

## Chief justice hails Nebraska coronavirus response, notes challenges



Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Heavican delivers his State of the Judiciary address Jan. 21.

Focusing on the courts' continuing pandemic response, Chief Justice Michael Heavican of the Nebraska Supreme Court delivered his State of the Judiciary address to lawmakers Jan. 21.

The head of the state's judicial branch began his remarks by noting the importance of maintaining access to the courts during a challenging year of logistical obstacles and staff shortages.

"This year, I report to you that the courts have not only remained open, but have adapted to the realities of the pandemic," Heavican said. "Our judges indicate that case backlogs are minimal. That assertion is supported by case management statistics. Few states have achieved such success."

Courts across Nebraska have used technology to conduct hearings virtually, he said, which has prevented delays and been more efficient for attorneys and their clients. Surveys have found that a majority of Nebraskans believe courts should continue to offer hearings virtually even after the pandemic wanes, he said.

In order to facilitate access to justice through technology, Heavican said, the judiciary began conducting onsite visits to county courthouses in 2021 to assess technology needs and create plans for enhancing or replacing existing technology.

"Likewise, the judicial branch wholeheartedly supports the expansion of high-speed internet broad-

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## Bill would eliminate concealed handgun permit requirement

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony Jan. 20 on a bill that would allow Nebraskans to carry a concealed handgun without a permit.

Current state law requires that an individual pass a background check, submit a \$100 permit fee and complete a gun safety course to obtain a concealed carry permit.

LB773, introduced by Gordon Sen. Tom Brewer, would prohibit counties, cities and villages from regulating the ownership, possession and transportation of a concealed handgun. Under the bill, permits and training requirements for concealed handguns no longer would be mandatory.

Individuals who currently are prohibited from possessing or carrying a gun still would be prohibited from doing so under the bill. Carrying a concealed handgun while under the influence of alcohol also would remain illegal. Concealed handguns would remain prohibited in schools, certain government premises and private businesses that have such rules in place.

Brewer said that concealed carry permits still would be available and may be desirable because they would allow an individual to carry a gun across state lines. But permits shouldn't be mandated, he said.

"Bad people will still do bad things, but what we're trying to do is provide

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band,” he said. “Without a strong broadband infrastructure, our rural court users are unable to access the resources we are working so hard to provide.”

Another challenge facing the courts is the retention of highly skilled employees, Heavican said. To achieve this objective, the judicial branch has begun a workload and salary assessment study and will be asking lawmakers for an upward adjustment in the courts’ spending limit, he said.

“I remind you again of the good work our court family is doing to keep the courts open statewide, to mitigate a speedy trial crisis, to defuse an eviction crisis and to make sure access to justice is available to all Nebraskans,” Heavican said.

One highlight of the past year was the work of the statewide restorative justice initiative, he said, which requires juvenile law violators to meet

with the victims of their crimes. Youth who participated in the program had a recidivism rate of 11.3 percent compared to 19 percent for those who did not participate, he said, and work is underway to expand the program to more Nebraska youth.

Heavican said other problem-solving courts – such as the young adult, mental health and veterans treatment courts – have continued to find new and innovative ways to provide sentencing alternatives and help divert criminal offenders from the state’s prisons and jails.

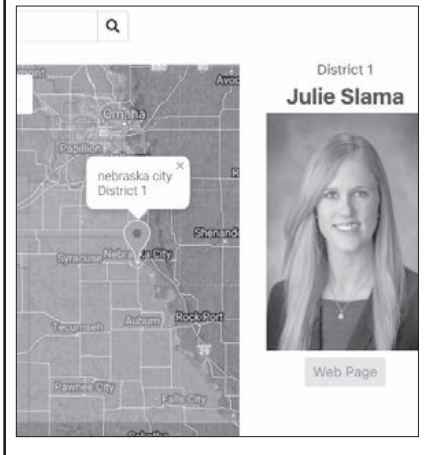
“We owe the success of our courts to the good old-fashioned work ethic of judges, staff and practicing attorneys,” he said. “We also owe our positive accomplishments to the increased use of technology and the accompanying innovative initiatives of our court family.” ■

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## Bill would eliminate concealed handgun permit requirement

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people the right [to bear arms] that they're entitled to," Brewer said. "A person who has never done anything wrong and wishes to protect themselves or their family can do that [under LB773] without fear of having an offense go on their record," Brewer said.

Several individuals who spoke in favor of the bill expressed concern that current state law puts low-income individuals at a disadvantage in exercising a constitutional right due to the high cost of obtaining a concealed carry permit.

Testifying in support of LB773 was Jon Anderson of Norfolk. For most Nebraskans, he said, the right to self-defense has become especially important in the wake of increased incidents of riots and protests in recent years.

"If a person is lawfully able to purchase a handgun and pass a background check, and that person already has the lawful ability to carry that gun in the open, why can that same person not be trusted to carry that same handgun under their jacket or shirt?" Anderson said.

John Lott, a gun rights advocate, also testified in support of the bill. An individual in immediate danger, such as a woman being stalked, must wait up to 45 days to receive a permit, he said, which may be too late. In addition, he said, low-income individuals would benefit the most from being able to protect themselves.

"The very people that my research indicates would benefit the most from having a gun for protection [are] poor minorities who live in high crime urban areas," Lott said.

David Babcock, former Adams County Deputy Attorney, also spoke in favor of the bill.

"We now live in an era of skyrocket-



Sen. Tom Brewer said he intends to make LB773 his priority bill this session.

ing rates of homicide, carjacking and other violent crimes," he said. "The surging crime rate shows us that many criminals already carry guns, and they will use their weapons when they believe they ... won't get caught."

Matthew Mammoser testified on behalf of the National Association for Gun Rights in support of LB773. He said that states that have passed "constitutional carry" laws — as proponents refer to efforts to remove concealed carry restrictions — have lower violent crime and murder rates.

"Allowing law-abiding citizens to carry their firearm concealed without government intrusion reduces crime," Mammoser said. "[The bill] doesn't allow anyone to carry a weapon if they cannot legally possess one, [and] criminals will not suddenly be able to carry a gun."

Those in opposition to LB773 expressed concern that the bill would undermine the police's ability to de-escalate dangerous situations and would ease a criminal's ability to obtain a gun.

Anthony Conner testified against the bill on behalf of the Omaha Po-

lice Officers Association. He said the Omaha Police Department has seized hundreds of illegal firearms from the city's most dangerous gang members in recent years, which has led to fewer shootings and homicides.

"We believe this bill provides multiple unintended loopholes for criminals, gang members, irresponsible gun possessors and other prohibited persons to avoid prosecution," Conner said. "This bill will hinder our officers' ability to remove firearms from dangerous situations and individuals."

Lincoln Police Chief Teresa Ewins also testified in opposition to the bill. She said citizens should prioritize calling 911 in dangerous situations because, without proper training, it's possible for an individual to miscategorize a situation.

"Without a permitting process and training, you'll have individuals who shouldn't be carrying, and carrying without the proper skills necessary to assess a situation and determine when the lethal force is lawful," Ewins said.

The committee took no immediate action on LB773. ■

## AGRICULTURE



### Prairie dog management changes proposed

The Agriculture Committee heard testimony Jan. 18 on proposed changes to a law authorizing county boards to control black-tailed prairie dogs on property within the county.

The Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act requires landowners to manage prairie dog colonies on their property to prevent the animals from expanding to adjacent property if a neighboring landowner objects to the expansion.

Under the act, which the Legislature passed in 2012, a landowner has 60 days to provide evidence to a county board that they have arranged for the management of a prairie dog colony. If they do not, the county or its agent may enter the property to take “appropriate management measures.” The landowner is responsible for management costs, which become a lien on the property.

Venango Sen. Dan Hughes, sponsor of LB712, said the act has been criticized for allegedly violating the property and due process rights of landowners and for failing to outline procedures for counties to use when adopting and carrying out a management plan.

“This bill eliminates those possibilities and the chance of abuse and will improve the administration of the act,” he said.

To date, only Sheridan County has adopted a management plan under the act, Hughes said, and neighbor-

ing landowners there settled a dispute about unmanaged prairie dogs before the county took further action.

Under LB712, an adjacent landowner could waive their objection to the expansion of a prairie dog colony onto their property. The bill also would repeal provisions under which landowners who are responsible for an unmanaged prairie dog colony could be found guilty of an infraction and fined up to \$1,500.

Currently, a county’s failure to publish general notice of a prairie dog management plan – or to serve a landowner with individual notice of a plan – does not exempt a landowner from the law’s requirements. LB712 would repeal that provision and clarify that counties must serve individual notices by certified mail.

The bill also would authorize counties to assign certain aspects of prairie dog management plans, such as investigating complaints of unmanaged colonies.

Finally, LB712 would allow landowners to appeal certain county actions related to prairie dog management to any court with jurisdiction.

Andrew Dunkley testified in support of the bill on behalf of the Nebraska Farm Bureau. He said LB712 allows for “equitable treatment” for any landowner who chooses to have a managed black-tailed prairie dog colony on their property.

Jon Cannon gave neutral testimony on behalf of the Nebraska Association of County Officials. Cannon said the proposed changes would make the management plans, which he called a “valuable tool,” easier for counties to administer.

Cannon questioned, however, whether certified mail would be more effective than other methods when serving individual notices to affected landowners. He also said allowing

landowners to appeal a county board’s prairie dog management actions in court could increase county expenses.

