



Unicameral Update

SESSION REVIEW 2018

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AGRICULTURE



Sen. Lydia Brasch, chairperson of the Agriculture Committee

The Agriculture Committee considered bills this session that would have expanded industrial hemp research and authorized Nebraskans to sell cottage foods from their homes.

A bill that would have repealed the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act was vetoed by Gov. Pete Ricketts.

The act, which was passed by the Legislature in 2012, authorizes county boards to adopt and carry out coordinated management programs to control black-tailed prairie dog colonies on property within the county. LB449, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, would have repealed the act.

The law requires a landowner in counties that have adopted a management plan to effectively manage prairie dog colonies on his or her property to prevent them from expanding to adjacent property if the neighboring property owner objects to the expansion. If such unwanted expansion occurs, the county board issues a notice to the landowner to take control measures.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

If a landowner does not provide evidence that a colony is being managed within 60 days of the notice, the county may enter upon the property to manage the prairie dogs. A landowner may request a hearing to challenge whether an unmanaged colony exists or the costs of control measures charged to the landowner.

The landowner is responsible for any expenses, and unpaid assessments become a lien on the property. Landowners who do not comply also could receive a fine of up to \$1,500. The law allows a county to file a foreclosure suit to recover the debt.

Lawmakers voted 26-13 to pass the bill April 18, the final day of the 2018 session.

Chambers has said the act violates property owners' rights by allowing government agents to come onto their land without notice when a neighbor makes an unverified complaint about prairie dogs on the property.

In his veto message, Ricketts said that repealing the act would fail to protect the property rights of landowners who are harmed by the spread of prairie dogs from a neighbor's property. He said the law provides an incentive for landowners to manage prairie dogs on their property and that counties have used it "judiciously."

The committee did not advance LB1133, introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne. It would have required the state Department of Agriculture to establish and oversee a five-year industrial hemp research program comprising the planting, cultivation, testing and analysis of industrial hemp demonstration plots by growers who are licensed by the department.



Sen. Justin Wayne

The department also would have been responsible for obtaining any federal permits or waivers necessary to grow industrial hemp in Nebraska and would have promoted the research and development of industrial hemp as well as commercial markets for it.

Also not advanced from committee was LB764, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford.

Current law provides an exemption to the Nebraska Pure Food Act that allows for the sale of foods such as baked goods, fruits, vegetables and herbs prepared in private homes to be sold directly to a consumer at a farmers' market if the consumer is informed by a sign at the sale location that the food was prepared in a kitchen that is not subject to regulation and inspection. LB764 would have expanded that exemption to additional types of direct consumer sales. ■



Sen. Sue Crawford

APPROPRIATIONS



Sen. John Stinner, chairperson of the Appropriations Committee

Lawmakers made adjustments to the state's two-year budget with four bills passed this session. LB944, introduced by Speaker Sen. Jim Scheer of Norfolk at the request of the governor, makes adjustments to appropriations for state operations, agency and school aid and construction programs in the current and next fiscal year.

The bill contains an across-the-board reduction in general fund appropriations to many state agencies and operations budgets of 2 percent in fiscal year 2017-18 and FY2018-19.

The University of Nebraska, state and community colleges will see a 1 percent reduction in FY2018-19. Reductions in state aid—except for community colleges—is retained at 4 percent in FY2018-19.

Among other provisions, the bill also provides \$55 million to the state Department of Health and Human Services to cover increased child welfare costs and \$15 million to offset reductions in the federal Medicaid match rate.



Sen. Jim Scheer

A provision included in LB944 prohibits federal Title X funds from being paid or granted to an organization that performs, assists, provides directive counseling in favor of or refers for abortion services. An otherwise qualified organization that is affiliated with, but objectively independent from, such an organization—which the bill defines as legal, physical and financial separation—is not disqualified from receiving funds under the bill.

The provision also prohibits the referral of a patient for abortion services. Pregnancy termination in an emergency situation in accordance with state law does not constitute an abortion referral under the bill.

The bill also contains provisions of LB864, introduced by Fremont Sen. Lynn Walz, which provide \$5.4 million in general funds in FY2017-18 to DHHS to pay developmental disability providers for services rendered on or after Oct. 1, 2017, and for which no federal funds were used.



Sen. Lynn Walz

LB944 passed on a 38-6 vote.

A number of fund transfers and changes to transfer provisions are made by LB945, also introduced by Scheer at the request of the governor and passed 41-4.

The bill contains modified provisions of a measure considered by the General Affairs Committee to increase the amount of lottery funds directed to compulsive gambling assistance in Nebraska.

The provisions, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist as LB679, increase the annual transfer from the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund from \$50,000 to \$100,000.



Sen. Bob Krist

LB946, also introduced by Scheer, changes provisions relating to the state's Cash Reserve Fund.

The bill, passed on a 40-5 vote, transfers \$100 million from the Cash Reserve Fund to the General Fund. Among other provisions, it also reduces by \$2.3 million a transfer from the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund due to the lower cost of the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home project.

LB950, introduced by Business and Labor Committee chairperson Sen. Joni Albrecht of Thurston, provides for payment of claims against the state. The bill, passed 47-0, includes tort and workers' compensation claims totaling \$2 million, along with several agency write-offs totaling \$978,000 for various uncollectable debts.



Sen. Joni Albrecht

Other measures

LB861, introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier, requires the state to pay a county's prosecution costs that arise from a single correctional institution incident—defined as one in which a crime allegedly is committed by one or more inmates confined in a state correctional institution—if those costs exceed the threshold amount for the county.



Sen. Dan Watermeier

Under the bill, the threshold amount is the amount of property tax revenue raised by the county from a levy of 2.5 cents per \$100 of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy. The threshold amount is determined using valuations for the year in which the correctional institution incident occurred.

Costs of prosecution include, but are not limited to, the costs of defense for indigent defendants, such as attorney and expert witness fees. The state Department of Administrative Services has the power to receive and investigate claims under the bill's provisions.

LB861 passed on a vote of 44-0.

Senators also approved a mechanism to fund preservation and restoration of properties related to author Willa Cather.

LB379, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, creates the Willa Cather Historical Building Cash Fund to assist with the restoration of the Cather House and the Antonia Farmhouse. The fund will be administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society and may accept money donated as gifts, bequests or other contributions from public or private entities.



Sen. Burke Harr

The bill also authorizes the state Department of Economic Development to use the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund to provide grants of assistance in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings

owned by a nonprofit organization if a contractual relationship is created between a municipality and the nonprofit organization.

The Nebraska State Historical Society may enter into an agreement with the Willa Cather Foundation to transfer clear title of properties described in the bill from the state to the foundation at no cost to either party other than property transfer transactional costs, which will be shared equally by each party.

In order to carry out any agreements made, the Nebraska State Historical Society is authorized to dispose of these real properties using the vacant building and excess land process.

LB379 passed on a 49-0 vote.

The state Game and Parks Commission may use alternative contracting methods for public projects in the state park system under a bill passed this session. Introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner and approved 46-1, LB775 authorizes the commission to use the design-build and construction manager/general contractor contracting methods.

The bill authorizes the commission to hire a licensed architect or engineer to assist with the development of requests for proposals, evaluation of proposals and evaluation of the construction.

Finally, senators advanced a bill from general file that would have required annual reporting of federal funds received by state agencies that participate in the state budgeting process.

LB611, introduced last session by Stinner, would have required that reports be submitted to the state Department of Administrative Services by Sept. 15 of each year that a budget request is due.

An Appropriations Committee amendment excluded the University of Nebraska and the state college system from the bill's provisions. The amendment also clarified that the bill would require that plans be submitted to DAS only.

LB611 was advanced to select file on a 28-11 vote but was not scheduled for further debate. ■

BANKING, COMMERCE & INSURANCE



Sen. Brett Lindstrom, chairperson of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee

The provision of health insurance to individuals in temporary custody and rules governing property appraisers, public adjusters and payday and short-term lenders were among the topics considered by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee this session.

Lawmakers approved a bill intended to prevent termination of private health insurance solely due to incarceration.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. John McCollister, LB480 prohibits an insurer from canceling the coverage of an individual who is in temporary custody solely based on the status of being incarcerated.

Temporary custody is defined as being in the custody of a jail pending disposition of charges. An insurer could cancel coverage or deny coverage for services or supplies provided to an



Sen. John McCollister

insured who is incarcerated after sentencing.

The bill also would prohibit an insurer from refusing to credential a health care provider on the basis that the employee or contractor provides medical services in a jail. Insurers could deny coverage for treatment of injuries resulting from a violation of law by the insured or for diagnostic tests or health evaluations required for all individuals in temporary custody.

The bill passed 45-0 and becomes effective Jan. 1, 2019.

Lawmakers updated Nebraska's Real Property Appraiser Act this session.

LB741, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, brings the act into compliance with Title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989, the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice and the Policy Statements of the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

The bill lessens the burden to obtain or maintain a credential by removing the required demonstration of general knowledge of Nebraska appraiser law, as well as a continuing education requirement.

It also simplifies the standards for evaluation of a reciprocal applicant's jurisdiction of practice.

Finally, it makes minor changes to the administration of Nebraska's Real Property Appraiser Act and eliminates provisions relating to the separate credential of real property associate.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote.

State law related to insurance producers was amended this year to address public adjusters.

LB743, also introduced by Lindstrom, creates regulations for public adjusters—individuals who provide compensated assistance to an insured in the filing and settlement of a property claim against an insurer—through adoption of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners model law.

Among other provisions, the bill:

- establishes criteria for resident and nonresident public adjusters;
- provides for administration of exams and licensure requirements;
- creates a continuing education requirement for public adjusters;
- eliminates a pre-licensing requirement for insurance producers;
- requires public adjusters to secure a minimum \$20,000 surety bond;
- provides criteria for a business entity to become a public adjuster in Nebraska;

- removes a paper certificate requirement for insurance producer continuing education activities and limits approval of those activities to four years; and
- prohibits an individual from acting as a public adjuster without being licensed in accordance with the act, misrepresenting that they work for an insurer or entering an agreement to repair property that the adjuster was engaged to adjust.

The bill was amended to include provisions of LB220, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, which provide protections for consumers who assign their property insurance rights or benefits to a contractor following a loss.



Sen. Burke Harr

LB743 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Providers of short-term, delayed deposit loans—often called payday loans—are required to provide more information to borrowers under a bill passed this session.

To secure a payday loan a borrower typically submits a personal check for the loan amount, which is then held and cashed by the lender at the end of the loan period—typically 34 days.

LB194, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tony Vargas, requires that a lender provide written notice to a borrower including the name of the borrower, transaction date and amount, payment due date and total payment due and



Sen. Tony Vargas

the total fees imposed on the transaction, both as a dollar amount and an annual percentage rate.

The notice must state that such loans should be used only to meet short-term cash needs, that the total cost of a transaction cannot exceed \$500 and that the borrower has the right to rescind a transaction before the end of the next business day and to rescind authorization for an electronic payment.

A borrower who is unable to pay back a loan when due can request an extended payment plan once in any 12-month period. The bill also requires lenders to accept prepayment of a loan from a borrower without any penalty.

Lenders are required to provide information annually to the state Director of Banking and Finance, who will submit a final report to the Legislature.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

A bill that would have increased the interest rate that licensees may charge under the Nebraska Installment Loan Act failed to advance from general file.

Currently, a licensee may charge a borrower a maximum annual interest rate of 24 percent on the first \$1,000 of an unpaid principal balance, and 21 percent on the remaining unpaid balance.

LB384, introduced by Lindstrom, would have raised the cap to a single rate of 29 percent annually. A motion was offered to indefinitely postpone LB384, which was adopted on a 19-17 vote. A simple majority of those voting was required to end debate on the bill for the session. ■

BUSINESS & LABOR



Sen. Joni Albrecht, chairperson of the Business and Labor Committee

Law enforcement transparency, workers' compensation settlements and workforce development training were among the employment issues addressed by legislators this session.

A bill that eliminates certain conflicts of interest and provides accountability and transparency in Nebraska State Patrol investigations was passed by lawmakers.

LB791, introduced by Crete Sen. Laura Ebke, includes provisions of her LB792. As amended, the bill requires law enforcement agencies to keep records of certain misconduct and document the reason for and circumstances surrounding an officer's separation of service from that agency.



Sen. Laura Ebke

Additionally, agencies will be required to submit a report to the Nebraska Crime Commission if an officer is terminated from employment or allowed to resign in lieu of termination for conduct that constitutes incompetence, neglect of duty, incapacity, dishonesty, a guilty plea to a felony charge, a felony conviction or another violation

of the officer's oath of office, code of ethics or statutory duties.

A law enforcement officer will be required to sign a waiver upon application for employment with a new agency that allows the prospective employer to contact the officer's former agency and obtain a copy of the records related to his or her separation.

Under the bill, nothing in the state patrol disciplinary procedures or collective bargaining agreement can:

- limit the discretion of the superintendent of law enforcement and public safety from disclosing the status or outcome of an internal investigation or discipline to the Legislature, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council, the Equal Opportunity Commission or a complainant;
- limit the consideration by the state patrol of disciplinary action in a prior case that occurred within the 10 years preceding the date such progressive discipline is imposed;
- limit the misconduct for which a new disciplinary proceeding may be initiated to conduct that occurred within the two years preceding the date discipline is imposed;
- require the release of reports and materials concerning an internal investigation of a member alleged to have committed a Class I misdemeanor, felony or an allegation involving dishonesty prior to the initial investigation interview;
- limit or restrict access of individuals conducting the internal investigation to disciplinary or misconduct materials regarding a member under investigation; or
- prevent, limit or restrict access by the commission to internal investigation reports or materials.

The bill also allows state employees to report sexual harassment directly to the state Department of Administrative Services. The investigation will be conducted either by the department or the state agency where the employee works.

The department or agency conducting the investigation will maintain the confidentiality of the reporting employee and any other person participating in such an investigation except in cases when disclosure is authorized in writing by the person or when necessary to conduct the investigation or impose discipline. Additionally, the person against whom the allegation is made will be informed of the reporting employee's identity.

The state agency employing the reporting employee is prohibited from retaliating or discriminating against

the employee or any other person for participating in the investigation.

The Nebraska Crime Commission will have authority to subpoena records only from the Nebraska State Patrol. Law enforcement agencies are required to retain records regarding the officer's separation from service for five years after an employee's separation from the agency.

The bill passed on a 38-2 vote and took effect immediately.

Lawmakers approved a bill that will help injured workers receive settlement payments more efficiently.

LB953, introduced by Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht, requires the Workers' Compensation Court to approve provisions of a lump-sum settlement regarding the consideration of Medicare's interests or disputed and unpaid medical expenses if the employee has an attorney who affirms that the nonpayment of disputed expenses or the agreement regarding Medicare's interests is in the best interests of the employee.

The bill eliminates a requirement for a duly-executed release if a lump-sum settlement is approved by the court.

Among other provisions, it also clarifies that the 50 percent penalty imposed on settlement payments made more than 30 days late to an employee still will apply until the court enters an order of dismissal with prejudice.

The bill includes provisions of LB784, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tony Vargas. These prohibit contractors and employers who have unpaid fines for violating the Employee Classification Act from entering into a contract with the state or any political subdivision until the fines are paid.



Sen. Tony Vargas

LB953 passed on a 48-0 vote.

An effort to provide grant funding to community colleges developing education and training programs for adult learners failed to advance from general file.

LB515, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, would have provided grants for up to three years to eligible community college programs. The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education would have provided oversight of the grant program.



Sen. Kate Bolz

Following the 32-0 adoption of a Business and Labor Committee amendment to clarify that grants would be distributed only when such funds are appropriated by the Legislature, senators voted 21-12 on the bill's advancement. This was four votes short of the number needed.

A bill that was part of the Legislature's budget adjustment package approved claims made against the state.

LB950, introduced by Albrecht, approved tort and workers' compensation claims totaling \$2 million, along with several agency write-offs totaling \$978,000 for various uncollectable debts.

LB1096, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Mike Hilgers, would have made changes in state law to reflect that the state risk manager has the authority to pay claims of all workers' compensation benefits when liability is undisputed.



Sen. Mike Hilgers

Among other provisions, the bill also would have modified an aggregation requirement so that any claim under \$50,000 could be paid at the time of settlement.

LB1096 was advanced from committee on a 7-0 vote, but was not scheduled for debate. ■

EDUCATION



Sen. Mike Groene, chairperson of the Education Committee

The Education Committee advanced bills this session that would require special instruction for students with dyslexia, allow an exemption from a prekindergarten teacher certification requirement and create a fund to pay for social workers to connect students to behavioral and mental health care services.

Instruction

LB1081, introduced by the committee and passed 46-1, is an annual cleanup bill that includes technical changes requested by the state Department of Education.

The bill requires the learning community coordinating council to file an annual financial report with the department and authorizes the commissioner of education to direct that learning community funds be withheld if the report is not filed. It also requires the council to complete an audit of its accounts at least once every three years.

The department no longer is required to file several reports with the council, including a census of 5- to 18-year-olds, an end-of-the-school-year statistical summary, an annual financial report and a fall membership report.

The bill eliminates the requirement that school districts

submit poverty and limited English proficiency plans to the department and the council.

LB1081 also changes a current provision that “no more than three” schools may be designated priority schools to “no less than three.” It reduces from five to three the number of years that a school can be designated a priority school before the state Board of Education reevaluates the school’s progress plan.

Finally, the bill requires school boards to collaborate with their county attorney to review the rules and standards for student conduct that would require the school to contact law enforcement.

The bill was amended to include provisions of LB651, introduced by Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, which is intended to provide intensive interventions for students identified as having a reading deficiency.



Sen. Lou Ann Linehan

These require each school district to administer an approved reading assessment three times during the school year to all students in kindergarten through third grade. Students who score below a certain threshold will be identified as having a reading deficiency, and school districts are required to provide those students with a supplemental reading intervention program.

The program will be implemented during regular school hours in addition to regular reading instruction unless otherwise agreed to by a parent or guardian. The bill also requires schools to offer a summer reading program for students who continue to have a reading deficiency at the end of the school year.

The reading intervention programs may include several intensive intervention strategies, such as daily targeted small-group reading, parent training workshops and access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading instruction.

LB1052, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks and passed 44-0, requires schools to provide special reading instruction for students with dyslexia beginning this fall.



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

A technical assistance document created by the department will provide information on dyslexia’s characteristics, its associated conditions and indicators and the screening, evaluation, instruction and intervention for dyslexia. The information will be distributed to all school districts, educational service units and teacher education programs in the state to promote awareness of dyslexia.

The bill prohibits school districts from requiring a student who exhibits characteristics of dyslexia to obtain a medical diagnosis in order to receive interventions.

It also requires that each teacher education program approved by the state board include dyslexia instruction in its initial program course requirements beginning in July 2019.

A bill intended to ensure civic competence among Nebraska students failed to advance from general file.

Under current law, each school district's board is required to appoint three members to an Americanism committee that inspects and approves the textbooks used in the teaching of American history and government. As introduced by Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch, LB1069 would have made several updates to state law outlining the committees' responsibilities and the teaching of American history and social studies.



Sen. Lydia Brasch

Senators voted 27-13 to place the bill on general file, even though the Education Committee had taken no action to advance it. This unusual maneuver requires a majority vote of the Legislature.

Brasch introduced an amendment that would have replaced the bill. Among other provisions, the Americanism committee would have ensured that a school's social studies curriculum aligns with the standards adopted by the state board and "teaches and assesses foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy and geography."

The Legislature adjourned without voting on the amendment or the bill. LB1069 was not scheduled for further debate.

School funding

A proposal to provide a minimum amount of state aid to each public school district failed to advance from the first round of debate.

Sen. Curt Friesen of Henderson, sponsor of LB1103, said the bill would have ensured that each school district would receive no less than 25 percent of its basic funding needs—as calculated by the state's school aid formula—in the form of state aid.



Sen. Curt Friesen

The Legislature moved to the next item on the agenda before voting on the bill. Per a practice implemented last year by Speaker Jim Scheer, the sponsor of a bill facing a potential filibuster was required to demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion for the measure to be sched-

uled for additional debate.

A bill that would have limited a special school building fund levy also stalled on the first round after a failed cloture motion.

Under current law, school boards may levy up to 14 cents per \$100 of property valuation to establish a special fund for acquiring sites for school buildings, purchasing existing buildings for use as school buildings and the erection, alteration, equipping and furnishing of school buildings.

As introduced by North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, LB778 would have restricted the use of the fund to repairs and alterations that do not add space to a school building and to equip or furnish school buildings.

An Education Committee amendment would have replaced the bill. Among other provisions, it would have limited the levy to five cents and added major replacement repairs on existing structures to the list of authorized purposes.

Groene filed a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and vote on the bill. The motion failed on a vote of 18-12. Thirty-three votes were needed.

The committee did not advance a bill that would have directed more state funding to special education programs and support services.

LB876, introduced by Omaha Sen. Rick Kolowski, would have required the state to reimburse school districts at least 80 percent of the total excess allowable costs for those programs and services. Kolowski said the state currently reimburses schools for approximately 48 percent.



