

Ban on gender-altering procedures for minors advanced to final round after cloture

Senators advanced a measure to the final round of consideration April 13 to ban “gender-altering” care for minors in Nebraska after a successful cloture vote and a pledge from the bill’s sponsor to continue working toward a compromise.

LB574, introduced by Omaha Sen. Kathleen Kauth, would prohibit physicians in Nebraska from performing or referring an individual under age 19 for gender altering procedures, including surgical procedures, hormone therapy and puberty blockers.

A physician who knowingly violates the bill’s provisions would be subject to review by the state’s medical licensing board. An individual who received a gender-altering procedure while under age 19, or their parent or guardian, could bring a civil action against the physician within two years of discovery.

The bill also would prohibit the distribution or use of state funds for any entity, organization or individual that provides gender-altering procedures for minors. The provisions of LB574 would take effect on Oct. 1, 2023.

Kauth and other supporters of the bill argued that the measure would protect children from “experimental”



Sens. Mike Jacobson and Kathleen Kauth confer during second-round debate on LB574.

treatments with life-long consequences. She claimed that 85 percent of children desist from gender dysphoria if they receive psychological rather than medical intervention.

“This an instance where these drugs and these surgeries are too harmful for kids with no proven benefit,” Kauth

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Abortion restrictions advanced to select file after cloture

A bill that would prohibit abortions in all but the earliest weeks of most pregnancies advanced from general file April 12 following eight hours of debate and a successful cloture motion.

Current Nebraska law prohibits abortions at 20 weeks post fertilization.

LB626, introduced by Thurston Sen. Joni Albrecht, would create the Nebraska Heartbeat Act. Under the bill, physicians would be required to test for “steady and repetitive contractions” within the gestational sac before inducing an abortion. If such activity

is detected, a physician would be prohibited from performing an abortion except in cases of sexual assault, incest or medical emergency.

A physician who knowingly violates the bill’s provisions would be subject to the removal of their license to practice medicine. No one who undergoes an abortion would be considered to be in violation of LB626.

The following would be excluded from the definition of an abortion under the bill:

- removal of an ectopic pregnancy;
- removal of the remains of an un-

born child who already has died;

- an act done with the intention of saving the life or preserving the health of an unborn child; and
- termination or loss of life of an unborn child who is not being carried inside an individual’s body during the practice of in vitro fertilization or other assisted reproductive technology.

Albrecht said the measure would be the “friendliest pro-life” law for doctors in the country. Every other

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Ban on gender-altering procedures for minors advanced to final round after cloture

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said. “Childhood and teen years are a time of trial and error – figuring out who you are – that changes frequently, and adults know that allowing children to make permanent, life-altering decisions is unwise.”

Niobrara Sen. Barry DeKay said he has spoken to Nebraskans who support and oppose the bill, as well as individuals who transitioned but later regretted that choice. Speaking in support of LB574, he said the measure would “slow down” the process for minors, allowing them to make decisions regarding gender-affirming care once they become adults.

“Personally, I believe people have the right to live their lives in a manner and a way that they choose,” DeKay said. “At the same time, I feel that we’re going too far, too fast when it comes to providing gender-affirming care and treatments to minors – especially those [treatments] with permanent or irreversible effect.”

Opponents suggested the measure

would harm children and families and warned against setting a precedent of authorizing the Legislature to intervene between parents and doctors in health care decisions.

Omaha Sen. John Fredrickson urged senators to take a “bigger picture” view of the impact of LB574. Years down the road, he said, other lawmakers may look to the bill as a precedent regarding the limits of parental rights when it comes to any health care decision.

“We really need to consider the precedent that we set,” Fredrickson said. “With this bill, we are saying that the government can overrule the parents.”

Sen. Danielle Conrad of Lincoln also opposed the bill, calling it a “radical” and “partisan” measure that reflects national culture wars and not the “kitchen table” issues that Nebraskans care about.

“Nebraskans are not crying out for this hateful, harmful, divisive measure,” Conrad said.

After four hours of debate, Kauth offered a motion to invoke cloture, which ceases debate and forces a vote on the bill and any pending amendments. The motion was adopted on a vote of 33-16. Thirty-three votes were needed.

Kauth then asked senators to vote against her amendment that would have narrowed the bill to a ban on physicians providing irreversible “gender-reassignment” surgery to anyone younger than 19.

She said she would work instead to put together a compromise amendment that could be considered on the last round of debate and that was she was “committed to sitting down and figuring out how to make this bill better.”

