

Gov. prioritizes property tax reduction, flood relief

Gov. Pete Ricketts revealed his budgetary and legislative priorities for Nebraska during his State of the State address Jan. 15. The governor highlighted proposals to provide property tax relief and flood recovery.

“A strong finish to the last fiscal year helped us rebuild our cash reserve and has created the opportunity for us to work on key priorities for the people of Nebraska,” he said.

Ricketts said the state’s economic forecasting board has raised its revenue projection by \$266 million for the next two fiscal years, money that he’d like to see go toward his top priority—property tax relief. The governor proposed \$500 million in property tax relief over the next three years, adding that he would not support increases in other taxes to offset the reduction in revenue.

Many areas of the state are still recov-



Gov. Pete Ricketts delivered his State of the State address Jan. 15.

ering from last spring’s flooding, Ricketts said, and the federal government will pay for the majority of recovery efforts. Ricketts, though, would like Nebraska to contribute \$50 million toward those efforts, provide an additional \$9.2 million to the most devastated counties and increase the Governor’s Emergency Fund by \$3 million.

Ricketts lauded the advancement

of LB153 which would reduce income taxes for veterans. He said more needs to be done to encourage veterans to stay in Nebraska.

“Veterans continue to contribute to our communities and our economy after they complete their service,” Ricketts said. “Nebraska is the only state in our region whose veterans’ population is declining in part because we tax retirement benefits.”

The governor’s final priorities were expanding the state’s workforce and passing LB720, which would revise Nebraska’s business incentives. He proposed \$16 million in scholarships for students attending community and four-year colleges, and \$8 million to attract and retain corrections officers.

“Connecting the next generation of Nebraskans to great opportunities in our state is key to helping our kids make Nebraska their home,” Ricketts said. ■

Authorized restraint, removal of students debated

Lawmakers began first-round debate Jan. 13 on a proposal that would give teachers legal protection for defending themselves and others against violent students.

North Platte Sen. Mike Groene introduced LB147 last session and filed a motion to place it on general file, even though the Education Committee had not voted to advance it. Senators adopted the motion, which requires a majority vote of the Legislature, but the bill was not subsequently scheduled for first-round debate.

As introduced, LB147 would authorize teachers and administrators to “use the necessary physi-



Sen. Mike Groene

cal contact or physical restraint” to control a student who becomes physically violent and to protect school property from destructive students.

The bill also would allow a teacher to have a disruptive student removed from the classroom under certain circumstances.

Groene said a 1999 Nebraska Supreme Court case determined that teachers and administrators may physically intervene to preserve order in the classroom. Putting similar language into state law would clarify that teachers can act to protect themselves and others, he said.

“[Teachers] want to be able to protect themselves and children,” Groene said. “Right now, it is a free-for-all.”

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Authorized restraint, removal of students debated

(continued from front page)

Groene said he has an amendment that would replace the bill. It would authorize teachers and other school personnel to use “reasonable physical intervention” to protect the student, another student, a teacher, other school personnel or another person from physical injury.

Teachers and other school personnel also could use physical intervention to secure property in a student’s possession if it poses a threat of physical injury.

Additionally, the amendment would require each school district to have a policy describing a process for removing a student from a class and then returning him or her to a class.

Like the original bill, the amendment would protect teachers and other school personnel from professional or administrative discipline for using physical interventions or removing a student from a class.

It also would shield teachers, school personnel and school districts from criminal and civil liability if a physical intervention or removal was reasonable and in accordance with school policy.

Sen. Tom Briese of Albion said he would support Groene’s amendment. He said it would authorize teachers to protect themselves and others while also requiring the teacher’s conduct to be reasonable.

“The teacher will have to use this authority only where warranted and only to the degree that it’s a reasonable response,” Briese said.

Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh of Omaha opposed LB147, saying state law already authorizes teachers and administrators to defend themselves. She said the bill would not help address the root cause of problems that can lead to school violence, such as large class sizes, adverse childhood experiences and a lack of behavioral and mental health services.

Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne also opposed LB147 and filed a motion to indefinitely postpone it. He said minority students in Nebraska are five times more likely than other students to become involved in the student discipline process and therefore would be disproportionately affected by physical interventions at school.

“This [bill] will destroy the relation-

ships between the student and teacher, parent and school, and community and school district,” Wayne said.