Sen. Rick Kolowski

The state Department of Education estimates that the bill would have increased state special education reimbursement by approximately \$150 million in fiscal year 2018-19 and an additional \$170 million in FY2019-20.

Teacher certification

The committee advanced a bill meant to address a shortage of qualified early childhood education teachers in rural Nebraska.

LB803, introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner and passed 47-0, authorizes the state board to adopt rules and regulations that exempt a prekindergarten program from the requirement that all teachers and administrators hold a valid certificate or permit.



Sen. John Stinner

A bill that would have created a two-year alternative

certification path for those who wish to teach in Nebraska's public schools failed to advance from committee.

LB1135, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tony Vargas, would have required the state board to grant a Nebraska teaching certificate to any person in good standing who has a valid teaching certificate from another state.

It also would have required the board to grant a two-year teaching certificate to those who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, pass basic skills and subject area tests and enroll in an alternative teacher certification program approved by the board.



Sen. Tony Vargas

Other measures

A proposal to place a social worker in each of the state's 17 ESUs to aid students with behavioral and mental health problems was vetoed by Gov. Pete Ricketts.

Introduced by Fremont Sen. Lynne Walz, LB998 created a fund for a collaborative school behavioral and mental health program. Once the initiative received \$3.6 million, each ESU or the ESU coordinating council could have hired a social worker who would train teachers and school personnel and work with parents, schools and behavioral and mental health care providers to connect students to services.



Sen. Lynne Walz

Both public and private schools could have participated in the program, which would have ended in 2022. Its funding was limited to private donations, and the department would have administered the fund.

LB998 passed 31-15 on April 18, the final day of the 2018 session.

In his veto message, the governor said LB998 is unnecessary because ESUs already may receive private donations to pay for behavioral and mental health care programs. He said the proposal does not coordinate with existing efforts by the state Department of Health and Human Services and fails to describe how parents and guardians would be involved in a student's screening, referral and treatment.

The committee advanced a bill reducing the number of public school classifications from six to three.

Introduced by the committee last session, LB377 eliminates Class I, II and VI districts, with the remaining Class II districts becoming Class III districts. All districts now will be classified as either Class III, IV or V.

Under LB377, Class III districts have fewer than 150,000 inhabitants and maintain elementary and high school grades under a single school board.

Class IV districts are those with a population of 100,000 or more that maintain elementary and high school grades. Class V districts have a metropolitan-class city, and their employees participate in a separate retirement system. Lincoln Public Schools will be the only remaining Class IV district, and Omaha Public Schools will be the only remaining Class V district.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote and takes effect Jan. 1, 2019.

A bill that would have required the University of Nebraska to adopt a detailed policy governing free expression on its campuses failed to advance from committee.

LB718, as introduced by Hastings Sen. Steve Halloran, also would have required the University of Nebraska's Board of Regents to create a nine-member committee that would have submitted an annual report to the Legislature, the governor and the university's governing body. ■



Sen. Steve Halloran

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Sen. Dan Watermeier, chairperson of the Executive Board

Legislative oversight, performance audit reporting requirements and redistricting concerns topped the list of Executive Board issues considered by lawmakers this session.

Oversight

Senators created a special legislative committee to look into state-licensed care facilities housing residents diagnosed with mental illness.

LR296, sponsored by Fremont Sen. Lynne Walz, will study conditions in assisted living facilities in which many of the residents are diagnosed with a mental illness. The committee also will examine the recent closures of mental health centers in Palmer and Blue Hill, as well as the effectiveness of state Department of Health and Human Services' regulation, licensure and administration of services through the state's behavioral health regions.

The Executive Board appointed seven state senators to



Sen. Lynne Walz

serve on the committee: Sens. Curt Friesen, Steve Halloran, Lou Ann Linehan, Dan Quick, Theresa Thibodeau, Lynne Walz and Anna Wishart.

The oversight committee, approved on a 26-13 vote, will issue a report to the Legislature by Dec. 15, 2018.

Reporting requirements regarding the state's child welfare and juvenile justice systems were strengthened this year.

Currently, all cases of death or serious injury of a child in a foster home, private agency, child care facility or other program licensed by DHHS must be reported to, and investigated by, the office of the inspector general of Nebraska child welfare.

LB1078, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, adds to that requirement all allegations of sexual abuse of a state ward or a juvenile on probation, in a detention facility or residential child-caring agency.

The bill also requires that the annual report of the DHHS Division of Children and Family Services include the number of sexual abuse allegations that occurred among children being served by the division and those placed at a residential child-caring agency.

Also required is the number of corresponding screening decision occurrences by category, open investigations by category and agency substantiations, court substantiations and court-pending status cases.

Included in the bill are provisions of Crawford's LB1073, which require DHHS to include in their existing weekly report to the Foster Care Review Office whether relative and kinship placements are licensed or received a waiver.

Also included are provisions of LB411, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, that bolster reporting requirement to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to place children in state care with their siblings.

DHHS is required to file a written sibling placement report with the court within 30 days of a juvenile being placed in state care and at specified intervals while he or she remains in state care. The bill also clarifies that a sibling can be in the group of parties to a case who may file a motion for joint-sibling placement, visitation or ongoing interaction between the siblings.

DHHS must file a notice of placement with all of a child's known siblings. A parent or sibling may choose to opt out of receiving such notifications.

The department also is required to make reasonable efforts to place siblings together, even if there is no preex-



Sen. Sue Crawford



Sen. Kate Bolz

isting relationship between them. It is left to the court to determine what constitutes such reasonable efforts.

LB1078 passed on a vote of 49-0.

LR288, a measure also sponsored by Bolz that would have created the Nebraska Child Welfare Death and Abuse Special Oversight Committee was considered by the Executive Board but was not advanced.

Performance audit

LB936, introduced by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee and passed 48-0, improves performance audits of the state's tax incentive programs. The Legislative Audit Office is a legislative division that was created to conduct performance audits to review state agency programs in order to evaluate the agency's success in effectively implementing legislative intent.

Among other changes, the bill extends from three to five the number of years between audit reviews of tax incentive programs. It also requires that audits analyze the cost per full-time worker and whether job growth in businesses receiving tax incentives is at least 10 percent above industry average.

The bill defines a high-quality job as one that averages at least 35 hours of employment per week and pays wages that are at least 10 percent higher than the statewide industry sector average. The wage also must equal or exceed 110 percent of the Nebraska average weekly wage if the job is in a county with a population of less than 100,000 inhabitants, or 120 percent if the job is in a county with a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants.

A second measure aimed at improving oversight of the state's tax incentive programs through strengthening reporting requirements was narrowed significantly on general file but was not scheduled for select file debate.

LB935, as originally introduced by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, would have made an array of information regarding the programs available and accessible to the Legislative Audit Office.

As amended on general file, the bill would have required the state tax commissioner to allow one designee from the state Department of Economic Development to review limited tax data—subject to strict confidentiality—only for the purpose of assisting the audit office with tax incentive program performance audits.

Senators approved LB751, also introduced by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, which requires that only reports of regulations mandated by law—rather than all regulations—be reported to the Legislative Performance Audit Committee. Agencies are required to report to the committee as to why regulations have not been promulgated in a timely manner.

The bill also removes a requirement that the Executive Board or the appropriate standing legislative committee receive annual reports regarding mandatory regulations that have not been promulgated within the time frame required by law. Instead, the bill requires agencies to include that information in the reports that they already provide to the Legislative Performance Audit Office.

LB751 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Redistricting

The Executive Board considered two proposals regarding the Legislature's redistricting process.

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, Legislature, Public Service Commission, University of Nebraska Board of Regents and the state Board of Education.

Redistricting will be undertaken next in 2021.

LB974, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Tony Vargas, would have prohibited consideration of the political affiliation of registered voters, demographic information other than population figures and results of previous elections when drawing boundaries for legislative districts. Information required by federal law or the U.S. Constitution would be exempted under the bill.



Sen. Tony Vargas

LB975, introduced by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard, would have adopted the Redistricting Act to codify in state law the legislative resolution that guided the last redistricting process in 2011.



Sen. Sara Howard

Neither proposal advanced from committee. ■

GENERAL AFFAIRS



Sen. Tyson Larson, chairperson of the General Affairs Committee

Senators considered proposals related to bottle clubs, liquor laws and gaming this year, as well as a bill related to farm building construction.

LB1120, introduced by Sen. Tyson Larson of O'Neill, makes a number of changes to the state's Liquor Control Act.

The bill also includes provisions of Sen. Theresa Thibodeau's LB747, which requires licensure of private membership establishments—commonly known as bottle clubs—where members who have purchased their own alcohol congregate to consume it.

A bottle club licensee cannot hold any other license under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act and is required to close between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. A club's private membership list will not be made public except as required by a court order, warrant or subpoena.

The bill also:

- allows Class C licensees with a bottling endorsement to increase the size of their growlers from 32 to 64 ounces;
- clarifies that the fees collected for beer shipper



Sen. Theresa Thibodeau

licenses are to be deposited in the Nebraska Beer Industry Promotional Fund;

- allows a party to apply for a rehearing when a liquor license application is denied by the Liquor Control Commission; and
- creates the Music Licensing Agency Act.

The Music Licensing Agency Act requires music licensing agencies to register with the state Department of Revenue starting Jan. 1, 2019. It also requires agencies to file an annual electronic copy of each performing rights agreement that provides for payment of royalties made available from the music licensing agency to any Nebraska proprietor.

A \$10,000 fine will be imposed for each 45-day period following each Feb. 15 if a music licensing agency fails to renew a registration or engages in business without registration.

LB1120 passed 48-0.

Lawmakers changed the way keno locations handle keno revenue this session.

State law requires a keno operator to keep keno revenue separate from other revenue sources. Keno sales outlets accomplish this by keeping two bank accounts, one for keno revenue and another for all other funds.

Under LB724, introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, a keno operator is required to keep cash receipts from the sale of keno tickets segregated from other revenue until deposited in a single nonsegregated account. The state tax commissioner may authorize the electronic transfer of keno funds from that nonsegregated account to the bank account of a lottery operator, county, city or village no later than five business days after they are collected.



Sen. Justin Wayne

The bill also requires that gross lottery proceeds be deposited into the account of the sales outlet location, lottery operator, county, city or village no later than five business days after they are collected.

The bill passed on a vote of 47-0.

Modified provisions of a bill considered by the General Affairs Committee to increase the amount of lottery funds directed to compulsive gambling assistance in Nebraska were amended into LB945. The bill was part of the budget package and passed 41-4.

The provisions, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist as LB679, increase the annual transfer from the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance



Sen. Bob Krist

Fund from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Another gaming measure intended to codify fantasy sports in Nebraska law failed to advance from general file debate this session.

LB469, introduced by Larson, would have adopted the Fantasy Contests Act. The bill would have defined, licensed and regulated fantasy contest operators in Nebraska who offer cash prizes to the general public upon payment of an entry fee.

After three hours of debate, the Legislature moved to another item on the agenda. Per a practice implemented last year by Speaker Jim Scheer of Norfolk, the sponsor of a bill facing a potential filibuster was required to demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion for the measure to be scheduled for additional debate.

LB469 did not return to the agenda this session.

Also failing to advance from general file was a bill that

would have created an exception in state electrical licensing law for workers engaged in the construction of farm buildings.

As introduced by Kearney Sen. John Lowe, LB921 would have exempted anyone employed in the construction of a farm building and doing work for which a license otherwise would be required if they are unloading, hauling or moving electrical wiring or components or if they are under the direct supervision of a licensed contractor or electrician.



Sen. John Lowe

A General Affairs Committee amendment would have replaced the bill and instead would have created an exception in current supervision requirements. LB921 was passed over in accordance with the three-hour policy and did not return to the agenda. ■

GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS



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

Among the issues addressed by lawmakers this session were changes to election law, state administrative procedures and occupational regulations.

Elections

LB1065, introduced by Gretna Sen. John Murante, authorizes the use of electronic poll books in all precincts in the state, beginning July 1, 2019. If provided, each EPB will contain the list of registered voters and the sign-in register for the precinct combined in one database. The EPB will include registration information and the digital signature for registered voters of the precinct.

The bill passed 34-1.

Senators also approved a measure 47-0 to extend the online voter registration deadline.

Currently, the deadline for online registration to vote in person on election day in Nebraska is the third Friday before the election. The deadline is 5 p.m. unless other-

wise specified in state law. LB1038, introduced by Omaha Sen. Theresa Thibodeau, creates a deadline of midnight on that day.

Senators rejected a cloture motion during general file debate on a measure that would have asked Nebraskans to decide whether voters must show identification at the polls.

LR1CA, introduced by Murante, stalled during general file debate in 2017 when an attempt to invoke cloture and cease debate failed. The proposal was given a priority designation this year, which allowed it to be placed on the agenda again for further debate.

The measure would have placed a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2018 general election ballot. If approved, the amendment would have required voters in Nebraska to present an ID containing a photograph or digital image prior to casting a ballot.

The Legislature would have been tasked with determining the specifics of the voter ID requirement through enabling legislation.

Murante offered a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and vote on the bill, which failed on a 24-18 vote. Thirty-three votes were needed.

A measure that would have excluded the state's noncitizen population from part of Nebraska's redistricting process failed to advance from general file debate this session.

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, Legislature, Nebraska Supreme Court, Public Service Commission, University of Nebraska Board of Regents and the state Board of Education.

Redistricting will be undertaken next in 2021.

LB1115, as introduced by Murante, would have required that the boundaries for legislative districts, state Supreme Court districts and political subdivisions be determined by Nebraska's total population as determined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, less the noncitizen population of the state.

District lines for members of the U.S. House of Representatives would not have been subject to the bill's provisions. A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment would have removed state Supreme Court districts from the bill's provisions.

Murante offered an additional amendment that would have specified that if the U.S. Census asks the citizenship question in 2020, that information would have been used to obtain the count of noncitizens required in the bill. If



Sen. Theresa Thibodeau

the census did not include that information, the noncitizen estimate that the bureau compiles annually would have been used.

After several hours of debate, the Legislature moved to another item on the agenda. Per a practice implemented last year by Speaker Jim Scheer of Norfolk, the sponsor of a bill facing a potential filibuster was required to demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion for the measure to be scheduled for additional debate.

LB1115 did not return to the agenda this session.

Also failing to advance from general file was LR18CA, introduced by O'Neill Sen. Tyson Larson, which would have placed a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 2018 general election ballot to lower the age of eligibility for public office in Nebraska to the federal voting age, which is 18.



Sen. Tyson Larson

Currently, an individual must be at least 21 to serve in the Legislature and 30 to serve as governor, lieutenant governor or as a Nebraska Supreme Court judge.

LR18CA was passed over in accordance with the three-hour policy and did not return to the agenda.

LB817, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, would have prevented a campaign committee from donating funds to another campaign committee. The bill failed to advance from committee.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

Other measures

LB1119, sponsored by Ralston Sen. Merv Riepe, creates a pilot program for state employees eligible to participate in the Nebraska state health insurance program. The three-year pilot program will begin in fiscal year 2019-20 and require that the state insurance program include at least two primary care options—one high-deductible and one low-deductible—for state employees.



Sen. Merv Riepe

The University of Nebraska system, state colleges and community colleges are not included in the pilot program.

The bill includes provisions of LB604, also sponsored by Riepe, that adopt the Nebraska Right to Shop Act. The act applies to any health insurance carrier in the state that

elects to be subject to it and gives the state Department of Administrative Services the discretion to develop and implement a right-to-shop program for state employees.

Participating insurers are required to develop and implement a program that provides incentives for insured individuals who opt for services from network providers that charge less than the average price paid by the insurer for a health care service. Individuals will receive at least 50 percent of the insurer's saved costs for each service chosen.

Lawmakers passed LB1119 on a 42-2 vote.

Crete Sen. Laura Ebke introduced LB299, which requires each legislative standing committee to review and analyze approximately 20 percent of the occupational regulations under its jurisdiction each year and all regulations under its jurisdiction every five years.



Sen. Laura Ebke

The bill also accelerates the process by which individuals with criminal histories can determine whether their conviction will disqualify them from obtaining an occupational license.

For occupations other than health professions, it directs committees to use the least restrictive regulation that "is necessary to protect consumers from undue risk of present, significant and substantiated harms that clearly threaten or endanger the health, safety or welfare of the public when competition alone is not sufficient and which is consistent with the public interest."

LB299 passed 45-1.

Lawmakers voted 47-1 to pass LB807, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, which will send statues of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather and Chief Standing Bear to be displayed at the U.S. Capitol.



Sen. Burke Harr

The costs associated with replacing Nebraska's current statues will be covered by private donations.

Lawmakers also approved a bill that authorizes the withholding of certain public information relating to firearms.

Under current law, specific types of information may be withheld from the public unless disclosed in an open court, open administrative proceeding or meeting or disclosed by a public entity pursuant to its duties.

LB902, introduced by Brainard Sen. Bruce Bostelman, adds to those exemptions information regarding firearm registration, possession, sale or use that is obtained by a government



Sen. Bruce Bostelman

entity for an application or permit. Such information will, however, be available to any federal, state, county or local law enforcement agency.

The bill passed 47-0.

LB1058, introduced by Hastings Sen. Steve Halloran, failed to advance from general file. The proposal would have provided the rules and procedures necessary to guide a delegation to a potential Article V delegation of the states.

As introduced, the Legislature would have elected five delegates and five alternative delegates from its membership to represent the state at a convention. Both would have been required to take an oath promising not to vote on any amendment to the U.S. Constitution that had not previously been approved by the Nebraska Legislature.

Rather than selecting state senators, a Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment



Sen. Steve Halloran

specified that the lieutenant governor, state auditor, secretary of state, state treasurer and speaker of the Legislature would have served as delegates.

Additionally, the state attorney general would have had sole authority in determining whether a vote is unauthorized. The committee amendment failed on a 20-24 vote. Twenty-five votes were required.

LB1058 was passed over in accordance with the three-hour policy and did not return to the agenda.

Under LB1129, introduced by Heartwell Sen. John Kuehn, a state employee could not have held office in a political club or party. While on state time, in his or her official capacity or using government resources of any kind, a state employee also could not have engaged in a variety of political or campaign activities.



Sen. John Kuehn

The bill failed to advance from committee. ■

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Sen. Merv Riepe, chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee

Occupational licensure reform and public benefits topped the list of health and human services issues considered by lawmakers this session.

Licensure and credentialing

Senators passed an omnibus bill aimed at reducing excessive regulations.

LB1034, sponsored by Ralston Sen. Merv Riepe, requires the standards of care and protection for school-age child care programs located within an accredited or approved school to meet the same standards as an accredited or approved school under state Department of Education regulations.

The measure contains provisions of eight additional bills:

- LB344, sponsored by Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht, which changes credentials and regulations for



Sen. Joni Albrecht

- substance abuse centers;
- LB686, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, which adopts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact;
- LB703, sponsored by Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman, which provides an exemption from Nebraska's unlawful practice of medicine statutes for physicians from another state who accompany an athletic team or organization into the state for an event;
- LB704, sponsored by Kolterman, which reduces the requirement for licensure of physician graduates of foreign medical schools from three to two years;
- LB894, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, which adopts the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact, known as REPLICA;
- LB924, sponsored by Riepe, which changes provisions within the EMS Practice Act, Occupational Therapy Practice Act and Uniform Credentialing Act;
- LB1035, sponsored by Riepe, which makes a technical change to the state's Stroke System of Care Act; and
- LB1057, sponsored by Heartwell John Kuehn, which changes provisions relating to the prescription drug monitoring program.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

Lawmakers also approved a measure that makes numerous changes to occupational and other licensure requirements in an effort to increase access to health-related professions.

Introduced by Gothenburg Sen. Matt Williams, LB731 allows a pharmacy to provide remote dispensing at a location staffed by a certified pharmacy technician and owned by a supervising pharmacy licensed and located in the state.

A remote pharmacy must be located at least 10 driving miles from the nearest pharmacy and dispensing must occur under remote supervision via a real-time audiovisual communication system by a licensed pharmacist employed



Sen. Carol Blood



Sen. Mark Kolterman



Sen. Sue Crawford



Sen. John Kuehn



Sen. Matt Williams

by a supervising pharmacy.

LB731 includes provisions of six additional bills:

- LB681, introduced by Blood, which adopts the physical therapy licensure compact;
- LB788, introduced by Riepe, which requires certain providers to enroll in opiate administering and prescribing continuing education;
- LB790, introduced by Crete Sen. Laura Ebke, which provides for licensure of mobile cosmetology, barber and nail technology salons;
- LB794, introduced by Riepe, which removes a current ban on consuming, serving, possessing or distributing alcohol by entities operating under the Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art Act;
- LB1042, introduced by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard, which addresses nail technology licensure; and
- LB1107, introduced by Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, which reduces licensure hour requirements for barbers, cosmetologists, estheticians and nail technologists.



Sen. Laura Ebke



Sen. Sara Howard



Sen. Lou Ann Linehan

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

A bill intended to enable the practice of equine, dog and cat massage in Nebraska received approval this session.

LB596, sponsored by North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, defines dog, cat and equine massage practice as the application of hands-on massage techniques for the purpose of increasing circulation, relaxing muscle spasms, relieving tension, enhancing muscle tone and increasing range of motion.