Bills on final reading cannot be amended, but senators may vote to return a bill from final reading to select file for consideration of a specific amendment.

Lincoln Sen. George Dungan remained opposed to the bill, but supported the idea of a good-faith effort to find common ground. He stressed, however, that those conversations must include representatives on both sides of the issue.

“In order to have negotiation and compromise, there needs to be an actual conversation,” Dungan said. “I’m hesitant – I’m nervous – but I’m hopeful that we can continue talking.”

After senators defeated the pending Kauth amendment on a vote of 11-28, they voted 33-16 to advance LB574 to final reading. ■

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

The Unicameral Update is a free, weekly newsletter published during the legislative session. It is produced by the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office through the Unicameral Information Office. For print subscriptions, call 402-471-2788 or email uio@leg.ne.gov. Visit us online at Update.Legislature.ne.gov, twitter.com/UnicamUpdate and facebook.com/UnicameralUpdate.

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THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE’S OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1977

Abortion restrictions advanced to select file after cloture

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state that regulates abortion imposes criminal or civil penalties for unlawful abortions, she said, but LB626 would impact only a physician's license.

"LB626 is even friendlier and more deferential to doctors than our current 20-week law," she said. "This bill protects women, it protects doctors and it protects babies with beating hearts."

Albrecht said the intent of the bill is to stop elective abortions in Nebraska and she estimated that the proposal would end approximately 85 percent of abortion procedures performed in the state.

Sen. Ben Hansen of Blair supported the bill, focusing on the importance of a heartbeat. Most people agree that a beating heart is a universal sign of life, he said.

"I would like to envision a Nebraska where every life is celebrated, valued and protected ... especially ones with a heartbeat," Hansen said.

Also speaking in support of the bill, Gering Sen. Brian Hardin focused on the potential impact of failing to enact stricter abortion restrictions. Most neighboring states — including Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota and Wyoming — have similar 'heartbeat' laws or outlaw abortion entirely, he said, which makes Nebraska a potential destination for "abortion tourism" if the state does not pass a similar measure.

"In 2020 and 2021 ... there were approximately 2,400 babies killed by abortion in Nebraska, a rate of more than six per day," Hardin said. "Allowing abortions this late in pregnancy puts Nebraska in the company of China and North Korea, rather than most democracies which limit it to much earlier in the pregnancy."

Lincoln Sen. Danielle Conrad, speaking in opposition to the pro-



Sen. Joni Albrecht said LB626 would not impact the ability of pregnant women who are experiencing complications to obtain necessary medical care.

posal, noted that abortion restrictions similar to those in LB626 have created legal uncertainties in other states that have made physicians hesitant to provide care. Many examples exist of individuals who were raped, victims of incest or who had medical emergencies or fetal anomalies and were unable to receive care, she said.

"Look in the face of women who had to flee their home state to get compassionate care and the pressure that put on their family and their bottom line and their future," Conrad said. "Those are real things, and you're bringing it to Nebraska needlessly."

Sen. Jen Day of Omaha also opposed LB626. The sound heard on a six-week ultrasound is not a heartbeat, she said, but instead is the electrical activity of cells that eventually will form the portion of the heart responsible for cardiac contractions.

"In order for a heartbeat to be heard, all four chambers of the heart plus valves must be present," Day said, "which doesn't happen until somewhere between 17 and 20 weeks — when the term heartbeat can be deemed medically accurate."

Lawmakers also disagreed about the potential civil and criminal implications of LB626.

Lincoln Sen. George Dungan noted that although the bill does not contain specific criminal penalties for abortion providers, it also does not repeal any of the existing criminal penalties in place related to abortion procedures.

Current law specifies that performing an abortion using anything other than accepted medical procedure is a Class IV felony, he said, and LB626 would modify what the accepted medical procedure is for physicians to follow.

"The intention of whether or not something has criminal penalties is not how a court is going to read it ... they're going to read it in conjunction with other criminal penalties that are still on the books," Dungan said.

Sen. Julie Slama of Dunbar countered Dungan's point, saying the definition of an accepted medical procedure refers to whether such practices are broadly accepted within the same medical specialty.

"The plain text and legislative history ... illustrate that the statute deals with procedures," Slama said. "It is not concerned with the restrictions on when an abortion is performed based on developmental markers, as with LB626."

After eight hours of debate, Albrecht filed a motion to invoke cloture, which ceases debate and forces a vote on the bill and any pending amendments.

The motion was successful on a vote of 33-16. Thirty-three votes were needed.

