

Chief justice focuses on pandemic response, access to justice

The head of Nebraska's judicial branch reviewed the court system's efforts to provide "uninterrupted access to justice" during the coronavirus pandemic in his State of the Judiciary address Jan. 21.

As his fellow justices watched from outside the legislative chamber, Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Heavican told lawmakers that the judicial branch's guiding principle over the past year has been the constitutional requirement that courts remain open.

"There is no exception — for a pandemic or otherwise — to Nebraska's Constitution's requirement of open courts," he said. "After all, crime does not stop during a pandemic, nor does child abuse, spouse abuse, fraud or the myriad of other social issues that depend on our courts for resolution."

More than half of judicial branch workers were quarantined for at least two weeks over the past year, Heavican said, but a 2019 pandemic planning session with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the court system's investment in technology over the past decade helped it adapt quickly to COVID-19 and keep courts safely open.

"From Harrison to Falls City, and from Benkelman to Blair, justice is being administered without denial," he said.

Technology allowed the state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals to hold online oral arguments and new probation officers to take their oaths of office remotely, Heavican said. Court interpreters adapted to the pandemic by offering their services by telephone or video.

He said many of the state's courthouses and courtrooms are too small to provide for adequate social distancing during jury selection and witness presentations, so several schools and organizations let the courts use their large public spaces to hold jury trials.

Heavican thanked the Nebraskans who, over the past year, reported for jury duty, a service that he said requires sacrifice even in normal times.



Chief Justice Michael Heavican outlined steps the judicial branch has taken to keep courts open safely throughout the pandemic.

"In Nebraska, almost no one refused to serve," he said. "Farmers and factory workers, doctors and ditchdiggers, baby boomers and millennials all showed up, proud and anxious to perform their duty."

Heavican said the courts were able to transition quickly to distance operations because they already had begun to implement new technology and programming, including an online court payment system and an online education system. In 2020, attorneys electronically filed more than 1 million pleadings, more than in any previous year, he said.

The judicial branch also is working to identify "equal access deficiencies" in the state's court system after incidents of racial injustice led to civil unrest last summer, Heavican said.

He said a new racial equity initiative, which began with a survey of court users last November, will help the judicial branch identify barriers that Nebraska's marginalized populations face in the court system. Focus group sessions with community leaders and larger public listening sessions will follow, Heavican said, when they can be held without jeopardizing participants' health.

"No institution in this state plays a more pivotal role in ensuring equal access to justice than Nebraska's courts," he said. "There is no place in our court system for racial discrimination or inequality." ■

Senators adopt new session rules

After approving several changes, senators adopted their permanent rules Jan. 21. The rules of the Legislature govern the legislative process and generally are adopted at the beginning of each biennium.

Among the changes brought forth by the Rules Committee was a proposal introduced by Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht to ensure recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each legislative day. The change was adopted on a 47-0 vote.

Lawmakers considered a proposal introduced by Sen. Steve Halloran of Hastings that would have required public votes for election of the Speaker of the Legislature and chairpersons of all 14 standing committees.

Currently, these votes are conducted by secret ballot.

Halloran suggested that the current secret ballot process is unconstitutional.

“This amendment will align our nominating and voting rules with our oath to uphold the state constitution,” he said. “Our constitution demands transparency. Our constituents expect and deserve transparency.”

Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte supported the Halloran proposal, saying a lack of transparency breeds mistrust among lawmakers.

“This secret vote causes more grief and hard feelings between senators than anything else that happens in this [Legislature],” Groene said.

Opposing the rule change was Norfolk Sen. Michael Flood. The proposal would not increase transparency, he said, but would dismantle the nonpartisan unicameral system first approved by voters in 1934. Outside pressure on senators to vote along party lines for leadership positions would not serve Nebraskans, he said.

“Public votes would contribute to a more hyper-partisan position that diminishes the minority,” Flood said. “If we want to elect the best people to run our committees, you have to be willing to have a secret ballot.”

Gothenburg Sen. Matt Williams also opposed the change, calling it politically motivated.

“We don’t make public policy because it’s easy or popular, we make it because it’s right,” he said. “This rule works and has worked effectively all these years.”

The Halloran proposal was defeated on a 19-30 vote. Following adoption of several technical changes, the rules were adopted 45-0. ■



Senators chose not to adopt Sen. Steve Halloran’s proposal to elect leadership by public ballot.

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MEET THE SENATOR

Aguilar returns for second act

During his farewell address to the Legislature in 2008, Sen. Raymond Aguilar of Grand Island said that he and his colleagues had worked to make Nebraska better.

“I’m sure in our own way we will all continue that work in another form,” Aguilar said then.

But even as he was saying those words, Aguilar now admits that he always had a desire to return and continue his work in the same form.

“I enjoyed my time here. I think I did some good. I wanted more of the same,” he said.

Aguilar was appointed in 1999, becoming the Legislature’s first Latino member.

“I’m very proud of that. Somebody had to step up and be first,” he said. “Diversity is very important. You’re getting a different perspective you’ve never had before, and that’s what government should be about.”

Aguilar, who owned a lawn care and janitorial service before retiring, was elected in 2000 and 2004 before being term-limited out of office. During his first nine years in Lincoln, Aguilar introduced legislation that established a Child Advocacy Center in Grand Island, moved the state fair to his hometown and created drug courts.

“When I came down for [new senator] orientation, I visited the Supreme Court, and right off the bat they were talking about the success of the drug court and other problem-solving courts within the system. That made me feel pretty darn good,” Aguilar said. “A program I put together that many years ago is still moving - doing what we intended it to do, getting kids off of drugs.”

