assist livestock producers involved in certain value-added activities	
LR536	Johnson	C	Interim study to complete the work of the LR 309 committee which investigated ways to avoid and mitigate conflicts arising from herbicide drift damage to sensitive crops	
LR537	Johnson	C	Interim study to review the duties and authorities of the Dept. of Agriculture with respect to livestock animal identification	
LR538	Smith	C	Interim study to examine telecommunication services in Nebraska	
LR539	Smith	C	Interim study to undertake a study of the jurisdiction and structure of the Nebraska Public Service Commission	
LR541	Larson	C	Interim study to examine the economic benefits of keno	
LR542	Larson	C	Interim study to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the General Affairs Committee	
LR543	Hansen	C	Interim study to examine possible legislative reforms to Nebraska laws relating to birth certificates	
LR544	Crawford	C	Interim study to examine the alternative response demonstration projects created in LB853, 2014	
LR545	Campbell	C	Interim study to examine Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, with an emphasis on children that are eligible but unenrolled in these programs	
LR546	Garrett	C	Interim study to examine whether Nebraska's occupational licensing boards are exposed to liability under antitrust laws	
LR547	Larson	P	Create the Tribal Economic Development Committee of the Legislature to conduct a study examining the policy tools available to the Legislature to enhance economic development for the Native American population of Nebraska	15
LR548	Riepe	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding youth tobacco use	
LR549	Garrett	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to utilization of the U visa program in Nebraska	

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LR550	Schumacher	C	Interim study to examine the feasibility of creating a common data collection site for county jail information necessary to receive funding under the County Justice Reinvestment Grant Program	
LR551	Krist	C	Interim study to explore and assess the use of congregate care in Nebraska for youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems	
LR552	Haar	C	Interim study to develop a plan to address funding and budgetary issues relating to climate change	
LR553	Riepe	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the Medicaid Reform Council	
LR554	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine information regarding air ambulance costs	
LR555	Lindstrom	C	Interim study to examine the process and procedures used in appeals before the Tax Equalization and Review Commission	
LR556	Harr	C	Interim study to examine the conveyances currently covered by the Conveyance Safety Act	
LR557	Garrett	C	Interim study to examine what actions the State of Nebraska needs to take to meet the United States Dept. of Defense's mandates regarding energy and renewable resources	
LR558	Harr	C	Interim study to evaluate the governance structure of the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission	
LR559	Krist	C	Interim study to examine the feasibility and impact of implementing the Civics Education Initiative in Nebraska through legislation or in partnership with the State Board of Education	
LR560	Krist	C	Interim study to examine the origins and utility of using court fees as a source of funding in Nebraska	
LR561	Krist	C	Interim study to examine the effectiveness, economic stability, and long-term viability of the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Kearney and the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Geneva	
LR562	Garrett	C	Interim study to examine why LB 20, LB 357, and LB 454 failed to pass during the 104th legislative session	
LR563	Garrett	C	Interim study to examine the reasons for the substantial tax rates on wireless telephone service in Nebraska	
LR564	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine education in Nebraska	
LR565	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine land acquisition within municipalities for educational purposes	
LR566	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine the availability of education, rehabilitation, and reentry support for incarcerated men and women	
LR567	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine and review the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay and the need for additional funding for law enforcement	
LR568	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine the membership, role, and duties of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council	
LR569	Johnson	C	Interim study to examine the means available to fund the grant program established pursuant to the Livestock Growth Act	
LR570	Johnson	C	Interim study to review the duties and authorities of the Dept. of Agriculture to establish an agriculture promotion and development program	
LR571	Retirement	C	Interim study to examine local political subdivision retirement plans for public employees	
LR572	Riepe	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the Division of Veterans' Homes of the Dept. of Health and Human Services and wait times for admission to the veterans' homes system	
LR573	Haar	C	Interim study to examine the historic and present state of industrial hemp as an alternative crop in Nebraska and its future potential	
LR574	McCollister	C	Interim study to examine aspects of Nebraska's medicaid program that include share of cost or resource spend down components	
LR575	McCollister	C	Interim study to continue the ongoing study of access to healthcare in Nebraska	
LR576	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine children's access to legal counsel in juvenile proceedings across the state of Nebraska	
LR577	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee	
LR578	Coash	C	Interim study to examine the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered Custody Act	
LR579	Haar	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to solar energy development	
LR580	Stinner	C	Interim study to examine the Dept. of Health and Human Services' policies for dealing with disallowances and audit exceptions by the federal government which have resulted in large fines and having to return money to the federal government	
LR581	Kintner	C	Interim study to examine the positive and negative effects of federal education funding if Nebraska would choose not to accept federal funds that are tied to federal mandates	
LR582	Riepe	C	Interim study to examine how, through better coordination of health services, the state can better assist low-income individuals currently without insurance	
LR583	Morfeld	C	Interim study to examine administrative law judges in Nebraska	

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LR584	Morfeld	C	Interim study to examine the possibility of providing direct and statewide funding for legal representation in order to provide more equitable access to civil justice in Nebraska	
LR586	Groene	C	Interim study to examine the effects of transferring public school employees from the system of district-based health insurance plans to the Nebraska State Insurance Program	
LR587	Sullivan	C	Interim study to examine the issues within the jurisdiction of the Education Committee	
LR588	Harr	C	Interim study to determine best practices in drafting tax legislation and determining the fiscal impact of tax policies	
LR589	Seiler	C	Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee	
LR590	Riepe	C	Interim study to examine options to offer incentives to health care professionals who provide free care and services to qualified recipients	
LR591	Hadley	C	Interim study to examine and make recommendations on improving health care coverage plans available to Nebraska small businesses with fifty or less employees	
LR592	Gloor	C	Interim study to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of the state individual and corporate income taxes, including financial institution and insurance premium taxes	
LR593	Gloor	C	Interim study to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of real and personal property taxes	
LR594	Gloor	C	Interim study to examine the structure, compliance, and administration of state and local sales and use taxes and any other miscellaneous taxes	
LR595	Hansen	C	Interim study to examine the topic of food deserts and issues relating to access to healthy food in Nebraska	
LR596	Murante	C	Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	
LR597	Murante	C	Interim study to examine financing mechanisms available to various political subdivisions to issue bonds or assume future payment obligations without a direct vote of taxpayers	
LR598	Haar	C	Interim study to examine issues related to allowing owners and independent repair persons access to software and codes that will allow them to repair electronic devices	
LR599	Haar	C	Interim study to review the administrative rate review processes currently conducted by the Public Service Commission	
LR600	Johnson	C	Interim study to examine alternatives for valuing agricultural land for property tax purposes	
LR601	Hilkemann	P	Review present facilities and determine the needs and options for developing a regional certified crime laboratory in the Omaha area	15
LR602	Riepe	C	Interim study to examine existing barriers to the delivery of health care services through telehealth technologies in Nebraska	
LR603	Haar	C	Interim study to examine the issues faced by residents of mobile home communities	
LR604	Davis	C	Interim study to examine inconsistencies in the practices utilized by county assessors in determining agricultural land value	
LR605	Mello	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to urban redevelopment	
LR612	Agriculture	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee	

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