Senators then voted 33-16 to advance LB626 to the second round of debate. ■

MEET THE SENATOR

Riepe ready for new chapter

Ralston Sen. Merv Riepe still hasn't learned how to do retirement. Since leaving his career as a hospital administrator in 2008, he took a number of interim positions in the health care field, served one term in the Legislature and won a seat on the Ralston School Board before returning to the Unicameral in 2023.

"I flunked retirement," he laughed. "I find gratification in work. I've always worked, since the time my foot could push in the clutch on a tractor."

It's that fulfillment found in a job well done and the opportunity to be engaged with others that brought Riepe back to the Legislature for another go at lawmaking.

"My experience was very positive when I was here before and it's been very positive this time," he said. "I haven't had one day that I've regretted returning or second-guessed my decision."

He acknowledges, however, that the Legislature has changed in the four years that he's been gone. The divide between urban and rural senators has deepened, he said, and members are having difficulty working together — all of which increases concerns outside the Capitol that progress on important issues isn't being made.

"I think the public gets frustrated that we don't get more done, but in some ways that's how the democratic process works," Riepe said. "It's intended to be push and shove."

He's tried to encourage more Ne-



Sen. Merv Riepe, pictured above in front of the Omaha skyline, has returned to the Legislature after a four-year absence.

braskans to participate in that rough-and-tumble while knocking doors during his campaigns — asking folks if they've ever thought about running for school board, for example. His hope is that the more individuals engage with the process, the more they'll understand it and the better the outcomes will be for everyone.

It's also a reflection of his belief in the power of hard work. Riepe said his son, an organizational psychologist who earned a PhD and currently works as a consultant, found his most character-building work scrubbing pots and pans in a pizza parlor.

"He learned humility," Riepe said. "I'm a firm believer that success isn't necessarily where you are at the end of

the road — success is all the obstacles that you've overcome to get to where you are."

His office in the Capitol is a testament to Riepe's own road. It was put together by his wife, Jody, an interior decorator, and is filled with artwork and mementos: a picture of him at 17 as a Navy corpsman; a rendering of the Capitol signed by every governor since Charles Thone; a framed news story of the time Johnny Cash stayed in a hospital that he ran.

"Life is a series of chapters and you need to write each one and try to make it as interesting as you can — and you're a success as long as you feel that you're meeting your purpose," Riepe said. ■

APPROPRIATIONS

State senator, constitutional officer salary funding advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval April 11 to two bills that are part of the state's two-year budget package.

LB815, introduced by Speaker John Arch of La Vista at the request of Gov. Jim Pillen, would appropriate funds for the \$12,000 annual salaries of members of the Legislature.



Sen. John Arch

Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh offered a series of motions and amendments in order to extend debate on the bill, none of which were adopted. After several hours of discussion, lawmakers advanced LB815 to select file on a 45-1 vote.

LB816, also introduced by Arch at the request of the governor, would appropriate funds for the salaries and benefits for judges and the state's constitutional officers — including the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general and auditor of public accounts, among others.

An Appropriations Committee amendment, adopted 41-0, made minor adjustments to dollar amounts in LB816 based on benefit calculations. Following adoption of the amendment, lawmakers voted 40-0 to give the measure first-round approval.

BUSINESS & LABOR

State claims bill amended, advanced

Payment of certain claims against the state would be approved by a bill advanced from general file April 11.

If a person sues the state of Nebraska, he or she files a claim with the state claims board. Approved claims exceeding \$50,000 must be approved by the Legislature.

LB282, introduced by Ralston Sen. Merv Riepe, would approve six such claims totaling \$522,000. It also includes payments of \$250,000 each to the families of three public safety officers who died in the line of duty — payments authorized under a law passed by the Legislature in 2021 — and \$1.83 million in state agency write-offs.

A Business and Labor Committee amendment, adopted 39-0, added four claims made after the public hearing on LB282, including an additional \$250,000 payment to the family of a public safety officer who had a fatal heart attack while assisting fire-fighting efforts at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey.

Following adoption of the committee amendment, lawmakers advanced LB282 to select file 41-0.



Sen. Merv Riepe

JUDICIARY

Judges' salary increase clears first round

Senators amended and advanced a bill from general file April 11 that would increase salaries for Nebraska judges as part of the state's two-year budgeting process.

