

## Student journalist, advisor free speech protections advance after cloture

Student journalists would have stronger First Amendment protections under a bill advanced from general file March 18 following debate spanning several days.

LB88, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Adam Morfeld, would designate student-produced media as part of a public forum and extend the full right to exercise freedom of speech and press that is provided to professional members of the media to public high school and postsecondary student journalists, as well as their media advisors.

Morfeld said that students must be allowed to learn about the intersection of their First Amendment rights and the ethics of professional journalism under adult supervision. Doing so requires a “delicate balance,” he said, which LB88 provides.

“The protection of student journalists’ rights in our K-12 schools and state institutions of higher education is critical in the development of current and future civic leaders,” he said. “Students, at an early age, must understand the power and the consequences of the First Amendment in an environment supervised by an instructor and with appropriate boundaries.”

The bill would not protect any expression by a student journalist that is libelous or slanderous, constitutes



Sen. Adam Morfeld

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## Regulatory framework for racetrack casinos advanced



Sen. Tom Briese confers with colleagues during general file debate on LB561.

A bill that would implement provisions of a constitutional amendment approved in 2020 was expanded and advanced from general file March 17.

Last November, Nebraska voters legalized all forms of games of chance at licensed racetracks through an initiative petition drive. LB561, as introduced by Sen. Tom Briese of Albion, would provide the regulatory framework necessary to implement that constitutional amendment.

A General Affairs Committee amendment would have replaced the bill and added LB560, also introduced by Briese, as well as other provisions. At the request of Kearney Sen. John Lowe, the committee amendment was divided into three components and debated separately.

One component of the divided

amendment, adopted 35-4, added the provisions of LB560 and also amended provisions of the original bill. The amendment would rename the State Racing Commission to the State Racing and Gaming Commission and grant it authority to regulate games of chance under the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act.

Among other provisions, the amendment also would:

- raise the legal age for wagering on horse racing from 19 to 21;
- establish a process to allow an individual to be excluded voluntarily from wagering;
- establish a system for lodging complaints;
- classify manipulation of a game of chance or gaming machine as a Class I misdemeanor; and

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# Student journalist, advisor protections advance

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an unwarranted invasion of privacy, violates state or federal law or incites students to engage in an unlawful act.

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

Sen. Julie Slama of Peru spoke in support of the proposal. As a former student journalist, Slama said she understands the importance of having guardrails in place for student media.

“The simple fact of the matter is that these students [already] are free to post whatever they want on [social media] regardless of journalistic standards,” Slama said. “I do think LB88 provides a great framework for a student journalist to express their opinion and to practice journalism, all under the supervision of a faculty advisor.”

Elmwood Sen. Robert Clements offered an amendment to remove high school journalists from the protections proposed in LB88. Clements said designating all student media as part of the public forum would give students too much power.

“With public forums, my understanding is that the school no longer would really have editorial supervision over the content,” he said.

Speaking in support of the Cle-

ments amendment was Bayard Sen. Steve Erdman. Local school boards should have ultimate control over which issues are covered by school-sponsored media, he said, because community norms differ.

“When you put in place a specific rule or regulation or opportunity for students to write something, those students in Harrison [for example] may find it very difficult for their community if they write something that’s acceptable in Omaha,” Erdman said.

Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte also supported the amendment. A single tenured faculty advisor could unduly influence what student journalists write, he said, and school administrators would be powerless to stop them under LB88.

Opposing the amendment and speaking in support of the bill was Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood. He said that curiosity and questioning authority are the foundations of journalism.

“What I see here is the learning that comes from students being empowered with the same rights that they have in society and doing it under the roof of the schoolhouse,” Flood said.

“Yes, it’s uncomfortable — and yes, it is not pragmatic or what an administrator wants to wake up and deal

with — but a student asking questions ... they are learning, and they go on to do great things in life because they question.”

The Clements amendment lost on a vote of 15-26.

Hastings Sen. Steve Halloran then brought an amendment, which failed 14-23, that would have allowed individual school districts to choose whether to designate their student-produced media as part of a public forum. He said doing so would reinforce school autonomy and self-governance.

Morfeld opposed the Halloran amendment, saying it would remove all protections proposed in LB88 and would codify current practice instead.