No one testified in opposition to the bill and the committee took no immediate action on it.

### Board ownership of wheat varieties considered

The state board that promotes Nebraska’s wheat industry could own and sell wheat varieties under a bill heard Jan. 18 by the Agriculture Committee.

LB802, introduced by Venango Sen. Dan Hughes, would make several changes to the Nebraska Wheat Resources Act, which authorizes a 0.4 percent excise tax on wheat sold through commercial channels in the state.

Hughes’s proposal would repeal the requirement that growers pay the checkoff when wheat is pledged or mortgaged as security for a federal price support program loan.

He said the federal Farm Service Agency collects the tax when growers use wheat as collateral for a loan and again when it is first sold, which requires later reimbursement to ensure producers are not double taxed. Under LB802, the tax would be collected only by the first purchaser when the wheat is sold.

The bill would require first purchasers to maintain a record of all settlements in which they did not collect the excise tax and report the number of bushels of wheat for which they did collect it.

Under Hughes’s proposal, the tax would not be collected if wheat is sold as seed, a change that would reflect current practice, he said.

LB802 also would authorize the Nebraska Wheat Development, Utilization and Marketing Board to acquire ownership rights to any wheat variety and to develop, produce, market or



Sen. Dan Hughes

sell seed for any wheat variety it owns.

The board also could partner with public or private entities to develop new wheat varieties, secure intellectual property rights relating to development of new varieties and produce and sell wheat for seed.

Chris Cullan, a Hemingford farmer and seed seller, testified in support of the bill. The wheat checkoff funds a University of Nebraska wheat breeding program that develops higher-yielding varieties suited to the state's climate and soil types, he said, but some Nebraska growers do not know about them due to a lack of marketing.

Cullan said LB802 would help promote Nebraska-developed wheat varieties and generate royalties that could be used to fund further research.

No one testified in opposition to the bill and the committee took no immediate action on it.

## EDUCATION

### Bill would expand farm-to-school program

Early childhood education programs would be included in the Nebraska farm-to-school program under a bill considered Jan. 18 by the Education Committee.

Lawmakers created the program in 2021 with passage of a bill sponsored by Plymouth Sen. Tom Brandt requiring the state Department of Education to administer a program to help provide locally grown and minimally processed food to elementary and secondary school students in Nebraska.



Sen. Tom Brandt

Brandt introduced LB758 this session to expand the law to include early childhood education programs, which he said were excluded from the original proposal inadvertently.

"Unfortunately, the language that we passed last year was too restrictive and the assistance could only be offered to elementary and secondary schools," Brandt said. "LB758 corrects this oversight."

Sara Smith, farm-to-school specialist at the state Department of Education, testified in support of the bill. A 2017 study found that only 20 percent of Nebraska early childhood programs were engaged in farm-to-school activities, she said, but 67 percent of providers indicated an interest in curriculum activities that would help them do so.

"There is potential to have a life-long impact on our communities when leveraging farm-to-school and farm-to-preschool as a pathway to advance equity [involving] food access and security," Smith said. "Inclusion of these opportunities for our littlest eaters is critical."

Testifying in support of LB758 on behalf of Nebraska Cattlemen and six other agricultural organizations, Marcus Urban of Leigh said the bill would strengthen agricultural producers' reach and impact on education in Nebraska.

"Farm-to-school curriculum opportunities are endless," Marcus said. "When you're able to connect the food a student eats to the people who raise it, you're able to build connections beyond the school classroom walls."

Also in support was Sara Howard of First Five Nebraska. Agricultural producers in some rural parts of the state have expressed interest in donating food to early childhood programs, she said, but providers are unclear about whether they can accept such assistance under current law. LB758 would offer needed clarity, Howard said.

No one testified against the bill and the committee took no immediate action on it.

### Early childhood workforce bill considered

The Education Committee heard testimony Jan. 18 on a measure designed to help stabilize Nebraska's early childhood workforce.

Under LB838, sponsored by Sen. Mark Kolterman of Seward, the state Department of Education would be required to develop a program to aid individuals who provide child care and education programs for children and those who support early childhood workforce recruitment and retention.



Sen. Mark Kolterman

The bill would appropriate \$15 million in general funds annually to the department. Kolterman said the funds would provide subsidies to early childhood providers to join the Educators Health Alliance insurance pool.

All but four school districts in Nebraska are part of the Educators Health Alliance, he said, insuring more than 80,000 Nebraska educators. Being able to join the pool and offer insurance could help slow turnover rates among early childhood providers and increase stability within the industry, he said.

"The lack of reliable care has negative consequences for Nebraska's economy," Kolterman said. "Workforce shortages in the child care industry are tied directly to workforce shortages for every other sector of our economy."

Adam Feser, policy adviser with First Five Nebraska, testified in support of LB838. The ability to provide health insurance could be a useful recruitment and retention tool for

early childhood providers, he said. Currently, only 39 percent of center-based providers have health insurance, he said, which contributes to already high turnover rates.

“Quality early childhood experiences set children up for success in school and in life,” Feser said. “Children who have access to quality care and education in their early years not only score better on tests, but they build the social and emotional skills that will serve them throughout life.”

Melody Hobson, administrator of the Office of Early Childhood Education for the state Department of Education, also testified in support of LB838. The office approves training for child care providers and monitors the state’s early childhood education programs, she said.

Early childhood providers operate on “very thin margins,” Hobson said, and having a subsidy to provide health insurance would be a “key factor” in allowing many workers to stay in jobs that they love.

Gwen Easter of Omaha, founder of Safe Haven Early Childhood Preschool Education Academy, testified against the bill. Public-private partnerships like the one proposed in LB838 have monopolized child care in Nebraska, she said, and are not beneficial to children.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.



**Religious freedom protections sought**

Nebraskans could not be compelled to violate their religious beliefs unless

essential to further a compelling state interest under a bill considered Jan. 19 by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

LB774, introduced by Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon, would prevent state and local political subdivisions from placing a “substantial burden” on individuals, associations, partnerships, corporations, churches, religious institutions, estates, trusts, foundations and other legal entities’ right to practice sincerely held religious beliefs.



Sen. Tom Brewer

Such burdens would include withholding benefits, imposing criminal, civil or administrative penalties or damages, exclusion from government programs or access to government facilities.

The bill also would prohibit the state from restricting religious organizations’ activities during a state of emergency to a greater extent than it restricts non-religious organizations and would allow an individual who believes that their religious practice has been burdened or restricted to file a civil lawsuit.

Brewer said he introduced the bill after learning of incidents of Native Americans having their religious rights infringed upon.

“This bill is trying to give people of all faiths a seat at the table,” Brewer said. “Nebraskans of all faiths and backgrounds can live their lives and practice their religion. They can do that knowing that the state will not interfere with their precious, righteous rights unless it is for a very good reason.”

John Horsechief testified in support of the bill. He said he works for a faith-based rescue mission similar to one that helped him recover from homelessness earlier in his life. Such organizations,

Horsechief said, have been denied funding from certain sources because of their religious affiliation.

“LB774 would continue to ensure that faith-based rescue missions are allowed to render these services on their own terms,” he said.

Tom Venzor, director of the Nebraska Catholic Conference, also supported the bill. He said LB774 would provide balance between religious liberty and public health.

“LB774 ensures that the government’s actions are checked and balanced when they have a potential for substantially burdening religion,” Venzor said.

Brett Parker of American Atheists testified against the bill. He said LB774 is unnecessary because freedom of religion already is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

“Those protections are doing an amazing job of protecting everyone,” Parker said. “It’s not about balancing, it’s about elevating.”

Speaking on behalf of the ACLU of Nebraska, Spike Eickholt opposed the bill, saying it could tie the hands of public health officials. For example, a government entity that issues a stay-at-home order during a public health emergency but allows grocery stores to remain open would be in violation of LB774’s provisions, he said.

The committee declined to advance the bill to general file on a 4-2 vote. Five votes were needed.

**Amended convention of the states proposal advanced**

An amended resolution to authorize Nebraska to participate in a convention of the states advanced from select file Jan. 20.

LR14, introduced by Hastings Sen. Steve Halloran, would be Nebraska’s application for a convention of the

states authorized under the U.S. Constitution. If 34 states commit to a convention, states could propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution that would limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and impose fiscal restraints and term limits for members of Congress.



Sen. Steve Halloran

Sen. Justin Wayne of Omaha supported the measure. He said such a convention would be more diverse than the one that produced the current U.S. Constitution and would give notice to Congress that citizens are unhappy.

“The likelihood that all these states are going to be able to pass this and be able to call [the convention] is very slim, but the message it sends is impactful,” Wayne said.

Sen. Wendy DeBoer of Bennington offered an amendment, adopted 32-0, which would rescind Nebraska’s application on Feb. 1, 2027.

DeBoer called her amendment an “olive branch” to bring factions together. She acknowledged that there is a risk that such a convention would undermine the U.S. Constitution, but said it also was possible that it could produce needed change.

Following adoption of the amendment, senators advanced LR14 to final reading on a 32-8 vote.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### Informed consent sought for stem cell therapy

Nebraskans would have to agree in writing to receive certain stem cell therapies under a bill heard Jan. 21

by the Health and Human Services Committee.