As introduced by Bennington Sen. Wendy DeBoer, LB799 would authorize an 8 percent salary increase for the chief justice and judges of the Nebraska Supreme Court. A Judiciary Committee amendment, adopted 42-0, would reduce that to a 7 percent increase in fiscal year 2023-24 and 6 percent in FY2024-25, which DeBoer said reflects a negotiated agreement between judges and the administration.

Currently, all Nebraska judges are paid using a statutory formula based on the salary of the chief justice, DeBoer said, so the increase in LB799 would result in a commensurate increase in the salaries of all other judges in the state. Fewer individuals have applied to fill judicial vacancies in recent years, she said, because of the "financial hit" they would have to take in order to serve.

"It's my hope that with the increases in LB799 we'll be able to attract the best and brightest to the bench," DeBoer said.

Under the bill, Nebraska Supreme Court salaries would increase to \$212,316.37 starting July 1, 2023, and \$225,055.35 starting July 1, 2024.

DeBoer offered an amendment, adopted 43-0, that added provisions of three additional bills:



Sen. Wendy DeBoer

- LB81, introduced by Grand Island Sen. Raymond Aguilar, which would increase from four to five the number of county judges in the 9th Judicial District, which serves Buffalo and Hall counties in central Nebraska;



Sen. Raymond Aguilar

- LB260, introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, which would align state law with the current practice of electronic publication of appellate court opinions; and



Sen. Justin Wayne

- LB426, introduced by Ralston Sen. Merv Riepe, which would reduce the number of judges on the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court from seven to six.



Sen. Merv Riepe

Lawmakers voted 42-0 to advance LB799 to select file after adopting both amendments.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Hydrogen hub funding, design-build authorization advanced

Lawmakers gave first-round approval April 11 to a bill intended to support Nebraska's efforts to be

selected as a regional clean hydrogen hub by the U.S Department of Energy.

Lawmakers passed a measure last year creating a work group with the purpose of drafting a proposal seeking Nebraska's designation as one of the six to 10 regional hubs, which are intended to accelerate the use of hydrogen as a clean energy source.

Brainard Sen. Bruce Bostelman, sponsor of LB565, said the work group partnered with Iowa and Missouri to submit an initial application for the program, called H2Hubs. Of 79 applications submitted, he said, Nebraska's was one of 33 selected for the next stage of the process.



Sen. Bruce Bostelman

"The H2Hubs will be a central driver in helping communities across the country benefit from clean energy investments, good-paying jobs and improved energy security," Bostelman said.

LB565 states legislative intent to appropriate \$250,000 in state general funds in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the state Department of Economic Development for the purpose of providing grants to any public power district that serves a majority of Nebraska counties.

Bostelman said Nebraska Public Power District, which leads the work group, will use the funds for additional engineering and modeling needed to submit a full application to the Department of Energy.

If selected, Bostelman said, Nebraska and its partner states could receive approximately \$1 billion in federal matching funds for projects that would secure regional access to fertilizer production, create new markets for hydrogen-based biofuels and give Nebraska's transportation indus-

try and electric utilities an opportunity to diversify their fuel sources.

A Natural Resources Committee amendment would have added the provisions of three other bills heard by the committee this session, all sponsored by Bostelman.

Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh of Omaha made a motion to divide the question and consider each bill contained within the committee amendment separately. The motion was successful.

Lawmakers voted 35-0 to adopt the component of the divided amendment containing the provisions of LB565.

The component containing the provisions of LB567, adopted 31-2, would repeal a provision in current law that prohibits individuals in certain high-level managerial positions at a public power district from serving as a member of any public power district's board of directors.

Senators voted 35-0 to adopt the component containing the amended provisions of LB568. They would require the state Department of Economic Development to create a work group to determine the workforce training needs of the nuclear and hydrogen industries.

The proposal would require the department to establish procedures and criteria for awarding grants to community colleges and state colleges that implement courses designed to alleviate the workforce training needs of those industries. The grants could be used for equipment, curriculum, programming or marketing.

It also would require the state treasurer to transfer \$200,000 in state general funds to a new fund used to provide per diems and travel and lodging reimbursement to certain work group members.

Finally, lawmakers voted 33-0 to adopt the component of the divided

amendment containing the amended provisions of LB723, introduced by Bostelman at the request of Gov. Jim Pillen.

The measure would allow the state Department of Natural Resources to use public-private partnerships and design-build, progressive design-build and construction manager-general contractor project methods when contracting for public surface water or groundwater-related infrastructure projects.

Under the proposal, the department would develop guidelines for entering into such contracts, including the preparation and content of requests for proposals and procedures and standards for evaluating them.