After approximately eight hours of discussion, Morfeld offered a motion to invoke cloture, which ends debate and forces a vote on the bill and any pending amendments. Lawmakers voted 33-12 to invoke cloture. Thirty-three votes were needed.

Following the successful cloture motion, senators voted 15-25 to reject a pending amendment from Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht that would have removed student control over advertisements published in school-sponsored media. Lawmakers then voted 28-15 to advance LB88 to select file. ■

## UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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# Regulatory framework for racetrack casinos advanced

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- allow the commission to hire investigators, inspectors and other personnel necessary to administer and enforce all provisions of the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act.

Debate focused on the other two components of the original committee amendment. One of those, adopted 31-10, would authorize sports wagering in designated areas at Nebraska racetrack casinos and grant authority to the State Racing and Gaming Commission to adopt and enforce rules.

Under the amendment, in-person wagers could be placed on professional, collegiate and international sports but not on interscholastic, youth or fantasy sports. Wagers on the performance or nonperformance of an individual athlete in a collegiate sporting event involving a Nebraska team also would be excluded.

Briese said Nebraska voters delivered a clear mandate to allow gaming at racetracks, including sports wagering, and said the amended bill would implement that decision within established parameters.

“We owe it to the voters to get this in place in a timely manner,” he said. “When 70-plus percent of Nebraska voters approved games of chance they approved sports betting, period.”

Sen. Justin Wayne of Omaha supported the amendment. He said the ballot initiatives were self-enacting, meaning that sports betting is legal in Nebraska regardless of whether the Legislature takes action.

“Casinos will be built,” Wayne said. “If you don’t like gambling, which some of you don’t — clearly — you need to vote for this amendment or you’re going to open up sports

betting wider than it’s ever been interpreted.”

Lowe disagreed, saying that Nebraskans didn’t intend to allow sports wagering when they voted to legalize gaming at racetracks. Games of chance, he said, include things like card games and lotteries but not sports wagering.

Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht also opposed the proposal, saying that even backers of the gaming initiatives specifically stated that sports wagering would not be included in authorized casinos.

“If they say [sports wagering] was not part of the casino gambling aspect of it, I guess I don’t understand why we would just arbitrarily decide to put it in the bill,” Albrecht said.

A third component of the divided amendment would allow individuals to play keno on an electronic ticket purchased at a licensed lottery operator. Currently, keno tickets must be purchased on a paper ticket with cash. The amendment would allow purchase with an app or debit card linked to a bank account. Credit card payments would be prohibited.

Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh said the change would allow keno operators to remain competitive once racetrack casinos are established.

Sen. Carol Blood of Bellevue supported the amendment, saying that keno proceeds generate revenue that cities rely on for community improvement projects.

“I’m not a big fan of gambling, but I am a big fan of community betterment funds,” Blood said.

Sen. Lou Ann Linehan of Elkhorn also supported the amendment despite her opposition to gambling.

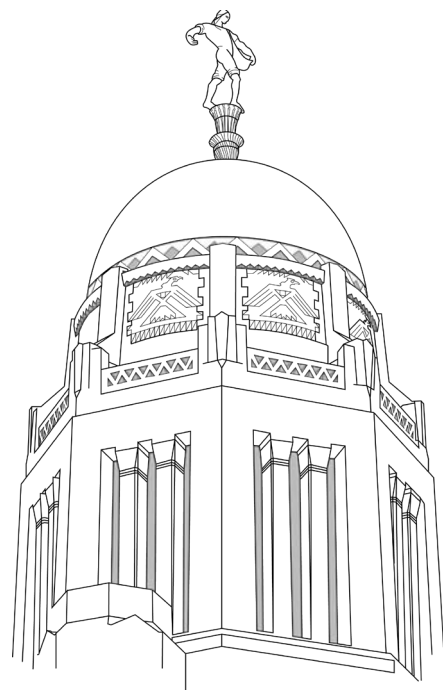
She said she voted against the ballot initiatives but acknowledged that opponents “lost big” and said senators now should implement the will of the people.

Albrecht opposed the amendment, saying that its provisions were not part of the underlying bill and had not had a public hearing. In addition, she said, electronic tickets would speed up the game.