LB753, introduced by La Vista Sen. John Arch, would require Nebraska health care providers to obtain informed written consent prior to administering stem cell therapy.



Sen. John Arch

Any patient age 19 or older would be required to confirm that their health care provider has explained the treatment, that the treatment has not received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and that the patient understands that the treatment hasn’t received such approval.

LB753 would not apply to practitioners using stem cell therapies that have received approval for an investigational new drug or device from the FDA.

Arch said, stem cell therapies have shown promise but also downsides. Nationwide, 360 cases of injury or death have been linked to unapproved stem cell therapies, he said, while other patients have paid thousands of dollars for ineffective treatments.

“Unfortunately, the excitement around the potential of stem cell research has led to a surge in ‘direct-to-consumer’ stem cell clinics offering therapies that are not proven by clinical trials, are not supported by evidence-based medical research and do not have FDA approval,” Arch said.

Dr. David Crouse of Research Nebraska testified in support of the bill. Roughly 10 clinics in Nebraska are offering stem cell therapies that are unapproved by the FDA, he said, charging up to \$5,000 for a single injection or \$25,000 for a course of injections.

Crouse said he’s attended sales presentations on stem cell therapy.

“They use tactics that I’ve observed in time-share selling,” Crouse said. “If

you sign up today you get a discount. If you sign up this week you get a smaller discount. If you sign up for the series, which of course is much more effective than a single treatment, then you get a really big discount.”

Dr. John Massey testified on behalf of the Nebraska Medical Association in support of LB753. Some clinics administering stem cell therapy are not overseen by medical professionals and use medically manipulated stem cells, he said.

“It’s easy to see how patients could be potentially exploited if not given full disclosure of the unproven nature of this therapy,” Massey said.

No one testified in opposition to LB753 and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.

### Expanded perinatal mental health screening proposed

A bill to expand mental health screening for women who have recently given birth was heard Jan. 19 by the Health and Human Services Committee.

LB905, introduced by Sen. Lynne Walz of Fremont, would allow the state Board of Medicine and Surgery to develop educational material, policies and procedures to address perinatal and postnatal mental health disorders.



Sen. Lynne Walz

The bill also would allow licensed health care professionals to educate pregnant women about perinatal and postnatal mental health and to offer pregnant women and new mothers a mental health screening questionnaire.

Walz said undetected mental health issues can lead to serious illness, injury or death for both mothers and their children.

## JUDICIARY



### DNA collection for felony charges advanced after cloture

A bill that would require forensic evidence to be collected upon arrest for certain felony charges advanced from select file Jan. 19 following a successful cloture motion.

LB496, as introduced by Omaha Sen. Robert Hilkemann last session, would require an adult charged with a felony crime of violence or burglary to provide a DNA sample to law enforcement at the time of booking or to the court during a first appearance.

The bill was amended during first-round debate in 2021. As amended, samples obtained under the provisions of LB496 would not be tested or placed into the state's database until a judicial determination of probable cause has been made or a hearing to determine probable cause has been waived.

If the charge against an individual is dismissed, the DNA sample would be destroyed immediately and notice would be sent to the individual. In addition, the provisions of LB496 would not apply to juveniles.

Hilkemann said the bill would apply to a narrow set of crimes and could assist law enforcement in solving cold cases.

"This is a bill I believe will help Nebraska be smart on crime by using DNA to exonerate the innocent and identify individuals for unsolved crime," Hilkemann said.

Plymouth Sen. Tom Brandt spoke in support of LB496, saying an indi-

vidual's DNA would be removed from the system in cases when charges are dropped.

"What this bill is about is balancing the rights of the individual with justice for the victims of crime," Brandt said.

Omaha Sen. Megan Hunt opposed the bill, indicating that it would cast too wide a net. She offered an amendment during select file debate that would require all Nebraska residents ages 19 and over to submit their DNA to the state DNA Sample Bank.

"This would follow the logic of LB496 that innocent people should have their DNA collected in the interest of [solving] crimes," Hunt said. "I don't agree with that assumption ... we just can't be collecting DNA from innocent people."

Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh of Omaha spoke in opposition to the bill. She expressed concern that sexual assault kits, which currently are backlogged, would become increasingly delayed if DNA collection increases as outlined in LB496.

"If we have close to a million dollars to spare for the crime lab, our priority should be making sure that victims know that their [sexual assault] cases are being taken seriously," she said.

Omaha Sens. Terrell McKinney and Justin Wayne also spoke in opposition to LB496. Both said the bill disproportionately would affect Black community members in North Omaha who are more likely to be over-policed and overcharged with crimes.

"Just because a person is charged with a crime, it doesn't mean they're guilty," McKinney said. "We should allow for the judicial process to go through before we collect an individual's DNA."

After four hours of discussion spanning several days, Hilkemann offered a motion to invoke cloture, which ends debate and forces a vote on the bill and



Sen. Robert Hilkemann

"It is well-documented that perinatal and postpartum depression places families from all walks of life at risk," Anderson Berry said.

Dr. Priscilla Lacroix also testified in support of the bill. Lacroix described to senators her physical and emotional recovery from the near-fatal delivery of her first child.

"Given my medical and professional background, I knew to utilize validated screening tools when I realized I was struggling as a new mom. When I screened positive, my doctor had a social worker who connected me with licensed professionals," she said. "I think about the mothers across our state who do not have access to screening or resources to help them in their most challenging moments."

Also speaking in support was Sara Howard of First Five Nebraska. Nebraska is one of seven states that does not codify maternal mental health in state law, Howard said. She added that current data on the mental health of mothers is self-reported, and that just 65 percent of Nebraska pediatric providers are offering perinatal mental health screening.

"The goal is that every single mother gets a screen," Howard said.

No one testified in opposition to LB905 and the committee took no immediate action on the bill.



any pending amendments. Lawmakers voted 33-12 to invoke cloture. Thirty-three votes were needed.

Senators then rejected the pending Hunt amendment and voted 26-16 to advance LB496 to final reading. Twenty-five votes were needed.

**Deceptive interview methods could be prohibited in juvenile cases**

The use of deceptive questioning of juveniles in connection with a crime would be prohibited under a bill considered by the Judiciary Committee Jan. 19.

LB732, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh, would prohibit peace officers from using deception as a means of interrogating individuals under the age of 18 in connection with an act that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime.

Under the bill, statements made by juveniles as a result of deceptive practices used by peace officers would not be admissible as evidence against the juvenile in any court proceedings.

Cavanaugh said juveniles may not understand the consequences of a statement made to police, or that police are not authorized to make any promises regarding the disposition of a case or leniency in exchange for testimony.

“False confessions are a serious problem in the criminal justice system and juveniles are more susceptible to making a false confession,” Cavanaugh said. “They are more likely to make a false confession when presented with false claims and evidence or a friend’s statement because their brains are still developing.”

Laurie Roberts testified in support

of LB732 on behalf of The Innocence Project. False confessions are the most common contributing factor in homicide exonerations in the country, she said, and are present in 30 percent of all exonerations that have been proven through DNA.

Roberts said false confessions can result from real or perceived threats from law enforcement, and a number of other factors, including fear of harsher punishment if one doesn’t confess.

Joe Nigro testified on behalf of the Lancaster County Public Defender’s Office and the Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association in support of the bill. He said a juvenile judge once told him that it “poisons” a child when an officer lies to them.

“They won’t trust their attorney, the judge, the probation officers – and that’s true whether the child is charged in juvenile or adult court,” Nigro said. “It’s a crime to lie to law enforcement, so why should police be able to lie to children?”

Taylor Givens-Dunn also testified in support of LB732 on behalf of Voices for Children in Nebraska, saying national research demonstrates that children are substantially more likely to falsely confess to crimes they did not commit.

“Studies of exonerations have found that about 13 percent of adult exonerations involved false confession while 43 percent of juvenile cases [involved false confession],” Givens-Dunn said. “The younger the child, the more likely the false confession.”

In opposition to the bill was Jim Maguire, who testified on behalf of the Omaha Police Officer’s Association and the Nebraska Fraternal Order of Police. He said that if deceptive methods are used during an interrogation, it’s typically to observe body language and to gauge a suspect’s response.

“We are not in the business of

obtaining false confessions,” Maguire said. “We don’t use deceptive tactics in every interview. All we want to do is find out the truth.”

Captain Tracy Scherer also spoke in opposition to the bill on behalf of the Omaha Police Department. She said the Supreme Court consistently has upheld the use of deception during suspect interviews and does not delineate between adults and juveniles.

“This bill narrows the scope of police interviews so narrowly that interviews would almost become obsolete,” Scherer said. “Additionally, this bill does not provide for any exceptions regarding severity of the crime, age or experience of the juvenile.”

The committee took no immediate action on LB732.

**Statute of limitations on child sexual assault discussed**

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony Jan. 21 on a bill that would change the statute of limitations for certain child sexual assault cases.

LB833, introduced by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, would remove the existing time limitation on a civil action taken against a private third party in cases of sexual assault of a child.

Provisions of the bill would not apply to cases already time barred under the statute of limitations.

Under current state law, a victim of child sexual assault has until age 33 to pursue a civil action against a third party. But the average age of a child sexual assault victim who comes forward, Pahls said, is 52.

“This will enable victims to pursue bad actors on their terms and it will act as a deterrent to any institution



Sen. John Cavanaugh



Sen. Rich Pahls

who might seek to put their own interests above the safety of children,” Pahls said.