The department also would be required to pay a stipend in an amount determined at its discretion to qualified design builders that submit proposals but are not selected — giving the department ownership of the intellectual property contained in those proposals.

Omaha Sen. John Cavanaugh said the measure would allow the department to use alternative methods for building a proposed canal to divert South Platte River water from Colorado to Nebraska under a 1923 interstate compact.

The Legislature authorized the department last session to develop, construct, manage and operate the canal and its associated reservoirs, called the Perkins County Canal Project, under the terms of the compact.

Cavanaugh said he remains skeptical of the project but that he voted to advance the proposal from committee to ensure that the department could complete the canal as efficiently as possible.

Sen. Mike Jacobson of North Platte also supported the proposal, saying design-build projects are more cost

effective and can be completed more quickly than projects that use traditional contracting methods.

Following adoption of the amendments, senators voted 35-0 to advance LB565 to select file.



Tax credit scholarship bill advances to final round

Lawmakers gave second-round approval April 13 to a measure intended to incentivize donations to organizations that grant scholarships to students to attend private school in Nebraska.

Elkhorn Sen. Lou Ann Linehan introduced LB753 at the request of Gov. Jim Pillen. The measure would allow taxpayers to claim a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to 50



Sen. Lou Ann Linehan

percent of their state income tax liability on contributions made to nonprofit organizations that grant scholarships to students to attend qualifying privately operated elementary or secondary schools.

The bill would cap contributions from individuals, passthrough entities and corporations at \$100,000 and those from estates or trusts at \$1 million.

The state Department of Revenue could grant \$25 million in credits in 2024, 2025 and 2026. After that, if at least 90 percent of the credits in any given year are claimed, the annual limit would increase by 25 percent until reaching \$100 million.

The department estimates that the

full credit amount would be claimed in the first three years and that LB753 would reduce state general fund revenue by \$31.3 million in FY2027-28.

If the annual limit is less than \$35 million, a scholarship-granting organization could allocate no more than 10 percent of its revenue for administrative costs. No more than 5 percent of revenue could be used for administrative costs if the annual limit is more than \$35 million.

The bill would require a scholarship-granting organization to submit an annual financial report to the department that includes its policies and procedures for awarding scholarships, the number of eligible students receiving scholarships in the most recent fiscal year and other information.

Linehan introduced an amendment on select file, adopted 41-0, that would require scholarship-granting organizations to submit an additional report to the chairpersons of the Appropriations, Education and Revenue committees every other year, beginning in 2027.

The report would include the number of students wait-listed for or denied a scholarship, the dollar amount of scholarships granted and the income level, grade level and geographic location of scholarship recipients.

Under the amendment, a scholarship-granting organization could carry forward no more than 25 percent of its net revenue from one state fiscal year to the next, beginning in 2028. Any amount carried forward would have to be used for scholarships in the following year.

Net revenue remaining at the end of each June in excess of the amount that could be carried forward would have to be used to provide scholarships or transferred to other scholarship-granting organizations by Sept. 30. If not

used or transferred, the amount would be remitted to the state’s general fund.

Sen. Jana Hughes of Seward supported the amendment, saying LB753 as introduced would have allowed the credit amount to increase without also requiring a corresponding increase in the number of scholarships granted.

Niobrara Sen. Barry DeKay also supported the amendment. He said the carryover provision would redistribute scholarship funds from low-demand to high-demand areas of the state, ensuring that more students benefit from the program.

He said the additional reporting requirement is an important accountability measure.

“I feel if we are going to grant a tax credit,” DeKay said, “the Legislature should have the opportunity to evaluate where the money is going and how it is being used.”

Sen. Jane Raybould of Lincoln introduced an amendment that, among other changes, would have decreased the cap on contributions and added a provision to prevent annual increases in the credit amount “unless all public education funding obligations of the state are fully funded and disbursed.”

The amendment failed on a vote of 7-28.

After four hours of debate on select file, Linehan filed a motion to invoke cloture, which ends debate and forces a vote on the bill and any pending amendments.

The motion succeeded on a vote of 34-9. Thirty-three votes were needed. Senators then advanced LB753 to final reading on a vote of 33-11.

URBAN AFFAIRS

Pandemic funding update expanded, advanced

A bill that would update a measure passed by the Legislature last year related to federal pandemic funds was expanded and given first-round approval April 11.