“It allows people to spend their money quicker,” Albrecht said. “[They] could possibly lose a job because of it, could possibly lose a marriage because of it, could possibly not be able to feed their children because of it.”

Briese assured lawmakers that the General Affairs Committee would hold a hearing on the amendment if it became part of LB561. Senators voted 26-18 to adopt the amendment.

After several hours of debate, the bill advanced to select file on a vote of 37-5. ■



## AGRICULTURE

### Animal shares, independent processor assistance advance

Senators gave first-round approval March 16 to a bill that would allow farmers and ranchers to offer livestock ownership shares to customers.

Introduced by Plymouth Sen. Tom Brandt, LB324 would allow the acquisition of meat through an animal share — an ownership interest in an animal or herd of animals created by a written contract between a consumer and a farmer or rancher — under certain conditions.

Brandt said meat sold by the package typically must be inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, he said, the claim to ownership created by an animal share would allow a producer to sell packages of meat to consumers under a custom exemption in federal law.

Animal share contracts would include a bill of sale and a provision under which the consumer boards the animal or herd with the farmer or rancher for care and processing and the consumer is entitled to receive a share of meat from the animal or herd.

Among other requirements, the animal share owner — or someone acting on their behalf — would have to receive the meat, and the farmer or rancher would have to provide the consumer with a description of their livestock health and processing standards.

A farmer or rancher who offers an animal share would have to be a Nebraska resident and maintain a record of each animal share sold.



Sen. Tom Brandt

An Agriculture Committee amendment, adopted 44-0, removed a provision in the original bill that would have required a farmer or rancher who sells an animal share to register with the state Department of Agriculture and report the number of animal shares sold each year.

It also removed a provision that would have limited the number of livestock a person could sell under animal share contracts.

The amendment would require the name and address of each individual with an ownership interest in the particular livestock to be presented to the processor prior to slaughter.

Brandt said LB324 also would create an independent processor assistance program that potentially would use federal funding to increase Nebraska's meat processing capacity. Before the pandemic, he said, a typical producer would schedule livestock processing four to six weeks in advance but now can expect to wait up to two years.

The program would provide funding to certain federally inspected, state inspected or custom-exempt slaughter and processing facilities in Nebraska that employ fewer than 25 people.

Recipients could use the funds to pay for capital improvements, utilities upgrades, equipment, technology, building rentals, costs associated with increased inspections and educational and workforce training.

Under the committee amendment, the department would administer the program if funds are made available.

Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte supported LB324. He said it would create opportunities for entrepreneurs who want to raise organic beef and sell it through a cooperative whose members wish to know the origin of their meat.

Many Nebraskans buy quarters or halves of beef from small farms or ranches, Groene said, but that common

practice is against the law if those buyers do not own the animal prior to slaughter, which he said is seldom the case.

“Sen. Brandt’s bill corrects that — makes us law-abiding citizens,” he said.

Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh also supported the bill, saying many Nebraska families do not have the resources to buy and store a quarter or half of beef. LB324 would allow them to buy smaller amounts of healthier, locally raised meat and generate economic activity by encouraging them to build relationships with Nebraska farmers and ranchers, he said.

“People want to have that connection with where their food comes from,” Cavanaugh said.

Senators voted 46-0 to advance the bill to select file.

## BANKING, COMMERCE & INSURANCE

### Mental health insurance requirements advance

Senators gave first-round approval March 15 to a bill that would create insurance parity for mental health services provided through telehealth in Nebraska.

LB487, introduced by La Vista Sen. John Arch, would prohibit a private health insurance plan that covers mental health treatment from establishing rates, terms or conditions that place a greater financial burden on an insured for accessing treatment via telehealth.

The bill also would require that the reimbursement rate for telehealth



Sen. John Arch

treatment for a mental health condition be the same as the rate for a comparable treatment provided in person.

Arch said private insurers voluntarily established such parity during the pandemic when telehealth usage “skyrocketed,” and that making the requirement permanent is a priority for the state’s mental health providers. Telehealth increases accessibility, he said, and insurance parity could encourage more people — especially in rural areas — to seek treatment.

“Because of the pandemic, we are learning that patients can effectively receive these services from almost anywhere,” Arch said.

Omaha Sen. Megan Hunt supported the bill, saying the state should prioritize access to health care both during the pandemic and beyond.