Sen. Mike Groene

An individual who engages solely in dog, cat or equine massage practice is not subject to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act. The bill passed on a vote of 46-0.

LB439, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Anna Wishart, permits an assisted living facility nurse to provide nursing care to residents on a part-time, intermittent basis. Such care is defined as less than 10 hours each week for each resident,



Sen. Anna Wishart

with a predictable end time within a 21-day period.

The bill also requires assisted living facilities to disclose in writing if brief nursing care is available in their facility and updates a variety of definitions.

Any expenses resulting from the bill will be paid from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for fiscal year 2018-19 and FY2019-20.

LB439 passed on a vote of 47-0.

A proposal sponsored by Wishart to prohibit Nebraska tanning facilities from allowing people younger than 18 to use tanning equipment failed to advance from general file.

In 2014, the Legislature outlawed the use of tanning equipment—which includes sun lamps, tanning booths and tanning beds—in indoor tanning facilities by people younger than 16. An exception exists if a parent or legal guardian signs a statement before each use indicating an understanding of the warnings provided by the facility and consenting to the minor's use of tanning equipment.

LB838 would have raised the age to 18 and removed the exception for parental permission.

The bill would not have applied to a licensed physician who uses phototherapy in the practice of medicine. Phototherapy is defined as the use of equipment that emits ultraviolet radiation for the diagnosis or treatment of disease or injury.

The Legislature moved on to another item on the agenda without taking any action on LB838. It was not scheduled for further debate.

Public benefits

An entitlement that prioritized services for high school graduates with developmental disabilities was eliminated by a bill passed this session.

The entitlement was halted for fiscal year 2017-18 and FY2018-19 during the 2017 legislative session in order to bring Nebraska into compliance with federal law. The entitlement prioritized services for graduates or those reaching age 21, which violates a federal requirement that the state first serve individuals with the highest priority status.

LB793, introduced by Ralston Sen. Merv Riepe, permanently eliminates the entitlement, which otherwise would have resumed in FY2020. The bill instead creates a trigger mechanism that requires the state Department of Health and Human Services to provide comparable services only to high school graduates if the department does not have enough funds to provide services to all eligible individuals under the federal waiver.

The provisions apply only to individuals who are transitioning from the education system upon reaching

age 21 on or after July 1, 2019. The trigger mechanism is eliminated June 30, 2021.

The bill also contains provisions of Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz's LB1004, which makes the Aging and Disability Resource Centers a permanent program within DHHS. The pilot project was set to terminate June 30, 2018.

The provisions apply only to area agencies on aging that are awarded funding from the department to partner with an ADRC.

LB793 passed on a 46-1 vote and took effect immediately.

Lawmakers also created a new funding priority for military dependents with developmental disabilities.

Current law specifies a hierarchy of funding priorities for disability services in Nebraska under the Medicaid home and community-based services waiver.

LB685, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, allows dependents of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is a legal Nebraska resident due to the service member's military assignment in the state to become the fifth priority in that hierarchy.

The bill passed 48-0.

Other measures

Drugs in U.S. Food and Drug Administration clinical trials may be used by eligible Nebraska patients under a bill passed this session.

LB117, introduced last year by Omaha Sen. Robert Hilke, allows an eligible patient under the Investigational Drug Use Act to be treated with any drug, biological product or medical device that has successfully 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.

To be eligible, a patient must:

- have an advanced illness likely to result in death within six months;
- have considered all other approved treatment options;
- not be receiving inpatient treatment in a licensed hospital;



Sen. Kate Bolz

- give written, informed consent for the use of the investigational treatment; and
- have a recommendation from his or her treating physician for an investigational drug, biological product or device.

Written consent must make clear that a patient understands that he or she is liable for all expenses of the investigational treatment and contain a statement that the patient's health insurance carrier is not obligated to pay for such treatment.

Under the bill, a manufacturer may provide an investigational treatment without compensation and is prohibited from seeking reimbursement for such treatment if an eligible patient dies while being treated.

In addition, a good-faith recommendation to an eligible patient cannot subject a health care provider to discipline or an adverse licensure action under the act. Penalties under federal law are not precluded.

LB117 passed 35-13.

LB1040, sponsored by Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht, requires a health care practitioner, or his or her designee, who attends or diagnoses a nonviable birth prior to 20 weeks of gestation to advise the patient that they can request a commemorative certificate of nonviable birth.

The certificate will be issued by the state Department of Health and Human Services within 60 days of request for a fee not to exceed the cost of issuing the certificate.

The commemorative certificate will not result in the registration of a live birth or be used to calculate live birth statistics. The certificate also cannot be used in support of a civil action seeking damages for injury or wrongful death.

LB1040 passed on a 44-1 vote.

Senators also approved a bill that harmonizes Nebraska's child support program with federal law.

LB702, sponsored by Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman, clarifies that children who are covered by Medicaid and other needs-based health care programs in Nebraska have health care coverage.

The bill also clarifies that incarceration is not considered voluntary unemployment for child support purposes.

DHHS is required to notify parents of their right to request a review and adjustment of a child support order within 15 days of learning that a noncustodial parent will be incarcerated for longer than 180 days.

LB702 passed on a 49-0 vote. ■



Sen. Robert Hilke

JUDICIARY



Sen. Laura Ebke, chairperson of the Judiciary Committee

Senators passed measures this session to provide additional oversight of the state correctional system, ensure fair treatment for minors engaged in the court system and address the state's opioid epidemic.

Correctional system

The state Department of Correctional Services is required to develop an accelerated parole plan for inmates that will go into effect if the department is operating at 140 percent of capacity on July 1, 2020. The plan will remain in place until the inmate population reaches 125 percent of capacity.

LB841, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, provides a process for the department director to certify that an overcrowding emergency exists, prepare and submit a list of parole-eligible inmates to be considered for accelerated parole and develop a process by which the



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

board of parole will examine inmates for potential release.

The department's plan must be delivered to the Legislature no later than Dec. 1, 2018.

The bill includes provisions of four additional bills:

- LB366, introduced by Hastings Sen. Steve Halloran, which changes the name of the Office of Parole Administration to the Division of Parole Supervision and places the division within the Board of Parole;
- LB692, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, which directs the department to complete a comprehensive analysis of its system-wide staffing needs and provide a report to the Legislature by Sept. 15, 2020, and every six years thereafter;
- LB852, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, which authorizes the department to allow an inmate to temporarily leave a facility to participate in substance abuse treatment, attend rehabilitative programming or seek residency or employment; and
- LB932, introduced by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard, which requires the department's medical director to establish a protocol for determining whether an inmate soon to be released should be prescribed and dispensed a medication-assisted treatment to reduce or eliminate the inmate's use of opiates upon release.



Sen. Steve Halloran



Sen. Carol Blood



Sen. Kate Bolz



Sen. Sara Howard

The bill passed on a 42-1 vote.

Omaha Sen. John McCollister introduced LB776, passed 38-8, which requires county and city jails to provide inmates with affordable communication by telephone or videoconferencing with their families and legal counsel.

Under the bill, each jail can establish a prepaid or collect telephone system, or a combination of both. Inmates' family members can deposit money into a prepaid account with a third-party provider of telephone services to cover the cost of the call.



Sen. John McCollister

The bill ensures that phone calls or videoconference sessions between an inmate and an attorney are free of charge. Monitoring or recording of such communications is prohibited.

City and county jails that generate revenue from inmate phone calls can retain such revenue to fund inmate programs, so long as it is not excessive. The Jail Standards Board will consider the acceptable rates set by the Federal Communications Commission in setting comparable rates for city and county jails.

Courts

Lawmakers considered several bills to increase efficiency and fairness in the state's court system.

LB697, introduced by Crete Sen. Laura Ebke, changes the geographic boundaries of Judicial Districts 1, 2 and 10. Otoe County will move from District 2 to 1. Clay and Nuckolls counties will move from District 1 to District 10.

The measure passed 49-0.

Under LB1132, a bill introduced by Pansing Brooks, a victim of sex trafficking can file a motion to set aside a criminal conviction or adjudication of a prostitution-related offense.

The victim is required to submit evidence proving that he or she was a victim of sex trafficking at the time the crime was committed. Evidence considered by the court can include a copy of an official record, certification or eligibility letter from a federal, state, tribal or local proceeding indicating that the person was a victim of trafficking.

The court also can consider an affidavit or sworn testimony from an attorney, member of the clergy, a medical professional, staff member of a victim services organization or other professional from whom the victim sought assistance in addressing trauma related to trafficking.

A judge can consider additional evidence in determining the credibility of the person as a victim of trafficking. If a set aside is granted, it will nullify the conviction and remove all civil disabilities and disqualifications imposed as a result of the conviction. Upon receiving a set aside, the victim can file to have his or her criminal record sealed.

The bill includes provisions of LB855, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, that allow a person who has received a pardon to file to have his or her criminal record sealed.

Provisions of Howard's LB897 also are included in the bill. These remove a mandatory reporting requirement that medical professionals contact law enforcement when



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

a patient is suspected to be a victim of sexual assault. The medical professional now must secure written consent from the patient before contacting law enforcement.

LB1132 passed on a 45-0 vote.

Penalties

New and amended criminal penalties were considered and approved by the Legislature this session.

Under LB729, introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, state agencies and their employees no longer have legal immunity from civil claims arising from misrepresentation or deceit under the State Tort Claims Act, which can make those parties liable in civil court proceedings.



Sen. Justin Wayne

Specifically, the department is liable if it fails to inform potential adoptive or foster parents of issues relating to a state ward's behavioral health, mental health, or educational or medical history, including a ward's potential history as a victim or perpetrator of sexual abuse.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

LB773, sponsored by Sen. Robert Clements of Elmwood, makes it a criminal offense to threaten someone with a text or email message. Previously, a person committed the offense of intimidation by telephone call if he or she telephoned someone with the intent to terrify, intimidate, threaten, harass, annoy or offend.



Sen. Robert Clements

The bill amends the law to include intimidation by electronic communication, such as a text message or an email. It also removes the terms "terrify," "annoy" and "offend" to address a possible conflict with the First Amendment.

The offense is a Class III misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of three months in prison, a \$500 fine or both.

The bill includes provisions of LB811, introduced by Lindstrom, which update Nebraska law to reflect new payment card technology and make it a crime to possess a scanning device or encoding machine with the intent to use it to obtain information encoded on a card without authorization from the card's user, the card's issuer or a merchant.

Senators voted 47-0 to pass LB773.

Under a bill passed in 2011, any person who knowingly and intentionally strikes a public safety officer with a bodily fluid is guilty of a Class I misdemeanor assault, which carries a penalty of up to one year imprisonment, a \$1,000 fine or both.

The charge is upgraded to a Class IIIA felony if the person committing the assault strikes a person's eyes, mouth or skin and knows that the fluid is infected with HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C at the time the assault is committed.

A Class IIIA felony carries a penalty of up to three years imprisonment with 18 months of post-release supervision, a \$10,000 fine or both.

The statute was expanded in 2014 to include firefighters and out-of-hospital emergency care providers. LB913, introduced this session by Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell and passed 47-0, extends such protections to include health care professionals who practice at hospitals or health clinics.



Sen. Mike McDonnell

Juvenile justice and child welfare

The fair and equitable treatment of minors before the law was the focus of several bills considered by lawmakers this session.

LB714, introduced by Howard and passed 45-1, allows minors at least 16 years old to seek emancipation from their parents or guardians.

After a motion to grant emancipation is filed and the individual's parents or guardians have been notified, a judge will determine whether or not the minor possesses the maturity and knowledge to sufficiently manage his or her affairs and finances.

If emancipation is granted, the minor legally is allowed to incur debt, sign contracts, acquire property, file litigation, consent to medical services, enroll in any school or college and establish his or her own residence.

Emancipation status will not affect a minor's status in any juvenile court proceedings.

Albion Sen. Tom Briese introduced LB845, passed 49-0, which prohibits a court from giving custodial preference to a parent based on the disability of a parent.



Sen. Tom Briese

The bill includes provisions of LB1051, introduced by Pansing Brooks. These set forth county court procedures and practices relating to family member visitation petitions when it is alleged that visitation has been denied arbitrarily.

Failing to advance from general file debate was LB158, also introduced by Pansing Brooks, which would have ensured that all Nebraska juveniles appearing in court could have legal representation.

Senators passed legislation in 2016 ensuring that juveniles in counties with a population greater than 150,000 are guaranteed access to counsel. LB158 would have expanded that legislation to cover juveniles in every county.

A Judiciary Committee amendment would have clarified that a juvenile who waives the right to counsel could rescind the waiver at any time. It also would have clarified that counsel need not be appointed for a juvenile who participates in a pre-trial diversion program.

Pansing Brooks also filed an amendment that would have created a Juvenile Indigent Defense Fund to provide grants to counties to cover the cost of providing legal counsel to indigent juveniles. This would have been funded by a \$1 increase in court filing fees.

A cloture motion failed on a vote of 31-8 after several hours of debate. Thirty-three votes were needed. A failed cloture motion ceases debate. LB158 did not return to the agenda this session.

Also failing to advance from general file debate was LB589, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford, which would have ensured that no deposition of a child would be granted if a video-recorded forensic interview already had been conducted by an accredited child advocacy center, unless the deposition would have aided in the disclosure of evidence vital to a defendant's case.



Sen. Sue Crawford

The judge granting the deposition would have been required to implement any protective measures to shield the child from harm or distress, harassment or intimidation.

After several hours of debate, the Legislature moved to another item on the agenda. Per a practice implemented last year by Speaker Jim Scheer of Norfolk, the sponsor of a bill facing a potential filibuster was required to demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion for the measure to be scheduled for additional debate.

LB589 did not return to the agenda this session.

Firearms

Under LB990, introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, a person younger than 25 is prohibited from possessing a firearm if they have been adjudicated in juvenile court of a misdemeanor domestic violence charge or any felony.

A person who violates the bill's provisions will be guilty of a Class IV felony, which carries a penalty of up to two years imprisonment with one year of post-release supervision, a \$10,000 fine or both. Second and subsequent offenses are a Class IIIA felony, which carries a penalty of up

to three years imprisonment and 18 months post-release supervision, a \$10,000 fine or both.

The prohibition does not apply to the possession of firearms by members of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, Reserve Officers Training Corps, or law enforcement officers while on duty or during training.

A person subject to the bill's provisions can file for an exemption. The bill passed on a 41-0 vote.

Lawmakers also passed LB321, introduced by Kearney Sen. John Lowe, which allows college students competing in shooting sports to lawfully transport their firearms on campus.

Firearms currently are prohibited from the grounds and buildings on the state's college and university campuses. School-sponsored rifle team members already are exempt from this ban as long as their weapons are safely transported and stored.

The bill adds additional teams that compete in rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines to the team description in state statute. LB321 passed on a 46-0 vote.

An attempt to increase the cost of handgun permits failed to advance from general file debate this session.

LB81, introduced by Blood, would have increased the \$5 permit fee to \$25. An amendment was adopted during general file debate that would have extended the permit renewal period from every three years to every five years.

After several hours of debate, Sen. Tyson Larson of O'Neill introduced a motion to indefinitely postpone the bill. The motion was adopted on a 27-17 vote, ending consideration of the bill for the session.

Drug policy

Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved legislation this session to address opioid addiction in Nebraska.

LB931, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Sara Howard, limits opiate prescriptions for a patient younger than 18 to no more than a seven-day supply. A medical practitioner is required to discuss the risks associated with opiates with the patient's parent or guardian. Exceptions to the seven-day limitation can be made for chronic pain, cancer diagnosis or palliative care.

The bill's provisions will expire on Jan. 1, 2029, to allow lawmakers to revisit the need for continuation of the program.

Provisions of two additional measures addressing opiate prescriptions are included in the bill.

LB933, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, re-



Sen. John Lowe

quires medical practitioners to notify patients—or a parent or guardian of a patient under 18—of the risk of addiction and overdose when prescribing opiates and other Schedule II prescription medications. The notification is required prior to the initial prescription and again before issuing a third prescription.

LB934, introduced by Heartwell Sen. John Kuehn, requires a person picking up an opiate prescription to provide valid photo identification unless the pharmacist has an established relationship with the patient and can positively identify him or her.

A patient, resident or employee of a licensed health care facility is exempt from this provision if identification procedures are in place for the receipt and administration of controlled substances at the facility.

LB931 passed on a 48-0 vote.

The Legislature also passed LB923, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, which extends legal immunity to certain law enforcement employees who deal with drug overdose victims.

A 2015 bill passed by the Legislature exempts an individual from prosecution who prescribes or dispenses naloxone to a person experiencing an opioid-related overdose. Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of opioids.

LB923 adds law enforcement employees to the list of people who receive such an exemption and clarifies that a minor who reports a possible alcohol overdose is legally immune only if he or she makes a good faith request for emergency medical assistance. The person experiencing the overdose also is legally immune.

The bill eliminates a provision in statute that the minor be the first person to call for assistance to qualify for immunity. LB923 was approved on a 44-1 vote.

Other measures

Healthcare surrogacy, consumer protection and government transparency were among the many issues discussed by lawmakers this session.

Under LB104, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kate Bolz, a patient can designate a surrogate to make health care decisions on his or her behalf in the event that the patient becomes incapacitated.

If multiple people of equal standing assume authority as a surrogate but they disagree on a health care decision,



Sen. John Kuehn



Sen. Adam Morfeld

the supervising health care provider will comply with the majority decision.

A surrogate will be required to make health care decisions in accordance with the patient's instructions and wishes, if known. Otherwise decisions must be made in the patient's best interests, taking into account his or her personal values.

Decisions made by a health care surrogate will not require judicial approval.

The bill specifically prohibits an owner, operator or employee of a health care facility at which the patient is residing or receiving care from acting as a surrogate. An exception can be made if that person is related to the patient by blood, marriage or adoption.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

LB757, introduced by Morfeld, prohibits a credit-monitoring agency from charging fees to place, temporarily lift or remove a security freeze following a data breach similar to the one experienced by Equifax in 2017.

A security freeze places a hold on a person's credit report, preventing identity thieves from opening fraudulent credit accounts using stolen information.

Any individual or commercial entity conducting business in Nebraska that owns, licenses or maintains data including personal information will be required to implement reasonable security measures to safeguard that information.

LB757 does not provide a private cause for action in the case of a data breach and applies only to computerized data. Senators passed the bill on a 46-0 vote.

LB93, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen and passed 47-0, restricts how law enforcement agencies and other government entities gather and share data from automatic license-plate readers, which are mobile or fixed cameras used in combination with computer algorithms to turn license plate images into computer-readable data.



Sen. Matt Hansen

The bill allows government entities to use automatic license-plate readers only to identify vehicles that are associated with a missing person, registered to someone with an outstanding warrant, relevant to an ongoing criminal investigation or reported as stolen. Parking enforcement agencies can use the systems to identify vehicles with outstanding parking or traffic violations, enforce secured areas, assist weigh stations or collect tolls.

Agencies are prevented from storing the captured data for more than 180 days unless it is used as evidence or if it is subject to a preservation request or the subject of a

warrant, subpoena or court order.

Agencies using automatic license plate readers are required to adopt and post a privacy policy and a policy governing use of the systems. Agencies are required to report annually to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice on their use.

Senators also passed LB105, introduced by Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch, which increases the personal property bankruptcy exemption from \$2,500 to \$5,000 when filing for bankruptcy or resolving a creditor judgment.



Sen. Lydia Brasch

The bill additionally increases an exemption for household items, business tools and equipment and a debtor's interest in a motor vehicle. The exemption limits will be adjusted for inflation every five years, beginning in 2023.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

A proposal to create a new, sovereign city would have been placed on the ballot for voters' consideration under a measure that failed to advance from general file debate.

LR269CA, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, would have placed the issue on the November 2018 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Legislature would have been constitutionally authorized to delegate complete or partial sovereignty to an area of the state, not to exceed 36 square miles in area, with a population density of 10 people per square mile. The sovereignty agreement would not have exceeded 99 years.



Sen. Paul Schumacher

The proposed constitutional amendment failed to advance on a 19-19 vote. It did not return to the agenda this session.

Under LB39, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, a person involved in selling, trading, bartering or offering ivory for sale would have been guilty of a Class II misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of up to six months in jail, a \$1,000 fine, or both.



Sen. Burke Harr

The bill would not have applied to firearms, knives and their component parts. Additionally, any item that is acquired or distributed to an educational or scientific institution would have been exempt.

Two amendments were adopted to narrow the bill's provision during general file debate, but LB39 failed to advance on a 19-9 vote. Twenty-five votes were needed. ■

NATURAL RESOURCES



Sen. Dan Hughes, chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee

Bills authorizing public power utilities to withhold certain records and reducing the impact of streamflow augmentation projects on county tax rolls were among those advanced by the Natural Resources Committee this session.

LB1008, introduced by Brainard Sen. Bruce Bostelman and passed 42-4, increases the amounts of liquidated damages for a person who illegally sells, purchases, takes or possesses certain wildlife.