LB531, as introduced by Sen. Terrell McKinney of Omaha, would make clean-up changes to the Economic Recovery Act passed by the Legislature in 2022, which provided funding for pandemic recovery projects in North and South Omaha and other communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 measure was designed to use federal American Rescue Plan Act funds, as well as transfers from the state’s cash reserve, to fund grant programs through the Economic Recovery and Incentive Division of the state Department of Economic Development.

McKinney said the bill’s focus is economic development, noting that North and South Omaha historically have been underserved and “held back” by decades of economic neglect, mass incarceration, violence and poor educational outcomes.

“As someone who grew up in North Omaha, I had a front-row seat to the constant depreciation of my community,” McKinney said, adding that the goal of LB531 is to approach those problems “through an economic lens.”

As introduced, the bill would make several updates to division operations

and the funding process. An Urban Affairs Committee amendment, adopted 26-0, replaced the bill.

Among other provisions, the amendment would create and outline administration of the North and South Omaha Grant Program and state legislative intent to increase from \$250 million to \$365 million the general fund appropriation in FY2023-24 to DED to carry out the Economic Recovery Act.

The amendment also includes amended provisions of LB769. Originally introduced by Bellevue Sen. Rick Holdcroft, the provisions state legislative intent to appropriate \$15 million from the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Fund in FY2023-24 to provide a grant to an entity formed pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act to fund a portion of the cost of constructing a wastewater system.

The committee amendment also would authorize a grant of not more than \$20 million to create a museum within the boundaries of a qualified census tract in a metropolitan class city in honor of a person inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame on or before June 30, 2023.

Malcolm X was selected in 2022 for induction into the Nebraska Hall of Fame and Omaha currently is the state’s only metropolitan class city.

The amendment also would authorize grants of up to \$20 million to federally qualified health centers in a metropolitan class city and up to \$15 million for contracted services for program management for the North and South Omaha Grant Program.

Finally, the committee amendment would increase the grant cap for devel-



Sen. Terrell McKinney



Sen. Rick Holdcroft

opment of an airport business park in a metropolitan class city from \$60 million to \$100 million.

McKinney offered an amendment to the committee amendment, adopted 32-0, that added amended provisions of Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar's LB506. The provisions would authorize a \$180

million grant to a primary class city to fund a water treatment plant, land acquisition, well-fields, permitting, pumping and transportation costs to