“All of us are only as healthy as the least taken care of, the poorest insured — the person with the least access to health care in our state,” she said.

Following the 47-0 adoption of a technical Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee amendment, senators voted 46-0 to advance LB487 to select file.

## GENERAL AFFAIRS

### Fairground gaming bill advanced

A bill to allow games of chance at licensed racetracks in Nebraska that are located near fairgrounds to operate at the same time as a fair advanced from general file March 16.

Current law prohibits gambling and other “indecent” activity within 660 feet of a state, district, county or agricultural fair and provides exceptions. LB371, introduced by Grand Island Sen. Raymond Aguilar, would add games of

chance under the Nebraska Race-track Gaming Act to the current list of exceptions.

The bill would help implement the provisions of a constitutional amendment passed in 2020 that authorized licensed horse racing tracks to offer games of chance.

Aguilar said LB371 would enable such casinos located near fairgrounds in Grand Island, Hastings and Columbus to remain open while fairs are being held. He assured lawmakers that there would not be “poker tables by the Ferris wheel” because the casinos would be located in a building with a dedicated entrance that is separate from the fair.

“There is a way to allow both the fair and the casino to conduct business as normal while remaining distinctly separate from each other,” Aguilar said.

Lincoln Sen. Suzanne Geist said the bill gave her pause because it could lead to parents gambling in the casino while their children participate in the fair.

“On the midway [you] end up having a large number of young people who are not supervised,” Geist said. “I see that as a problem — a ripe situation for human traffickers.”

Sen. John Lowe of Kearney opposed LB371, saying that games of chance and family friendly fairs don’t mix.

“It’s about the family and I think during that time we have to look at ourselves and see what’s important in life,” Lowe said. “The fairs are about showing off our best.”

Sen. Tom Briese of Albion spoke in support of the bill. He said voters delivered a mandate in favor of casino gaming at racetracks in the 2020 general election and it is the Legislature’s duty to implement that decision.

“What Sen. Aguilar proposes here is entirely consistent with what the



Sen. Raymond Aguilar

voters mandated,” Briese said.

Also in support was Bellevue Sen. Carol Blood, who said that senators in opposition were “making something out of nothing.” She said lawmakers shouldn’t ask a legal business to close down during a fair because of moral objections.

“I don’t see anyone worried about the beer gardens at the county fairs — because that’s an issue. People can get drunk and drive home intoxicated. Children could climb the fence and possibly get alcohol,” Blood said. “We can sit here and pontificate all day long on the what-ifs.”

Senators advanced LB371 to select file on a 38-5 vote.

## GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Virtual meeting bill clears first round

City councils, county boards and other political subdivisions would have greater flexibility to meet virtually under a bill that advanced from general file March 15.

LB83, as introduced by Norfolk Sen. Michael Flood, would allow mayors, county board chairpersons and village board chairpersons to hold meetings virtually during a declared emergency. The bill defines virtual conferencing as a meeting conducted electronically or by phone.

Under the bill, political subdivisions currently subject to the state’s Open Meetings Act and allowed to conduct one half of their annual



Sen. Michael Flood

meetings by video conferencing and teleconferencing would be allowed to hold virtual meetings. An official participating in such a virtual meeting could do so from any location. Current requirements regarding advanced publicized notice and at least one physical site available for public participation still would apply.

The bill also would allow authorized entities to discuss regular business during a virtual meeting under a governor-declared emergency. Currently, they may use virtual means in that circumstance only to address the existing emergency.

Flood said the change would allow a governing body to conduct necessary regular business virtually during an emergency.

“If you’re in Plattsmouth and there’s flooding and you need to buy sandbags, or you need to move assets around to get more sandbags to deal with the flooding, you can do that

[during a virtual meeting] but you can’t deal with your payroll or pay claims,” he said.

LB83 also would expand the list of political subdivisions allowed to meet virtually to include natural resources districts and local public health districts.

A Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendment, adopted 48-0, would reaffirm the validity of any actions taken by a public body between March 17, 2020, and April 30, 2021, in reliance on an executive order from the governor that waived open meeting requirements during the pandemic.

The amendment also would:

- add regional metropolitan transit authorities and metropolitan utilities districts to the list of qualifying political subdivisions;
- require that at least one member of the political subdivision holding the meeting be present

at each remote location; and

- require a declaration by the governor to trigger the bill’s emergency provisions.