Sen. Bruce Bostelman

It increases damages for:

- mountain sheep from \$15,000 to \$25,000;
- elk with a minimum of 12 points from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for all other elk;
- whitetail deer with a minimum of eight points and a spread between beams of at least 16 inches from \$5,000 to \$10,000;
- all other antlered whitetail deer from \$1,000 to \$2,000;
- antlerless whitetail deer and whitetail doe deer from \$250 to \$500;

- mule deer with a minimum of eight total points and a spread between beams of at least 22 inches from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and for all other mule deer from \$1,000 to \$2,000;
- mountain lions, lynx, bobcats, river otters or raw pelt from \$500 to \$5,000; and
- wild turkeys from \$100 to \$500.

The bill includes provisions of four other bills heard by the committee this session.

LB713, introduced by Sen. Steve Erdman of Bayard, increases pay for those serving on the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which regulates the state's oil and natural gas exploration and production industry. It raises the per diem for commissioners from \$50 to \$400 and increases the annual pay cap from \$2,000 to \$4,000.



Sen. Steve Erdman

LB762, sponsored by Venango Sen. Dan Hughes, extends the sunset date for the state's scrap tire grant program from 2019 to 2024.

LB820, introduced by Hughes, authorizes the Nebraska Power Review Board—which authorizes and oversees electricity generation and transmission facilities in the state—to assess a \$500 fine on a private electric supplier that begins construction on a renewable energy generation facility less than 30 days before notifying the board of its intent.

Also introduced by Hughes is LB822, which the committee replaced with an amendment authorizing the public power industry and the Nebraska Power Review Board to withhold competitive or proprietary information that would give an advantage to business competitors.

The bill defines such information as that which “a reasonable person, knowledgeable of the electric utility industry, could conclude gives an advantage to business competitors.”

The committee advanced a bill addressing the loss of property tax revenue to counties due to the Rock Creek augmentation project and the Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement project. Both projects help the state meet streamflow requirements under the 2003 Republican River Compact, which allocates the use of surface water among Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

LB758, introduced by Hughes and passed 45-0, authorizes state natural resources districts and interlocal entities that buy land for the development of a streamflow augmentation project to make voluntary payments in lieu of property taxes to the county where the project is located.

The amount of the payments may not exceed the property taxes that would have been paid if the land were

subject to taxation.

The bill requires NRDs or joint entities that acquire private land for the purpose of developing and operating a streamflow augmentation project to give public notice of the project that includes an estimate of the amount of water to be pumped and the project's timeframe.

It also requires a public hearing on the project and the input of county officials and adjoining landowners on ways to mitigate the project's effects on the county.

Additionally, NRDs and interlocal entities are required to publish an annual report on the project's finances and activities, including the amount of water pumped and the revenue gained from land leases. NRDs and interlocal entities must submit a lease to the county assessor within 30 days after the lease's effective date.

A bill that would have restored state-level regulatory requirements for wind energy generation facilities in Nebraska did not advance from committee.

A law passed by the Legislature in 2016 exempted private renewable energy generation facilities from certain

laws that regulate electricity generating facilities. LB1054, introduced by Gordon Sen. Tom Brewer, would have removed wind energy from the list of facilities exempted.

The committee also did not advance a bill that would have allowed scrap tires to be used as walls in single-family houses.

LB908, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Roy Baker, would have modified state law so that tires could be used in a building system and filled with earth as permanent forms for walls in a single-family dwelling. The builder would have been required to obtain prior approval from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Current law permits the use of scrap tires if they are processed into material for artificial turf, playground surfaces and residential and garden applications, among other uses. ■



Sen. Tom Brewer



Sen. Roy Baker

NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS



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

Lawmakers made several changes to the state's retirement plans this session.

LB1005, introduced by Seward Sen. Mark Kolterman, addresses the withdrawal of a county or school entity from the state's retirement plans. The bill authorizes the Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB) and the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System (NPERS) to act if an employer in the county or school plan makes a business decision to withdraw from the plan in whole or in part.

The PERB and NPERS are granted authority that:

- allows the PERB to determine employer and employee eligibility to participate in the retirement systems;
- allows employers to request an actuarial study that calculates what the employer needs to pay to fund the retirement benefits for plan members affected

by the employer's business transactions;

- provides direction on how the actuarial study calculates the employer's liability to fund the retirement benefits for affected plan members; and
- outlines how the employer would pay for the actuarial study and the amount necessary to fund the retirement benefits for affected plan members.

Under the bill, affected employees who are terminated from the retirement plan will be considered fully vested and considered inactive within 90 days of an entity's withdrawal or determination of ineligibility. On or after Jan. 1, 2019, no county hospital facility may elect or discontinue participation in the retirement system.

The bill also includes provisions of an amendment to LB548, a bill introduced last session by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom. Originally the bill would have consolidated the Class V (Omaha) School Employees Retirement System (OSERS) with the School Employees Retirement Plan.



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

Those provisions were replaced by an amendment adopted this session that changes definitions in the Class V School Employees Retirement Act to reflect new actuarial assumptions regarding mortality tables and interest rates.

The provisions also insert a new definition of solvency as the actuarially required contribution (ARC) amount as annotated in each annual valuation report. The school district is required to deposit the annual ARC into the retirement fund by Aug. 31.

Also included in LB1005 are provisions of three additional bills introduced by Kolterman:

- LB698 makes permissive the promulgation of rules and regulations by plans administered by PERB;
- LB699 harmonizes language in the state plans that inadvertently was left out of a bill passed last session; and
- LB700 removes the obligation of the state investment officer and the Nebraska Investment Council to invest the funds in the University Trust Fund. The fund is overseen and managed by the University of Nebraska and does not contain tax dollars.

LB1005 passed on a 48-0 vote. ■

REVENUE



Sen. Jim Smith, chairperson of the Revenue Committee

The Revenue Committee advanced bills this session that update the state's tax code to reflect federal changes, expand a tax credit for volunteer emergency responders and index for inflation the thresholds used when calculating the income tax liability of Nebraskans who receive Social Security benefits.

The committee also considered several measures to reduce or offset property taxes. The one proposal advanced by the committee stalled on the first round of debate.

Credits and exemptions

Congress made several changes to the federal tax code in December with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Because Nebraska's tax law is tied to the federal code in several places, automatic changes to the state's tax code would have generated more than \$220 million in additional revenue this year.

The repeal of the federal personal exemption effectively repealed Nebraska's personal exemption credit, which is tied to the federal exemption. To offset this change, LB1090, sponsored by Papillion Sen. Jim Smith, creates a new \$134 state personal exemption credit that individuals

may claim for themselves and each of their dependents beginning in 2018.

The bill establishes a Nebraska standard deduction to offset changes Congress made to itemized deductions, exemptions for capital expenditures and the federal standard deduction.

It also adjusts individual income tax brackets, the personal exemption credit and the standard deduction based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers instead of the new federal indexing method.

The state Department of Revenue estimates that the bill will reduce state tax revenue by \$326 million in fiscal year 2018-19 and a further \$257 million in FY2019-20.

LB1090 passed on a vote of 44-0.

Another bill intended to offset the federal changes did not advance from committee.

LB1048, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, would have created a state personal exemption credit that some Nebraskans could have used to reduce their state income tax liability for years in which personal exemptions are not allowed on the federal tax return.



Sen. Burke Harr

Income thresholds the state uses when adjusting the federal AGI of those receiving Social Security benefits will be indexed for inflation under a bill advanced by the committee.

Under current law, federal AGI for state tax purposes is reduced by the amount received as Social Security benefits if AGI is \$58,000 or less for those married filing jointly or \$43,000 or less if filing as an individual.

LB738, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom and passed 44-2, indexes those thresholds for inflation in the same way the state's income tax brackets are indexed, beginning with tax year 2020.



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

Also passed was a bill that extends a tax credit to volunteer emergency responders serving a county.

In 2016, the Legislature created a \$250 refundable income tax credit for volunteer emergency responders, rescue squad members and firefighters who serve a city, village or rural or suburban fire protection district. A point system determines whether a volunteer qualifies for the credit each year.

Sen. Dan Hughes of Venango, sponsor of LB760, has said the 2016 law inadvertently left out county volunteers.



Sen. Dan Hughes

LB760, which passed on a vote of 46-0, includes those volunteers and provides retroactive eligibility for 2016 and 2017 for those who meet the criteria.

A bill that would have created an income tax credit for those who donate money to nonprofits that grant scholarships to students to attend a private elementary or secondary school did not advance from general file.

Under LB295, introduced by Smith last session, individuals, pass-through entities, estates, trusts and corporations could have received a nonrefundable income tax credit equal to the contributions they make to scholarship-granting organizations. The scholarships could have been used to pay for tuition and fees for attending a nongovernmental, privately operated elementary or secondary school in Nebraska.

A Revenue Committee amendment would have capped the total amount of credits available in 2019 at \$2 million instead of the original bill's \$10 million. The amendment also would have allowed an annual 20 percent increase in subsequent years if most of the credits are claimed, but it would have limited the amount of credits available per year to \$10 million.

Only students who are Nebraska residents and whose household income does not exceed twice the qualifying income for the federal reduced-price lunch program could have qualified for the scholarships.

The Legislature adjourned before voting on the committee amendment or the bill. Per a practice implemented last year by Speaker Jim Scheer, the sponsor of a bill facing a potential filibuster was required to demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion for the measure to be scheduled for additional debate.

Property and income taxes

A proposal to provide income tax credits to partially offset the amount that Nebraskans pay in property taxes failed to advance from general file.

As introduced by Smith on behalf of Gov. Pete Ricketts, LB947 would have eliminated the state's current property tax credit program and instead would have provided Nebraska homeowners and agricultural and horticultural landowners a refundable state income tax credit equal to 10 percent of their property taxes paid.

A Revenue Committee amendment would have replaced the bill, instead providing a refundable state income tax credit for agricultural and horticultural landowners equal to 2 percent of their property taxes paid beginning this year. The credit would have increased in annual increments until reaching 20 percent in 2027.

Homeowners would have received a 1 percent income

tax credit on their property taxes paid in 2018, with a \$25 cap. The credit would have increased to 20 percent by 2030, when it would have been capped at \$500.

The amendment would have maintained funding for the current property tax credit program at \$224 million annually, decreased the state's top corporate income tax rate and provided job training funding from the state's cash reserve.

LB947 was passed over in accordance with the three-hour policy and did not return to the agenda.

A bill that would have used the state's property tax credit cash fund to direct more state aid to schools also stalled on the first round.

As introduced last session by North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, LB640 would have decreased the maximum levy for school districts and used money in the state's property tax credit cash fund—which is funded by state income and sales taxes—to increase state aid to districts that lose funding as a result.



Sen. Mike Groene

A Revenue Committee amendment would have replaced the bill, reducing the maximum levy for school districts from \$1.05 per \$100 of taxable valuation of property in a district to 98.7 cents per \$100.

Groene introduced an amendment, adopted 25-8, that replaced the committee amendment. It would have decreased the maximum levy by the same amount beginning in FY2019-20 but would have used the entire \$224 million in the state's property tax credit fund for school aid.

A district could have qualified for the property tax relief aid if its property tax receipts exceed 55 percent of its total revenue. A school district that receives property tax relief aid would have decreased the amount of property taxes it collects by the same amount.

LB640 also was passed over in accordance with the three-hour policy and did not return to the agenda.

A bill that would have provided Nebraskans with an income tax credit against the amount of property taxes they pay to schools did not advance from committee.

Introduced by Bayard Sen. Steve Erdman, LB829 would have provided a refundable state income tax credit equal to 50 percent of the property taxes paid to school districts during the taxable year beginning in 2019.



Sen. Steve Erdman

The committee also did not advance a bill that would have increased the state sales tax rate and eliminated several sales and use tax exemptions to pay for additional property tax credits and school aid.

LB1084, sponsored by Albion Sen. Tom Briese, would have increased the state sales tax rate from 5.5 percent to 6 percent. Among other provisions, it also would have imposed sales and use tax on more than a dozen services and would have taxed soft drinks, candy and bottled water.



Sen. Tom Briese

The bill would have imposed a surtax on anyone who is subject to state income tax and has a federal AGI of at least \$500,000, and it would have increased the excise tax on a pack of cigarettes from 64 cents to \$1.64, directing the additional proceeds to the state's property tax credit cash fund.

LB1084 also would have restored cuts to state aid to schools made last year and would have increased the amount of allocated income taxes to schools from the current 2.23 percent to 20 percent. However, it would have limited the amount that school districts can request in property taxes each year.

Other measures

A bill that would have required some retailers without a physical location in Nebraska to collect and remit state sales and use tax stalled on the final round of debate.

As introduced last session by Sen. Dan Watermeier of Syracuse, LB44 would have applied to retailers outside the state if their sales to Nebraska purchasers exceed a certain amount.



Sen. Dan Watermeier

As amended on select file, the bill would have required a retailer that does not collect state sales or use tax to notify Nebraska purchasers that the tax is due and to send them an annual notice showing the total amount paid for taxable items. A non-collecting retailer also would have been required to send an annual report to the department showing the total amount paid for taxable items by Nebraska purchasers.

The requirements would have applied to retailers with more than \$100,000 in total annual sales of taxable items or 200 or more separate transactions to Nebraska purchasers.

Watermeier filed a motion on final reading to return the bill to select file for an amendment that would have removed the notice and reporting requirements.

He then filed a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and vote on the bill. The motion failed on a 31-13 vote. Thirty-three votes were needed.

A bill that would have extended a levy authority for certain natural resources districts failed to advance from general file.

Introduced by Sen. Curt Friesen of Henderson last session, LB98 would have extended the three-cent levy authority for NRDs located in fully or over-appropriated river basins from FY2017-18 to FY2025-26. The levy may be used only for ground water management and integrated management programs under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act.



Sen. Curt Friesen

Friesen filed a motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate and vote on the bill. The motion failed 27-14. Thirty-three votes were needed.

The committee did not advance a bill that would have moved up the end dates of several of the state's current business tax incentive programs.

Under LB1023, introduced by Columbus Sen. Paul Schumacher, the Nebraska Advantage Act, the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act, the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act, the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act, the Community Development Assistance Act and the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act would have expired on Dec. 31, 2018.



Sen. Paul Schumacher

Additionally, no credits could have been claimed under the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act after Dec. 31, 2018. No applications for the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act could have been approved for calendar years beginning after Dec. 31, 2018, and no credits could have been allocated for the Angel Investment Act for calendar years beginning after that date.

The programs currently are set to end Dec. 31, 2022, except for the Nebraska Advantage Act, which is set to end Dec. 31, 2020.

Two additional bills also failed to advance from committee.

LB798, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell, would have created a state sales and use tax exemption for feminine hygiene products.



Sen. Mike McDonnell

LB804, introduced by Bancroft Sen. Lydia Brasch, would have allowed contributions to Nebraska's educational savings plan to be used to pay tuition at private and parochial elementary and secondary schools. ■



Sen. Lydia Brasch

TRANSPORTATION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Sen. Curt Friesen, chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

Lawmakers approved several measures this session that embrace emerging technology, increase driver safety and expand broadband access throughout the state.

LB989, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Anna Wishart, authorizes the operation of an autonomous vehicle on all state roads and highways, as long as the vehicle is capable of operating in compliance with traffic and motor vehicle safety laws.

An autonomous vehicle may or may not contain a human driver. If a human driver is present in the vehicle, he or she must be a licensed driver and covered by insurance.



Sen. Anna Wishart

The bill also authorizes the operation of an on-demand autonomous vehicle network, which could provide transportation of persons or goods, including for-hire transportation or public transportation.

Political subdivisions are prohibited from imposing any additional performance requirements or taxes that relate specifically to the operation of an autonomous vehicle. The

state Department of Motor Vehicles is required to consult with railroad companies before providing an exemption to allow fully autonomous vehicles to cross railroads.

The bill passed on a 34-8 vote.

Rules of the road

Gretna Sen. John Murante introduced LB1009, passed 44-1, which authorizes the state Department of Transportation to increase the maximum speed limit from 60 mph to 65 mph on any four-lane divided highway that is not a part of the state highway system and any part of the state highway system other than an expressway or freeway.



Sen. John Murante

Speeds will increase from 65 mph to 70 mph on expressways that are part of the state highway system and freeways that are a part of the state highway system but not part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

Finally, the maximum speed limit will increase from 60 mph to 65 mph on any portion of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways located in Douglas, Lancaster and Dakota counties.

LB42, introduced by Omaha Sen. Robert Hilkekmann, extends by two years the age requirement that children be secured in an approved child safety restraint device that is correctly installed in the vehicle. Children up to age 8 must now be properly restrained by such safety devices in moving vehicles.



Sen. Robert Hilkekmann

The device has to be located in a vehicle's rear seat, if available. Additionally, the bill requires that all children up to age 2 use a rear-facing device until the child outgrows the device manufacturer's height or weight requirements.

The bill passed on a 40-2 vote.

Introduced by Lincoln Sen. Suzanne Geist, LB347 eliminates the requirement for a special \$5 school bus driver permit that must be renewed annually with the state Department of Motor Vehicles.



Sen. Suzanne Geist

The department retains authority to regulate school buses and school bus drivers except for the issuance of the federally required CDL and endorsements, which the DMV handles.

School bus drivers still are required to undergo a physician's examination to determine whether they meet physical and mental standards set by the department. Additionally, school bus drivers still are required to take

special training classes, and schools will continue to check drivers' driving records and criminal histories.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

Lawmakers rejected a cloture motion during first-round debate on LB368, introduced by Kearney Sen. John Lowe. The bill would have given motorcycle riders 21 and older the option to wear no helmet but would require that eye protection be used. The bill also would have prohibited children younger than age 6 from riding a motorcycle or moped.



Sen. John Lowe

After extended debate, Lowe offered a motion to invoke cloture and vote on the measure. The motion failed on a vote of 30-15. Thirty-three votes were needed. A failed cloture motion ceases debate.

LB671, introduced by Omaha Sen. Bob Krist, would have changed the offense of operating a handheld wireless device from a secondary to a primary offense, meaning a driver could have been stopped by law enforcement for using a phone while driving.



Sen. Bob Krist

Among other provisions, the bill would have exempted from the prohibition on wireless devices law enforcement officers, firefighters, ambulance drivers and emergency medical technicians performing in their official capacity, or a person operating a motor vehicle in an emergency.

The bill failed to advance from committee.

Telecommunications

Measures to improve access to high-speed internet and modernize the state's 911 system were supported overwhelmingly by the Legislature.

Henderson Sen. Curt Friesen introduced LB994, passed 48-0, which creates the Rural Broadband Task Force to assist in developing enhanced broadband telecommunications service to unserved and underserved areas in rural Nebraska.

Membership on the task force will include a member of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, the director of the state Department of Economic Development and the director of the state Department of Agriculture. Additional members will be appointed by the governor, including representatives from the state's agribusiness, business, telecommunications, public power and educational communities.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee chairperson and another member of the Legislature

appointed by the Executive Board will serve as nonvoting, ex officio members. The chairperson of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission will chair the task force, which will study issues relating to the availability, adoption and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of the state.

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission will host a Rural Broadband Task Force Fund to pay for the study, which initially will be funded by a \$50,000 transfer from the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund.

A final report of the task force's findings will be delivered to the Legislature's Executive Board no later than Dec. 1, 2019.

LB994 also authorizes the Nebraska Public Service Commission to withhold funding from companies that have not provided adequate broadband internet to unserved or underserved areas.

The bill includes provisions of LB966, also introduced by Friesen, that exempt the sale, lease or rental of and the storage, use or consumption of dark fiber from state sales and use taxes.

A bill passed by the Legislature in 2016 authorized the Nebraska Public Service Commission to 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.

LB993, introduced this year by Friesen, creates the 911 Service System Advisory Committee to assist the commission in its mission to fully implement the 911 service system.

Membership of the advisory committee includes the 911 director and the state chief information officer, as well as various representatives of public safety agencies and city and county officials. Of the 14 members appointed to the committee, at least four members must be appointed from each of the state's three congressional districts. Each will serve a term of three years.

The commission is tasked with creating a mechanism for determining the level of funding available to local governing bodies, public safety answering points and third-party service or infrastructure providers from the 911 Service System Fund.

Costs incurred for providing 911 service, acquiring new equipment, training personnel and maintaining, upgrading or modifying services all are eligible for funding under LB993.

Additionally, the commission can apply for federal funds available for next-generation 911 service and can distribute the funds accordingly.

The bill provides legal immunity to people installing, maintaining or providing service, except in cases of

failure to use reasonable care or for intentional acts. The Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund will be integrated into the 911 Service System Fund.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

A bill that moves the responsibility to collect and remit a surcharge on prepaid wireless phones from service providers to retailers received final approval from lawmakers.

Nebraska wireless customers pay three surcharges administered by the Nebraska Public Service Commission, including one that funds wireless E911 service and another that pays for telecommunications services and equipment for those with hearing or speech impairments.

LB157, introduced by Friesen, changes how the third surcharge—for the state’s Universal Service Fund—is collected and remitted. The fund pays for programs that ensure urban and rural Nebraskans have comparable accessibility to telecommunications services.

Retailers collect and remit the first two surcharges to the state Department of Revenue, which then transfers the funds to the PSC and the state treasurer. Wireless providers had been required to remit the USF surcharge directly to the PSC, but LB157 requires sellers of prepaid wireless products to collect and remit the USF surcharge to the department like the other two surcharges.