Kathryn Robb testified in support of the bill on behalf of Child USA Advocacy. Robb said victims of child sexual abuse may repress memories of their abuse, intentionally or unintentionally, in order to survive. This is in part, she said, due to the high levels of cortisol and adrenaline a victim experiences during their abuse, which can lead to memory loss.

A number of different events may trigger recall of childhood sexual assault abuse later in life, she said, including the death of a parent or having a child reach the age that the survivor was when their abuse started.

“Most [experts] argue that it’s also the depression, the fear [and] the shame that really silences [victims],” Robb said. “So why should sexual predators be protected by the passage of time while victims suffer in perpetuity?”

Also in support of the bill was Shaun Dougherty, president of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests and a survivor of child sexual assault. Most victims, Dougherty said, will never come forward due to the statute of limitations out of fear that their accusations could lead to allegations that they are slandering their abuser.

Debra Dappen, who identified as a survivor of child sexual abuse, also testified in support of the bill on behalf of SNAP. Dappen said she was unsuccessful for 20 years in her attempts to file a police report against the man who raped her as a child.

“Due to the statute of limitations, he has never been publicly exposed or investigated and was able to die a free man,” she said. “Meanwhile, I’ve had to carry the burden of his crimes all these years, as all silenced victims do.”

Testifying in opposition to LB833 was Tom Venzor, who spoke on behalf

of the Nebraska Catholic Conference. Venzor expressed concern that the bill would not apply to public institutions even though most child sexual assault cases occur outside of the church or other private institutions.

“Statutes of limitations serve a purpose for both parties,” Venzor said. “Plaintiffs are entitled to a reasonable period of time to raise their claims and, likewise, defendants should be entitled to a reasonable sense of finality to avoid defending against difficult-to-prove allegations.”

Coleen Nielsen also testified in opposition to LB833 on behalf of the Nebraska Insurance Information Service and the Nebraska Insurance Federation. She said that statutes of limitation are put in place to protect individuals against unfair litigation by requiring certain timeliness.

“A lawsuit brought against an entity can be extremely difficult if not impossible to defend,” Nielsen said. “Memories [can] fade, records can be destroyed – witnesses can be difficult to find, others may have become incapacitated or pass away.”

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

## REVENUE

### Inheritance tax proposal amended, advanced

A proposal to cut inheritance tax rates and increase exemption amounts advanced to the final round of debate Jan. 20 after lawmakers amended it to ensure step relatives receive the same inheritance tax treatment as beneficiaries who are blood relatives.

LB310, introduced by Elmwood Sen. Robert Clements, would de-

crease inheritance tax rates on beneficiaries and increase the amount of property value that is exempt from the tax, which in Nebraska is collected by counties.



Sen. Robert Clements

Under an amendment Clements introduced on select file, the changes would apply to estates of individuals who die on or after Jan. 1, 2023.

The bill would require county treasurers to compile and submit a report regarding inheritance taxes to the state Department of Revenue.

To help counties complete those reports, the amendment also would require an estate’s personal representative, upon distribution of proceeds from the estate, to submit a report on inheritance taxes to the county treasurer in the county where the estate is administered.

The Clements amendment was adopted on a vote of 38-0.

Sen. Wendy DeBoer of Bennington then introduced an amendment to add provisions of her LB377 that would expand the definition of relatives for purposes of the inheritance tax to include certain step relatives.



Sen. Wendy DeBoer

DeBoer said there is no good policy reason for the law to make a distinction between beneficiaries who are blood relatives and those who are step relatives.

“This change reflects that the modern family comes in different types and the frequency of these situations is becoming more common,” she said.

After adopting DeBoer’s amendment on a vote of 38-1, senators voted 34-3 to advance LB310 to final reading.

**Bill would prevent school tax credit reduction**

The Revenue Committee heard testimony Jan. 19 on a proposal intended to prevent a tax credit based on school property taxes paid from falling below its current amount.

The Nebraska Property Tax Incentive Act, passed in 2020 as part of LB1107, created a refundable income tax credit based on the amount an eligible taxpayer paid in property taxes to their school district during the previous year.

The credit is equal to a percentage set by the state Department of Revenue multiplied by the amount of school district taxes paid.

The act authorized \$125 million in credits for the 2020 tax year, and the total amount of credits may increase each year based on growth in the state’s net tax receipts and the level of its cash reserve.

Albion Sen. Tom Briese, sponsor of LB723, said “substantial” growth in state tax receipts in 2020 increased the amount of credits available for the 2021 tax year to approximately \$548 million.



Sen. Tom Briese

The act allows that amount to grow for the next two years, he said, but it limits total credits for the 2024 tax year to \$375 million.

Briese said his proposal would strike that limit and allow the credit to grow by the prior year’s amount increased by an allowable growth percentage beginning in tax year 2024 rather than 2025, as currently allowed.

“LB723 would keep Nebraska taxpayers whole by stopping this roughly \$200 million tax increase on our constituents,” he said.

The allowable growth percentage is equal to the growth in statewide real property value and cannot exceed 5 percent in any one year.

The state Department of Revenue estimates that the change would reduce state general fund revenue by \$205 million in fiscal year 2024-25, \$212 million in FY2025-26 and \$220 million in FY2026-27.

Al Junhke testified in support of LB723 on behalf of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association. He said LB1107 supporters did not expect that a provision intended to prevent the credit amount from falling below a “floor” actually would force a reduction.

The credit amount was projected to grow in future years, Junhke said, not decrease.

“I don’t remember anybody mentioning this’ll be a rollercoaster,” he said.

Tiffany Friesen Milone opposed the bill on behalf of OpenSky Policy Institute. She said it would require Nebraska to further fund an already large tax credit at a time when state revenues are inflated by federal pandemic relief funding.

“Obligating future funds to this tax credit now while our revenues are heavily propped up by federal funding has the potential to force tough decisions by future legislators,” Friesen Milone said, “particularly if we see a drop in revenues after the federal funding ends.”

The committee voted 7-0 to advance LB723 to general file.

**Bill would speed up Social Security income tax phaseout**

The Revenue Committee heard testimony Jan. 19 on a proposal to speed up the eventual elimination of state taxation of Social Security income and voted to advance the bill

to the first round of debate.

Lawmakers passed a measure in 2021, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Brett Lindstrom, which set the exemption on such income, to the extent that it is included in federal adjusted gross income, at 20 percent in tax



Sen. Brett Lindstrom

year 2022. The exemption then is scheduled to increase 10 percent per year until reaching 50 percent in tax year 2025, with the stated intention of eliminating the tax entirely in 2030.

Lindstrom introduced LB825 this session to accelerate that schedule to a 20 percent annual increase, resulting in a 100 percent exemption in tax year 2025. Lindstrom said he has been working to eliminate state taxation of Social Security income since he came to the Legislature eight years ago.

“We have to restructure our fundamental tax code to be competitive,” he said. “We should not be taxing this; we never should have been.”

The state Department of Revenue estimates that the bill would reduce general fund revenue by \$59.6 million when fully implemented in fiscal year 2024-25, \$70 million in FY2025-26 and \$73.8 million in FY2026-27.

Deloris Tonack, current president of NSEA-Retired, testified in support of the proposal. Social Security was established as a program to assist people, she said, and was not meant to become a source of revenue for state governments.

“This is a fair way to eliminate an unfair tax on retirement benefits,” Tonack said.

Also testifying in support was Dave Holmquist, who spoke on behalf of AARP Nebraska. Currently, he said, Nebraska is one of only 12 states that tax Social Security income.

Retirees feel the impact of inflation more than other individuals, Holmquist said, because most are living on fixed incomes. Eliminating taxation of Social Security income would free up needed funds for older Nebraskans to age in place and pay for prescription medications and other expenses, he said.

Tiffany Friesen Milone, representing OpenSky Policy Institute, opposed LB825. She said the state's changing demographics would make the bill unsustainable over time, noting that the ratio of retirement age individuals in Nebraska to working age individuals is predicted to double over the coming decades.

"Nebraska's aging population is outpacing the growth in our workforce," Friesen Milone said.

The committee voted 7-0 to advance LB825 to general file.

### Proposals to limit school district tax increases considered

The Revenue Committee heard testimony Jan. 20 on two bills that, with some exceptions, would cap annual increases in the amount of property taxes collected by public school districts.

Albion Sen. Tom Briese, sponsor of LB986 and LB987, said a cap on public schools' taxing authority is "critical" if the Legislature is to direct more state funding to schools in an effort to reduce an overreliance on property taxes to fund public education.

Under LB986, a district's property tax request — the amount of taxes requested to be raised through its levy — could not exceed its property tax request authority, which the state



Sen. Tom Briese

Department of Education would calculate each year.

A district's property tax request would increase by the highest following percentage:

- the base growth percentage, equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, or 2.5 percent, whichever is greater;
- 40 percent of the annual percentage increase in the district's student enrollment;
- 25 percent of the annual percentage increase in the district's limited English proficiency students; or
- 25 percent of the annual percentage increase in the district's poverty students

The resulting amount then would decrease by an amount equal to the increase in a district's non-property-tax revenue, which includes certain state sources. If revenue from those sources decreases, a district's property tax request would increase by an equal amount.

Briese said this "floating cap" would ensure that any new state aid to public schools results in property tax relief. At the same time, he said, LB986 allows for "reasonable" tax asking increases for fast-growing districts.