In addition, Wayne and several other senators objected to the bill’s authorization of teachers and other school personnel to use physical interventions without also requiring training in those interventions or in de-escalation techniques.

Glenvil Sen. Dave Murman supported LB147. He said he will introduce a companion bill that would require all school employees to be trained not only in physical interventions but in other areas such as behavioral supports and verbal intervention and de-escalation techniques. He said the bill would provide five years’ worth of funding for such training.

After three hours of debate, the Legislature recessed for lunch before voting on Wayne’s motion, Groene’s amendment or the bill. Per a practice implemented by Speaker Jim Scheer, the sponsor of a bill that is facing a potential filibuster must demonstrate sufficient support for a cloture motion before the measure will be scheduled for additional debate. ■

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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AGRICULTURE

Deceptive trade practice tied to food labeling put on hold

Violating state law regarding food labels would be a deceptive trade practice under a bill debated on general file Jan. 15.

Under LB594, as introduced last session by Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, advertising, promoting, labeling or selling plant-based, lab-grown or insect-based foods as meat would violate the state Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act.



Sen. Carol Blood

A pending Agriculture Committee amendment would remove the definition of meat and the accompanying deceptive trade practice proposed in the original bill.

It instead would make a violation of “any provision of the Nebraska Pure Food Act relating to the labeling, packing or packaging, or advertising of food” a deceptive trade practice.

Blood supported the amendment, saying some food companies use deceptive labels that could lead consumers to think that plant-based products are meat or include meat in their ingredients.

“This amendment would allow LB594 to cover any food product you’re going to find on shelves and allow anyone who feels as though there is marketing or packaging that is deceptive to have another means of making their voice heard,” she said.

Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop opposed the amendment and the bill. If a food company uses misleading labels, he said, the director of the

state Department of Agriculture can stop it under the Pure Food Act. That enforcement method is better than allowing individuals to sue a company for each mislabeled item, as the amendment would do, Lathrop said.

Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon also opposed LB594 and filed a motion to recommit it to the Agriculture Committee. He said a bill related to the misbranding of imitation meat food products is pending in Congress and that the Legislature should wait for federal guidance.

The Legislature adjourned for the day before voting on Brewer’s motion, the amendment or the bill.

On Jan. 16, Speaker Jim Scheer of Norfolk put a hold on LB594 at Blood’s request. It is unlikely to be scheduled for debate again this session.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rogers approved as public counsel

Lawmakers approved the appointment of Julie Rogers as public counsel Jan. 14.

The Office of the Public Counsel—also known as the state Ombudsman’s Office—is a division of the Nebraska Legislature. The independent office investigates and resolves individuals’ complaints about the actions of administrative agencies of state government.

Rogers currently serves as the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, a position she has held since it was created by the Legislature in 2012.

In making the recommendation on behalf of the Executive Board, Lincoln Sen. Mike Hilgers called Rogers an “outstanding leader” and lauded her work with the Legislature on behalf

of the state’s vulnerable children and families.

“Through her work as inspector general, the system has improved—and I think that is one primary theme in the work that she has done,” Hilgers said.

Carl Eskridge has served as acting ombudsman since the 2018 retirement of Marshall Lux, who led the office for 38 years.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers said Eskridge, who has worked in the Ombudsman’s Office for 24 years, also should have been recommended for the position based on his extensive experience and “verifiable record of meaningful achievement.”

Rogers’ appointment was approved on a vote of 46-2.

JUDICIARY

Free speech protections for student journalists, advisers advanced

A bill to expand protections to student journalists and their advisers advanced from general file Jan. 14.

LB206, as introduced by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, would extend the

full right to exercise freedom of speech and press that is provided to professional members of the media to high school and post-secondary student journalists, as well as their media advisers.



Sen. Adam Morfeld

Morfeld said the protection of student journalists and their First Amendment rights is critical to the development of current and future civic leaders.

“The First Amendment should

carry with it no political agenda,” he said. “Instead, the First Amendment ensures free press for young Nebraskans when it comes to exercising their rights in K-12 and state institutions of higher education.”

The bill would not protect any expression by a student journalist that is libelous or slanderous, constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy, violates state or federal law or incites students to engage in an unlawful act.

Student journalists and advisers would not be subject to discipline for exercising their rights protected under the bill.