Retailers may retain 3 percent of the wireless surcharges they collect from consumers. Under LB157, the department may retain 0.5 percent of prepaid wireless surcharges to reimburse its administration costs.

Retailers now are required to remit prepaid wireless surcharges on a monthly basis unless they collect less than \$1,000 in surcharges in the previous year. In that case, they may remit annually.

Senators voted 46-0 to pass the bill.

A bill intended to create uniform, statewide standards for the regulation and deployment of small wireless facilities, or small cells, failed to advance from general file debate this session.

LB389, introduced by Friesen, would have allowed a wireless provider to collocate, or attach, small wireless facilities to wireless structures and utility poles and install, maintain, modify, operate and replace utility poles in the public right of way.

A political subdivision, or authority, could have required an applicant to obtain one or more permits to collocate a small wireless facility or install a new, modified or replacement utility pole associated with a small wireless facility.

After three hours of debate, the Legislature moved to another item on the agenda. Per a practice implemented last year by Speaker Jim Scheer of Norfolk, the sponsor of a bill facing a potential filibuster was required to demonstrate

sufficient support for a cloture motion for the measure to be scheduled for additional debate.

LB389 did not return to the agenda this session.

Licensing and administration

The Legislature approved the committee’s technical omnibus bill 46-0.

LB909, introduced by Brainard Sen. Bruce Bostelman, requires that certificates of title for assembled and kit vehicles include the year, make and model that the vehicle resembles. The title also must indicate whether the vehicle is reconstructed or replica.



Sen. Bruce Bostelman

The bill includes provisions of 10 additional bills, including:

- LB740, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, which allows the Metropolitan Utilities District to register vehicles in the same manner as public power districts beginning Jan. 1, 2023;
- LB860, introduced by Friesen, which provides compensation for motor vehicle dealers affected by recalls and stop-sale orders;
- LB895, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Suzanne Geist, which makes a series of technical updates to current DMV statutes;
- LB896, also introduced by Geist, which clarifies that the operative date for certain sections relating to electronic certificates of title will be no later than Jan. 1, 2021;
- LB900, introduced by Bostelman, which updates references to federal transportation laws and increases fines for certain motor carrier statute violations;
- LB980, introduced by Syracuse Sen. Dan Watermeier, which allows for the transportation of divisible loads of livestock forage on the interstate;
- LB1011, introduced by Omaha Sen. Burke Harr, which requires a driver approaching an emergency vehicle, a Nebraska State Patrol motorist assistance vehicle, tow truck, maintenance vehicle or garbage or recycling service vehicle to proceed with caution and move over if possible;



Sen. Brett Lindstrom



Sen. Dan Watermeier



Sen. Burke Harr

- LB1049, introduced by Harr, which amends the definition of low-speed vehicles to include certain three-wheeled motor vehicles;
- LB1092, introduced by Papillion Sen. Jim Smith, which creates separate procedures for operators of autocycles that are not completely enclosed; and
- LB1136, introduced by Elmwood Sen. Robert Clements, which provides a mechanism for online auto auctions to obtain titles for vehicles purchased as salvage vehicles.



Sen. Jim Smith



Sen. Robert Clements

Other measures

Under LB733, introduced by Omaha Sen. Theresa Thibodeau, the duration of a Class B county highway or city street superintendent license changes from one to three years. The renewal fee increases from \$10 annually to \$30 every three years.

The bill, passed on a 45-0 vote,



Sen. Theresa Thibodeau

also allows those holding Class A and Class B licenses to renew both at once.

Venango Sen. Dan Hughes introduced LB275, passed 45-0, which allows a private property owner to have an abandoned vehicle removed from his or her property if the vehicle has been left for at least seven days.



Sen. Dan Hughes

The property owner can contact law enforcement, who then will contact a towing company to have the vehicle removed. The private towing company will be responsible for notifying local law enforcement of a removal within 24 hours, if initiated by a private property owner.

Under LB310, introduced by Friesen and passed 45-0, a sign indicating the carrying capacity of a county-maintained bridge will be required only if its carrying capacity is less than the limit prescribed in state statute.

A person who drives an overweight vehicle over a bridge or a culvert wider than 60 inches cannot recover damages from the county for any resulting injury or accident. ■

URBAN AFFAIRS



Sen. Justin Wayne, chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee

Economic development, tax-increment financing, vacant property concerns and updates to laws regarding the governing of municipalities were among the Urban Affairs topics taken up by lawmakers this session.

Tax-increment financing

Senators passed an extensive update to the state's TIF rules this session.

Introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee, LB874 is the result of an interim study to answer questions about the use of TIF that were raised in a 2016 report by the state auditor of public accounts.

Under a segment of the state's community development law, Nebraska municipalities are able to designate areas as substandard and blighted, allowing them to be redeveloped. When a redevelopment plan is approved, TIF bonds may be issued for the acquisition and improvement of the property. The increased property taxes generated by the improvements are used to pay for the financing of TIF projects.

LB874 makes changes to a wide range of reporting, audit and notice requirements for TIF projects as well as substantive changes. Among other provisions, LB874 authorizes

the state auditor to audit a community redevelopment authority whenever the auditor believes it necessary, or when requested to do so by the governing body. The bill also prohibits proceeds from indebtedness incurred for a TIF project from being used to establish a revolving loan fund.

The bill incorporated a provision of LB846, introduced by Albion Sen. Tom Briese, which requires that findings commonly referred to as the "but for" test be documented in writing.

Lawmakers passed the bill 47-0.

As introduced by Gering Sen. John Stinner last session, LB496 would have authorized cities of the first and second class and villages to include the construction of single-family or multi-family housing as part of a redevelopment project eligible for TIF.

As amended this session, the bill is limited to rural communities—defined as any municipality in a county with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants—and workforce housing in areas with high unemployment and poverty rates within cities. It defines workforce housing as owner-occupied housing units that cost no more than \$275,000 to build or rental housing units that cost no more than \$200,000 to build.

LB496 requires a municipality to conduct a housing study, prepare an incentive plan for the construction of housing meant for new or existing workers and hold a public hearing on the plan. A public hearing on a workforce housing incentive plan must be separate from a public hearing on a TIF redevelopment plan.

After the hearing, the municipality is required to determine that the plan is necessary to prevent the spread of blight and substandard conditions within the municipality, will promote additional safe and suitable housing for people employed there and will not result in the unjust enrichment of any individual or company.

The bill passed on a vote of 35-8.

A bill that would have ended an aspect of TIF that allows inclusion of undeveloped vacant land for municipal development was indefinitely postponed by the committee on a 6-0 vote.

LB967, introduced by North Platte Sen. Mike Groene, would have removed a provision of community development law allowing undeveloped vacant land within a three-mile radius of the city limits to be acquired for redevelopment when it is not located in an area deemed blighted or substandard.



Sen. Tom Briese



Sen. John Stinner



Sen. Mike Groene

Economic development

Grant limitations under the state's Civic and Community Center Financing Act are expanded under a bill passed this session.

LB940, introduced by Henderson Sen. Curt Friesen, increases by 50 percent the amount of funds eligible to be requested by municipalities and reduces from five to two years the period that a municipality must wait between grant awards.

The CCCF fund is supported by a turn-back of 30 percent of new state sales tax generated by arenas constructed under the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act and the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act and retailers near the arenas. Grants from the fund are awarded to communities based on a project's readiness, financial support and likelihood of attracting new activity to Nebraska.

The bill expands the list of eligible CCCF properties to include parks and historic districts. It also clarifies that property receiving a grant under the CCCF Act must be owned by the municipality and cannot be sold within five years of receiving a grant.

Applications from municipalities that have not received grant funds within the last 10 years will be given priority by the state Department of Economic Development.

The bill passed 48-0 and took effect immediately.

One of the caps in the state's Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act was removed by a bill passed 47-0 this session.

Currently, a cap of four-tenths of one percent of a municipality's taxable valuation is placed on funds derived from local revenue sources that the municipality can use for approved economic development programs.

LB614, introduced last year by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, removes that cap. The bill leaves in place a second, flat-dollar spending cap and the possibility of voter-approved limitations on the municipality's economic development program.

Other measures

Gov. Pete Ricketts vetoed an omnibus Urban Affairs measure that would have addressed a wide range of laws governing municipalities in Nebraska.

LB873, as introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee, would have made a variety of clean-up changes to state law related to the governing of cities, including clarifying terms and eliminating antiquated and unnecessary language.



Sen. Curt Friesen



Sen. Dan Quick

The governor focused his objections on provisions included in the bill to expand land bank authority statewide. A land bank is a tax-exempt political subdivision that acquires, manages and develops vacant and tax-delinquent properties.

Originally introduced by Grand Island Sen. Dan Quick as LB854, the provisions would have allowed any Nebraska municipality to create a land bank under the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act and clarified that land banks may enter into agreements under the Interlocal Cooperation Act for the joint administration of multiple land banks.

Currently, only municipalities in Douglas and Sarpy counties are eligible under state law to create land banks.

Lawmakers passed the omnibus bill on a 26-15 vote April 18, the final day of the 2018 session.

In his veto message, the governor said land banks are unelected entities that create an additional layer of government vested with "exceptionally" broad powers—including the ability to issue debt without a vote of the people. He said expansion of those powers statewide is unnecessary.

LB873 included provisions of six additional bills:

- LB735, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, which would have clarified that municipalities have the authority to enter into an interlocal agreement with a county in which the extra-territorial zoning jurisdiction of the municipality is located to provide for joint and cooperative action to abate, remove or prevent nuisances within the ETJ;



Sen. Carol Blood

- LB748, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, which would have clarified references to municipal population thresholds, providing that such thresholds are met based on either the most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by the U.S. Bureau of the Census;



Sen. Matt Hansen

- LB756, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, which would have prohibited municipalities from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or regulation that prohibits the use of a property as a short-term rental, unless necessary to protect public health and safety;



Sen. Adam Morfeld

- LB765, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee, which would have amended sections of law governing first class cities to clarify that they apply only to first class cities;
- LB768, introduced by Quick, which would have authorized first- and second-class cities and villages to make grants and loans under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act for early childhood infrastructure development; and
- LB880, introduced by Hansen, which would have required cities to include an early childhood element in their comprehensive plans no later than Jan. 1, 2022, either when adopting a new or updating an existing comprehensive plan.

Lawmakers passed a bill intended to help cities address the problem of vacant properties this session.

Under LB256, sponsored by Albion Sen. Tom Briese, a municipality may adopt an ordinance that allows it to identify and register vacant properties, collect fees to compensate for the public costs of property vacancy, plan for rehabilitation and encourage occupancy.

The bill does not apply to metropolitan- and primary-class cities. Currently, Omaha is the state's only metropolitan-class city and Lincoln is the only primary-class city.

A registry may include commercial or residential property and will apply only to buildings located within a city or village's corporate limits. An ordinance is required to exempt vacant properties that are advertised in good faith for sale or lease.

If adopted, a vacant property registration ordinance requires registration of a property vacant for 180 days or longer. An initial registration fee of no more than \$250 for a residential property and \$1,000 for a commercial property would be assessed. Supplemental fees are allowed and exemptions to the fee requirement may be provided.

Unpaid registration fees and fines will become a lien on the applicable property upon notice to the county. LB256 passed on a 47-0 vote.

Finally, lawmakers bracketed a proposal that would have given neighborhoods an additional avenue to pursue improvement projects.

LB986, sponsored by Hansen, would have authorized the development of neighborhood improvement districts in Nebraska. A municipality could have imposed an NID special assessment, with funds to be used only for a specific purpose.

A motion was offered during general file debate to bracket the bill until the end of session, which prevailed on 27-18 vote. ■

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB39	Harr	GF	Prohibit the sale and trade of ivory	2
LB42	Hilkemann	S	Change occupant protection system provisions for children and adopt certain federal safety provisions	10,13
LB44	Watermeier	FR	Adopt the Remote Seller Sales Tax Collection Act	10,11
LB81	Blood	IPP	Change the application fee for handgun certificates	2
LB93	Hansen	S	Adopt the Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act	2,6
LB98	Friesen	GF	Extend certain levy authority for natural resources districts	10
LB104	Bolz	S	Provide for a surrogate to make health care decisions	9,13
LB105	Brasch	S	Change provisions relating to personal property exemptions in cases of forced sale on execution or attachment	2,6
LB117	Hilkemann	S	Adopt the Investigational Drug Use Act	9,15
LB122	Pansing Brooks	S	Provide for family member visitation petitions	15
LB157	Friesen	S	Change the prepaid wireless surcharge determination and duties of sellers and the Department of Revenue under the Prepaid Wireless Surcharge Act	5,13
LB158	Pansing Brooks	GF	Change provisions relating to appointment of counsel for juveniles	9,11
LB194	Vargas	S	Change provisions of the Credit Services Organization Act, Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act, and Nebraska Installment Loan Act	14,15
LB220	Harr	GF (>743)	Adopt the Insured Homeowners Protection Act	8,11
LB256	Briese	S	Adopt the Vacant Property Registration Act	5,11
LB275	Hughes	S	Provide duties for law enforcement officers and rights and duties for private property owners regarding abandoned vehicles	4,8
LB295	Smith	GF	Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide tax credits	12
LB295A	Smith	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB299	Ebke	S	Adopt the Occupational Board Reform Act and change procedures for rules and regulations	8,11,15
LB310	Friesen	S	Change provisions relating to bridge carrying capacities and weight limits	4,8
LB321	Lowe	S	Change provisions relating to unlawful possession of a firearm at a school	2,3,11
LB344	Albrecht	GF (>1034)	Change credentialing and regulation of mental health substance abuse centers	14,15
LB347	Geist	S	Change provisions relating to school bus permits and qualifications	2,6
LB360	Kolterman	GF	Adopt the Surgical Technologist Registry Act	13
LB366	Halloran	GF (>841)	Change and eliminate provisions relating to parole administration	13,15
LB368	Lowe	GF	Change helmet provisions, change passenger age limits, and require eye protection for operators of motorcycles and mopeds	2
LB377	Education	S	Change provisions relating to classification of school districts	3,6
LB379	Harr	S	Create the Willa Cather Historical Building Cash Fund and provide for a transfer of funds	10,13
LB384	Lindstrom	IPP	Change the rate of interest to be charged on installment loans under the Nebraska Installment Loan Act	2
LB389	Friesen	GF	Adopt the Small Wireless Facilities Act	14
LB411	Bolz	GF (>1078)	Change Nebraska Juvenile Code provisions relating to placement of siblings	13
LB439	Wishart	S	Change licensure and regulation provisions for assisted-living facilities	8,15
LB439A	Wishart	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB449	Chambers	V	Repeal the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act	4,14,15
LB469	Larson	GF	Adopt the Fantasy Contests Act	3
LB477A	McCollister	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB480	McCollister	S	Provide requirements relating to health benefit plan coverage for insureds in jail custody	5
LB496	Stinner	SF	Define and redefine terms under the Community Development Law	15
LB515	Bolz	GF	Create the Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program	4
LB516	Pansing Brooks	GF (>670)	Change provisions relating to a report on juvenile facilities	
LB548	Lindstrom	GF (>1005)	Provide for the consolidation of the Class V school employees' retirement system and the School Employees Retirement System of the State of Nebraska	7,12,14,15
LB565A	McCollister	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB589	Crawford	GF	Provide for depositions of a child victim or child witness	4
LB596	Groene	S	Exempt equine massage therapy from credentialing and regulation under the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act	12,13,15
LB604	Riepe	GF (>1119)	Adopt the Nebraska Right to Shop Act and place duties on insurance carriers	15
LB611	Stinner	SF	Require state agencies to provide a federal funding inventory	2
LB614	Wayne	S	Eliminate a restriction relating to appropriations under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act	3,6
LB640	Groene	GF	Change provisions of the Property Tax Credit Act and provide school district property tax relief	13
LB651	Linehan	GF (>1081)	Adopt the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act	12,15

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB668	Executive Board	S	Revisor bill to eliminate inconsistent language related to the enrollment option program	
LB669	Executive Board	S	Revisor bill to repeal obsolete provisions related to educational bridge programs	
LB670	Krist	S (+516, 673, 774, 826, 1112)	Change provisions relating to the juvenile justice system	
LB671	Krist	C	Change requirements for certain driving permits and use of occupant protection systems, change certain violations from secondary to primary enforcement, and prohibit use of interactive wireless communication devices by school bus operators	4
LB672	Krist	C	Provide for medical release for committed offenders	
LB673	Krist	C (>670)	Change procedures for certain hearings for juveniles	
LB674	Krist	C (>944)	State intent to appropriate funds to the Division of Aeronautics for the Civil Air Patrol	
LB675	Krist	C	Change provisions relating to correctional overcrowding emergencies	
LB676	Krist	C	Allow certain committed persons to participate in substance abuse or rehabilitative treatment, seek residency or employment, and participate in structured programming	3
LB677	Krist	C	Change appropriations for certain health and human services programs	
LB678	Krist	GF	Change provisions relating to criminal justice	
LB679	Krist	C (>945)	Change the distribution of taxes remitted to the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund	9
LB680	Krist	C	Adopt the Interstate Placement for Involuntarily Admitted Patients Agreement Act	
LB681	Blood	GF (>731)	Adopt the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact	13,15
LB682	Blood	S	Provide consumer protection and civil relief for servicemembers and provide a duty for the National Guard	
LB683	Blood	GF	Provide a license fee exemption for servicemembers and their spouses under the Nebraska Real Estate License Act	
LB684	Blood	C	Change the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act	
LB685	Blood	S	Provide a funding priority for special-needs military dependents under the Developmental Disabilities Services Act	9,13
LB686	Blood	GF (>1034)	Adopt the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact	14,15
LB686A	Blood	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB687	Blood	C	Adopt the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact	
LB688	Blood	C	Provide for the possession, use, and application of sunscreen for children and students and provide immunity	
LB689	Blood	C	Exclude juveniles from the Sex Offender Registration Act	
LB690	Blood	GF	Adopt the Counterfeit Airbag Prevention Act	
LB691	Blood	C	Adopt the Nebraska Virtual Currency Money Laundering Act and define and redefine terms under the Nebraska Money Transmitters Act	
LB692	Blood	C (>841)	Provide for a staffing analysis of the Department of Correctional Services	13,15
LB693	Blood	C	Regulate and create criminal offenses regarding the use of unmanned aircraft systems	8
LB694	Blood	GF	Prohibit cities and villages and counties from taxing or regulating distributed ledger technology	
LB695	Blood	GF	Authorize and define smart contracts and authorize use of distributed ledger technology as prescribed	
LB696	Ebke	C	Increase the number of district court judges in Douglas County	3
LB697	Ebke	S	Change certain district court judicial district boundaries	3,10,13
LB698	Kolterman	C (>1005)	Change powers and duties of the Public Employees Retirement Board	12,15
LB699	Kolterman	C (>1005)	Redefine actuarial equivalent in certain retirement acts as prescribed	12,15
LB700	Kolterman	C (>1005)	Change provisions relating to the state investment officer and investment and management of the University Trust Fund	12,15
LB701	Kolterman	S	Provide for telehealth practice by physicians and physician assistants	
LB702	Kolterman	S	Change provisions relating to children's health care coverage and Title IV-D child support order modification procedures	10,13
LB703	Kolterman	GF (>1034)	Provide a licensure exemption for visiting athletic team physicians as prescribed	3,14,15
LB704	Kolterman	GF (>1034)	Change provisions relating to foreign medical graduates	14,15
LB705	Kolterman	GF	Change licensure requirements for estheticians and esthetician instructors	
LB706	Kolterman	GF	Eliminate certain requirements for electrology licensure	
LB707	Kolterman	C	Change provisions of the Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles by eliminating applicability and references to manufactured homes and renaming the code	
LB708	Bolz	S	Change provisions relating to juvenile court bridge orders	
LB709	Baker	GF	Change provisions relating to city and village plumbing boards and change a penalty	
LB710	Baker	S	Change provisions relating to civil claims of four thousand dollars or less	