LB986 also would allow a district to exceed its property tax request authority by an amount approved by 60 percent of legal voters. A 75 percent majority of a school board could exceed a district's property tax request authority by 4 to 7 percent depending on the number of students they enroll.

The limit would not apply to the portion of a district's property tax request needed to pay the principal and interest on approved bonds.

Under LB987, a district's property tax request could not increase by more than 3 percent from the previous year

or the percentage increase in inflation, whichever is greater.

Briese said the bill would allow a district to exceed its property tax request by a factor based on real property valuation growth. A district also could exceed the limit by an amount equal to a reduction in state aid resulting from a valuation increase.

Under certain conditions, a district also could exceed the limit by a majority vote of its board or by an amount approved by a majority of registered voters.

The limit would not apply to certain portions of a district's property tax request, including amounts budgeted to pay for certain health and safety hazards or amounts pledged to retire approved bonds. It would apply to property tax requests set in 2023 through 2028.

Nicole Fox testified in support of both bills on behalf of the Platte Institute. She said Nebraskans generally do not want to cut public school funding but do want to keep property tax increases at a "reasonable level."

"Requiring a vote of the people would give taxpayers an opportunity to say 'no' if the increases are inappropriate at that time or to approve an override if [school] boards have made a good case for that," Fox said.

Bud Synhorst testified in support of both proposals on behalf of the Lincoln Independent Business Association. He said LIBA supports proposals that limit local taxing authorities to their previous year's tax request multiplied by factors for inflation and real property growth.

"This allows room for the needed growth in our community and subdivisions without levying too heavy of a burden on the taxpayers," Synhorst said.

Craig Beck testified in opposition to LB986 and LB987 on behalf of

OpenSky Policy Institute. He said the cap in LB986 could interact with existing school levy and budget limitations in a way that prevents some schools from accessing their full property tax request authority.

Additionally, Beck said, requiring districts to reduce their property tax requests by the amount of non-property-tax revenue they receive could violate federal coronavirus relief funding requirements.

Jack Moles testified in opposition to both bills on behalf of the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska State Education Association and other school organizations.

He said the measures would make it more difficult for schools to raise pay in an effort to address a shortage of teachers, paraprofessionals, maintenance workers and bus drivers.

Jason Buckingham also testified in opposition to both proposals on behalf of the Greater Nebraska Schools Association and Ralston Public Schools.

In certain cases, he said, neither bill would allow a district to increase its property tax request enough to make up for a reduction in state equalization aid caused by large valuation increases.

The committee took no immediate action on either bill.

## URBAN AFFAIRS

### Affordable housing plans discussed

Nebraska municipalities would have more flexibility in creating affordable housing plans under a bill considered Jan. 18 by the Urban Affairs Committee.

LB724, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen, would allow revenue from the Local Option Municipal Development Act



Sen. Matt Hansen

to be used to create an affordable housing plan, which are required of cities with populations greater than 20,000.

“This bill is an opportunity to further support our cities,” Hansen said. “This is a solely local program — local cities using their own local resources.”

Christy Abraham of the League of Nebraska Municipalities testified in support of the bill. Some Nebraska municipalities are required to develop affordable housing plans, Abraham said, and LB724 is a “creative” way to help cities do so.

“This is expanding [current law] just a little bit to allow those funds to be used to create their affordable action plan,” she said.

Carol Bodeen of the Nebraska Housing Developers Association also spoke in support of LB724.

She said the bill would enable more Nebraskans to own a home and enable cities to exercise local control in producing affordable housing plans.

No one testified in opposition to LB724 and the committee took no immediate action on it. ■

## SEARCH FOR BILLS

Learn more about bills considered by the Unicameral by logging on to [NebraskaLegislature.gov](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov).

The Legislature’s website offers a bill search on the upper-right portion of the home page. Entering a bill number will retrieve the bill’s text, fiscal note, statement of intent, votes, transcripts and more.

You also can search current laws using the keyword search found below the bill search.

# COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Current hearing schedules are available at: [NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar)

## **Monday, Jan. 24**

### **Appropriations**

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

LB1011 (Speaker Hilgers) Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to appropriations  
LB1012 (Speaker Hilgers) Provide for funds transfers, create funds, and change and eliminate provisions regarding a fund and reimbursement provisions  
LB1013 (Speaker Hilgers) Change provisions relating to the Cash Reserve Fund

### **Banking, Commerce & Insurance**

#### **Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB767 (Kolterman) Adopt the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Licensure and Regulation Act  
LB826 (Lindstrom) Redefine a term under the Public Funds Deposit Security Act  
LB706 (Williams) Change provisions of the Real Property Appraiser Act

### **Business & Labor**

#### **Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB717 (Morfeld) Change the amount of compensation under the In the Line of Duty Compensation Act  
LB780 (Gragert) Change provisions relating to child labor and employment certificates and approval requirements for short-time compensation plans  
LB869 (M. Hansen) Change provisions relating to a leave of absence for an adoptive parent  
LB931 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to disqualification for benefits under the Employment Security Law

### **Education**

#### **Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB872 (Brewer) Authorize the wearing of tribal regalia by certain students  
LB868 (Morfeld) Change provisions relating to a classification system administered by the State Department of Education

### **Executive Board**

#### **Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.**

LB686 (Hughes) Change composition of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council

LB708 (Hughes) Eliminate the requirement to copyright reissue and supplement volumes of the Nebraska Revised Statutes

### **General Affairs**

#### **Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB876 (Briese) Change provisions relating to powers and duties of the State Racing and Gaming Commission and the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act and authorize gaming operator and racetrack licenses  
LB877 (Briese) Change provisions relating to horseracing and the State Racing and Gaming Commission  
LB923 (J. Cavanaugh) Change provisions relating to the game of keno and provide for the sale of digital-on-premises tickets  
LB764 (Aguilar) Redefine the term gross proceeds for purposes of the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act

### **Transportation & Telecommunications**

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

LB771 (Day) Change provisions in the Nebraska Rules of the Road relating to electric bicycles  
LB934 (J. Cavanaugh) Make certain license plate and registration decal provisions secondary violations and change penalties  
LB731 (J. Cavanaugh) Provide requirements under the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act  
LB747 (Friesen) Eliminate the requirement that the Director of Aeronautics be confirmed by the Legislature  
LB874 (Friesen) Provide restrictions on fees under the State Aeronautics Act  
LB913 (Bostelman) Changes provisions relating to construction of highways and roads

## **Tuesday, Jan. 25**

### **Agriculture**

#### **Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB848 (Halloran) Change provisions of the Animal Health and Disease Control Act relating to catastrophic livestock mortality  
LB889 (Halloran) Change provisions of the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act

### **Appropriations**

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

LB1014 (Speaker Hilgers) Appropriate Federal Funds allocated to the State of Nebraska pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

### **Banking, Commerce & Insurance**

#### **Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB739 (Bostar) Change provisions relating to insurance coverage of colorectal cancer screenings  
LB846 (Slama) Change provisions relating to an annual audit under the Nebraska Banking Act  
LB894 (Stinner) Change provisions relating to accounting firm ownership

### **Education**

#### **Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB890 (Walz) Change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

### **Transportation & Telecommunications**

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

LB822 (M. Hansen) Change provisions relating to reinstatement fees for motor vehicle operators' licenses  
LB884 (M. Cavanaugh) Provide notice to private residential owners under the One-Call Notification System Act

### **Urban Affairs**

#### **Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.**

LB695 (Blood) Prohibit conditional use permits and zoning exceptions for delinquent property taxpayers  
LB796 (Urban Affairs) Change certain reporting requirements under the Community Development Law  
LB797 (Urban Affairs) Provide for the removal of certain blighted designations under the Community Development Law  
LB798 (Urban Affairs) Change provisions relating to extremely blighted areas under the Community Development Law

## **Wednesday, Jan. 26**

### **Appropriations**

#### **Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.**

Agency 16: Dept. of Revenue  
Agency 97: Hemp Commission

# COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Current hearing schedules are available at: [NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar)

Agency 81: Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
 Agency 28: Dept. of Veterans' Affairs  
 Agency 76: Indian Commission  
 Agency 32: Board of Educational Lands and Funds  
 Agency 47: Educational Telecommunications Commission  
 Agency 85: Public Employees Retirement Board  
 LB992 (Morfeld) Appropriate funds to the Public Employees Retirement Board for a change to the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System

**Executive Board  
 Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.**

LB814 (McKinney) Require the office of Legislative Research to prepare racial impact statements for legislative bills  
 LB975 (Wayne) Provide a requirement for state officials and state employees testifying before the Legislature

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

LB843 (Brewer) Change provisions relating to elections  
 LB858 (Clements) Restrict funding for elections under the Election Act  
 LB785 (Groene) Change provisions relating to early voting  
 LB849 (Bostar) Provide a penalty for violations relating to recall elections

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

LB929 (Wishart) Require submission of a medicaid state plan amendment or waiver to extend postpartum coverage  
 LB862 (McCollister) Require coverage under the Medical Assistance Act for treatments for end-stage renal disease  
 LB1004 (Health & Human Services) Require the Department of Health and Human Services to provide for an evaluation of the developmental disabilities system