This year, he intro-

duced legislation that will help Grand Island. Specifically, he hopes to repeal a law in place since the 1800s that prohibits casinos from being located near a county or state fair.

Aguilar’s non-legislative schedule also is full. He and his wife, Susan, have nine children and a few dozen grandchildren and great grandchildren.

“We do Christmas in shifts,” he said.

For a while he tried his hand at acting. Aguilar loved being on stage – a Grand Island theater troupe’s production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” was his first play – but his emerging second career hit a snag.

“A lot of productions were musicals, and I can’t sing,” Aguilar said. “The comedies, I loved that part.”

After leaving the Capitol in 2008, Aguilar worked at Grand Island High School for 10 years. While there, his desire for an encore was renewed.

“Being at a school, you see things that need change,” Aguilar said. ■



Sen. Raymond Aguilar reading to his granddaughters Emmy (left) and Anna Lyn.

NEW BILLS

January 19, 2021

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB487	Arch	Change insurance coverage provisions for mental health conditions and serious mental illness
LB488	Stinner	Change provisions relating to appropriations
LB489	M. Cavanaugh	Require a financial stability and service capability analysis for certain state contracts
LB490	M. Cavanaugh	Require youth rehabilitation and treatment centers to obtain a license from the Division of Public Health
LB491	M. Cavanaugh	Change and eliminate provisions relating to lead agencies, pilot projects, and service areas for certain social services
LB492	M. Cavanaugh	Create the Nebraska Integrated Juvenile Data Governing Body and the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Information System
LB493	M. Cavanaugh	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services
LB494	M. Cavanaugh	Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for grants to establish and maintain a health care insurance claims and payment information data base
LB495	Hilkemann	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to implement an increase in foster care reimbursement rates
LB496	Hilkemann	Require collection of DNA samples for persons arrested for crimes of violence
LB497	DeBoer	Provide for compensation under Nebraska Crime Victim's Reparations Act for health care providers examining or treating victims of sexual assault or domestic assault
LB498	DeBoer	Require the Public Service Commission to implement a broadband service testing and mapping program
LB499	DeBoer	Require an annual report on active cases by the Department of Correctional Services, Office of Probation Administration, and Division of Parole Supervision
LB500	Geist	Provide for venue for prosecution of certain offenses when committed using an electronic communication device
LB501	Flood	Adopt the Uniform Easement Relocation Act
LB502	Flood	Change sales tax incentives under the Nebraska Advantage Act
LB503	Flood	Authorize attorney's fees to be paid from trustee's sale proceeds for certain actions and judgments under the Nebraska Trust Deeds Act
LB504	J. Cavanaugh	Change certain penalty provisions for the suspension, revocation, or impoundment of a motor vehicle operator's license
LB505	J. Cavanaugh	Limit habitual criminal enhancement to specified felonies
LB506	J. Cavanaugh	Change provisions relating to net metering provided by local distribution utilities
LB507	Bostelman	Prohibit the use of treated seed corn in the production of agricultural ethyl alcohol in certain circumstances
LB508	Bostelman	Provide motor vehicle tax exemptions for certain veterans and spouses
LB509	Lindstrom	Change provisions relating to the State Treasurer and treasury management
LB510	Lindstrom	Change provisions of the Nebraska Installment Loan Act
LB511	Lindstrom	Change provisions relating to cigarette tax stamps
LB512	Brewer	Adopt the Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act
LB513	Brewer	Change qualifications and terms of public power district board members
LB514	Brewer	Change procedures for forming a new political party under the Election Act
LB515	McKinney	Adopt the Municipal Police Oversight Act
LB516	McKinney	Change provisions relating to self-sufficiency contracts and work activity requirements under the Welfare Reform Act
LB517	Hunt	Provide for a gender neutral designation on operator's licenses and state identification cards and provide for amendment of a birth certificate
LB518	Morfeld	Change provisions relating to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment under the Student Discipline Act
LB519	Morfeld	Provide immunity from arrest and prosecution for certain drug and alcohol offenses for witnesses and victims of sexual assaults
LB520	Friesen	Provide for applications for the collocation of certain wireless facilities
LB521	Friesen	Change provisions relating to applications for property tax exemptions
LB522	Friesen	Change a motor vehicle identification inspection training provision under the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act
LB523	Albrecht	Change provisions relating to certain school taxes and special funds
LB524	Brandt	Change provisions relating to the calculation of credits under the Nebraska Property Tax Incentive Act