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LB711	Baker	C	Change requirements for use of occupant protection systems	
LB712	Albrecht	C	Require drug testing for certain applicants and recipients of unemployment benefits	4
LB713	Erdman	C (>1008)	Change compensation of members of the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission	8,13,14
LB714	Howard	S	Provide a procedure for judicial emancipation of a minor	4,10,15
LB715	Howard	C	State intent relating to appropriations to local public health departments	
LB716	Howard	C	Appropriate funds to the Department of Correctional Services	
LB717	Howard	S	Change training requirements under the Quality Child Care Act	
LB718	Halloran	C	Adopt the Higher Education Free Speech Accountability Act	5
LB719	Wayne	C	Eliminate the authority of cities of the second class and villages to make loans to students	3
LB720	Wayne	C	Change applicability provisions for building codes	
LB721	Wayne	C	Remove a prohibition to regulate wireless telecommunications service by the Public Service Commission	
LB722	Wayne	C	Provide a renewable energy electric power generation requirement for certain public power and irrigation districts	8
LB723	Wayne	C	Change net metering provisions by redefining qualified facility and increasing the rated capacity limit as prescribed	
LB724	Wayne	S	Provide for segregation of keno funds, electronic fund transfers, and deposit of gross proceeds by a sales outlet location as prescribed	10,13
LB725	Wayne	C	Change requirements of the Prompt Payment Act	
LB726	Wayne	C	Require insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization procedures	
LB727	Wayne	C	Provide for appropriations to the Nebraska State Historical Society	
LB728	Wayne	C	Change individual income tax brackets and rates	4
LB729	Wayne	S	Allow certain claims arising out of misrepresentation or deceit under the State Tort Claims Act	4,13,15
LB730	Wayne	C	Adopt the Ammunition Excise Tax Act	
LB731	Williams	S (+681, 788, 790, 794, 1107)	Change provisions relating to physical therapy, respiratory care, and the Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art Practice Act, provide for mobile salons and remote dispensing pharmacies, and adopt the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact	3,13,15
LB731A	Williams	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB732	Riepe	S	Change reporting dates for the Nebraska Children's Commission and committees appointed by the commission	
LB733	Thibodeau	S (+811)	Change provisions relating to licenses of county highway and city street superintendents	3,13,15
LB734	Scheer	C	Change provisions relating to special designated licenses under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	
LB735	Blood	GF (>873)	Provide for interlocal agreements regarding nuisances	12,14,15
LB736	Lindstrom	C	Change real estate agent duties with respect to certain written disclosures	
LB737	Lindstrom	C	Adopt the First Responder Education Act	
LB738	Lindstrom	S	Change revenue and taxation provisions relating to an adjustment to income for social security benefits	4,13,15
LB738A	Lindstrom	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB739	Lindstrom	C	Change the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act	
LB740	Lindstrom	C (>909)	Provide for registration and licensing of metropolitan utilities district motor vehicles and trailers as prescribed	12,13
LB741	Lindstrom	S	Change provisions relating to real property appraisers	11,14
LB742	Lindstrom	S	Change provisions relating to noncompete agreements under the Franchise Practices Act	
LB743	Lindstrom	S (+220)	Adopt the Public Adjusters Licensing Act, redefine insurance consultant, change precensing and continuing education requirements for licensees, change insurance producer requirements under the Nebraska Protection in Annuity Transactions Act, and change provisions under the Insured Homeowners Protection Act	5,8,11
LB744	Executive Board	S	Adopt the Legislative Qualifications and Election Contests Act	
LB745	Watermeier	S	Require notice relating to certain refunds of local sales and use taxes	
LB746	Watermeier	C	Change provisions regulating the use of the State Capitol and capitol grounds	
LB747	Thibodeau	C (>1120)	Provide for bottle clubs under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	9,14
LB748	Hansen	GF (>873)	Change provisions relating to determination of municipality population thresholds and references to cities, villages, and governing bodies	12,14,15
LB749	Williams	S	Change provisions relating to recording and filing fees	
LB750	Williams	S	Change provisions relating to mortgage licensing, recording of real property instruments, and rights and duties of secured creditors	

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LB751	Performance Audit	S	Change agency duties with respect to adoption of rules and regulations	13,15
LB752	Brewer	C	Limit the authority of certain political subdivisions to acquire rights-of-way	
LB753	Brewer	C	Provide for tuition waivers for National Guard members	
LB754	Brewer	C	Authorize purchase of state park permits while registering a motor vehicle online	
LB755	Brewer	C	Change rules for operation of all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles	
LB756	Morfeld	GF (>873)	Prohibit ordinances prohibiting certain short-term rentals of residential property	12,14,15
LB757	Morfeld	S	Change provisions of the Credit Report Protection Act and the Financial Data Protection and Consumer Notification of Data Security Breach Act of 2006	4,5,8
LB758	Hughes	S	Provide for voluntary payments in lieu of taxes on water augmentation project lands as prescribed	3,4,5,8
LB759	Hughes	C	Eliminate a sales and use tax exemption relating to zoos and aquariums	
LB760	Hughes	S	Change the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act	11,14
LB761	Hughes	C	Change compensation provisions relating to the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission	
LB762	Hughes	C (>1008)	Change a date for certain scrap tire recycling grants	13,14
LB763	Harr	C	Prohibit obstruction of a public power district employee	
LB764	Crawford	C	Exempt certain operations from the definition of a food establishment under the Nebraska Pure Food Act	4
LB765	Urban Affairs	GF (>873)	Change provisions relating to cities of the first class as prescribed	12,14,15
LB766	Brasch	S	Change provisions relating to division fences	
LB767	Quick	C	Adopt changes to the state building code	
LB768	Quick	GF (>873)	Redefine economic development program to include early childhood infrastructure development for cities of the first and second class and villages	12,14
LB769	Quick	C	Adopt the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact	4
LB770	McCollister	C	Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	
LB771	Walz	C	Adopt the Child Hunger and Workforce Readiness Act	3
LB772	Walz	C	Change provisions relating to agricultural land that receives special valuation	3
LB773	Clements	S (+811)	Change provisions relating to prohibited uses of scanning devices and encoding machines and intimidation by telephone call and prohibit intimidation by electronic communication	9,11,13
LB774	Pansing Brooks	GF (>670)	Change peace officers' duties regarding encounters with certain juveniles	
LB775	Stinner	S	Adopt the State Park System Construction Alternatives Act	7,11
LB776	McCollister	S	Change provisions relating to powers and duties of the Jail Standards Board and provide requirements for inmate access to telephone or videoconferencing systems in county and city jails	3,10,15
LB777	Howard	C	Provide requirements for filling legislative vacancies	4
LB778	Groene	GF	Require voter approval for school district building fund levies	12
LB779	Groene	C	Change provisions relating to learning communities	
LB780	Pansing Brooks	C	Prohibit manufacture, import, transfer, and possession of multiburst trigger activators and firearm silencers	4
LB781	Pansing Brooks	C	Change penalties for certain felonies committed by persons under nineteen years of age	
LB782	Pansing Brooks	C	Change intimidation by telephone call provisions and provide for intimidation by electronic communication	
LB783	Vargas	C	Define "educational interpreter" for purposes of students eligible for special education as prescribed	
LB784	Vargas	GF (>953)	Change the Employee Classification Act to prohibit contractors with unpaid fines from contracting with the state or political subdivisions	4,14,15
LB785	Vargas	C	Change terminology related to marriage	
LB786	Vargas	S	Change terminology related to county government	
LB787	Krist	C	Change income determination provisions relating to the Medical Assistance Act	
LB788	Riepe	GF (>731)	Require continuing education for health care professionals regarding opiate prescriptions	3,13,15
LB789	Ebke	C	Eliminate the marijuana and controlled substances tax	
LB790	Ebke	GF (>731)	Provide for licensure of mobile cosmetology and nail technology salons	3,13,15
LB791	Ebke	S (+792)	Add and change provisions relating to employment of law enforcement officers and reports of sexual harassment	15
LB791A	Ebke	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB792	Ebke	C (>791)	Change powers and duties of the Nebraska State Patrol, law enforcement agencies, the executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and the Attorney General	5
LB793	Riepe	S (+1004)	Eliminate provisions relating to aging and disability resource centers and developmental disabilities services and transfer and appropriate funds	4,14,15

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONELINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB794	Riepe	GF (>731)	Change operating requirements regarding intoxicating beverages in cosmetology, esthetics, and nail technology salons	3,13,15
LB795	McDonnell	C	Provide for an acknowledgment of maternity	
LB796	McDonnell	C	Change allocation of the fee for an ignition interlock permit as prescribed	
LB797	McDonnell	C	Change penalties for second and third degree arson	
LB798	McDonnell	C	Provide a sales and use tax exemption for feminine hygiene products	8
LB799	Kolterman	S	Modify deadlines and sanctions in the Surplus Lines Insurance Act	
LB800	Walz	C	Provide and change strategic plan requirements for services for qualified persons with disabilities	
LB801	Stinner	C	Adopt the Panhandle Beginnings Act to provide certain services to school-age children	
LB802	Stinner	C (>944)	Create the Nebraska Tourism Commission Promotional Cash Fund and provide for its use	
LB803	Stinner	S	Change certain permit and certificate requirements relating to prekindergarten programs	11,15
LB804	Brasch	C	Include elementary and secondary schools in the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and change tax benefits	4
LB805	Brasch	W	Provide an annual reporting requirement under the Nebraska Potato Development Act and eliminate obsolete provisions	
LB806	Kuehn	C	Change the Conveyance Safety Act	
LB807	Harr	S	Provide for replacement of statues in the United States Capitol	8,14,15
LB807A	Harr	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB808	Harr	GF	Change provisions relating to community gardens and seed libraries	
LB809	Harr	C	Prohibit charging members of the Legislature fees for public record requests	
LB810	Harr	W	Change provisions of State Tort Claims Act relating to certain claims arising out of misrepresentation or deceit by the Department of Health and Human Services	
LB811	Lindstrom	GF (>773)	Change prohibited uses of scanning devices and encoding machines	11
LB812	Lindstrom	S	Adopt federal banking provisions, revise powers of certain state-chartered financial institutions, and eliminate obsolete provisions	
LB813	Lindstrom	GF	Redefine terms and adopt certain federal provisions relating to the Securities Act of Nebraska	
LB814	Schumacher	C	Provide a procedure to resolve protests of government service contract procurement decisions	8
LB815	Schumacher	S	Provide regulatory authority regarding reinsurance	
LB816	Chambers	GF	Designate Nebraska State Patrol as agency to investigate criminal activity within Department of Correctional Services correctional facilities	13
LB817	Chambers	C	Change provisions regarding funds of candidate committees	8
LB818	Chambers	GF	Change powers and duties relating to the Jail Standards Board	
LB819	Hughes	C	Provide additional uses for the Inmate Welfare and Club Accounts Fund	
LB820	Hughes	C (>1008)	Change provisions relating to privately developed renewable energy generation facilities	13,14
LB821	Hughes	W	Change provisions relating to assessments by the Nebraska Power Review Board	
LB822	Hughes	C (>1008)	Change provisions relating to the Department of Natural Resources	10,13,14
LB823	Hughes	W	Change definition of employment under Employment Security Law	
LB824	Morfeld	C	Change provisions relating to the taxation of benefits received under the federal Social Security Act	
LB825	Brewer	GF	Change provisions relating to budgets and public hearing notice for certain governmental entities	
LB826	Vargas	GF (>670)	Provide for jurisdiction to make factual findings under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act	
LB827	Lowe	S	Provide for disposition of property of members of veterans' homes and change state personnel system exemptions for the Department of Veterans' Affairs	
LB828	Lowe	C	Adopt the Empowerment Savings Account Act	
LB829	Erdman	C	Adopt the Property Tax Relief Act	4,14
LB830	Vargas	C	Change license application, prohibited acts, and franchise restriction provisions under the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act	
LB831	Wayne	C	Provide annual salary limitations for elected officials of political subdivisions	
LB832	Wayne	GF	Change definition of marijuana under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	
LB833	McCollister	GF	Change provisions relating to petroleum products liens	
LB834	Howard	C	Provide for waiver of certain occupational and licensing fees as prescribed	
LB835	Howard	C	Provide for independent audits and reviews under the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act	
LB836	Howard	C	Provide for minors' consent to certain mental health services as prescribed	
LB837	Howard	C	Require applications for medicaid waivers be submitted to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB838	Wishart	GF	Change provisions relating to the Indoor Tanning Facility Act	7
LB839	Crawford	C	Require reporting regarding electioneering communication under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	8
LB840	Riepe	S	Change reporting requirements for the Foster Care Review Office	
LB841	Pansing Brooks	S (+366, 692, 852, 932)	Change provisions relating to parole administration and correctional services	3,13,15
LB842	Pansing Brooks	C	Change provisions relating to certain minimum sentences	
LB843	Pansing Brooks	C	Provide protections for employees' wage disclosures	
LB844	Crawford	C	Adopt the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act	
LB845	Briese	S (+1051)	Change provisions relating to court proceedings involving family members	5,13,15
LB846	Briese	IPP (>874)	Change provisions relating to findings and the enforceability of certain agreements under the Community Development Law	
LB847	Ebke	S	Change provisions relating to waiver of certain testamentary rights of surviving spouses	
LB848	Ebke	S	Correct a provision relating to possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person	
LB849	Ebke	C	Provide procedure for return of handguns temporarily taken into possession by law enforcement under Concealed Handgun Permit Act	
LB850	Linehan	C	Require disclosure of the anticipated cost to a political subdivision to pay off its bonds	
LB851	Linehan	C	Limit superintendent and educational service unit administrator compensation	4
LB852	Bolz	C (>841)	Provide for medical release of and additional rehabilitative options for committed offenders and allow the use of certain funds for peer and family support programs	5,13,15
LB853	Bolz	C	Authorize certain Department of Correctional Services contracts	13
LB854	Quick	GF (>873)	Expand the number of municipalities which may create a land bank and change land bank powers and board requirements	12,14,15
LB855	Lindstrom	GF (>1132)	Change Security, Privacy, and Dissemination of Criminal History Information Act provisions to provide for charges or offenses that have been pardoned	12,15
LB856	Morfeld	C	Adopt the Internet Neutrality Act, change communications provider requirements under the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act, and change financial assistance provisions relating to the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund	8
LB857	Morfeld	C	Adopt the Campus Confidentiality Act	
LB858	Hansen	C	Provide annual adjustments for total disability income benefits under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB859	Hansen	S	Change records relating to employee deaths which may be withheld from the public	
LB860	Friesen	GF (>909)	Provide for compensation for motor vehicle dealers affected by recalls and stop-sale orders	13
LB861	Watermeier	S (+883)	Authorize claims to the state for certain costs relating to correctional incident prosecutions as prescribed	7,10,15
LB862	Howard	C	Adopt the Prescription Drug Cost Transparency Act	
LB863	Howard	C	Add grounds for termination of parental rights	
LB864	Walz	C (>944)	Designate funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services for state aid	7
LB865	Crawford	S	Change provisions relating to passage of ordinances by cities and villages	
LB866	Crawford	C	Change provisions relating to rules, regulations, and waivers under the Medical Assistance Act	
LB867	Crawford	C	Change provisions regarding managed care	
LB868	Pansing Brooks	C	Change parole provisions relating to deferment and structured programming	5,13
LB869	Pansing Brooks	GF	Change provisions relating to sealing of juvenile records	
LB870	Pansing Brooks	C	Provide for room confinement for juveniles as prescribed	4
LB871	Wishart	C	Appropriate funds to the Department of Correctional Services	
LB872	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to appeals by prosecutors	
LB873	Urban Affairs	V (+735, 748, 756, 765, 768, 854, 880)	Change provisions relating to cities of particular classes and villages, correct and include references as prescribed, eliminate obsolete provisions and repeal definitions, provide for interlocal nuisance agreements, to determine population thresholds, redefine certain economic development programs, authorize creation of additional land banks, change comprehensive plans for an early childhood element, authorize short-term rentals, and change provisions relating to the official state slogan and symbol	12,14,15
LB874	Urban Affairs	S (+846)	Change the Community Development Law	5,7,11
LB875	Bolz	C	Change sentencing provisions for crimes committed by persons under the age of eighteen	
LB876	Kolowski	C	Change special education reimbursements	5
LB877	Kolowski	C	Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	

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LB878	Ebke	GF	Provide requirements for testimony by jailhouse informants	
LB879	Ebke	C	Provide for a parenting time summary report	
LB880	Hansen	GF (>873)	Provide for an early childhood element in a comprehensive plan developed by a city	4,12,14,15
LB881	Schumacher	GF	Change inheritance tax provisions relating to life insurance proceeds	
LB882	Schumacher	GF	Change provisions relating to certain inheritance tax proceedings	
LB883	Harr	C (>861)	Provide for appointment of independent counsel to prosecute crimes by state officials or employees and change powers and duties of the Attorney General	5,15
LB884	Harr	C	Change and eliminate provisions relating to county sales and use taxes	3
LB885	Harr	S	Change provisions relating to property tax protests	
LB886	Morfeld	C	Protect student journalists' and student media advisers' rights of and freedom of speech and of the press	
LB887	Murante	GF	Clarify requirements for exceeding budget limitations under the Nebraska Budget Act	
LB888	Wayne	C	Require schools to post the child abuse and neglect toll-free telephone number	
LB889	Wayne	S	Provide and eliminate duties relating to fire codes	
LB890	Wayne	GF	Provide for a fee examination and report relating to the State Fire Marshal	
LB891	Pansing Brooks	C	Prohibit discrimination in the provision of services as prescribed under the Psychology Practice Act	
LB892	Howard	C	Prohibit restraining animals in the event of certain natural or manmade disasters or severe weather events as prescribed	
LB893	Wishart	C	Change seller disclosure statement requirements and provide for restrictions and duties on pet shop owners under the Dog and Cat Purchase Protection Act	
LB894	Crawford	GF (>1034)	Adopt the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact	4,14,15
LB894A	Blood	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB895	Geist	GF (>909)	Change lien and flood-damaged brand provisions relating to motor vehicle certificates of title and change duties and requirements of the Department of Motor Vehicles as prescribed	12,13
LB896	Geist	GF (>909)	Change provisions relating to electronic certificates of title, salvage vehicles, and the electronic dealer services system and Vehicle Title and Registration System maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles	12,13
LB897	Howard	GF (>1132)	Change medical providers' duties under offense of failure to report injury or violence	12,15
LB898	Howard	C	Require public postsecondary educational institutions to conduct an annual sexual assault climate survey	
LB899	Erdman	C	Provide for an adjustment to the assessed value of destroyed real property	
LB900	Bostelman	GF (>909)	Adopt and update references to federal law relating to transportation and increase fines for violations of certain motor carrier statutes and regulations	13
LB901	Bostelman	S	Change permit application and issuance requirements relating to regulation of certain structures by the Division of Aeronautics of the Department of Transportation and provide a duty for the Nebraska National Guard	
LB902	Bostelman	S	Authorize the withholding from the public of information regarding firearm registration, possession, sale, or use	14,15
LB903	Linehan	S	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Community Aging Services Act and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act	
LB904	Vargas	C	Prohibit the charging of certain fees under the Credit Services Organization Act	
LB905	Kuehn	C	Change the burden of proof for certain protests of real property valuations	
LB906	Williams	S	Change provisions relating to the schedules of controlled substances	
LB907	Baker	C	Change provisions relating to a sales and use tax exemption for agricultural machinery and equipment	
LB908	Baker	C	Provide a disposal exception for tires used in a building system and eliminate obsolete provisions under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act	7
LB909	Bostelman	S (+740, 860, 895, 896, 900, 980, 1011, 1049, 1092, 1136)	Change provisions relating to motor carriers, hazardous materials regulations, and titling, registration, sales, and operation of motorboats and motor vehicles	12,13,14
LB910	Bolz	C	Adopt the Property Tax Circuit Breaker Act and change the funding of the Property Tax Credit Act	
LB911	Bolz	C	Adopt the School District Local Option Income Surtax Act	
LB912	McCollister	GF	Provide for posting by public schools of a toll-free telephone number set up to report child abuse and neglect	