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

LB918 (Wayne) Change dollar amount thresholds for criminal penalty classifications  
 LB920 (Lathrop) Change criminal

justice provisions including offenses, sentencing, set asides, restitution, pretrial diversion, and parole; provide for benefits under the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act; create criminal justice pilot programs; terminate an oversight committee; and create a task force  
 LB952 (J. Cavanaugh) Provide medicaid enrollment assistance to inmates prior to release from incarceration  
 LB980 (McKinney) Provide for release for medical treatment, change provisions relating to medical parole, and provide for parole eligibility for persons serving sentences of life imprisonment

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

LB925 (Gragert) Adopt the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act and state intent regarding appropriations  
 LB981 (Hilkemann) Revive the Trail Development Assistance Act and state intent to transfer funds  
 LB978 (Hughes) Provide powers and duties relating to the treatment of dredged and fill material under the Environmental Protection Act  
 Appointment: Patrick L. Berggren - Game & Parks Commission  
 Appointment: Douglas A. Zingula - Game & Parks Commission

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

LB891 (Lindstrom) Change the distribution of sales tax revenue, school levy limitations, and other tax and school provisions

**Thursday, Jan. 27  
 Appropriations**

**Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.**  
 Agency 24 : Dept. of Motor Vehicles  
 Agency 27: Dept. of Transportation  
 Agency 31: Military Department  
 Agency 53: Real Property Appraiser Board  
 LB751 (Arch) Change a funding limitation for the Economic Opportunity Program  
 LB991 (Morfeld) Appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study for high-speed commuter rail

**Executive Board  
 Room 1525 - 12:00 p.m.**  
 LB844 (McCollister) Provide requirements for filling a vacancy in the Legislature  
 LR269CA (Hunt) Constitutional amendment to create a Commission on Redistricting

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

LB823 (B. Hansen) Prohibit state agencies from imposing annual filing and reporting requirements on charitable organizations  
 LR271 (Brewer) Name the building owned by this state, and located at 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, as the First Nebraska Administrative Building, and name the building owned by this state and located at 521 South 14th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, as Chief Standing Bear Justice Administration Building  
 LB778 (Brewer) Adopt the Government Neutrality in Contracting Act

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

*Briefing by the Nebraska Children's Commission*  
 LB906 (B. Hansen) Require employers to provide for vaccine exemptions and provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services

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

LB831 (M. Cavanaugh) Provide for caregiver diversion programs and conditional release of pregnant and postpartum inmates  
 LB886 (M. Cavanaugh) Provide requirements relating to pregnant prisoners and detainees  
 LB896 (Lathrop) Change and provide requirements for program evaluation under the Nebraska Treatment and Corrections Act  
 LB921 (Lathrop) Change where sentences of imprisonment are served

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

LB1047 (Bostelman) Change requirements regarding annual load and capability reports filed with the Nebraska Power Review Board

# COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Current hearing schedules are available at: [NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar](http://NebraskaLegislature.gov/calendar)

LB1046 (Bostelman) Change provisions relating to selection of the board of directors and chief executive officer of certain public power districts  
LB736 (Bostar) Redefine E-85 for grants for ethanol infrastructure projects

## Revenue

### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB926 (Pahls) Provide an income tax credit for rent paid on dwellings  
LB740 (DeBoer) Provide an income tax deduction for rent paid on dwellings  
LB938 (Linehan) Change corporate income tax rates  
LB939 (Linehan) Change individual income tax rates  
LB832 (M. Cavanaugh) Change individual income tax brackets and rates

## Friday, Jan. 28

### Appropriations

#### Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

Agency 25: Health & Human Services  
LB792 (Lowe) Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney  
LB971 (McDonnell) Change the name of the Brain Injury Trust Fund Act to the Brain Injury Assistance Act and change certain provisions in the act  
LB782 (Vargas) Change appropriations for Health Aid to the Department of Health and Human Services

### Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

#### Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB807 (Brandt) Change provisions relating to county historical associations

LB765 (Aguilar) Change provisions relating to authorized uses for a County Visitors Improvement Fund  
LB847 (Wishart) Redefine political subdivision under the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act  
LB791 (Lowe) Change a population requirement relating to county surveyors, engineers, and highway superintendents  
LR263CA (Blood) Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions as prescribed

## Health & Human Services

### Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB932 (Hunt) Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to screen children for social security benefit eligibility  
LB1019 (McKinney) Require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a family resource and juvenile assessment center pilot program  
LB854 (Day) Require notice to the Department of Health and Human Services in certain cases of alleged out-of-home child abuse or neglect

## Judiciary

### Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB748 (Friesen) Change forfeiture provisions under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act as prescribed  
LB808 (Morfeld) Change provisions relating to controlled substances schedules  
LB816 (McKinney) Require collection of

certain data upon commitment to the Department of Correctional Services  
LB878 (J. Cavanaugh) Provide for automatic review of bail and conditions of release for misdemeanors or violations of city or village ordinances  
LB1010 (Geist) Require information to be included in the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System and accessible to law enforcement

## Natural Resources

### Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB806 (Bostelman) Change provisions relating to drainage of land by the landowner  
LB924 (Brewer) Include cities of the first class as grant recipients under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Act  
LB1058 (Brewer) Provide requirements for public power suppliers relating to baseload units

## Revenue

### Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

Appointment: Robert W. Hotz - Tax Equalization and Review Commission  
LB701 (Williams) Change certain deadlines under the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act and the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act  
LB702 (Williams) Change provisions relating to the availability of tax credits under the School Readiness Tax Credit Act  
LB951 (J. Cavanaugh) Increase the earned income tax credit  
LB1103 (Brandt) Change provisions of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act ■





# NEW BILLS

January 18, 2022

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1043	Kolterman	Change retirement provisions for certain school employees
LB1044	Hilkemann	Adopt the Care Team Innovation Grant Pilot Project Act and state intent regarding federal funds
LB1045	Bostelman	Change qualifications of certain public power district board members
LB1046	Bostelman	Change provisions relating to selection of the board of directors and chief executive officer of certain public power districts
LB1047	Bostelman	Change requirements regarding annual load and capability reports filed with the Nebraska Power Review Board
LB1048	Blood	Appropriate federal funds to the University of Nebraska to evaluate the chemicals released and pollution caused by ethanol production facilities
LB1049	Kolterman	Appropriate funds to the Supreme Court for the Office of Public Guardian
LB1050	Flood	Prohibit public postsecondary institutions from discriminating against student organizations based on viewpoints, beliefs, and missions
LB1051	J. Cavanaugh	Provide for setting aside convictions and expunging records for convictions and adjudications for concealed weapon offenses
LB1052	J. Cavanaugh	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program
LB1053	Lathrop	Authorize courts to conduct proceedings using virtual conferencing
LB1054	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the University of Nebraska to modernize academic research laboratories and equipment for the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Omaha
LB1055	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for premium pay to front-line nurses
LB1056	Brewer	Provide for regulation of industrial wind turbines by counties
LB1057	Brewer	Change provisions relating to Class III school districts
LB1058	Brewer	Provide requirements for public power suppliers relating to base-load units
LB1059	Flood	Exempt the Judicial Resources Commission from the Open Meetings Act
LB1060	Briese	Change provisions relating to certain findings and the validity of certain agreements under the Community Development Law
LB1061	Albrecht	Change provisions relating to the board of directors of an insurance corporation
LB1062	Albrecht	Change provisions relating to compensation for total disability under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB1063	Morfeld	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Labor to increase the number of apprentices and provide premium pay
LB1064	Arch	Change powers and duties of the materiel division and provisions relating to the Materiel Division Revolving Fund
LB1065	Groene	Change provisions of the Community Development Law relating to redevelopment plans receiving an expedited review
LB1066	Stinner	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Nebraska for behavioral health care services
LB1067	Stinner	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska for the Behavioral Health Education Center
LB1068	Stinner	Change provisions regarding the Behavioral Health Education Center administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center
LB1069	Williams	Change provisions of the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act
LB1070	Williams	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for infrastructure related to rural workforce housing
LB1071	Williams	Appropriate funds for the workforce housing grant program
LB1072	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for a financial success program
LB1073	Wayne	Create the Department of Housing and Urban Development
LB1074	Bostelman	Create the Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund
LB1075	Stinner	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for technology that will support statewide pediatric mental health services
LB1076	Stinner	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services to develop software to streamline coordination of care for children with medically complex conditions

# NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1077	B. Hansen	Prohibit public schools, public postsecondary institutions, and governmental entities from training or teaching certain concepts relating to race and sex and provide for withholding of state funds
LB1078	B. Hansen	Prohibit possession of personal electronic devices by students in public school classrooms
LB1079	B. Hansen	State intent to appropriate federal funds for disbursement to Nebraska residents as prepaid debit cards
LB1080	Sanders	Change homestead exemption provisions relating to qualifications, application requirements, and penalties
LB1081	Bostar	Provide for a grant program for the design, construction, and implementation of water transport infrastructure under the Department of Natural Resources and state intent to appropriate federal funds
LB1082	Gragert	Require the Game and Parks Commission to provide certain organ and tissue donation information on applications for certain hunting and fishing permits
LB1083	Business & Labor	Provide for payment of claims against the state
LB1084	Business & Labor	Deny claims against the state
LB1085	Pansing Brooks	Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education for career and technical educational student organizations
LR275	Williams	Extend sympathy to the family of Vernon Waldren and recognize his service and leadership to the communities of Nebraska
LR276	Blood	Interim study to examine circumstances in which conditional use permits can be approved or revoked
LR277	Blood	Interim study to determine what is needed to developed a plan to protect managed and native Nebraskan pollinators from current harmful practices