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 27-2, replaced the bill.

As amended, the provisions of LB206 only would apply to public high school and postsecondary student journalists, as well as their media advisers. Additionally, the amendment removed an original provision extending civil and criminal immunity to those protected under the bill.

Morfeld offered an amendment that would ensure student journalists and media advisers adhere to the Society of Professional Journalists’ Code of Ethics.

Omaha Sen. Megan Hunt spoke in favor of the bill. A representative of the Nebraska High School Press Association reported that 78 percent of its members had experienced censorship, she said.

“[LB206] is something that’s going to enhearten students who are speaking truth to power—on any side of the aisle—who are trying to learn First Amendment principles in practice, rather than as a distant theory,” Hunt said.

Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte raised concerns that the bill would give too much freedom to student journalists who might be swayed by the personal political beliefs of their media adviser.

“You’re talking about a school banner on a piece of paper that represents the school board and the community,” he said. “Now you’re going to take away the authority of the school board and the administration to peruse the paper before it’s printed?”

Following the 29-2 adoption of the Morfeld amendment, lawmakers advanced LB206 to select file on a 27-5 vote.

Limitations on juvenile confinement advanced

The Legislature advanced a bill from general file Jan. 14 that would restrict the use of room confinement for juveniles.

LB230, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, would prohibit correctional facilities from placing juveniles in room confinement as a result of disciplinary sanctions, staff shortages or retaliation by staff members.



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks

The use of solitary confinement for juvenile offenders was banned in federal prisons three years ago, Pansing Brooks said. However, a recent visit to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Geneva left her “shocked.”

“We have been lulled into believing that facilities were using ‘room confinement,’ but what I saw was solitary isolation. Plain and simple,” she said. “I bring LB230 so that Nebraska can integrate best practices on room confinement to do better for our kids.”

The bill specifies that room confinement could be used only after all other less-restrictive alternatives have been exhausted and the juvenile poses a serious and immediate secu-

rity threat to themselves or others. The length of confinement would be restricted to the minimum amount of time needed to resolve any such threat while not harming the mental or physical health of the juvenile.

Confined individuals would continue to have regular access to medical and mental health treatment, meals, contact with parents and legal guardians, legal assistance and educational programming.

Notice to an offender’s parents or guardians and attorney of placement in room confinement would be required within one business day.

A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 29-0, clarified that a provision of LB230 requiring continuous monitoring of confined individuals could be accomplished through regular in-person visits, supplemented by electronic video monitoring.

Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha supported the bill. The idea behind the juvenile code, he said, is to try to rescue juvenile offenders and get them on the right path so that they can become productive adults.

“Most of these kids are having problems either because of a psychiatric issue or the circumstances under which they were raised,” Lathrop said. “Putting them in these rooms doesn’t work. It only traumatizes them.”

Sen. John Lowe of Kearney opposed LB230, saying it only would exacerbate a serious understaffing issue at the juvenile center in Kearney.

“The staff members are some of the ones who are getting attacked during these assaults, which is part of the reason the youth are going to these [confinement] rooms,” he said. “I stand in support of the staff and their decisions. They know what’s going on better than us sitting here in Lincoln.”

Senators advanced the bill to select file on a 29-2 vote.

Stolen firearm protections expanded

Prosecutors would have increased authority to pursue people for receiving stolen firearms under a bill advanced from general file Jan. 15.

Currently, a person must have actual knowledge or belief that a gun is stolen to be convicted of crimes related to receiving a stolen firearm. LB582, sponsored by Gordon Sen. Tom Brewer, would change the standard so that a person who should have known or had reasonable cause to believe that a firearm was stolen could be prosecuted.



Sen. Tom Brewer

The trade and trafficking of stolen firearms is a statewide issue that needs to be addressed, according to Brewer.

“This does not increase the penalty for having a stolen gun ... it does not create a new crime,” he said. “What it does do is allow for the due process guaranteed by the Constitution for a jury or judge to decide if a stolen gun in the defendant’s possession [should be] a Class IIA felony.”

A person found to be in possession of a firearm that is believed to be stolen would be guilty of a Class IIA felony, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment.

Omaha Sen. Mike McDonnell supported the bill. Current law allows for people with a stolen gun to simply claim that they “found” it, he said.