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LB913	McDonnell	S	Change provisions relating to assault with a bodily fluid against a public safety officer to include a health care professional	9,13
LB914	Riepe	C	Provide an income tax credit for certain long-term care insurance policy premiums	
LB915	Riepe	W	Change prohibitions on using handheld wireless communication devices or handheld mobile telephones while driving	
LB916	Hansen	C	Prohibit retaliation under the Nebraska Wage Payment Collection Act and the Wage and Hour Act	
LB917	Bolz	GF	Change eligibility relating to the Community College Gap Assistance Program Act	
LB918	Bolz	C	Change provisions relating to certain tax incentive programs and job training grants	5
LB919	Bolz	C	Adopt the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit Act and change certain taxation and grant provisions	
LB920	Bolz	C	Change provisions relating to a child and dependent care tax credit	
LB921	Lowe	GF	Create a licensing exception under the State Electrical Act for certain farm building construction	12
LB922	Vargas	C	Adopt the All Kids Health Care Program Act	
LB923	Morfeld	S	Provide immunity for certain law enforcement employees administering naloxone and change provisions relating to immunity for persons reporting or experiencing alcohol overdoses	11,15
LB924	Riepe	GF (>1034)	Change provisions of the Emergency Medical Services Practice Act, the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, and the Uniform Credentialing Act	14,15
LB925	Pansing Brooks	C	Change provisions relating to certain sex crimes and crimes against children	
LB926	Crawford	C	Exempt members of the armed forces on active duty and their spouses from motor vehicle taxes	
LB927	Howard	C	Change provisions relating to juveniles' out-of-home placement, care, and custody	
LB928	McDonnell	C	Change provisions relating to compensation paid upon the death of an employee under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB929	Brewer	GF	State rights of Nebraska National Guard members and provide that a residential address may be withheld from the public	
LB930	Hansen	C	Prohibit use of juveniles' statements made as a result of custodial interrogation	6
LB931	Howard	S (+933, 934)	Provide requirements for opiate and controlled substance prescriptions	4,9,13
LB932	Howard	C (>841)	Provide discharge planning duties for the medical director of the Department of Correctional Services	13,15
LB933	Lindstrom	GF (>931)	Provide prescription requirements for certain controlled substances	4,13
LB934	Kuehn	GF (>931)	Require identification prior to receipt of dispensed opiates	13
LB935	Performance Audit	SF	Authorize the inspection of certain tax return information and change application, reporting, and record retention provisions under the Nebraska Advantage Act	4,9
LB935A	Kuehn	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB936	Performance Audit	S	Change provisions relating to tax incentive performance audits under the Legislative Performance Audit Act	6,8,11
LB937	Stinner	C	Change filing fees for appeals to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission	8
LB938	Stinner	C	Change provisions relating to the transfer of excess General Fund net receipts to the Cash Reserve Fund	
LB939	McDonnell	C	Provide a homestead exemption for certain dwelling complexes located on military installations	
LB940	Friesen	S	Change provisions of the Civic and Community Center Financing Act relating to fund use, grant request limits, property sale restrictions, and grant application priority	4,14
LB940A	Friesen	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB941	Wayne	C	Change the calculation of the tax on the average wholesale price of gasoline	
LB942	Wayne	C	Adopt the Metropolitan Port Authority Act	
LB943	Wishart	C	Redefine a term relating to budget limitations	
LB944	Speaker Scheer	S (+674, 802, 864, 1055, 1062)	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to appropriations and reduce appropriations	4,6,11,12, 13,14
LB945	Speaker Scheer	S (+679, 1002)	Create funds and authorize, change, provide, and eliminate fund transfer provisions	4,11,12, 13,14
LB946	Speaker Scheer	S	Change provisions relating to the Cash Reserve Fund	4,11,12 13,14
LB947	Smith	GF	Adopt the Nebraska Property Tax Cuts and Opportunities Act, change income tax rates, and eliminate certain exemptions and credits	5,14
LB947A	Smith	GF	Appropriation Bill	
LB948	Murante	SF	Change and eliminate provisions relating to rules and regulations	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB949	Albrecht	GF	Rename the Nebraska Educational, Health, and Social Services Finance Authority Act and apply the act to cultural institutions	
LB950	Albrecht	S	Provide for payment of claims against the state	11,12,13,14
LB951	Albrecht	C	Deny claims against the state	
LB952	Albrecht	C	Change provisions relating to dismissals of actions under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB953	Albrecht	S (+784)	Change provisions under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act and the Employee Classification Act	14,15
LB954	Hansen	C	Provide refundable income tax credits to individuals who rent their primary residence	
LB955	Krist	IPP	Provide for reciprocal certification of military police officers and law enforcement officers from other jurisdictions	
LB956	Howard	C	Require application for a demonstration project to allow purchase of medicaid coverage	
LB957	Lowe	S	Provide procedures for choosing a method of payment for payments under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	
LB958	Erdman	C	Provide for licensure of a vehicle as a massage therapy establishment	
LB959	Murante	C	Provide requirements for returning a ballot for someone else and provide a penalty	
LB960	Murante	C	Change provisions of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	
LB961	Smith	C	Change corporate income tax rates	
LB962	Smith	C	Change individual income tax rates	
LB963	Smith	C	Change how often real property is inspected and reviewed for property tax purposes	
LB964	McDonnell	C	Authorize mental health professionals to take a person into emergency protective custody under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act	7
LB965	Schumacher	C	Change provisions relating to lists of real property subject to sale for delinquent taxes	
LB966	Friesen	GF (>994)	Provide a sales and use tax exemption relating to dark fiber	13,15
LB967	Groene	IPP	Eliminate provisions of the Community Development Law relating to undeveloped vacant land and land outside of cities	5
LB968	Wayne	C	Adopt the Disability Employment and Engagement Program Act	
LB969	Wayne	C	Change signature requirements for nomination of partisan candidates by petition	
LB970	Wayne	C	Change marijuana penalties as prescribed	
LB971	Wayne	GF	Change a penalty for possession under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	4
LB972	Wayne	C	Provide for deferred judgments by courts	
LB973	Crawford	C	Require use of redistricting maps drawn using state-issued computer software	
LB974	Vargas	C	Prohibit consideration of political affiliation, demographic information, and previous election results in drawing legislative districts	6
LB975	Howard	C	Adopt the Redistricting Act	6
LB976	Briese	C	Provide a reporting duty for the Beginning Farmer Board under the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act	
LB977	Wayne	GF	Make post-release supervision optional for Class IV felonies	
LB978	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to garnishment	
LB979	Crawford	C	Authorize physician assistants and nurse practitioners to render expert opinions	
LB980	Watermeier	GF (>909)	Provide for issuance of permits for divisible loads of hay bales	5,13
LB981	Baker	C	Change provisions relating to arraignment of juveniles and authorize juvenile court jurisdiction to age twenty-one with consent of the juvenile and legal counsel	
LB982	Morfeld	S	Provide for persons eighteen years of age or older to consent to certain behavioral health services	
LB983	Ebke	S	Change provisions relating to audiovisual court appearances	
LB984	Quick	GF	Change provisions of the Nebraska Lottery and Raffle Act relating to special permits and gross proceeds	
LB985	Howard	C	Provide for state funding of prenatal care under the medical assistance program	
LB986	Hansen	GF	Adopt the Neighborhood Improvement District Act and change provisions relating to special assessments for other improvement or development districts as prescribed	6,12
LB987	Schumacher	C	Adopt the Uniform Regulation of Virtual-Currency Businesses Act	
LB988	Pansing Brooks	C	Adopt an affirmative consent standard with respect to sexual assault	6
LB989	Wishart	S	Authorize automated-driving-system-equipped vehicles, automated driving systems, and driverless-capable vehicles as prescribed	7, 14,15
LB990	Wayne	S	Create the offense of possession of a firearm by a prohibited juvenile offender	6,12,15
LB990A	Wayne	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB991	Bolz	C	Create the Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Grant Program	9
LB992	Bolz	C	Provide for release from a residential lease for a victim of domestic violence and eviction of a perpetrator of domestic violence	7

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LB993	Friesen	S	Add, change, and eliminate provisions relating to 911 service system planning and funding	6,10,13
LB993A	Friesen	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB994	Friesen	S (+966)	Create the Rural Broadband Task Force and exempt dark fiber from sales tax	6,13,15
LB994A	Friesen	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB995	Linehan	C	Require the filing of a statement of financial interests by individuals holding elective office of a school district under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	
LB996	Crawford	C	Change defined terms and other provisions of the Nebraska Advantage Act	
LB997	Murante	C	Provide limits on salaries of administrative employees of political subdivisions	
LB998	Walz	V	Create the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program	7,11,13,15
LB999	Vargas	C	Change provisions relating to the Student Discipline Act	
LB1000	Briese	S	Require a bond election under the Public Facilities Construction and Finance Act	
LB1001	Briese	C	Provide for a review of the financing of schools	
LB1002	Wishart	C (>945)	Create the Nebraska Film Office Fund	
LB1003	McDonnell	S	Change leave of absence without loss of pay provisions under the Military Code	
LB1004	Bolz	C (>793)	Provide for aging and disability resource centers as prescribed and eliminate references to demonstration projects	14,15
LB1005	Kolterman	S (+548, 698, 699, 700)	Change retirement provisions and University Trust Fund investment provisions	12,15
LB1006	McCollister	C	Change provisions relating to rehearings under the Tax Equalization and Review Commission Act	
LB1007	Kolowski	C	Authorize school districts to levy a tax and establish a fund for facilities-related expenditures	
LB1008	Bostelman	S (+713, 762, 820, 822)	Change provisions relating to the Game Law, the compensation of certain commission members, the withholding of certain competitive information, certain privately developed renewable energy generation facilities, and certain scrap tire projects	13,14
LB1009	Murante	S	Change a rural highway classification and maximum highway speed limits as prescribed	6,12,15
LB1010	Hansen	C	Change procedures for determining competency to stand trial in counties containing a city of the primary class	
LB1011	Harr	GF (>909)	Provide a duty for drivers approaching certain stopped vehicles on a roadway as prescribed under the Nebraska Rules of the Road	13
LB1012	Harr	S	Authorize self-service storage facility operator insurance producer licenses	
LB1013	Pansing Brooks	C	Limit the habitual criminal enhancement to violent felonies	
LB1014	Pansing Brooks	C	Name the Discriminatory Wage Practices Act, change provisions relating to wage discrimination on the basis of sex, and provide protections for employees relating to wage disclosure	7
LB1015	Briese	GF	Allow withholding from public of reports of injury under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act that reveal an employee's identity	
LB1016	Briese	C	Adopt the Money Transmission Fee Act and provide income tax credits	
LB1017	Krist	W	Change and eliminate pipeline siting provisions and eminent domain provisions	
LB1018	Geist	C	Provide for inadmissibility of audio and video recordings of legislative proceedings, require a notice regarding prohibited uses of such recordings, and provide that such recordings are not public records	
LB1019	Clements	GF	Change boundaries of Nebraska planning and development regions	5
LB1020	Crawford	GF	Change provisions relating to limits on indebtedness from direct borrowing by cities and villages	
LB1021	Schumacher	C	Eliminate certain sales and use tax exemptions	
LB1022	Schumacher	C	Adopt the Irrigation Tax Act and change the valuation of agricultural land for property tax purposes	
LB1023	Schumacher	C	Change sunset dates on certain tax incentive programs	9
LB1024	Wayne	GF	Change references from Big Twelve Conference to Big Ten Conference in provisions requiring a stipend or restricting hours of participation for intercollegiate athletes	
LB1025	Wayne	C	Create the Building Codes Advisory Committee and change building code provisions	
LB1026	Wayne	C	Authorize issuance of highway bonds, create a fund, and change existing highway funding provisions	
LB1027	Wayne	C	Provide for restoration of voting rights upon completion of a felony sentence or probation for a felony	8
LB1028	Wayne	C	Adopt the Abandoned and Dilapidated Housing Act	
LB1029	Hansen	C	Change time for acceptance of a power of attorney	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LB1030	Friesen	S	Change the sales tax sourcing rules for certain motor vehicles and trailers	
LB1031	Friesen	C	Change excavation notification and marking requirements and provide for large project planning meetings, rulemaking authority, and cost allocation under the One-Call Notification System Act	7
LB1032	Murante	C	Provide for a statewide presidential primary election	
LB1033	Murante	C (+855, 897)	Eliminate learning communities	9
LB1034	Riepe	S (+344, 686, 703, 704, 894, 924, 1035, 1057)	Change credentialing provisions for health care professions and occupations and licensure provisions for health care facilities and services and school-age child care programs and adopt the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact	14,15
LB1034A	Riepe	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1035	Riepe	GF (>1034)	Change provisions relating to the Stroke System of Care Act	14,15
LB1036	Kolowski	S	Change the expenditure limit for a recognition dinner under the Local Government Miscellaneous Expenditure Act	
LB1037	Baker	GF	Change provisions of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act relating to a potential conflict of interest by an elected office holder of certain cities or villages or a school district	
LB1038	Thibodeau	S	Provide a deadline for electronic voter registration	5,13,15
LB1039	Linehan	C	Increase the amount that may be required for a pet deposit under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act	7
LB1040	Albrecht	S	Provide for commemorative certificates of nonviable birth	13,15
LB1041	Wishart	C	Require specific training for foster care licensees on sexual abuse	6
LB1042	Howard	GF (>1107)	Change and eliminate provisions relating to nail technology	13,15
LB1043	Lowe	C	Change provisions relating to reimbursement of common and contract carriers for transportation costs associated with certain agency clients as prescribed	
LB1044	Krist	GF	Change provisions relating to providing social services relating to child abuse and neglect investigations	
LB1045	Schumacher	C	Adopt the Nebraska Excellence Fund Tax Credit Act	
LB1046	Bolz	C	Provide for a caseload ratio emergency declaration relating to health and human services	
LB1047	Harr	GF	Change provisions under the Nebraska Uniform Power of Attorney Act relating to banks and other financial institutions	
LB1048	Harr	C	Change provisions relating to the personal exemption credit	6
LB1049	Harr	C (>909)	Redefine low-speed vehicle	12,13
LB1050	Harr	C	Provide an adjustment to income for certain charitable contributions	
LB1051	Pansing Brooks	GF (>845)	Change provisions relating to family member visitation	15
LB1052	Pansing Brooks	S	Require instruction and teacher education related to dyslexia	7,13,15
LB1053	Wishart	C	Provide for a 10-year strategic plan by the Legislature's Planning Committee	
LB1054	Brewer	C	Change provisions relating to hearings before the Nebraska Power Review Board and electric generation using wind	5
LB1055	Crawford	C (>944)	Create the Intern Nebraska Cash Fund and state intent regarding appropriations	
LB1056	Hansen	C	Provide for collection of data on student disciplinary actions	6
LB1057	Kuehn	GF (>1034)	Change provisions relating to prescription drug monitoring	14,15
LB1058	Halloran	GF	Adopt the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act	14
LB1059	Wayne	W	Prohibit certain appropriations to the Supreme Court, prohibit certain entities from accepting appropriations, and change provisions relating to the source of certain funds	
LB1060	Wayne	C	Adopt the Healthy Kids Act and require tests for lead-based hazards in housing	
LB1061	Wayne	C	State intent relating to appropriations relating to a grant program as prescribed	
LB1062	McDonnell	C (>944)	State intent relating to appropriations for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program	
LB1063	McDonnell	C	Provide funding to assist victims of traumatic brain injury and increase certain driver's license fees as a source of such funding	
LB1064	Murante	C	Require election officials to check voter records for deceased individuals and require the Secretary of State to check the citizenship status of all registered voters and applicants to register to vote	
LB1065	Murante	S	Provide for electronic poll books and change provisions relating to digital signatures	14,15
LB1065A	Murante	IPP	Appropriation Bill	
LB1066	Murante	C	Require photographic identification for purposes of voting	6
LB1067	Quick	C	Authorize a special tourism surcharge under the Business Improvement District Act	

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LB1068	Murante	C	Provide for seventeen-year olds to vote in special elections, provide requirements for adjusting political subdivision boundaries, and change voter registration, special election, recall, and initiative and referendum provisions	7
LB1069	Brasch	GF	Change provisions related to the Committee on Americanism	15
LB1070	Brewer	S	Change an election requirement for school districts with fewer than twenty-five students in high school grades	
LB1071	Lindstrom	C	Adopt the Infrastructure Improvement and Replacement Assistance Act and provide for a turn back of state sales tax revenue	
LB1072	Linehan	C	Change a preference in awarding public contracts and eliminate reciprocal preference provisions	
LB1073	Crawford	GF (>1078)	Provide for additional information relating to foster care placements as prescribed	13
LB1074	Vargas	C	Change provisions relating to individual income tax brackets and rates and the earned income tax credit	5
LB1075	Friesen	C	Impose a fee on transfers of real estate	
LB1076	Friesen	C	Increase the documentary stamp tax and provide for the use of the revenue	
LB1077	Friesen	C	Eliminate levy limits for school districts	
LB1078	Crawford	S (+411, 1073)	Change sibling placement and other foster care requirements, change sibling visitation, require reporting of sexual abuse, and eliminate certain obsolete provisions	7,9,11,13
LB1079	Howard	C	Change report provisions relating to the Children's Residential Facilities and Placing Licensure Act	
LB1080	Hughes	C	Provide for Wildlife Conservation Plates	
LB1081	Education	S (+651)	Change education provisions regarding reporting, penalties, residency, boundaries, priority schools, subpoena authority, poverty, and limited English proficiency and adopt the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act	12,15
LB1081A	Groene	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1082	Vargas	GF	Require jails, law enforcement agencies, and the Nebraska State Patrol to provide public notice before entering into agreements to enforce federal immigration law and to allow audits of noncomplying entities	7
LB1083	Hansen	C	Provide for discovery of telephone numbers and email addresses of witnesses in criminal cases	
LB1084	Briese	C	Adopt the Property Tax Request Limitation Act, provide sunset dates for certain tax exemptions and incentives, and change other revenue and taxation provisions	6,14
LB1085	Wayne	IPP	Change the Community Development Law and provisions relating to tax-increment financing	
LB1086	Wayne	C	Provide for intervention in certain proceedings involving juveniles as prescribed	
LB1087	Wayne	C	Change tax provisions for cigars, cheroots, or stogies	7
LB1088	Wayne	C	Adopt the Nebraska Education Formula and the Remote Seller Sales Tax Collection Act, terminate the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and the Property Tax Credit Act, and eliminate certain tax exemptions	
LB1089	Smith	S	Change provisions relating to confidential tax information, refundable income tax credits, and homestead exemptions	
LB1090	Smith	S	Change provisions relating to income tax brackets, personal exemptions, standard deductions, and itemized deductions	6,10,15
LB1090A	Smith	S	Appropriation Bill	
LB1091	Smith	S	Update references to the Internal Revenue Code	
LB1092	Smith	C (>909)	Change provisions relating to autocycles	12,13
LB1093	Walz	C	Create the office of Inspector General of Nebraska Public Health	
LB1094	Hilgers	C	Provide for financial literacy and entrepreneurship academic content standards	
LB1095	Hilgers	C	Change the information included in certain tax notices and receipts	
LB1096	Hilgers	GF	Change provisions relating to state vehicles and workers' compensation claims, tort claims, and other claims against the state	9
LB1097	Hilgers	C	Change provisions relating to treasurer's tax deeds	
LB1098	Hilgers	S	Change dollar threshold for certain purchasing requirements under the County Purchasing Act	
LB1099	Kuehn	C	Adopt the Legislative Ethics Act	6
LB1100	Erdman	C	Change the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land	
LB1101	Vargas	C	State intent relating to appropriations to behavioral health services providers	
LB1102	Friesen	C	Change provisions relating to distribution of taxes collected, license renewals and fees, and the tax on gross proceeds for county and city lotteries	
LB1103	Friesen	GF	Provide a minimum amount of state aid for each school district	14

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LB1104	Friesen	C	Change provisions relating to the special valuation of agricultural or horticultural land	
LB1105	Vargas	C	Change the transaction loan period under the Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act	
LB1106	Linehan	C	Change requirements for overriding property tax limits	
LB1107	Linehan	GF (>731)	Change provisions relating to barber licensing and the Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art Practice Act	13,15
LB1108	Harr	C	Authorize certain tax credits, change the sales tax rate, and provide for school foundation aid and certain grant programs	5
LB1109	Harr	C	Create the Grow Nebraska Through Quality Employment Strategic Partnership	
LB1110	Vargas	S	Require annual reporting of school performance scores and classifications	
LB1111	Stinner	C	Adopt the Fiscal Stress Management Act	
LB1112	Vargas	GF (>670)	Change provisions relating to placement and detention of juveniles and permit an additional use of funds under the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program	
LB1113	Walz	C	Provide an exception for leasing dark fiber or providing broadband, Internet, telecommunications, or video services by an agency or political subdivision of the state	8
LB1114	Walz	C	Provide for creation and maintenance of a statewide geographic information system map under the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act	
LB1115	Murante	GF	Provide population requirements for establishing district boundary lines for legislative districts, Supreme Court districts, and certain political subdivisions	9,15
LB1116	Linehan	C	Create the Quality Education Accountability Commission and the Quality Education Accountability Office	
LB1117	Crawford	C	Change certain cigarette and tobacco products tax rates	7
LB1118	Krist	C	Create the Coordinated Reentry Council	13
LB1119	Riepe	S (+604)	Adopt the Direct Primary Care Pilot Program Act and the Nebraska Right to Shop Act	6,11,13,15
LB1120	Larson	S (+747)	Change provisions of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act and music licensing provisions	6,14,15
LB1121	Larson	S	Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Protected Series Act	
LB1121A	Larson	V	Appropriation Bill	
LB1122	Larson	C	Authorize testing of automated motor vehicles as prescribed	
LB1123	Groene	IPP	Provide for streamflow augmentation projects and retention of water rights as prescribed	
LB1124	Groene	C	Provide notice and hearing requirements for public entities relating to land acquisition and ground water pump installations	
LB1125	Groene	C	Change school finance base limitation and local effort rate provisions	
LB1126	Bolz	C	Adopt the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights Act	9
LB1127	Kolterman	GF	Provide additional fees for certain credentials under the Uniform Credentialing Act and create the Patient Safety Cash Fund	
LB1128	Wayne	C	Prohibit counties, local governments, and certain state entities from spending legislative appropriations under certain conditions	
LB1129	Kuehn	C	Prohibit state employees from certain political activities	8
LB1130	Kuehn	GF	Provide a disclosure requirement for certain tax-exempt organizations under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	
LB1131	Riepe	C	Define minor child relating to dissolution of marriage statutes	
LB1132	Pansing Brooks	S (+855, 897)	Require certain reporting by health care providers of injury from sexual assault, provide a procedure to set aside convictions of victims of sex trafficking and to expunge records, and provide for development and distribution of a statewide model anonymous reporting protocol	12,15
LB1133	Wayne	C	Adopt the Industrial Hemp Act, provide an exemption under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and eliminate a provision relating to industrial hemp research	6
LB1134	Vargas	C	Adopt the Nebraska Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act	
LB1135	Vargas	C	Adopt the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act	6
LB1136	Clements	C (>909)	Provide for custody and disposition of certain vehicles in possession of multistate auction dealers by treating such vehicles as abandoned vehicles	12,13
LR1CA	Murante	GF	Constitutional amendment to require voter identification	14
LR18CA	Larson	GF	Constitutional amendment to change the age for eligibility for public office	3
LR266	Hughes	C	Urge the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, the Nebr. congressional delegation, and the Game and Parks Commission to find a solution regarding policy changes that affect Hugh Butler Lake, Harry Strunk Lake, and Swanson Reservoir	
LR268	Krist	C	Resolution to Congress for convention of the states to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution	
LR269CA	Schumacher	GF	Constitutional amendment to authorize the Legislature to delegate complete or partial sovereignty to one area of the state	10
LR270CA	Kolowski	C	Constitutional amendment to reduce the minimum age in the constitutional requirement to provide free instruction	