## January 19, 2022

LB1086	Geist	Adopt the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act
LB1087	Stinner	Appropriate federal funds for Aid to Community Colleges for dual enrollment
LB1088	Stinner	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Transformational Project Fund
LB1089	Stinner	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for licensed and medicaid-certified nursing facilities
LB1090	Dorn	Change award limits under the Business Innovation Act
LB1091	Dorn	Adopt the Nebraska Nursing Incentive Act and state intent to appropriate federal funds
LB1092	Flood	Authorize risk-loss trusts for Nebraska state colleges
LB1093	Flood	Adopt the Enhancement Project Financing Assistance Act and provide for the use of certain sales tax revenue
LB1094	Flood	Change provisions for determining the number of new employees under the Imagine Nebraska Act
LB1095	Halloran	Change provisions of the Animal Health and Disease Control Act
LB1096	Halloran	Provide for participation in trusts and investment pools by certain governmental entities
LB1097	Halloran	Change sales tax provisions relating to motor vehicle towing
LB1098	Halloran	Change provisions relating to the State Fire Marshal, the Boiler Inspection Act, and the Conveyance Safety Act
LB1099	Bostelman	Create the Nebraska Hydrogen Hub Industry Work Group
LB1100	Bostelman	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for a feasibility study relating to nuclear reactors
LB1101	Bostelman	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund and the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act
LB1102	Bostelman	Adopt the Nebraska Environmental Response Act and change provisions relating to enforcement of environmental protection
LB1103	Brandt	Change provisions of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act
LB1104	Day	Change provisions of the Emergency Management Act
LB1105	Day	Provide for Autism Awareness Plates
LB1106	Day	Change provisions of the Mental Health Practice Act
LB1107	Day	Change provisions relating to provider reimbursement for an absent child under the federal Child Care Subsidy program
LB1108	Day	Provide certain sanitary and improvement districts the power to regulate the discharge of fireworks
LB1109	Murman	Provide for the issuance of a liquor license to the spouse of a law enforcement officer
LB1110	Slama	Change provisions relating to the regulation and operation of all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles

# NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1111	McKinney	Appropriate funds to the Supreme Court for community corrections
LB1112	McKinney	Adopt the Computer Science and Technology Act and provide graduation requirements and academic content standards
LB1113	McKinney	Provide for a pilot program to transfer funds under the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act and state intent to appropriate federal funds
LB1114	McKinney	Change provisions of the Business Innovation Act relating to purposes, funding preferences, and the small business investment program
LB1115	McKinney	Require the development of certain property in order for the property to retain its property tax exemption
LB1116	Wayne	Change provisions of the Business Innovation Act relating to a financial assistance program for creating prototypes
LB1117	Wayne	Change provisions relating to tax credits under the Community Development Assistance Act
LB1118	Wayne	Provide for election of airport authority board in a city of the metropolitan class
LB1119	Wayne	Change powers of an airport authority created by a city of the metropolitan class
LB1120	Wayne	Disqualify entities receiving federal funds from a high-population county or city of the metropolitan class from receiving such funds from the state
LB1121	Albrecht	Require inspection of vote counting devices under the Election Act
LB1122	Erdman	Change provisions relating to the Land Surveyors Regulation Act
LB1123	Erdman	Change procedures for counting ballots under the Election Act
LB1124	Erdman	Change provisions relating to small estate affidavits under the Nebraska Probate Code
LB1125	Aguilar	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for new construction of industrial rail yards
LB1126	M. Cavanaugh	Eliminate family copayments under the child care subsidy program
LB1127	Wishart	Adopt the Regulatory Sandbox Act
LB1128	DeBoer	Adopt the Student Loan Repayment Assistance for Teachers Act
LB1129	Morfeld	Provide free contraceptives for women as prescribed
LB1130	Morfeld	Require data sharing and execution of agreements with the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System by various state departments
LB1131	Morfeld	State intent to appropriate federal funds for bonus payments for teachers, child care workers, and health care workers
LB1132	Morfeld	Change provisions relating to insurance under the Nebraska Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act
LB1133	Morfeld	Include health care workers within provisions concerning compensability of mental injuries and mental illness under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB1134	Morfeld	Prohibit use of public resources by a board member or employee of an electric cooperative corporation under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act
LB1135	Murman	Change provision relating to conservation or preservation easements and property tax exemptions relating to such easements
LB1136	Hunt	Adopt the Senior Care LGBTQ Discrimination Prevention Act
LB1137	Hunt	Rename and change provisions of the Fair Pay to Play Act
LB1138	Vargas	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for local public health departments
LB1139	M. Hansen	Prohibit certain corporations from making contributions or expenditures or providing personal services under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act
LB1140	M. Hansen	Change provisions relating to approval of agencies and associations for participation in public employee withholding programs
LB1141	Vargas	Appropriate federal funds to the Commission on Public Advocacy for legal representation for indigent clients
LB1142	Vargas	Appropriate federal funds to the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority to support the development of affordable housing units
LB1143	Linehan	Require approval by the voters of a school district or educational service unit for the issuance of certain bonds under the Interlocal Cooperation Act
LB1144	Friesen	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act and the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act
LB1145	Friesen	Change provisions relating to public information on motor vehicle accident reports
LB1146	Friesen	Change provisions relating to the Interlocal Cooperation Act

# NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1147	Friesen	Redefine terms under the Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles
LB1148	Friesen	Provide for the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Licensing Board to employ a hearing officer
LB1149	Friesen	Change registration fees for motor vehicles powered by alternative fuel
LB1150	Performance Audit	Change provisions relating to the contents of applications and agreements under the Imagine Nebraska Act
LB1151	McCollister	Create the Nebraska Capitol Maintenance, Preservation, Restoration, and Enhancement Fund and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund
LB1152	McCollister	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Administrative Services for repair and restoration of the State Capitol
LB1153	McCollister	Change the number of members and qualifications for certain members of the State Electrical Board
LB1154	McKinney	Change provisions relating to good time, parole eligibility, and service of a sentence of incarceration outside of a department facility and require eighty percent of eligible committed offenders to be placed in community corrections or transitional housing
LB1155	J. Cavanaugh	Provide for a pretrial risk assessment and services pilot program
LB1156	McDonnell	Increase appropriations to the Department of Economic Development for a grant to development districts
LB1157	Linehan	Require the State Department of Education to submit reports on federal funds
LB1158	Sanders	Change provisions relating to parental involvement in and access to learning materials in schools and provide for withholding of funding from school districts
LB1159	Wishart	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for a model system of care
LB1160	Wishart	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Environment and Energy for reverse osmosis systems
LB1161	Wishart	Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education for programs and interpreters that provide services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing
LB1162	Wishart	Appropriate federal funds to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to support in-person interpreting in rural areas and legal communication access
LB1163	Wishart	Change award limitations under the Business Innovation Act and state intent regarding appropriation of federal funds
LB1164	Wishart	State intent regarding an increase in reimbursement rates for Child Welfare Aid
LB1165	Sanders	Change provisions of the Nebraska Budget Act
LB1166	Sanders	Change provisions of the One-Call Notification System Act
LB1167	Flood	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for internships and expanding and retaining Nebraska's workforce
LB1168	Linehan	Provide an income tax deduction for the costs of medical care
LB1169	Linehan	Require the State Department of Education to create a loan forgiveness grant program
LB1170	Sanders	Require schools to allow certain youth organizations to provide information, services, and activities
LB1171	Sanders	Provide for the clerk of the district court to serve as the ex officio jury commissioner in all counties and change provisions relating to compensation
LB1172	Hilkemann	Appropriate federal funds for rate increases for certain providers of developmental disabilities services
LB1173	Health & Human Services	Create a work group and strategic leadership group for child welfare system reform
LB1174	Wayne	Require state entities to report to the Legislature regarding operations and require a hearing by a legislative standing committee
LB1175	Wayne	Prohibit a health insurer from removing a provider as an in-network provider under certain circumstances
LB1176	Bostar	Change the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act
LB1177	Bostar	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for a pilot program for frontline first responders
LB1178	McCollister	Provide for the withholding of the residential address of a judge from the public
LB1179	Groene	Adopt the Classroom Safety Intervention and Behavioral Awareness Training Act
LB1180	Groene	Change individual income tax brackets
LB1181	Groene	Change provisions relating to required identification documents for registering to vote and voting and procedures for early voting
LB1182	Pansing Brooks	Adopt the School Employees Pandemic Protection Act and state intent regarding federal funds
LB1183	Aguilar	State intent to appropriate federal funds for federally qualified health centers
LB1184	Geist	Change provisions relating to duties of the Attorney General to defend the Nebraska State Patrol

# NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1185	Morfeld	Change provisions relating to the powers of an electric cooperative corporation
LB1186	Bostar	Rename and change provisions of the Oil Pipeline Reclamation Act
LR278CA	Linehan	Constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education and provide for the Governor to appoint the Commissioner of Education