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB525	Wishart	Provide duties and requirements for transitional housing facilities and change powers of the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System
LB526	Wishart	Change limitations on awards and state intent regarding appropriations under the Business Innovation Act
LB527	Walz	Change provisions relating to transition services for students with a developmental disability
LB528	Walz	Change, eliminate, and add provisions relating to education
LB529	Walz	Change provisions for the distribution of lottery funds used for education, transfer powers and duties, create new acts and funds, and change education provisions
LB530	Lathrop	Require certain insurance policies comply with federal minimum levels of financial responsibility for motor carriers
LB531	Briese	Adopt the Nebraska Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act
LB532	Lowe	Change provisions relating to property under the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act and the School Employees Retirement Act and to change a security deposit provision under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
LB533	Day	Change provisions relating to public assistance
LB534	Day	Change provisions relating to renewal of operators' licenses while in the foreign service of the United States
LB535	Kolterman	Provide for notice to life insurance assignees of default and lapse and termination
LB536	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to distribution and use of certain proceeds from horseracing
LB537	Geist	Change provisions relating to placement and commitment of juveniles
LB538	Walz	Adopt the Community Schools Act and change the distribution of income from solar and wind agreements on school lands
LB539	Walz	Provide for a limit on the length of trains
LB540	Walz	Change terminology related to disability in civil rights provisions
LB541	Walz	Provide for reimbursement for certain foster care services
LB542	Walz	Authorize the issuance of highway bonds under the Nebraska Highway Bond Act
LB543	Brandt	Adopt the Agricultural Equipment Right-To-Repair Act
LB544	Wayne	Adopt the Urban Redevelopment Act and provide tax incentives
LB545	Wayne	Adopt the Games of Skill Act, provide for excise taxes, and use proceeds to reduce school district property tax levies
LB546	Wayne	Adopt the Marijuana Control Act and the Marijuana Conviction Clean Slate Act
LB547	Wayne	Adopt the Nebraska Small Business Act and provide tax incentives
LB548	Wayne	Adopt the Nebraska Racial Justice Act and provide grounds for postconviction relief
LB549	Wayne	Adopt the Aid to Municipalities Act
LB550	Wayne	Change enrollment option limits and provisions for part-time enrollment in schools
LB551	Wayne	Change and provide qualifications for and duties relating to certification of law enforcement officers, require accreditation of law enforcement agencies, prohibit chokeholds in law enforcement, require policies on excessive force, and create a public data base of law enforcement officer misconduct
LB552	Wayne	Clarify definitions relating to marijuana under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and to schedule nabiximols as a Schedule III controlled substance
LB553	Wayne	Adopt the Bed Bug Detection and Treatment Act for cities of the metropolitan class
LB554	Blood	Adopt the Licensed Professional Counselors Interstate Compact
LB555	M. Hansen	Change reporting requirements under the Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act
LB556	M. Hansen	Change provisions relating to redevelopment contracts under the Community Development Law
LB557	M. Hansen	Change provisions relating to public records and include body-worn camera recordings in certain circumstances
LB558	Vargas	Adopt the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act
LB559	Vargas	Change provisions relating to restrictive housing under the Nebraska Treatment and Corrections Act
LB560	Briese	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act
LB561	Briese	Change provisions relating to the State Racing Commission and provide regulatory authority of the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act
LB562	Erdman	Relocate the Game and Parks Commission headquarters to the city of Sidney, Nebraska
LB563	McDonnell	Provide caseload limits for high-risk offenders supervised by probation officers and parole officers
LB564	McDonnell	Redefine a term relating to the Nebraska educational savings plan trust

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB565	McDonnell	Provide for a youth initiated mentoring pilot program
LB566	McDonnell	Adopt the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act
LB567	Business & Labor	Change provisions relating to the maximum annual amount of benefits under the Employment Security Law
LB568	Pansing Brooks	Change provisions relating to truancy, juvenile courts, the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the Commission Grant Program, and compulsory education
LB569	Pansing Brooks	Provide for certain treatment options for patients with Lyme disease
LB570	Health & Human Services	Change certain Department of Health and Human Services model pilot project evaluation periods
LB571	Halloran	Provide for backgrounder lot registration under the Livestock Brand Act
LB572	Halloran	Change provisions of the Livestock Brand Act
LB573	Bostar	Change the definition of qualified facility for purposes of net metering
LB574	Bostar	Change motor vehicle identification inspection requirements
LB575	Bostar	Adopt the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact
LB576	Bostar	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska
LB577	Bostar	Establish Election Day as a holiday and change provisions relating to early voting and automatic voter registration
LB578	Vargas	Impose a tax on ready-to-drink cocktails
LB579	Moser	Change provisions relating to Department of Transportation reports regarding highway construction and state intent regarding appropriations
LB580	Moser	Change provisions relating to the operation of games of chance under the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act
LB581	B.Hansen	Change motorcycle, moped, and autocycle helmet provisions
LB582	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Change administration of the retirement system under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act
LB583	Murman	Require electronic prescription of controlled substances
LB584	Vargas	Adopt the Mobile Food Unit Act and change fees for a mobile food unit
LB585	Vargas	Appropriate funds for local public health departments
LB586	Clements	Require an annual report regarding police and firefighter retirement plans in certain cities
LB587	McDonnell	Adopt the Career Mentoring Grant Act
LR26CA	Lindstrom	Constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature to authorize, regulate, and tax sports wagering
LR27CA	M. Hansen	Constitutional amendment to provide legislative authority in emergencies resulting from a pandemic
LR28	Hilkemann	Rescind all resolutions previously passed by the Nebraska Legislature petitioning Congress to call a federal constitutional convention

January 20, 2021

LB588	Stinner	Change, rename, and eliminate provisions of the University of Nebraska facilities programs and the state college facilities programs
LB589	Groene	Change requirements for integrated management plans by natural resources districts
LB590	Groene	Change time periods for ballots for early voting
LB591	Groene	Require a permit for any natural resources district water augmentation project
LB592	Stinner	Change provisions of the Automated Medication Systems Act
LB593	Slama	Adopt the Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act and the Uniform Registration of Canadian Money Judgments Act
LB594	Slama	Adopt the Rural Workforce Crisis Act
LB595	Albrecht	Provide a sales tax exemption for certain products used in the process of manufacturing ethyl alcohol
LB596	Albrecht	Adopt the Nebraska Higher Blend Tax Credit Act
LB597	Albrecht	Provide a tax credit for the parents of stillborn children
LB598	Wishart	Adopt the Small Business Stabilization Grant Program Act
LB599	Lindstrom	Change an exemption from the documentary stamp tax
LB600	Brandt	Provide and change powers and duties of public power districts and electric cooperatives regarding broadband facilities and infrastructure
LB601	McKinney	Require law enforcement agencies to maintain records regarding officer discipline and create a public data base of law enforcement officer misconduct