Henderson Sen. Curt Friesen said LB83 would help individuals who may not be able to participate in an in-person meeting, although he would prefer that most official meetings be held in person.

“Personal meetings still need to be held quite often because there’s nothing like having a room full of people ... when you’re making tough decisions,” he said.

Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon also supported the bill, saying the intent was not to “take public meetings and throw them into the dustbins of history” but rather to allow public entities to continue to do business in emergency situations.

Senators advanced LB83 to select file on a 48-0 vote. ■

# PRIORITY BILLS

Priority bills generally are scheduled for debate before other bills. Each senator may select one priority bill and each standing committee may select two priority bills. Additionally, the speaker may select 25 priority bills.

## SENATOR PRIORITY BILLS

Priority	Bill	Introducer	One-line description
Aguilar	LB371	Aguilar	Provide for games of chance under the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act at state, district, and county fair locations
Albrecht	LB281	Albrecht	Require child sexual abuse prevention instructional programs for school students and staff
Arch	LB400	Arch	Change requirements related to coverage of telehealth by insurers and medicaid
Blood	LB14	Blood	Adopt the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact
Bostar	LB630	Bostar	Provide for a study of the efficacy of commercial air filters in classrooms
Bostelman	LB338	Bostelman	Provide powers and duties for the Public Service Commission regarding redirection of funding for broadband services
Brandt	LB306	Brandt	Provide eligibility requirements for the low-income home energy assistance program
Brewer	LB409	Brewer	Provide a moratorium on construction of electric transmission lines and create the Electric Transmission Line Study Committee of the Legislature
Briese	LB2	Briese	Change the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land for certain school district taxes

# SENATOR PRIORITY BILLS

Priority	Bill	Introducer	One-line description
J. Cavanaugh	LB320	J. Cavanaugh	Change provisions relating to violence on premises under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
M. Cavanaugh	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
Clements	LB236	Brewer	Permit counties to authorize carrying concealed weapons as prescribed
Day	LB639	Day	Adopt the Seizure Safe Schools Act
DeBoer	LB485	DeBoer	Change provisions relating to child care assistance
Dorn	LB103	Dorn	Appropriate funds to aid counties to pay certain federal judgments
Erdman	LR11CA	Erdman	Constitutional amendment to require enactment of a consumption tax and prohibit certain other forms of taxation
Flood	LB649	Flood	Adopt the Nebraska Financial Innovation Act
Friesen	LB454	Friesen	Adopt the School Property Tax Stabilization Act and change the valuation of agricultural land
Geist	LB408	Briese	Adopt the Property Tax Request Act
Gragert	LB387	Brewer	Change provisions relating to the taxation of military retirement benefits
Groene	LB40	Groene	Adopt the Nebraska Rural Projects Act
Halloran	LR14	Halloran	Resolution to Congress for convention of the states to propose amendments to the United States Constitution
B. Hansen	LB644	B. Hansen	Adopt the Property Tax Request Act
M. Hansen	LB258	Vargas	Adopt the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act
Hilgers	LB388	Friesen	Adopt the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act
Hilkemann	LB496	Hilkemann	Require collection of DNA samples for persons arrested for crimes of violence
Hughes	LB650	Flood	Adopt the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act
Hunt	LB260	Hunt	Change provisions relating to good cause for voluntarily leaving employment under the Employment Security Law
Kolterman	LB64	Lindstrom	Change provisions relating to the taxation of social security benefits
Lathrop	LB54	Lathrop	Change immunity for intentional torts under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act and the State Tort Claims Act
Lindstrom	LB39	Lindstrom	Change the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act
Linehan	LB364	Linehan	Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide tax credits
Lowe	LB273	Lowe	Change provisions relating to youth rehabilitation and treatment centers
McCollister	LB108	McCollister	Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
McDonnell	LB298	McDonnell	Change provisions of the Employment Security Law relating to the disqualification of certain aliens
McKinney	LB451	McKinney	Include characteristics associated with race, culture, and personhood within definition of race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and change provisions relating to unlawful employment practices
Morfeld	LB88	Morfeld	Protect free speech rights of student journalists and student media advisers
Moser	LB579	Moser	Change provisions relating to Department of Transportation reports regarding highway construction and state intent regarding appropriations
Murman	LB390	Murman	Provide for credentials based on reciprocity and change requirements for credentials under the Uniform Credentialing Act
Pahls	LB26	Wayne	Provide a sales tax exemption for residential water service
Pansing Brooks	LB307	Pansing Brooks	Change provisions relating to appointment of counsel for juveniles
Sanders	LB389	Sanders	Require the issuance of teaching certificates and permits to military spouses
Slama	LB139	Briese	Adopt the COVID-19 Liability Protection Act
Stinner	LB18	Kolterman	Change provisions relating to equivalent employees and qualified locations under the ImagiNE Nebraska Act
Vargas	LB241	Vargas	Adopt the Meatpacking Employees COVID-19 Protection Act
Walz	LB542	Walz	Authorize the issuance of highway bonds under the Nebraska Highway Bond Act
Wayne	LB544	Wayne	Adopt the Urban Redevelopment Act and provide tax incentives
Williams	LB322	Williams	Adopt the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act
Wishart	LB474	Wishart	Adopt the Medicinal Cannabis Act