## January 20, 2022

LB1187	Flood	Change provisions relating to controllable electronic records in the Uniform Commercial Code
LB1188	Flood	Adopt the Uniform Personal Data Protection Act
LB1189	Flood	Change provisions relating to discontinuance of sanitary drainage districts
LB1190	Lathrop	Change requirements for issuers of medicare supplement insurance policies or certificates relating to coverage of individuals under sixty-five years of age who are eligible for medicare by reason of disability
LB1191	Brewer	Appropriate federal funds to the Commission on Indian Affairs to improve tribal-owned community drinking water
LB1192	McDonnell	Provide for a temporary injunction upon filing for separation or divorce, a presumption of joint custody and parenting time, sanctions for misconduct by a party, and reports
LB1193	McDonnell	Provide limitations regarding federal funds appropriations relating to the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
LB1194	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the Public Service Commission for public safety answering points and cloud-based software services to process 911 emergency calls
LB1195	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development to award sponsorship grants for international competitions to be hosted in Nebraska
LB1196	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for lead service line replacements for a utilities district
LB1197	McDonnell	Appropriate funds to the Department of Correctional Services for grants to mentor justice-involved individuals
LB1198	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education to provide grants to nonprofit organizations providing programming for mentorship, career exploration, and access to job readiness or postsecondary education
LB1199	McDonnell	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Administrative Services for the Chief Information Officer to provide radios to volunteer departments
LB1200	Halloran	Adopt the State and Political Subdivisions Child Sexual Abuse Liability Act and exempt actions from the State Tort Claims Act and Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act
LB1201	DeBoer	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for grants to nonprofit organizations providing food assistance
LB1202	Day	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for a grant to any Nebraska-based soccer team or professional baseball team
LB1203	Briese	Appropriate federal funds for child care programs
LB1204	Briese	Change provisions relating to application forms and delivery methods for licenses and warning signs issued under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB1205	McKinney	Provide powers and duties to the Nebraska State Historical Society and provide for the development of the Ernie Chambers History-Arts-Humanities Museum
LB1206	Kolterman	Appropriate federal funds to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges for infrastructure, technology, and equipment
LB1207	Groene	Change taxation and school funding provisions
LB1208	Friesen	Adopt the Broadband Pole Replacement Fund Act and appropriate federal funds
LB1209	Linehan	Change sales tax provisions relating to purchasing agents
LB1210	Slama	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for small businesses located in cities of the second class and villages
LB1211	Linehan	Change provisions relating to option enrollment for students
LB1212	Linehan	Change provisions relating to individualized education plans under the Special Education Act
LB1213	Albrecht	Provide powers and duties for school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission relating to obscenity and access to materials obscene as to minors or harmful as to minors through digital or online resources provided to students
LB1214	Geist	Change provisions of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act

# NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1215	Geist	Adopt the Small Business Assistance Act and provide for grants
LB1216	M. Cavanaugh	Change provisions relating to appointment of guardians and conservators
LB1217	Walz	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Administrative Services for incentive payments to eligible school employees
LB1218	Education	Change provisions relating to certification of school employees and student loan forgiveness
LB1219	Sanders	Adopt the Extended Learning Opportunities Act
LB1220	Morfeld	Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education for premium payments for teachers working in underserved communities
LB1221	Morfeld	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for remdesivir for patients suffering from COVID-19
LB1222	M.Hansen	Change provisions of the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act and provide for certificates of title and liens for abandoned mobile homes
LB1223	M.Hansen	Require reimbursement for lodging certain defendants in county jails and require state hospitals to maintain beds for certain patients
LB1224	Wayne	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for grants for new and upgraded tourism attractions
LB1225	Wayne	Eliminate the franchise tax and require financial institutions to pay the corporate income tax
LB1226	Wayne	Change provisions relating to land banks, service of notice, and the time periods for applying for a tax deed and for bringing certain tax-related foreclosure actions
LB1227	Wayne	Allow land banks to receive federal funds under the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act
LB1228	Wayne	Appropriate federal funds to the Nebraska Tourism Commission for purposes of constructing a museum
LB1229	Hilkemann	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development to provide funds to a tax-exempt organization for certain sports and fitness programs, stipends for certain internships, and certain facility rental costs
LB1230	Hilkemann	Provide for a statewide education program regarding cancer and state intent to appropriate funds from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund
LB1231	Briese	Change provisions relating to the importation of alcoholic liquor into the state under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB1232	McDonnell	Appropriate funds from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Department of Economic Development for a capital construction grant for the United States Strategic Command Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications public-private partnership facility
LB1233	Sanders	Rename and change provisions relating to the United States Space Command Headquarters Assistance Fund, change provisions relating to the Cash Reserve Fund, and state legislative intent relating to development at Offutt Air Force Base
LB1234	Friesen	Provide for an expedited method of authorizing telecommunications wires to cross railroad rights-of-way
LB1235	Lowe	Change provisions relating to craft breweries and allow for self-distribution of beer under certain circumstances under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB1236	Lowe	Change provisions relating to craft brewery licensees under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB1237	Brewer	Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and the Nebraska Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act
LB1238	Vargas	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for the South Omaha Recovery Grant Program
LB1239	Vargas	Change and eliminate provisions relating to liquor and agreements between manufacturers and wholesalers and beer suppliers and beer wholesalers
LB1240	Albrecht	Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education to provide family-directed education recovery accounts for low-income children and families
LB1241	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to law enforcement officer training and certification
LB1242	Murman	Change the valuation of certain real property for purposes of property taxes levied by school districts
LB1243	Murman	Change priorities relating to funding the medicaid home and community-based services waivers for persons with developmental disabilities
LB1244	J. Cavanaugh	Change provisions relating to limitations for a postconviction relief action
LB1245	J. Cavanaugh	Change provisions and terminology relating to determinations of paternity and parentage, birth certificates, and related matters
LB1246	Pansing Brooks	Require confidentiality for victims of sexual assault and sex trafficking in criminal proceedings prior to the filing of charges

# NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1247	Pansing Brooks	Provide for recognition of tribal mental health and dangerous sex offender commitment orders and for transportation of and commitment of persons civilly committed under tribal law
LB1248	B. Hansen	
LB1249	B. Hansen	Change provisions of the Medical Nutrition Therapy Practice Act
LB1250	B. Hansen	Change provisions relating to joint public hearings and postcards under the Property Tax Request Act
LB1251	B. Hansen	Adopt the Equal Opportunity Scholarship for Students with Special Needs Program Act and change provisions relating to the distribution of lottery funds
LB1252	Vargas	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for middle-income housing
LB1253	Wayne	Require the Department of Economic Development to apply for grants from the federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and provide requirements for use of the grant funds
LB1254	B. Hansen	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for services relating to youth who have aged out of the foster care system
LB1255	Bostar	Appropriate federal funds to the University of Nebraska for an updated climate change report
LB1256	McKinney	Change provisions relating to public libraries and require the election of library board members of a city of the metropolitan class
LB1257	Bostar	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Transportation for grants for electric vehicle direct-current fast charging stations
LB1258	Bostar	Adopt the Peer-to-Peer Vehicle Sharing Program Act
LB1259	Geist	Change provisions relating to issuance of new license plates and license plate fees
LB1260	DeBoer	Change provisions relating to the Public Guardianship Act
LB1261	Murman	Change limitations on tax credits under the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act
LB1262	Murman	Adopt the Recreation Area Assistance Act and state intent regarding appropriation of federal funds
LB1263	Clements	Provide for secure ballot drop-boxes under the Election Act
LB1264	McDonnell	Change provisions relating to inheritance taxes, sales and use taxes, and income taxes
LB1265	Halloran	Provide an income tax deduction for certain law enforcement officers
LB1266	Halloran	Change provisions relating to operations of common carriers
LB1267	Vargas	Appropriate federal funds for health equity liaisons for various state commissions
LB1268	Bostar	Remove the prohibition that a lottery ticket cannot be sold through a vending or dispensing device under the State Lottery Act
LB1269	Murman	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for repayment of qualified educational debts owed by certain health professionals
LB1270	Clements	Adopt the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act
LB1271	Lindstrom	Adopt the Law Enforcement Marketing Act
LB1272	Halloran	Provide an income tax credit for law enforcement officers based on years of service and change provisions relating to a waiver of tuition
LB1273	Bostar	Provide an income tax deduction to retired law enforcement officers for health insurance premiums
LB1274	Flood	Require the Department of Transportation to plan, design, and purchase rights-of-way for U.S. Highway 81 and Nebraska Highway 20
LB1275	Groene	Adopt the Medicinal Cannabis Act
LB1276	McKinney	Provide for civil actions against law enforcement officers who commit misconduct and exempt such actions from the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act and the State Tort Claims Act
LB1277	Clements	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development to provide funds to a county agricultural society with facilities within a city of the primary class
LR279	Pahls	Interim study to examine ways to further support the mission of the office of Public Counsel
LR280	Pansing Brooks	Acknowledge the survivors of the Genoa Industrial School and other boarding schools in the state along with their families and communities
LR281CA	Murman	Constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to treat commercial real property as a separate class for purposes of property taxes and to provide for a different method of taxing commercial real property
LR282CA	Slama	Constitutional amendment to eliminate the requirement to nominate and elect members of the Legislature in a nonpartisan manner
LR283CA	Bostar	Constitutional amendment to authorize any city, county, or other political subdivision that operates an airport to expend revenue for developing regularly scheduled commercial passenger air service at the airport

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Chief Justice Michael Heavican greets Sen. Curt Friesen, one of the senators designated to escort him into the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for his State of the Judiciary Address Jan. 21.