“We have had issues in the last 30 days in Omaha where we had three guns that were possessed by an individual who just said they found [them],” McDonnell said. “Those guns were later traced back to crimes committed years ago.”

Senators advanced LB582 to select file on a 43-0 vote.

REVENUE 

Tax exclusion for military retirement income advanced

Senators gave first-round approval Jan. 13 to a bill that would allow military retirees to exclude half of their military retirement benefit pay from state income tax.

Under current law, retirees may, within two years after their retirement from the military, choose either of two options to exclude military retirement benefit pay from state income tax. The retiree may elect to exclude 40 percent of his or her benefit pay for seven consecutive taxable years or 15 percent for all taxable years beginning with the year in which he or she turns 67.

LB153, introduced last session by Gordon Sen. Tom Brewer on behalf of Gov. Pete Ricketts, would repeal those options and instead allow military retirees to exclude 50 percent of their military retirement benefit income to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income.

Brewer said the majority of those who retire from the military after being posted to Offutt Air Force Base move to other states that offer more generous tax benefits than Nebraska.

He said LB153 would entice more of those veterans, many of whom go on to start second careers, to stay in Nebraska and contribute to the state’s economy. It also would help persuade the U.S. Air Force to maintain its facilities at Offutt when it makes basing decisions, he said.

Brewer introduced an amendment, adopted 45-1, that would change the exclusion’s effective date from taxable years beginning or deemed to begin on or after Jan. 1, 2020, to Jan. 1, 2021.

The Legislative Fiscal Office es-

timates that, with a 2021 effective date, the exclusion would reduce state income tax revenue by approximately \$4.9 million in fiscal year 2020-21. It would reduce revenue by approximately \$12.6 million in FY2021-22, \$13.3 million in FY2022-23 and an additional \$14 million in FY2023-24.

Sen. John Lowe of Kearney supported LB153, saying those who serve in the military choose to put their lives at risk, often for less pay than they would have earned in another career.

“When the time comes for these individuals to retire,” he said, “the very least we can do is to allow them to have half of [their] retirement pay tax-free.”

Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood also supported the bill. She said a military pension is a “just reward” offered in exchange for years of dangerous assignments and time away from family and should not be treated as income for tax purposes.

Lawmakers voted 46-0 to advance LB153 to select file. ■

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NEW BILLS

January 13, 2020

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB938	La Grone	Provide immunity for reliance upon acknowledged power of attorney
LB939	Williams	Change provisions under the Collection Agency Act
LB940	Pansing Brooks	Change a provision regarding the sealing of juvenile records
LB941	Hunt	Create the Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights
LB942	Hunt	Provide for Support the Arts license plates
LB943	Hunt	Provide duties for the Nebraska Arts Council regarding creative districts
LB944	Geist	Change provisions relating to motor vehicles
LB945	Cavanaugh	Require a report on untested sexual assault evidence collection kits
LB946	Briese	Change the sales tax rate and impose sales tax on additional services
LB947	Erdman	Change provisions relating to all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles
LB948	Crawford	Change provisions relating to insurance coverage for mammography
LB949	Bolz	Limit the amount an insured individual pays for prescription insulin drugs
LB950	Murman	Change eligibility requirements for the Access College Early Scholarship Program
LB951	Bolz	Change elements of claims under the Nebraska Claims for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment Act
LB952	Wishart	Provide for a new homestead exemption
LB953	Wishart	Prohibit certain public entities from charging a fee for adoption or purchase of a dog or cat by a veteran
LB954	Lindstrom	Change insurance provisions relating to fees for dental services
LB955	Walz	Change provisions relating to eligibility for medical assistance
LB956	Walz	Provide duties for managed care organizations under the Medical Assistance Act
LB957	Walz	Change quorum requirements for city councils of cities of the first and second class
LB958	Cavanaugh	Change provisions relating to possession or purchase of a firearm by a person convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence or subject to any protection order
LB959	Vargas	Limit habitual criminal enhancement to violent felonies
LB960	Friesen	Change accounting of income provisions and provide a requirement for use of funds under the Municipal Proprietary Function Act
LB961	Friesen	Adopt the Peer-to-Peer Vehicle Sharing Program Act
LB962	Hunt	Adopt the Nebraska Fair Pay to Play Act
LB963	Brewer	Change provisions relating to workers' compensation for injuries to first responders and frontline state employees
LB964	McDonnell	Provide for an acknowledgment of maternity
LB965	McDonnell	Establish a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing
LB966	DeBoer	Adopt the Uniform Wills Recognition Act (1977)
LB967	DeBoer	Change provisions regarding bullying prevention and education
LB968	McCollister	Change requirements for hearings before the Board of Pardons
LB969	Wayne	Change provisions relating to video depositions of child victims and child witnesses
LB970	Wayne	Limit the cost of prescription insulin drugs
LB971	Wayne	Redefine a lottery to include wagers made on the outcome of an authorized sporting event
LB972	Brandt	Change germination seed testing provisions under the Nebraska Seed Law
LB973	Kolowski	Adopt the Homeowner Association Act
LB974	Revenue	Change taxation and school funding provisions
LR295CA	Wayne	Constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature to authorize, regulate, and tax any game of chance