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB602	Pahls	Provide restrictions regarding insurance coverage and consumer care involving aftermarket parts for motor vehicles
LB603	Aguilar	Adopt the Organized Consumer Product Theft Protection Act
LB604	Geist	Adopt the Nebraska Accelerated Broadband Deployment Grant Program Act and change telecommunications provisions
LB605	Wishart	Create the Outdoor Recreation and Education Study Committee of the Legislature
LB606	Hilgers	Clarify terms relating to power districts
LB607	Hilgers	Correct references to a federally defined term relating to education
LB608	Hilgers	Eliminate obsolete provisions relating to the State Racing Commission
LB609	Hilgers	Change provisions relating to the Uniform Credentialing Act
LB610	Hilgers	Change provisions relating to improper issuance of a certificate of registration under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act
LB611	Hilgers	Correct a reference to a defined term relating to property taxes
LB612	Lathrop	Change motor vehicle liability insurance and financial responsibility requirements
LB613	Erdman	Change provisions relating to hearings and decisions on appeals under the Tax Equalization and Review Commission Act
LB614	Erdman	Eliminate registered feedlot provisions under the Livestock Brand Act
LB615	Erdman	Provide for the election of members of the Game and Parks Commission
LB616	Hughes	Change abandoned motor vehicle provisions
LB617	Hughes	Change a provision relating to the authority of the Game and Parks Commission
LB618	Hughes	Change provisions relating to state park permits
LB619	Sanders	Change excavation requirements under the One-Call Notification System Act
LB620	Vargas	Limit use of restrictive housing and solitary confinement
LB621	Friesen	Adopt the Social Media Fairness Act
LB622	Friesen	Limit the growth of real property valuations and provide for adjustments to assessed values
LB623	Vargas	Adopt the Remote Instruction Act
LB624	McCollister	Provide for earned time credit reductions to the minimum terms of sentences of prisoners at the Department of Correctional Services
LB625	Vargas	Impose a surtax on certain taxable income and use the tax proceeds for early childhood education
LB626	Vargas	Change provisions of the Child and Maternal Death Review Act
LB627	Morfeld	Change provisions relating to qualified voters for certain public power district elections
LB628	Morfeld	Change provisions relating to faculty licenses under the Dentistry Practice Act
LB629	Morfeld	Create a grant program to provide financial assistance to entities affected by event cancellations
LB630	Bostar	Provide for a study of the efficacy of commercial air filters in classrooms
LB631	Bostar	Prohibit counties from prohibiting the use of residential property as short-term rentals
LB632	Bostar	Provide for a low-income student or first-generation college student internship program
LB633	Vargas	Change provisions of the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act
LB634	J. Cavanaugh	Provide a cause of action for unsafe disposal of treated seed
LB635	J. Cavanaugh	Change provisions regarding nomination and election of certain partisan candidates
LB636	J. Cavanaugh	Eliminate cash bail bonds, appearance bonds, and related provisions
LB637	Vargas	Change provisions relating to the control of contagious or infectious disease
LB638	Health & Human Services	Require a report by the State Court Administrator regarding juveniles discharged from youth rehabilitation and treatment centers
LB639	Day	Adopt the Seizure Safe Schools Act
LB640	Day	Change provisions related to early childhood education in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB641	Day	Change provisions regarding school district salaries during an epidemic
LB642	Day	Provide for reimbursements to school districts and educational service units for mental health expenditures
LB643	B. Hansen	Protect an individual liberty right to accept or decline a vaccination under a mandatory directive
LB644	B. Hansen	Adopt the Property Tax Request Act
LB645	B. Hansen	Provide for enhanced penalties for violations of directed health measures committed by public officials
LB646	Flood	Change the maximum amount of certain Nebraska Career Scholarships
LB647	Flood	Change powers of cities of the first class
LB648	Flood	Adopt the Transactions in Digital Assets Act

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB649	Flood	Adopt the Nebraska Financial Innovation Act
LB650	Flood	Adopt the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act
LB651	Wayne	Provide a termination date for the enrollment option program
LB652	Wayne	Adopt the Historically Underutilized Business Program Act
LB653	Wayne	Require goals for using historically underutilized businesses under the Community Development Law
LB654	Wayne	Adopt the Public Entities Investment Trust Act
LB655	Wayne	Change tax provisions relating to cigars, cheroots, and stogies
LB656	Wayne	Authorize municipalities to provide broadband and Internet services
LB657	Vargas	Require the office of Legislative Research to prepare racial impact statements for legislative bills
LB658	McDonnell	Require the Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System to commission a study
LB659	McDonnell	Create the Workforce Development Committee of the Legislature
LB660	McDonnell	Change collective-bargaining provisions relating to the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska state colleges
LB661	McDonnell	Prohibit assault on a public transportation driver and clarify provisions relating to assault on officers, emergency responders, certain employees, and health care professionals
LB662	McDonnell	State intent regarding appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services
LB663	Geist	Require the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice to create a mental health indicator in a criminal justice information system to alert emergency dispatch operators
LB664	Groene	Change distributions from the Mutual Finance Assistance Fund
LB665	Business & Labor	Deny claims against the state
LB666	Business & Labor	Provide for payment of claims against the state
LB667	Halloran	Provide for confidentiality of and access to certain injury reports under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB668	Hughes	Relocate the headquarters of the Game and Parks Commission
LB669	Vargas	Adopt the Veteran Promise Act
LB670	Murman	Authorize design and placement of highway memorial signs
LB671	Murman	State intent regarding appropriations to the University of Nebraska
LB672	Murman	Change the sales and use tax exemption on agricultural machinery and equipment
LB673	Murman	Adopt the Education Behavioral Awareness and Support Act and change the determination and certification of state aid to schools
LB674	Linehan	Change provisions relating to the allocation and use of credits under the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act
LB675	Linehan	Adopt the Education Lobbyist Pay Transparency Act
LB676	Linehan	Redefine a term relating to cigarette taxes
LB677	Linehan	Change provisions relating to eligibility for transitional child care assistance
LB678	Linehan	Adopt the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Regulation Act
LB679	Linehan	Require the Tax Commissioner to collect lodging taxes as prescribed
LB680	Linehan	Change the corporate income tax rate
LB681	Linehan	Include elementary and secondary schools in the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and change tax benefits
LB682	Linehan	Change the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act
LB683	Wayne	Change provisions relating to net metering
LB684	Clements	Allow public school employees to join or terminate membership in a labor organization as prescribed
LR29	M. Cavanaugh	Provide for appointment by the Executive Board of a special committee to be known as the Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature
LR30	Albrecht	Recognize Julie Schmit-Albin for her advocacy on behalf of the unborn
LR31	Geist	Recognize International Omphalocele Awareness Day on January 31 as part of Birth Defects Prevention Month