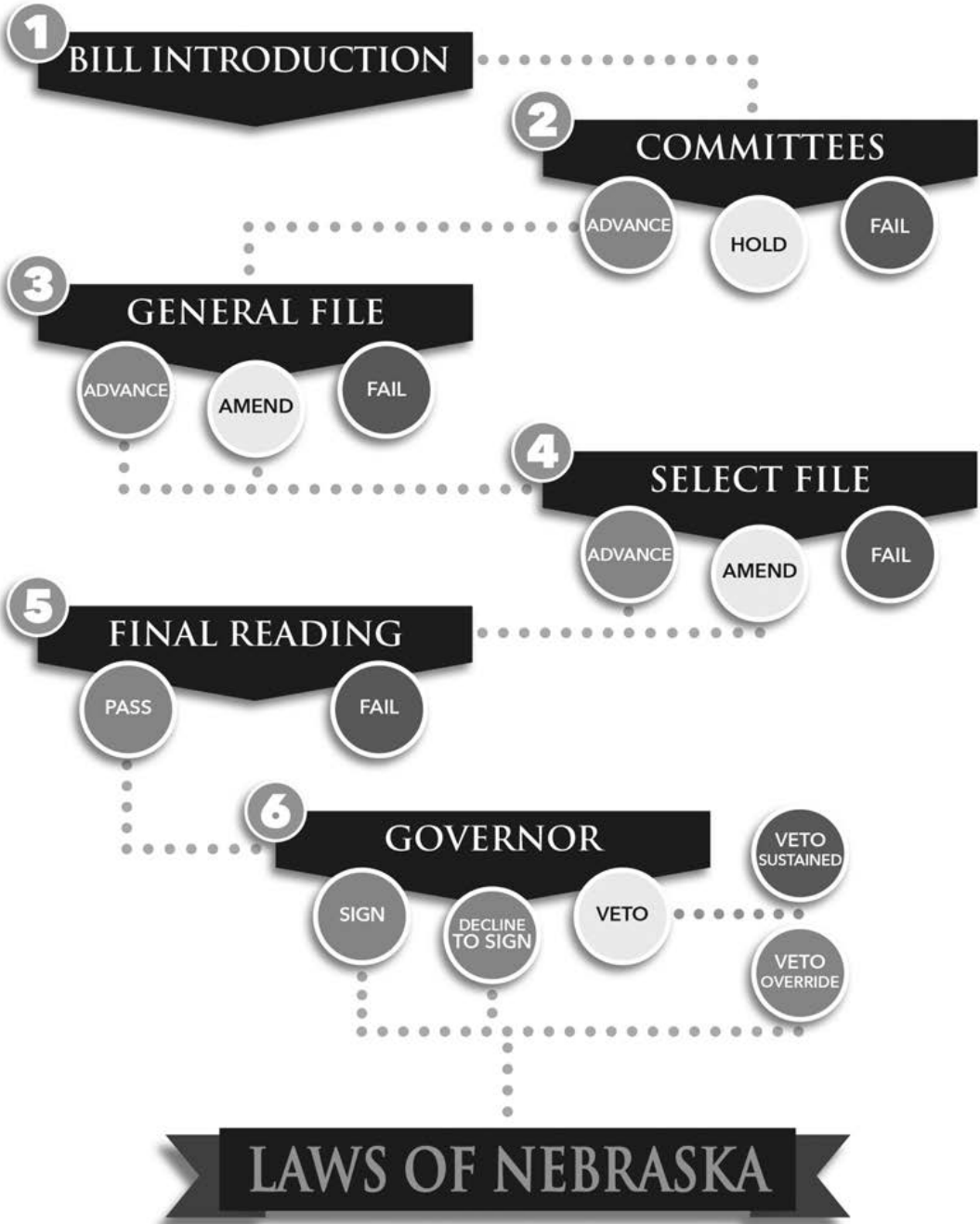
Sen. Eliot Bostar

provide potable water to the city.

Lincoln currently is Nebraska's only primary class city.

Following adoption of the amendments, lawmakers voted 30-0 to advance LB531 to select file. ■

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



LEGISLATIVE GLOSSARY

“A” Bill - see Appropriation Bill.

Amendment On File - an amendment of 10 or more pages, not printed separately or in the Journal, that is available in the Clerk’s Office (Room 2018).

Amendment Printed Separate - an amendment of 10 or more pages, printed separately from the Journal, that is available in the Bill Room (Room 1102).

Appropriation Bill (“A” Bill) - a bill to appropriate funds to finance another bill bearing the same number.

Attorney General’s Opinion - a written analysis of a question of law prepared by the attorney general for the governor, the head of an executive department or any state senator.

Bill - see Legislative Bill.

Bracket - to delay consideration of a bill.

Call of the House - a procedure used to compel attendance of unexcused senators in the chamber.

Carry-over Legislation - bills and resolutions introduced during the regular session in an odd-numbered year and held over for consideration during the regular session in an even-numbered year.

Chair - the presiding officer.

Cloture - a parliamentary action to cease debate on a bill and vote immediately on its advancement. A motion for cloture may be made after eight hours of debate on most bills and after 12 hours on appropriation bills introduced by the Appropriations Committee.

Constitutional Amendment Resolution - a proposal to amend the state constitution, ratify or reject an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, or petition Congress about amending the U.S. Constitution. State CA resolutions have the suffix “CA” by the resolution number, and they must be approved by the voters as well as the Legislature.

Consent Calendar - a portion of the agenda in which relatively noncontroversial bills are considered and quickly advanced to the next legislative stage. Usually, a bill on consent calendar can be debated for no more than 15 minutes.

“E” Clause - see Emergency Clause.

E&R - see Enrollment and Review.

Emergency Clause (“E” Clause) - a provision that allows a bill or a portion of a bill to take effect immediately after the governor signs it or after the Legislature overrides the governor’s veto.

Engrossment - the process of preparing a bill for Final Reading by incorporating all adopted amendments.

Enrollment and Review (E&R) - the process of incorporating adopted amendments into a bill and reviewing the bill for technical and grammatical accuracy.

Executive Session - a closed meeting of a committee to discuss and act on bills and resolutions. An executive session is open only to committee members, committee staff and the media.

Final Reading - the third and last stage at which a bill is considered by the entire Legislature. The clerk reads the entire bill aloud, unless final reading is waived, and senators vote without debate on whether to submit the bill to the governor.

Fiscal Note - a statement prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Office estimating the effect a bill would have on state and/or local expenditures and revenue.

Floor - the area of the legislative chamber where the senators sit. When a committee advances a bill “to the floor,” it means the bill is being sent to the full Legislature for consideration.