January 14, 2020

LB975	Geist	Change provisions relating to reports of child abuse or neglect
LB976	Bolz	Redefine handicapped or disabled person for purposes of handicapped or disabled parking permits
LB977	Bolz	Change provisions relating to the case management lead agency model pilot project
LB978	Murman	Provide for county, city, and village jail reimbursement
LB979	Morfeld	Appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation
LB980	Brandt	Change provisions of the Nebraska Lottery and Raffle Act
LB981	Hunt	Provide for applicability of provisions regarding state contracts for services to certain state entities
LB982	Hansen, M.	Change the prohibition on use of state funds for advertising or promotional materials
LB983	Crawford	Eliminate a penalty relating to speeding
LB984	Hunt	Provide deadlines for filling vacancies on certain city or village boards, authorities, and agencies

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB985	Pansing Brooks	Provide for Class ICA and IDA felony classifications and change penalties
LB986	Pansing Brooks	Prescribe requirements for public colleges and universities regarding criminal history and juvenile court record information
LB987	Pansing Brooks	Impose sales and use tax on dating and escort services and provide for the use of the revenue
LB988	Hilgers	Provide restrictions on business entity ownership with respect to certain professional services
LB989	Wayne	Impose sales and use taxes on digital advertisements
LB990	Wayne	Adopt the Games of Skill Act and use proceeds to reduce school district property tax levies
LB991	Halloran	Create the offense of sexual assault of a student and prohibit related enticement conduct by school officials
LB992	Friesen	Adopt the Broadband Internet Service Infrastructure Act and provide for certain broadband and Internet-related services
LB993	Lowe	Change provisions regarding the number of city council members in cities adopting the city manager plan of government
LB994	Murman	Adopt the Organ Transplant Fairness Act
LB995	Gragert	Appropriate funds to the Commission on Public Advocacy
LB996	Brandt	Create the Broadband Data Improvement Program
LB997	Morfeld	Out-of-Network Emergency Medical Care Act
LB998	Murman	Require behavioral awareness and intervention training and points of contact, transfer funds, and change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB999	Wayne	Require cities and villages to pay for appointed counsel for prosecutions and adjudications for violation of city and village ordinances

January 15, 2020

LB1000	Blood	Direct any registration fees from fantasy contest to the early childhood and childcare workforce
LB1001	Crawford	Require suicide prevention phone numbers on student identification cards
LB1002	Bostelman	Change provisions relating to wholesale drug distribution for emergency medical reasons
LB1003	Walz	Provide annexation powers to cities of the second class and villages for relocation due to catastrophic flooding
LB1004	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to parole eligibility
LB1005	McCollister	Change provisions regarding nomination and election of certain partisan candidates
LB1006	Hansen, M.	Change provisions relating to garnishment summonses
LB1007	Hansen, M.	Change provisions relating to competency to stand trial and be sentenced
LB1008	Speaker Scheer	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to appropriations
LB1009	Speaker Scheer	Provide for transfers of funds, repeal a fund, and change use of a fund
LB1010	Speaker Scheer	Change Cash Reserve Fund provisions
LB1011	Arch	Require certain hospitals to accept reimbursement from the medicare program
LB1012	La Grone	Change provisions relating to tax exemptions for property acquired by certain tax-exempt entities
LB1013	Linehan	Change the cigarette tax and exempt certain transactions
LB1014	Lindstrom	Change provisions of the Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement Act
LB1015	Briese	Provide for year-round daylight saving time
LB1016	Hansen, M.	Change the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act
LB1017	Geist	Appropriate funds to the Supreme Court
LB1018	Vargas	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services
LB1019	Vargas	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services
LB1020	Vargas	Change provisions relating to discrimination under the Nebraska Fair Housing Act
LB1021	Groene	Provide for an expedited review of certain redevelopment plans under the Community Development Law