Committee hearing modifications announced

The Legislature announced Jan. 22 modifications to procedures for public input on legislation during the 2021 session.

As part of the Legislature’s procedural modifications in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of changes have been made to the committee hearing process. Hearings will be held in morning and afternoon sessions beginning Jan. 25. Morning session will convene at 9:30 a.m. and afternoon sessions at 1:30 p.m.

In addition, four options have been approved for public input this year. First, as always, individuals may testify in person at committee hearings. Because hearing room capacity will be limited due to social distancing, three other options have been added.

The public may submit written testimony in person on the day of a public hearing – between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in the room in which the hearing will take place. These submissions will be included in the formal committee hearing record as if the individual had testified in person.

Individuals wishing to provide public comment without appearing in person may submit a position letter by emailing the committee’s account by 12:00 p.m. CST on the last work day prior to the public hearing. A list of committee email accounts is available on the Legislature’s website at NebraskaLegislature.gov/committees/committee-emails.php.

Finally, the public may submit online comments through a new feature on the Legislature’s website, which is available on each individual bill page. Online written comments will not be included as part of the official legislative record.

Speaker Mike Hilgers of Lincoln said the new options will allow residents with safety concerns related to the pandemic to continue to share their views with the Legislature.

“It’s vital to the legislative process for members of the public to have the opportunity to have their voices heard,” he said. “Nebraska’s unique Unicameral Legislature relies heavily on citizen input.”

For details, visit NebraskaLegislature.gov/committees/public-input.php ■

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

Further committee information is available at: NebraskaLegislature.gov/committees/standing-committees.php

Monday, Jan. 25

Banking, Commerce & Insurance Room 1507 - 9:30 a.m.

LB373 (Pahls) Change the interest rate for minimum nonforfeiture amounts as prescribed

LB21 (Williams) Change insurance provisions regarding administrative penalties, health maintenance organizations, and continuing education

LB22 (Williams) Change provisions of the Nebraska Protection in Annuity Transactions Act

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

LB77 (Gragert) Prohibit insurance risk classifications and rate adjustments based on the fact that the insured is deployed in the military

LB280 (Albrecht) Eliminate a residency requirement for the board of directors of an insurance corporation

Business & Labor

Room 1524 - 9:30 a.m.

LB169 (M. Hansen) Repeal locksmith registration requirements

LB37 (Lowe) Change and eliminate provisions relating to the state boiler inspector, fee schedules, and powers and duties of the State Fire Marshal

LB255 (M. Hansen) Adopt the In the Line of Duty Compensation Act

Business & Labor

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB260 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to good cause for voluntarily leaving employment under the Employment Security Law

LB298 (McDonnell) Change provisions of the Employment Security Law relating to the disqualification of certain aliens

LB249 (Pansing Brooks) Prohibit employers from inquiring about wage rate history under the Nebraska Fair

Employment Practice Act

Education

Room 1525 - 9:30 a.m.

Early Childhood Education Report briefing pursuant to section 79-1103

Note: Invited testimony only

LB137 (Vargas) Require reporting to the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System

LB210 (Murman) Change provisions relating to part-time enrollment in public schools and extracurricular activities

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB135 (Wishart) Change special education reimbursements

LB153 (Wayne) Include virtual school students in the state aid to schools formula

LB323 (Walz) Change provisions of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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Support Act relating to pandemics
LB288 (Walz) Change dates related to certification and distribution of state aid to schools

LB287 (Walz) Change school finance base limitation and local effort rate provisions
LB286 (Walz) Redefine a term relating to schools

LB289 (Walz) Redefine a term in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

General Affairs

Room 1510 - 9:30 a.m.

LB70 (Wayne) Authorize the State Athletic Commissioner to regulate professional kickboxing and professional bare-knuckle boxing
LB75 (Gragert) Change provisions relating to township libraries
LB152 (Slama) Change provisions regarding fireworks
LB312 (Sanders) Change cemetery association membership eligibility and record-keeping requirements

Transportation & Telecommunications Room 1113 - 9:30 a.m.