# COMMITTEE PRIORITY BILLS

Priority	Bill	Introducer	One-line description
Agriculture	LB324	Brandt	Change provisions of the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law
	LB572	Halloran	Change provisions of the Livestock Brand Act
Appropriations	LB566	McDonnell	Adopt the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act
	LB488	Stinner	Change provisions relating to appropriations
Banking, Commerce & Insurance	LB375	Kolterman	Adopt the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Regulation and Transparency Act
	LB487	Arch	Change insurance coverage provisions for mental health conditions and serious mental illness
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
	LB528	Walz	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to education
Executive Board	LR18CA	Wayne	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three consecutive terms
	LR25	Health & Human Services	Provide for appointment by the Executive Board of a special committee of the Legislature to be known as the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature
General Affairs	LB274	Lowe	Provide for taxation of ready-to-drink cocktails, the sale of mixed alcoholic beverages by certain retailers and farm wineries, and promotional farmers market special designated licenses under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
	LB561	Briese	Change provisions relating to the State Racing Commission and provide regulatory authority of the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act
Government, Military & Veterans Affairs	LB83	Flood	Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing
	LB285	Brewer	Change provisions relating to elections conducted pursuant to the Election Act
Health & Human Services	LB428	Health & Human Services	State that juveniles at youth rehabilitation and treatment centers are to receive an appropriate education equivalent to educational opportunities offered in public schools
	LB376	M. Cavanaugh	Authorize the application for and implementation of services and supports for developmentally disabled children and their families and provide duties for the Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities
Judiciary	LB51	Lathrop	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, and require policies on excessive force
	LB568	Pansing Brooks	Change provisions relating to truancy, juvenile courts, the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the Commission Grant Program, and compulsory education
Legislature's Planning	LB132	DeBoer	Create the School Financing Review Commission
Natural Resources	LB399	Bostelman	Change provisions relating to rural water districts
	LB507	Bostelman	Prohibit the use of treated seed corn in the production of agricultural ethyl alcohol in certain circumstances
Nebraska Retirement Systems	LB147 LB17	Kolterman Kolterman	Change provisions relating to retirement systems for Class V school districts Change actuarial valuation and amortization provisions for certain state retirement systems
Revenue	LB432	Revenue	Change income tax rates
	LB595	Albrecht	Provide a sales tax exemption for certain products used in the process of manufacturing ethyl alcohol
State-Tribal Relations	LB185	Brewer	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for public health aid



# COMMITTEE PRIORITY BILLS

Priority	Bill	Introducer	One-line description
Transportation & Telecommunications	LB215	Hughes	Change 911 service surcharge provisions
	LB522	Friesen	Change a motor vehicle identification inspection training provision under the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act
Urban Affairs	LB131	Hunt	Change provisions relating to the enactment of ordinances
	LB156	Wayne	Adopt the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act