January 16, 2020

LB1022	Hansen, M.	Provide for election of election commissioners and eliminate certain deputy positions
LB1023	DeBoer	Adopt the Extraordinary Increase in Special Education Cost Act
LB1024	Clements	Change provisions of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act
LB1025	Bolz	Create the Tax Credit Buy-Back Program

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1026	Bolz	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska
LB1027	Lathrop	Adopt the County Court Special Proceedings Act
LB1028	Lathrop	Change filing procedure for actions in Small Claims Court
LB1029	Lathrop	Change requirements for preservation of court records
LB1030	Lathrop	Change requirements relating to forfeited recognizances, fines, and costs
LB1031	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to probate, testacy, and appointment proceedings
LB1032	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to civil judgments
LB1033	Friesen	Change the distribution of sales tax revenue and authorize the use of funds for certain infrastructure projects
LB1034	Friesen	Extend the application deadline and change certain credits under the Nebraska Advantage Act
LB1035	Friesen	Change the number of legislative districts
LB1036	Morfeld	Allow persons eighteen years of age to make health care decisions and persons under nineteen years of age in correctional facilities to consent to medical and mental health care
LB1037	Hunt	Change provisions relating to household eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits
LB1038	Hunt	Change provisions relating to eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits
LB1039	Cavanaugh	Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act
LB1040	Vargas	Provide for a state food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program
LB1041	Pansing Brooks	Change provisions relating to grand jury transcripts
LB1042	La Grone	Authorize and provide tax deductions for contributions to the Nebraska educational savings plan trust by employers and persons other than participants as prescribed
LB1043	Hansen, B.	Change provisions relating to regulation of health care facilities
LB1044	Hansen, B.	Change provisions relating to the practice of medical nutrition therapy
LB1045	Brandt	Require the posting and reporting of tax incentive information under the Taxpayer Transparency Act
LB1046	Friesen	Change provisions relating to taxes and fees on community antenna television service
LB1047	Friesen	Change provisions relating to semiannual statements of county treasurers
LB1048	Quick	Create the offense of sexual assault by a school employee and provide notification to the Commissioner of Education
LB1049	Bolz	Provide for participation in federal Child Care Subsidy child care assistance as prescribed
LB1050	Vargas	Appropriate funds to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
LB1051	Wishart	Create the Intergenerational Care Facility Incentive Cash Fund and provide for grants
LB1052	Wishart	Change provisions regarding the preferred drug list under the Medical Assistance Act ■

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COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Current hearing schedules are available at: NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Agriculture

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB791 (Slama) Change provisions of the Livestock Animal Welfare Act relating to ownership, possession, or seizure of animals
LB835 (Halloran) Change provisions of the Nebraska Pure Food Act

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Anthony Goins - Dept. of Economic Development
LB909 (Williams) Change provisions relating to banking and finance
LB774 (Williams) Change requirements regarding credit for reinsurance
LB782 (Stinner) Change certified public accountant examination provisions

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB880 (Groene) Change dates related to certifications and distributions of state aid to schools
LB920 (Groene) Change provisions for the distribution of lottery funds used for education, transfer powers and duties, and create new funds

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB768 (Albrecht) Adopt and update references to federal transportation laws
LB784 (Friesen) Change provisions regarding odometer statements
LB831 (Bostelman) Change certificate of title provisions for a junked vehicle
LB785 (Friesen) Change vehicle size, weight, and load provisions, provide for stinger-steered automobile transporters and towaway trailer transporter combinations, and define emergency vehicle

Urban Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB821 (Brewer) Change provisions relating to city or village planning commission meetings
LB885 (Bolz) Change requirements for grant applications under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act

LB795 (M. Hansen) Change provisions relating to enterprise zones
LB796 (M. Hansen) Change provisions relating to claims against a city of the primary class
LB799 (Urban Affairs) Change provisions relating to cities of the primary class

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Executive Board

Room 1507 - 12:00 p.m.