LB113 (Albrecht) Change provisions relating to motor vehicle titling, licensing, registration, and fees and operators' licenses and permits and authorize a new motor carrier services system
LB149 (Albrecht) Adopt changes to federal law regarding motor vehicles and motor carriers
LB106 (Friesen) Change fees relating to access to drivers' records and provide for a new motor vehicle operator's license services system

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

LB174 (Friesen) Change provisions relating to highways and highway funding, road classifications, licensure of local highway and street superintendents, motor vehicle safety responsibility, accident reports, and the Nebraska Rules of the Road
LB78 (Gragert) Require applicants for certain license plates to register with the Department of Veterans' Affairs
LB302 (M. Hansen) Change provisions

relating to administrative license revocation under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Agriculture

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB90 (Halloran) Change fee provisions under the Pesticide Act and the Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act
LB91 (Brandt) Change germination seed testing provisions under the Nebraska Seed Law

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 9:30 a.m.

LB297 (Lindstrom) Adopt the Nebraska Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation Act
LB363 (Williams) Change provisions relating to banking, finance, securities, consumer protection, dividends, and installment sales and loans
LB66 (Williams) Change deposit, bond, custodial official, and pooled collateral provisions under the Public Funds Deposit Security Act

Banking, Commerce & Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB248 (Pansing Brooks) Change provisions regarding exclusions from the Uniform Directed Trust Act
LB23 (Williams) Change provisions of the Real Property Appraiser Act

Education

Room 1525 - 9:30 a.m.

Appointments: Clay Smith; Marilyn B. Hadley; Paul Turman - Neb. Educational Telecommunications Commission
Appointments: Mary Lauritzen; Paul Von Behren - Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB92 (Clements) Change residency requirements for college tuition purposes for students from schools that elect not to meet accreditation or approval requirements
LB197 (Vargas) Change residency

requirements for college tuition purposes for participants in the National and Community Service State Grant Program
LB243 (Bostar) Adopt the Access College Early Tech Promise Program Act

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 9:30 a.m.

LB82 (Hilkemann) Change motor vehicle tax schedules

Transportation & Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB126 (Halloran) Require use of headlights and taillights when windshield wipers are in operation
LB239 (Hilkemann) Change provisions relating to the use of handheld wireless communication devices under the Nebraska Rules of the Road
LB240 (Hilkemann) Require use of occupant protection systems for each vehicle occupant

Urban Affairs

Room 1510 - 9:30 a.m.

LB163 (Urban Affairs) Change and eliminate provisions relating to cities, villages, and metropolitan utilities districts
LB162 (Urban Affairs) Provide a procedure for detachment of real property from the corporate limits of a city or village and eliminate existing detachment provisions
LB159 (Urban Affairs) Provide for printing or publishing city and village ordinances in electronic form

Urban Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB25 (Wayne) Change provisions relating to the division of ad valorem taxes under the Community Development Law
LB99 (Walz) Change provisions of the Community Development Law relating to limitations on blighted areas
LB44 (M. Hansen) Change requirements for adoption of an affordable housing action plan

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 9:30 a.m.

LR1 (Blood) Express support for the

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

Further committee information is available at: NebraskaLegislature.gov/committees/standing-committees.php

United States Air Force to reestablish the United States Space Command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base
 LB4 (Briese) Change tuition credit provisions for the Active Selected Reserve of the armed forces of the United States

**Government, Military & Veterans Affairs
 Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB83 (Flood) Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing
 LB112 (Albrecht) Require members of the public to be allowed to speak at each meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act

**Health & Human Services
 Room 1510 - 9:30 a.m.**

LB401 (Arch) Change references to state hospitals
 LB296 (B. Hansen) Change provisions regarding access to patient records for Department of Health and Human Services institutions
 LB374 (DeBoer) Adopt the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Support Act
 LB476 (Blood) Change provisions relating to the Stroke System of Care Act

**Health & Human Services
 Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB325 (Albrecht) Adopt the Art Therapy Practice Act
 LB211 (Murman) Adopt the Reflexologist Registration Act
 LB14 (Blood) Adopt the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

**Judiciary
 Room 1113 - 9:30 a.m.**

LB45 (M. Hansen) Eliminate provisions relating to continuance of proceedings under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
 LB46 (M. Hansen) Eliminate an alternative service provision under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
 LB268 (McCollister) Change landlord's right of access under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
 LB277 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to rental deposits, damages,

and overdue rent under the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act

**Judiciary
 Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB128 (McCollister) Adopt the Residential Tenant Clean Slate Act
 LB205 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to unpaid periodic rent under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
 LB246 (DeBoer) Change provisions relating to applicability of forcible entry and detainer and actions for possession under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act and the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act
 LB320 (J. Cavanaugh) Change provisions relating to violence on premises under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
 LB358 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to retaliatory conduct by a landlord under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act

**Natural Resources
 Room 1525 - 9:30 a.m.**

LB190 (Hughes) Change provisions relating to use of the Water Sustainability Fund
 LB191 (Hughes) Redefine elector for the Irrigation District Act

**Natural Resources
 Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB148 (Bostelman) Transfer certain environmental safety programs to the Department of Environment and Energy

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

LB17 (Kolterman) Change actuarial valuation and amortization provisions for certain state retirement systems

Presentation of Actuarial Experience Study and Annual Valuation Reports pursuant to 84-1503

**Revenue
 Room 1524 - 9:30 a.m.**

LR22CA (Linehan) Constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue that may be raised by political subdivisions

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

LB408 (Briese) Adopt the Property Tax Request Act

**Thursday, Jan. 28
 Government, Military & Veterans Affairs
 Room 1507 - 9:30 a.m.**

LB294 (Flood) Exempt certain agency deputy directors and legal counsel from the State Personnel System
 LB213 (Briese) Provide for an efficiency review of state agencies