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LR277	Schumacher	C	Rescind any previous resolutions calling for U.S. Constitution Article V conventions	
LR281CA	Morfeld	C	Constitutional amendment to state that affordable health care is a right and to expand eligibility under the medical assistance program	
LR285CA	Murante	C	Constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education	
LR286	Krist	C	Resolution proposing an election to call a state constitutional convention to amend Article VIII and other revenue provisions of the Constitution of Nebraska	
LR288	Bolz	C	Create the Child Welfare Death and Abuse Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature	7
LR289CA	Krist	C	Constitutional amendment to change and provide legislative district redistricting standards and to provide congressional district redistricting standards	
LR290CA	Kuehn	C	Constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to value real property for property tax purposes at its market value on date of acquisition	
LR291	Kolowski	C	Recommend that school administrators, teachers, parents, and students be educated about the potential health impact of heavy backpacks	
LR292	Clements	C	Encourage Nebraskans to show respect for Nebraska and its history and encourage recitation of a pledge	
LR293CA	Wishart	GF	Constitutional amendment providing a right to use or consume medical cannabis subject to laws, rules, and regulations	6
LR294CA	Larson	C	Constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature to authorize any game of chance, lottery, or gift enterprise and to provide for distribution of revenue	
LR295CA	Vargas	C	Constitutional amendment to change the annual legislative salary to fifty percent of the median household income	8
LR296	Walz	C	Provide the Executive Board of the Legislative Council appoint a special committee known as the State-Licensed Care Facilities Investigative Committee of the Legislature	8,15
LR319	Quick	C	Interim study to determine a sustainable revenue source for the Nebraska Main Street Network	
LR339	Thibodeau	C	Interim study to examine the issuance and usage of special designated licenses under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act pursuant to 53-124.11	
LR352	Lindstrom	C	Interim study to determine whether the Real Property Appraiser Act should be updated	
LR353	Lowe	C	Interim study to determine the feasibility and fiscal impact of hiring outside consultants to perform an efficiency review of state agencies	
LR357	Kolowski	C	Interim study to examine the current status of early childhood education	
LR361	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine the extent of the parking shortage in the Capitol environs	
LR362	Groene	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee	
LR368	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine the public employees' retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board	
LR369	Kolterman	C	Interim study to carry out the provisions of 13-2402 which require the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions	
LR370	Hansen	C	Interim study to conduct a review of issues arising from the lack of mental health treatment for those in the criminal justice system	
LR371	Brasch	C	Interim study to compile information regarding the number and nature of fence dispute claims filed pursuant to 34-112.02 and the extent to which mediation services have been utilized	
LR372	Baker	C	Interim study to examine school violence and identify steps that can be taken to preserve our schools as safe environments for learning and growth	
LR373	Lindstrom	C	Interim study to examine the potential for public safety officers to retain a portion of pension funds for health care under section 402(l) of the Internal Revenue Code	
LR374	Clements	C	Interim study to examine the regional boundaries of the Nebraska Planning and Development Regions	
LR375	Larson	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the General Affairs Committee	
LR376	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine whether the Property and Casualty Insurance Rate and Form Act should be amended to modernize and reduce regulatory requirements for commercial lines of property and casualty insurance	
LR377	Lowe	C	Interim study to review procedures and practices at the Youth Rehabilitation Center-Kearney and the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva with the intent to improve safety and security	
LR378	Larson	C	Interim study to examine what changes to the Uniform Protected Series Act are necessary for the act to best fit within Nebraska entity law and practices	
LR379	Kuehn	C	Interim study to examine the potential impact of changing provisions under the Industrial Relations Act for the determination of working conditions for noncertificated or noninstructional school employees by including criteria related to the property tax base of the employer	

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LR381	Hilgers	C	Interim study to examine the inclusion of financial literacy and entrepreneurship in the academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education as proposed in LB1094, 2018	
LR382	Hilgers	C	Interim study to conduct a comprehensive review of state laws affecting farm wineries	
LR383	Albrecht	C	Interim study to examine the feasibility of adopting a workers' compensation drug formulary	
LR384	Williams	C	Interim study to examine the prevalence of cancer in Nebraska and to examine the existing state funding sources that go towards cancer research	
LR386	Hilkemann	C	Interim study to examine the impact on state spending as a result of the use of tobacco products in Nebraska	
LR387	Hughes	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to the spread of Eastern Redcedar trees	
LR388	Bolz	C	Interim study to examine issues related to updating the Nebraska Advantage Act	
LR389	Bolz	C	Interim study to examine criteria for economic development tools funded by the Legislature	
LR390	Bolz	C	Interim study to examine the success of the Office of Violence Prevention since its establishment	
LR391	Hansen	C	Interim study to examine the effects on elections should Nebraska switch to an all vote-by-mail system	
LR392	Hansen	C	Interim study to examine neighborhood issues and potential neighborhood improvement tools	
LR393	Walz	C	Interim study to examine delinquent or unpaid school meal accounts in Nebraska schools and school districts	
LR394	Quick	C	Interim study to examine policies and practices designed to assist low-income Nebraskans at risk of utility shutoffs due to overdue payments	
LR395	Bostelman	C	Interim study to examine issues to identify the needs of and improve upon the emergency medical services system provided by volunteers in Nebraska	
LR396	Lowe	C	Interim study to examine possible changes to the School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Act	
LR397	Wayne	C	Interim study to examine the statutory authority for municipalities to establish port authorities	
LR398	Wayne	C	Interim study to examine the impact on sanitary and improvement districts upon annexations by municipalities	
LR399	Wayne	C	Interim study to examine issues related to metropolitan transit authorities	
LR400	Quick	C	Interim study to examine issues related to the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act	
LR401	Ebke	C	Interim study to identify the lawful occupations and the occupational regulations which are subject to the Occupational Board Reform Act and to prepare for implementation of the act	
LR402	Halloran	C	Interim study to examine the issue of granting local school boards the authority to allow school employees to carry concealed handguns on school grounds	
LR403	Halloran	C	Interim study to examine the enrollment option program	
LR404	Wayne	C	Interim study to examine the potential impact of Opportunity Zones under the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on municipalities in Nebraska	
LR405	Walz	C	Interim study to examine the conditions which lead to the congregation, isolation, and segregation of Nebraskans with mental illness who reside in institutional settings and those at risk of placement in institutional settings due to a lack of community support and services	
LR406	Morfeld	C	Interim study to examine the feasibility of adopting the American Bar Association's Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases	
LR407	Morfeld	C	Interim study to examine the self-funded model that has led to the development and management of technology to allow citizens electronic access to government information and services	
LR408	Morfeld	C	Interim study to examine resources available to the state and political subdivisions to fund roads	
LR409	Urban Affairs	C	Interim study to examine issues related to the disconnection of territory from the corporate limits of cities of the first class, cities of the second class, and villages	
LR410	Urban Affairs	C	Interim study to examine issues related to the municipal regulation of railroads	
LR411	Urban Affairs	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee	
LR412	Urban Affairs	C	Interim study to examine the statutes governing cities of the primary class	
LR413	Lindstrom	C	Interim study to examine strategies to strengthen Nebraska's workforce and build financial mobility and independence, particularly among working parents with young children	

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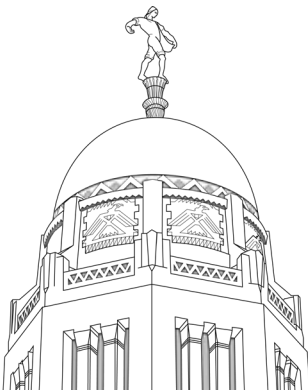
BILL	INTRODUCER	STATUS	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	ISSUES
LR414	Erdman	C	Interim study to examine the overall impact of the area agencies on aging and their interaction with the Aging and Disability Resource Center	
LR415	Hansen	C	Interim study to examine the effectiveness of statute 29-901, as relates to the imposition of bail and the requiring of money bonds for misdemeanors and city ordinance violations	
LR416	McCollister	C	Interim study to examine which advertising practices should be considered unlawful acts under the Weights and Measures Act	
LR417	McCollister	C	Interim study to examine whether inmates in county jails, who are eligible to vote, are being unconstitutionally disenfranchised due to their circumstances	
LR418	Howard	C	Interim study to examine the disproportionality that exists in Nebraska's foster care and juvenile justice systems	
LR419	Howard	C	Interim study to examine the term "shaken baby syndrome" as it exists within Nebraska statutes	
LR420	Riepe	C	Interim study to examine possible collaboration between the Dept. of Health and Human Services and the Dept. of Education to address behavioral or mental health issues for Nebraska students	
LR421	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine the operating expenses and fees charged for inspections, plans reviews, and other services by the Housing and Recreational Vehicle Dept. of the Public Service Commission	
LR422	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine the issuance and usage of electronic prescriptions in accordance with regulatory standards	
LR423	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine the application of adverse possession in the State of Nebraska and to consider recommendations for modernizing the doctrine to meet contemporary requirements	
LR424	Friesen	C	Interim study to examine a comprehensive list of issues related to the operation of autonomous vehicles in Nebraska	
LR425	Friesen	C	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee	
LR426	Friesen	C	Interim study to examine issues raised by LB 1031, 2018, which considered whether the One-Call Notification System Act should be updated	
LR427	Friesen	C	Interim study to investigate transferring the recreational vehicles franchise statutes into a distinct and separate section of law	
LR428	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine the potential of micro-credentialing in Nebraska	
LR429	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine the role and purpose of school resource officers	
LR430	Bolz	C	Interim study to examine the federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2017 and its implementation in Nebraska	
LR431	Albrecht	C	Interim study to analyze and review reimbursement rates for ambulatory surgical centers and outpatient hospitals with respect to the provision of workers' compensation services and determine the effectiveness of current billing and reimbursement methods	
LR432	Hansen	C	Interim study to examine issues faced by renters in Nebraska including rental deposits and fees, recourse for renters when rights are violated, and other issues	
LR433	Hansen	C	Interim study to evaluate the availability of affordable housing in Nebraska municipalities with an emphasis on rental housing	
LR434	Linehan	C	Interim study to examine school structure and finance	
LR435	McDonnell	C	Interim study to review how the Nebraska State Patrol conducts internal affairs investigations into potential civil and criminal violations of its members	
LR436	Crawford	C	Interim study to evaluate the effectiveness of occupational licensing processes in accommodating military spouses and transitioning service members	
LR437	Hilgers	C	Interim study to analyze possible improvements and changes to the standing committee system of the Legislature	
LR438	Walz	C	Interim study to examine the benefits of the creation of an educational trust fund	
LR439	Walz	C	Interim study to examine the ongoing implementation and impact of LB 276, 2014, which made medicaid reimbursement available for a broader array of services delivered to medicaid-eligible special education students	
LR440	Kolterman	C	Interim study to examine issues relating to the Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety	
LR441	Friesen	C	Interim study to examine telecommunications services in Nebraska	
LR442	Stinner	C	Interim study to examine the underlying appropriation issues contributing to the financial hardship experienced by rural long-term care providers across the State of Nebraska	
LR443	Wishart	C	Interim study to examine the issues surrounding the adoption of a state strategic plan	
LR444	Wishart	C	Interim study to examine issues surrounding film and media production in Nebraska	
LR445	Wishart	C	Interim study to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund	

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LR446	Pansing Brooks	C	Interim study to examine existing best practices for anti-bullying policies and practices in K-12 education and the feasibility of adopting these standards	
LR447	Morfeld	C	Interim study to examine security measures to ensure safety in schools	
LR448	Crawford	C	Interim study to conduct a comprehensive review of Nebraska's Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities eligibility under the Medical Assistance Act	
LR449	McDonnell	C	Interim study to examine the jurisdiction of the State Racing Commission and the role of the commission in promoting the best interests of the horse racing industry	
LR450	Kolowski	C	Interim study to examine methods of increasing solar energy development in Nebraska	
LR451	Bolz	C	Interim study to examine the work of the Nebraska Children's Commission and to evaluate the need for the commission's continuation and any revisions to its structure and purpose	
LR452	Vargas	C	Interim study to examine alternative teacher certification programs	
LR453	Vargas	C	Interim study to examine net neutrality	
LR454	Vargas	C	Interim study to examine taxes and fees on wireless services	
LR455	Stinner	C	Interim study to identify evidence-based best practices for establishing an early warning system to identify and respond to fiscal distress among local political subdivisions	
LR456	Vargas	C	Interim study to examine the Student Discipline Act	
LR457	Vargas	C	Interim study to examine state fiscal resources that exist to support first generation students	
LR458	Vargas	C	Interim study to examine the feasibility of developing a process for the preparation and consideration of racial impact statements relating to possible legislation	
LR459	Briese	C	Interim study to create legislation to assure that no person will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability in situations arising under the juvenile code in which he or she faces termination or limitation of his or her parental rights	
LR460	Briese	C	Interim study to create legislation to assure no person will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability when he or she is being considered as an adoptive parent in an adoption or obtaining guardianship or foster parenting status or placement	
LR461	Vargas	C	Interim study to conduct a review of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and make recommendations to support and increase affordable housing funding in Nebraska	
LR462	Briese	C	Interim study to examine the possible elimination of various exemptions of goods and exclusions of services under Nebraska's sales and use tax laws	
LR463	Groene	C	Interim study to examine statutes related to augmentation projects in relationship to the Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement interlocal project in Lincoln County	
LR464	Wayne	C	Interim study to review public power	
LR465	Wayne	C	Interim study to review issues pertaining to funding Nebraska's infrastructure system	
LR466	Wayne	C	Interim study to review issues pertaining to water quality	
LR467	Wayne	C	Interim study to examine the Nebraska Juvenile Code	
LR468	Wayne	C	Interim study to review criminal offenses throughout the Nebraska statutes	
LR469	Wayne	C	Interim study to examine the processes by which state government contracts with small businesses	
LR482	Health & Human Services	C	Interim study to examine existing barriers that prohibit the establishment of mobile massage establishments	



2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 106th Legislature, first session, is scheduled to convene on Jan. 9, 2019.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The lawmaking process in Nebraska officially begins when a bill is introduced. But the process actually begins much earlier, when senators formulate ideas for new laws. Anyone — concerned citizens, special interest groups, state agencies or the governor — may suggest an idea for a new law. But a senator, a group of senators or a legislative committee must introduce the idea before the Legislature

can formally consider it.

Legislative committees then consider each bill and may propose amendments to them before advancing them to the full Legislature. The legislative body then has an opportunity to debate a bill at least twice before voting on its final passage.

This is the process a bill must undergo before it becomes a Nebraska statute:

Research

First, a senator and his or her staff research a problem and study possible legislative remedies. Senators may introduce bills to create new laws or to repeal or change existing laws.

Much research is done during the period between sessions called the interim. During this time, committees study a variety of issues that have been outlined in interim study resolutions passed by the Legislature.

Drafting

A senator brings his or her idea for a new law to a bill drafter, who works with the senator to transform the idea into the proper legal form for a bill. Unlike some states, bills introduced in Nebraska must contain only one subject.

Introduction

Most bills are introduced during the first 10 days of a regular legislative session, which begins each January.

To introduce a bill, a senator files it with the clerk of



A legislative committee hearing

the Legislature. The clerk reads the title of the bill into the record, assigns the bill a number and prints copies of it for public and legislative use.

Committee Action

Except for a few technical bills, all bills and many resolutions must receive a public hearing before a legislative committee. A nine-member Reference Committee determines which bills will be heard by which committees, based on subject matter jurisdiction.

The Legislative Fiscal Office prepares budget statements known as fiscal notes for each bill

introduced. Fiscal notes generally are prepared before a committee conducts a hearing on a bill.

After the hearing, the committee may either indefinitely postpone the measure, hold it for further discussion or advance it to the full Legislature. The committee may forward recommended amendments to the bill if it is advanced.

General File

General file is the first time the full Legislature can debate and vote on bills. At this stage, senators often consider amendments, which may be proposed both by committees and by individual senators. Many people consider general file to be the most crucial stage of the legislative process, because it is where most compromises are worked out through debate and amendment.

Bills on general file may be amended, indefinitely postponed, sent back to committee or advanced to the next stage. As with most legislative business, it takes a majority of senators (25 votes) to adopt any amendment or to move a bill from general file to the next stage.

After a bill is advanced from general file, it undergoes an initial process of enrollment and review, or E&R. During E&R Initial, adopted amendments are reviewed and the entire bill is checked for technical and grammatical accuracy.

Select File

Select file is the second debating and voting stage. This stage offers another opportunity for amendment, compromise and reflection. Bills on select file may be amended, indefinitely postponed, sent back to committee or advanced to the next stage.

After a bill is advanced from select file, the bill and all of its adopted amendments are sent to enrollment and review final for a process called engrossment. Once all amendments are incorporated into the bill, it is considered to be "correctly engrossed." The bill then is reprinted for final reading.

Final Reading

Final Reading is the third and last stage of legislative consideration. The Nebraska Constitution requires the clerk of the Legislature to read every bill aloud in its entirety before the vote on whether to pass it. However, that requirement may be waived by a three-fifths vote (30 members) of the Legislature.

A bill may not be amended on final reading, but it may be returned to select file for specific amendment. No bill can be passed on final reading until at least five legislative days after the bill is introduced and one legislative day after it is placed on final reading.

Governor

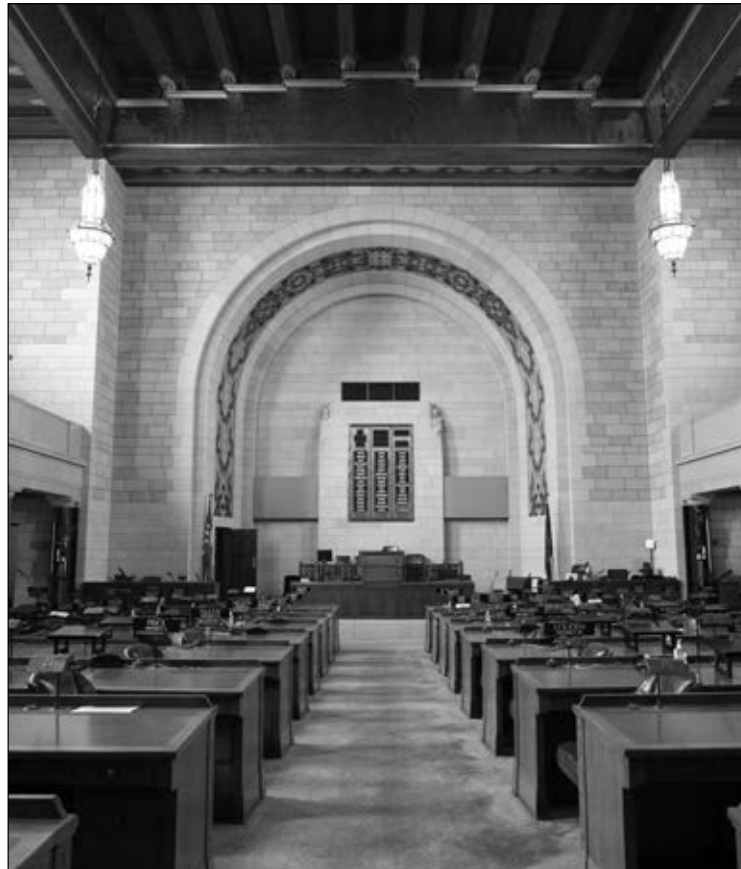
After the Legislature passes a bill on final reading, it goes to the governor. The governor has five days, excluding Sundays, to decide what to do with a bill.

If the governor signs a bill or declines to act on it, the bill becomes law. If the governor vetoes the bill, it is returned to the Legislature with the governor's objections. A three-fifths vote of the Legislature is re-

quired to override a governor's veto. The governor also may make reductions of specific figures in state budget bills. These reductions are line-item vetoes.

Laws of Nebraska

Most bills passed and approved by the governor become law three calendar months after the Legislature adjourns. However, bills may take effect earlier if they contain an emergency clause or a specified operative date. An emergency clause allows a bill to take effect immediately after the governor signs it. It takes a vote of 33 members of the Legislature to pass a bill with an emergency clause. ■



The George W. Norris Legislative Chamber

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LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

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To find the status of a bill or resolution by telephone:

Legislative Hot Line (V/TTY) - Lincoln: 402-471-2709
Legislative Hot Line - Nebraska, outside Lincoln: 800-742-7456

To write a letter to a senator, include the senator's name and district number in the address:

(SENATOR'S NAME)
(DISTRICT #)
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 94604
LINCOLN, NE 68509-4604

ABOUT THE UPDATE

The Unicameral Update is a daily legislative news source produced by the Clerk of the Legislature's Unicameral Information Office.

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