General File - the first stage at which a bill is considered by the full Legislature. Bills on General File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Select File.

Hearing - a regularly scheduled committee meeting to receive public comment on proposed bills and resolutions.

House Under Call - the term used when all unexcused senators are required to be in their seats in the chamber and unauthorized personnel must leave the floor.

Indefinitely Postpone (IPP) - to kill a bill.

Interim - the period between regular legislative sessions.

Interim Study Resolution - a resolution authorizing a committee to study an issue following adjournment of a legislative session.

IPP - see Indefinitely Postpone.

Journal - see Legislative Journal.

Laws of Nebraska (Session Laws) - bound compilation of all laws and constitutional amendment resolutions passed in a legislative session, the state Constitution, and subject and section indexes.

Legislative Bill (LB) - a proposal to create, change or delete one or more laws.



Legislative History - the committee and floor debate records for any bill. A history includes transcripts of the bill's hearing and all floor debate.

Legislative Journal - official record of legislative floor action, including all motions, the number of yeas and nays on each vote, etc.

Legislative Resolution (LR) - a proposal to make a formal expression of opinion, intent or recognition; amend the state or federal constitution; or authorize a study of an issue during the interim. See also Constitutional Amendment Resolution, Interim Study Resolution.

Line-Item Veto - the power of the governor to make specific reductions in any part of a budget bill passed by the Legislature.

Machine Vote - a vote taken by electronic voting system. The voting board shows how each senator voted, but only vote totals are entered in the Legislative Journal.

Major Proposal - a bill or constitutional amendment resolution that the speaker designates as important enough for scheduling priority. Each session, up to five bills may be chosen as major proposals, all of which must be senator priority bills and must get the approval of two-thirds of the Executive Board.

One-liner - a one-line description of a bill or resolution.

Override a Veto - see Veto Override.

President of the Legislature - the lieutenant governor. While senators address whomever is in the chair as Mr. or Madam President, the lieutenant governor alone holds the official title.

Presiding Officer - the senator currently presiding over legislative proceedings.

Priority Bill - a bill that has priority status and generally is considered ahead of other bills in debate. Each senator may select one priority bill, each committee may select two priority bills, and the speaker may select up to 25 priority bills.

Record Vote - a vote on which a record is kept of how each senator voted. The vote is taken by electronic voting system and the senators' names and corresponding votes are then printed in the Legislative Journal.

Regular Session - the annual session that begins the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January.

Resolution - see Legislative Resolution.

Revisor Bill - a bill, prepared by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, proposing a technical correction or the repeal of an obsolete statute.

Roll Call Vote - a vote during which the senators vote one at a time as the clerk reads their names. Senators cast their votes verbally, and their names and corresponding votes

may be printed in the Legislative Journal.

Select Committee - a permanent committee with a subject-matter jurisdiction related to the administration of the Legislature.

Select File - the second stage at which a bill is considered by the entire Legislature. Bills on Select File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Final Reading.

Session - a period of time, usually a number of days, during which the Legislature meets and transacts business.

Session Laws - compilation of all laws and constitutional amendment resolutions passed in a session.

Sine Die - without setting a future date for reconvening. When the Legislature adjourns sine die, the legislative session is finished for the year.

Slip Law - a bill or constitutional amendment resolution printed individually in its approved form after being enacted into law or submitted to voters.

Speaker of the Legislature - the officer of the Legislature, elected from among the senators, who prepares the daily agenda and the session calendar and presides in the absence of the lieutenant governor.

Special Committee - a committee created by law for a specific reason. Except for the Executive Board, special committees have no jurisdiction over bills or resolutions.

Special Session - a limited legislative session called for a specific purpose by the governor or two-thirds (33 members) of the Legislature.

Standing Committee - a permanent committee with subject-matter jurisdiction related to an area of public policy. Almost all bills and resolutions are referred to one of the 14 standing committees.

Summary Sheet - a daily list of all legislative activity that has taken place in one legislative day, including action taken on bills and resolutions.

Veto - the power of the governor to reject bills passed by the Legislature. The governor has five days, excluding Sundays, to either sign or veto a bill. The Legislature then has an opportunity to override the veto.

Veto Override - the power of the Legislature to pass a bill over the governor's veto. A veto override requires the approval of three-fifths (30 members) of the Legislature.

Voice Vote - a vote in which senators cast their votes orally and no totals are recorded.

Worksheet - a list, prepared daily, that indicates the status of all bills and resolutions at the end of that legislative day.



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