**Government, Military & Veterans Affairs
 Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB43 (M. Hansen) Provide for election of election commissioners and eliminate certain deputy positions
 LB224 (Aguilar) Change provisions for appointment of a county surveyor in certain counties

**Health & Human Services
 Room 1510 - 9:30 a.m.**

LB101 (Walz) Change the date for addition of long-term care services and supports under the medicaid managed care program
 LB100 (Walz) Prohibit certain billing practices under the Medical Assistance Act
 LB437 (B. Hansen) Change provisions relating to public assistance and medicaid fraud

**Health & Human Services
 Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB15 (Blood) Adopt the Occupational Therapy Practice Interstate Compact
 LB416 (M. Cavanaugh) Require implicit bias training under the Uniform Credentialing Act and provide for duties and funding relating to postpartum care and maternal health
 LB19 (Kolterman) Change provisions relating to nail technology and body art

**Judiciary
 Room 1113 - 9:30 a.m.**

LB89 (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

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

Further committee information is available at: NebraskaLegislature.gov/committees/standing-committees.php

LB203 (Pansing Brooks) Prescribe requirements for public colleges and universities regarding criminal history and juvenile court record information
LB273 (Lowe) Change provisions relating to youth rehabilitation and treatment centers
LB354 (Lathrop) Require courts to issue decisions on motions to transfer jurisdiction in cases involving juveniles within thirty days after hearing

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB201 (Pansing Brooks) Change provisions relating to jurisdiction over juveniles
LB307 (Pansing Brooks) Change provisions relating to appointment of counsel for juveniles
LB308 (Pansing Brooks) Provide grants for juvenile indigent legal defense
LB330 (Wayne) Raise the jurisdictional age limit for juvenile court to age twenty-one years for certain purposes
LB357 (Hunt) Create the Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 9:30 a.m.

LB406 (McDonnell) Create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force and provide funding
LB336 (Hughes) Provide for regular and limited annual and temporary state park entry permits

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB395 (Gragert) Change hunting provisions under the Game Law
LB223 (Erdman) Authorize carrying a firearm while archery hunting
LB399 (Bostelman) Change provisions relating to rural water districts

Revenue

Room 1524 - 9:30 a.m.

LB69 (Day) Adopt the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit Act

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB364 (Linehan) Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide tax credits

Friday, Jan. 29

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Room 1507 - 9:30 a.m.

LB368 (Sanders) Provide the Auditor of Public Accounts enforcement powers for failure of political subdivisions to file reports
LB369 (Sanders) Provide the Auditor of Public Accounts access to working papers and audit files

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB35 (Pansing Brooks) Change membership provisions for the First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort Donelson Committee
LB94 (Government, Military & Veterans Affairs) Prohibit invalidation of certain online notarial acts performed under the Governor's Executive Order
LB93 (Government, Military & Veterans Affairs) Eliminate a reporting requirement regarding marriages

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 9:30 a.m.

LB351 (Linehan) Change provisions relating to quality scale ratings under the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act
LB306 (Brandt) Provide eligibility requirements for the low-income home energy assistance program
LB533 (Day) Change provisions relating to public assistance

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB495 (Hilkemann) Require the Department of Health & Human Services to implement an increase in foster care reimbursement rates
LB541 (Walz) Provide for reimbursement for certain foster care services
LB127 (M. Cavanaugh) Provide for adjustments to payments to guardians of former state wards

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 9:30 a.m.

LB47 (M. Hansen) Change procedures relating to obligees in child support proceedings
LB48 (M. Hansen) Change provisions

relating to marriage and annulments
LB57 (Lathrop) Provide a hearsay exception for present sense impressions
LB155 (Wayne) Change provisions relating to certain paternity proceedings

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB28 (Wayne) Provide for motions for new trial based on newly discovered evidence
LB88 (Morfeld) Protect free speech rights of student journalists and student media advisers
LB97 (DeBoer) Change provisions relating to adoptions
LB245 (DeBoer) Change provisions relating to adoptions
LR20CA (Pansing Brooks) Constitutional amendment to remove provisions regarding marriage from the Constitution of Nebraska

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 9:30 a.m.

Appointment: Thomas E. Riley - Dept. of Natural Resources
Appointment: Charles Hutchison - Neb. Power Review Board
Appointments: Rick Kubat; Joseph L. Citta, Jr.; LeRoy Sievers; Scott Smathers - Neb. Natural Resources Commission
Appointment: Henry R. Brandt - Neb. Game and Parks Commission
LB606 (Hilgers) Clarify terms relating to power districts
LB617 (Hughes) Change a provision relating to the authority of the Game and Parks Commission
LB618 (Hughes) Change provisions relating to state park permits

Revenue

Room 1524 - 9:30 a.m.