LR279CA (Scheer) Constitutional amendment to authorize an increase in the number of members of the Legislature

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Robert Phillip Sabin - Neb. Tourism Commission
Appointment: Kyle Keeling - Emergency Response Commission
Appointment: Rod Bueth - Emergency Response Commission
Appointment: Tonya Ngotel - Emergency Response Commission
Appointment: Kimberly K. Plouzek - Emergency Response Commission
Appointment: Polly Ann Jordening - Emergency Response Commission

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Gary J. Anthon - Division of Public Health - DHHS
LB836 (Arch) Change provisions governing certain contracts and agreements relating to the medical assistance program
LB825 (Hilkemann) Change provisions relating to infant health screenings
LB753 (Blood) Adopt the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB756 (Blood) Authorize persons eighteen years of age or older to buy and sell stocks and bonds
LB823 (Brewer) Provide for a special election prior to the exercise of eminent domain for transmission lines in certain circumstances

LB844 (Clements) Eliminate certain notice requirements relating to construction liens
LB871 (Crawford) Change unconscionability provisions under the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act
LB882 (M. Hansen) Change provisions relating to marriage and annulments
LB884 (Lindstrom) Provide for legal effect of a publication concerning liability insurance
LB940 (Pansing Brooks) Change a provision regarding the sealing of juvenile records

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: James W. Hawks - Environmental Quality Council
LB802 (Hughes) State a legislative finding and declaration relating to the right to use ground water
LB858 (Hughes) Change provisions of the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB974 (Revenue) Change taxation and school funding provisions

Thursday, Jan. 23

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB890 (Hilgers) Provide for water, wastewater, utility, and sewer construction projects under the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act
LB763 (Dorn) Change provisions relating to certain payments of funds to townships

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB811 (McCollister) Change pharmacist reporting requirements under the Parkinson's Disease Registry Act
LB755 (Blood) Provide for and change home services permits for barbers, cosmetology, and nail technology
LB828 (Hilkemann) Change provisions relating to the scope of practice of a licensed optometrist

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Current hearing schedules are available at: NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB776 (DeBoer) Allow expert testimony on eyewitness identification and memory
LB777 (DeBoer) Provide for set-asides of infractions and violations of city and village ordinances and county resolutions
LB881 (M. Hansen) Prohibit deductions of fines from bonds
LB906 (DeBoer) Provide requirements and restrictions on maintenance, release, and use of video recordings of forensic interviews of children
LB912 (Brandt) Change provisions relating to examination of witnesses by telephonic, videoconferencing, and similar methods
LB934 (Morfeld) Change provisions relating to the practice of law and admission to the Nebraska bar
LB969 (Wayne) Change provisions relating to video depositions of child victims and child witnesses

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Jeff T. Kanger - Neb. Environmental Trust Board
LB899 (Hughes) Provide certain powers to public power districts relating to biofuels and biofuel byproducts
LB856 (Moser) Extend sunset of the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund

Revenue

Room 1524 - 2:30 PM

LB747 (Blood) Change the definition of microbusiness under the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act
LB879 (Geist) Eliminate funding for the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act and change the termination date for applications

Friday, Jan. 24

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB820 (Brewer) Change required information on the voter registration application
LB822 (Brewer) Change recall petition and election provisions

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB834 (Arch) Change provisions of the

Engineers and Architects Regulation Act
LB772 (Williams) Change the scope of practice for physician assistants
LB817 (Stinner) Adopt the Prescribing Psychologist Practice Act

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB868 (Lathrop) Change provisions relating to mediators under the Parenting Act
LB869 (Lathrop) Provide for issuance of subpoenas in civil proceedings in foreign jurisdictions and change provisions relating to subpoenas and witness fees
LB914 (Hunt) Change rental deposit, damage, and notice of termination provisions under the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act
LB925 (Chambers) Change provisions relating to standing to file a petition for a declaratory judgment
LB938 (La Grone) Provide immunity for reliance upon acknowledged power of attorney
LB951 (Bolz) Change elements of claims under the Nebraska Claims for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment Act
LB968 (McCollister) Change requirements for hearings before the Board of Pardons

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB818 (Brewer) Adjust the nameplate capacity tax for inflation
LB841 (Crawford) Change provisions relating to certain certifications for homestead exemptions
LB952 (Wishart) Provide for a new homestead exemption

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.