# SPEAKER PRIORITY BILLS

Priority	Bill	Introducer	One-line description
Speaker Hilgers	LB9	Blood	Change annexation requirements and property tax special valuation provisions
Speaker Hilgers	LB81	Hilkemann	Provide authority for sanitary and improvement districts to own, construct, and maintain public parking facilities
Speaker Hilgers	LB84	Bostelman	Redefine terms relating to tax incentive performance audits and the Imagine Nebraska Act
Speaker Hilgers	LB92	Clements	Change residency requirements for college tuition purposes for students from schools that elect not to meet accreditation or approval requirements
Speaker Hilgers	LB143	Kolterman	Require notice to school districts regarding changes in child placement
Speaker Hilgers	LB152	Slama	Change provisions regarding fireworks
Speaker Hilgers	LB154	Wayne	Require tracking of student discipline as prescribed
Speaker Hilgers	LB197	Vargas	Change residency requirements for college tuition purposes for participants in the National and Community Service State Grant Program
Speaker Hilgers	LB247	Pansing Brooks	Create the Mental Health Crisis Hotline Task Force
Speaker Hilgers	LB271	Morfeld	Adopt the 24/7 Sobriety Program Act
Speaker Hilgers	LB283	Briese	Provide for year-round daylight saving time
Speaker Hilgers	LB336	Hughes	Provide for regular and limited annual and temporary state park entry permits
Speaker Hilgers	LB366	Briese	Change the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act
Speaker Hilgers	LB396	Brandt	Adopt the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act
Speaker Hilgers	LB406	McDonnell	Create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force and provide funding
Speaker Hilgers	LB411	Lathrop	Require sharing of information with the designated health information exchange
Speaker Hilgers	LB423	Lathrop	Require registration of home inspectors
Speaker Hilgers	LB452	McKinney	Adopt the Financial Literacy Act
Speaker Hilgers	LB497	DeBoer	Provide for compensation under the Nebraska Crime Victim's Reparations Act for health care providers examining or treating victims of sexual assault or domestic assault
Speaker Hilgers	LB500	Geist	Provide for venue for prosecution of certain offenses when committed using an electronic communication device
Speaker Hilgers	LB501	Flood	Adopt the Uniform Easement Relocation Act
Speaker Hilgers	LB527	Walz	Change provisions relating to transition services for students with a developmental disability
Speaker Hilgers	LB583	Murman	Require electronic prescriptions for controlled substances
Speaker Hilgers	LB664	Groene	Change distributions from the Mutual Finance Assistance Fund
Speaker Hilgers	LB682	Linehan	Change the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act

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# 2021 Legislative Session\*

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>March</b>						
	1 DAY 35	2 DAY 36	3 DAY 37	4 DAY 38	5 RECESS	6
7	8 RECESS	9 DAY 39	10 DAY 40	11 DAY 41	12 DAY 42	13
14	15 DAY 43	16 DAY 44	17 DAY 45	18 DAY 46	19 RECESS	20
21	22 DAY 47	23 DAY 48	24 DAY 49	25 DAY 50	26 RECESS	27
28	29 DAY 51	30 DAY 52	31 DAY 53			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>May</b>						
						1
2	3 RECESS	4 DAY 71	5 DAY 72	6 DAY 73	7 DAY 74	8
9	10 DAY 75	11 DAY 76	12 DAY 77	13 DAY 78	14 RECESS	15
16	17 RECESS	18 DAY 79	19 DAY 80	20 DAY 81	21 DAY 82	22
23	24 DAY 83	25 DAY 84	26 DAY 85	27 DAY 86	28 RECESS	29
30	31 HOLIDAY					

### Federal & State Holidays

January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 February 15 – Presidents' Day  
 April 30 – Arbor Day  
 May 31 – Memorial Day

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>April</b>						
				1 DAY 54	2 RECESS	3
4	5 RECESS	6 DAY 55	7 DAY 56	8 DAY 57	9 DAY 58	10
11	12 DAY 59	13 DAY 60	14 DAY 61	15 DAY 62	16 RECESS	17
18	19 RECESS	20 DAY 63	21 DAY 64	22 DAY 65	23 DAY 66	24
25	26 DAY 67	27 DAY 68	28 DAY 69	29 DAY 70	30 HOLIDAY	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>June</b>						
		1 DAY 87	2 DAY 88	3 DAY 89	4 RECESS	5
6	7 RECESS	8 RECESS	9 RECESS	10 DAY 90	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### 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

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

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