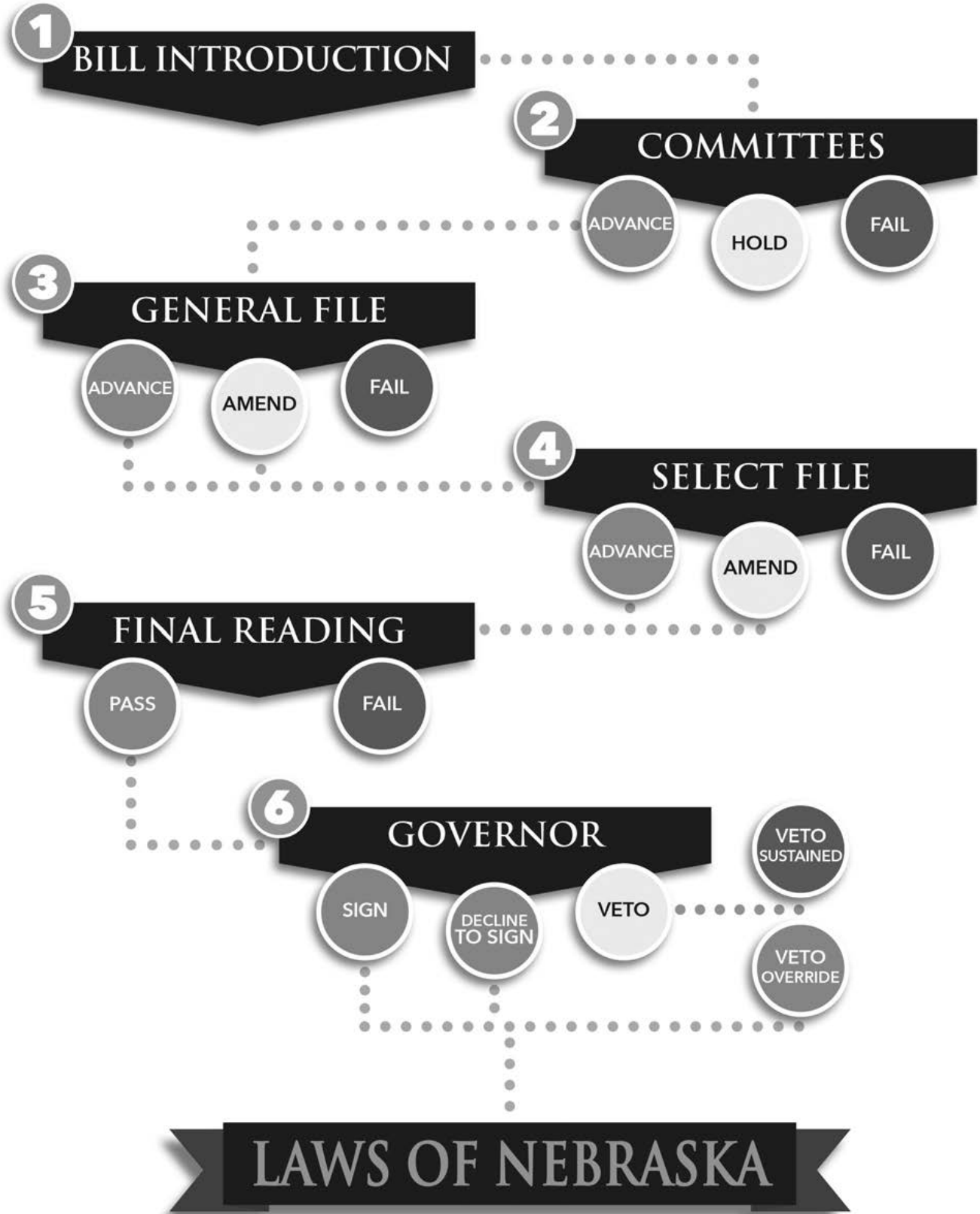
LB6 (Blood) Change provisions relating to the taxation of military retirement benefits
LB10 (Blood) Change motor vehicle and property tax exemptions for disabled veterans

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB387 (Brewer) Change provisions relating to the taxation of military retirement benefits ■

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



2021 Legislative Session*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
January						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	HOLIDAY	DAY 9	DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	DAY 13	DAY 14	DAY 15	DAY 16	DAY 17	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
February						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	DAY 18	DAY 19	DAY 20	DAY 21	DAY 22	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DAY 23	DAY 24	DAY 25	DAY 26	RECESS	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	HOLIDAY	DAY 27	DAY 28	DAY 29	DAY 30	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	RECESS	DAY 31	DAY 32	DAY 33	DAY 34	
28						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
March						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	DAY 35	DAY 36	DAY 37	DAY 38	RECESS	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	RECESS	DAY 39	DAY 40	DAY 41	DAY 42	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	DAY 43	DAY 44	DAY 45	DAY 46	RECESS	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	DAY 47	DAY 48	DAY 49	DAY 50	RECESS	
28	29	30	31			
	DAY 51	DAY 52	DAY 53			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
April						
				1	2	3
				DAY 54	RECESS	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	RECESS	DAY 55	DAY 56	DAY 57	DAY 58	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	DAY 59	DAY 60	DAY 61	DAY 62	RECESS	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	RECESS	DAY 63	DAY 64	DAY 65	DAY 66	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	DAY 67	DAY 68	DAY 69	DAY 70	HOLIDAY	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
May						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	RECESS	DAY 71	DAY 72	DAY 73	DAY 74	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	DAY 75	DAY 76	DAY 77	DAY 78	RECESS	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	RECESS	DAY 79	DAY 80	DAY 81	DAY 82	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	DAY 83	DAY 84	DAY 85	DAY 86	RECESS	
30	31					
	HOLIDAY					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
June						
		1	2	3	4	5
		DAY 87	DAY 88	DAY 89	RECESS	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	DAY 90		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

<p>Federal & State Holidays January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day February 15 – Presidents’ Day April 30 – Arbor Day May 31 – Memorial Day</p>	<p>Legislative Recess Days February 12, 22 March 5, 8, 19, 26 April 2, 5, 16, 19 May 3, 14, 17, 28 June 4, 7, 8, 9</p>
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*The Speaker reserves the right to revise the session calendar.

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