Appointment: Jerome A. Fagerland - State Highway Commission
Appointment: James W. Hawks, - State Highway Commission
Appointment: Douglas Leafgreen - State Highway Commission

Monday, Jan. 27

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB902 (Pansing Brooks) Adopt the Uniform Trust Decanting Act

LB775 (Williams) Change Real Property Appraiser Act provisions
LB908 (Williams) Change provisions of the Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act
LB939 (Williams) Change provisions under the Collection Agency Act

Business & Labor

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB888 (Hilgers) Change State Tort Claims Act provisions relating to authority of the Risk Manager and State Claims Board
LB963 (Brewer) Change provisions relating to workers' compensation for injuries to first responders and frontline state employees
LB846 (Quick) Change provisions relating to compensation under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB926 (Business & Labor) Change provisions relating to violations of the Employee Classification Act

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB950 (Murman) Change eligibility requirements for the Access College Early Scholarship Program
LB998 (Murman) Require behavioral awareness and intervention training and points of contact, transfer funds, and change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

General Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Cameron J. Arch - Neb. Commission on Problem Gambling
Appointment: Claudia Louise Barthold - Neb. Commission on Problem Gambling
Appointment: Mark R. Canada - Neb. Commission on Problem Gambling
LB943 (Hunt) Provide duties for the Nebraska Arts Council regarding creative districts
LB798 (Brandt) Provide for the anonymity of certain state lottery prize winners
LB980 (Brandt) Change provisions of the Nebraska Lottery and Raffle Act

Nebraska Retirement Systems

Room 1525 - 8:30 a.m.

Appointment: Allen Simpson - Public Employees Retirement Board

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Current hearing schedules are available at: NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar

Appointment: Kelli M. Ackerman - Public Employees Retirement Board
Appointment: Michael D. Jahnke - Public Employees Retirement Board
Appointment: John M. Dinkel - Neb. Investment Council

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

LB944 (Geist) Change provisions relating to motor vehicles
 LB931 (Halloran) Change a harvested products maximum weight overload exception under the Nebraska Rules of the Road
 LB761 (Dorn) Change motor vehicle registration fees and provide funding for the simulation in motion program
 LB842 (Crawford) Change provisions relating to motor vehicle tax imposed on military servicemembers

LB983 (Crawford) Eliminate a penalty relating to speeding
 LB830 (Erdman) Change provisions relating to the establishment of speed limits by local authorities

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Agriculture

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB803 (Hughes) Adopt the Pulse Crop Resources Act and harmonize other provisions of law
 LB972 (Brandt) Change germination seed testing provisions under the Nebraska Seed Law

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB764 (Lindstrom) Change investment provisions for fiduciaries

LB852 (Williams) Change farm product lien provisions and actions relating to termination statements
 LB853 (Williams) Authorize financial institutions to place a hold on certain customer transactions in cases of financial exploitation
 LB854 (Williams) Change provisions under the Public Funds Deposit Security Act relating to secured deposits and pooled collateral

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

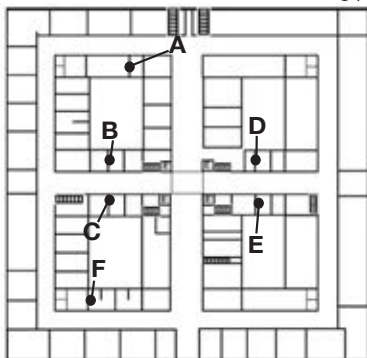
LB961 (Friesen) Adopt the Peer-to-Peer Vehicle Sharing Program Act
 LB771 (Gragert) Change a one-license-plate registration provision
 LB789 (Slama) Change school bus stop signal arm violation provisions ■

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

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

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The replacement of Capitol heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment began in 2018, requiring temporary relocation of certain legislative offices and committee rooms. Please contact the Clerk of the Legislature's Office (402-471-2271) if you have difficulty locating a particular office or hearing room.

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

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A delegation of senators escorts Gov. Pete Ricketts to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber to deliver his State of the State address Jan. 15.