

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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Legislature convenes, elects Executive Board chair

Senators returned to the State Capitol Jan. 3 to begin the second session of the 108th Nebraska Legislature.

La Vista Sen. John Arch, Speaker of the Legislature, welcomed senators back and urged them to focus on strengthening the institution and enacting policies that will benefit everyone in the state.

“Let’s work hard, build relationships and show respect for each other as we build a better Nebraska over the next 60 days,” Arch said.

Lawmakers elected Grand Island Sen. Raymond Aguilar over Omaha



Sen. Raymond Aguilar was elected chairperson of the Executive Board.



Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh as chairperson of the Executive Board, which oversees legislative services and employees. The vacancy was created when former Sen. Tom Briese left the Legislature in November to become state treasurer.

As vice chairperson, Aguilar had served as acting chairperson of the Executive Board since Briese’s resignation. Kearney Sen. John Lowe was chosen as the new vice chairperson, fending off a challenge from Omaha Sen. Terrell McKinney.

Property tax reform and workforce development likely will be top priorities for lawmakers this session. Senators also may consider changes to the duties of the inspectors general for the state’s prison and child welfare systems, following an attorney

general’s opinion that questioned the constitutionality of those offices.

New bills will be introduced for the first 10 days of the session, or until Jan. 17.

Before addressing any new measures, however, lawmakers will consider a number of proposed changes to the Legislature’s permanent rules. The rules debate is expected to begin Jan. 10.

Gov. Jim Pillen will give his State of the State address Jan. 18, followed Jan. 25 by Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Heavican’s State of the Judiciary address.

Committee hearings are set to begin Jan. 22 and continue through Feb. 29.

Live coverage of the legislative

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Legislature convenes, elects Exec Board chair

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session is available at NebraskaLegislature.gov, where the public may also find information on bills, the legislative calendar and Nebraska state senators.

The session is tentatively scheduled to adjourn April 18. ■



Speaker John Arch urged senators to make the most of their limited time this session.

Meyer appointed to represent District 41

Sen. Fred Meyer of St. Paul was sworn in Nov. 15 to fill a vacancy in the Nebraska Legislature.

Meyer will complete the final year of the term left vacant by the resignation of former Sen. Tom Briese of Albion last month. Briese resigned his seat after being appointed by Gov. Jim Pillen to lead the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office.



Sen. Fred Meyer

The governor announced Meyer's appointment at a press conference, noting that there were 16 applicants for the position. Pillen cited Meyer's long history of public service as one reason for choosing him.

Meyer, who served for more than a decade on the Nebraska State Board of Education, described himself as "truly humbled" to be asked to serve.

"I'm anxious to get started in the Legislature," he said. "I have a lot to learn."

A native of West Point, Meyer is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has been active in numerous community and agricultural organizations. He and his wife, Kay, have been married for 46 years and have three sons.

Meyer was sworn in by Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Evnen. His term began immediately and will end in January 2025. Meyer indicated that he will not seek election to the Legislative District 41 seat in the 2024 general election. ■

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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Printed copies of bills, resolutions and the Legislative Journal can be requested at NebraskaLegislature.gov. Status of bills and resolutions can be requested 402-471-2709 or 800-742-7456 or can be found at NebraskaLegislature.gov/bills. Live video of hearings and floor debate can be viewed on NE-W and at nebraskapublicmedia.org.

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Assistance provided by the Clerk of the Legislature's Office, the Legislative Technology Center, committee clerks, legal counsels, journal clerks, pages, transcribers, mail/bill room staff and the State Print Shop.

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Enter your full address into the "Find Your Senator" search field on the right-hand side of the website home page and press the Enter key. Your district number and a photo of your senator will be displayed on the right, along with a link to their landing page.

Senator pages contain contact information and links to biographies and photos. Each page also provides a list of committees a senator serves on, bills they've introduced and links to coverage of them in the Unicameral Update.

NEW BILLS

January 3, 2024

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB821	Blood	Change provisions relating to the preliminary or advanced enrollment of certain students
LB822	Blood	Adopt the Social Worker Licensure Compact and change provisions relating to criminal background checks
LB823	Blood	Adopt the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact and change provisions relating to criminal background checks
LB824	Blood	Adopt the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact and change provisions relating to criminal background checks
LB825	Blood	Adopt the Nebraska Farmers of Color Opportunity Act and provide tax credits
LB826	Blood	Provide for combination fishing, fur-harvesting, and hunting permits and stamps and state park entry permits for resident and nonresident veterans and active duty military personnel
LB827	Blood	Adopt the Entertainment Industry Child Performer Protection Act
LB828	Blood	Change provisions of the Nebraska Apiary Act and provide for the Pollinator Task Force, the Nebraska Apiary Registry, and immunity for certain damages relating to bees
LB829	Blood	Change provisions relating to insurance coverage for screening for colorectal cancer
LB830	Blood	Designate a state tartan
LB831	Blood	Change provisions of the Noxious Weed Control Act and provide for control of restricted plants
LB832	Blood	Authorize acceptance of cession or retrocession of federal jurisdiction for juvenile matters and provide for concurrent jurisdiction
LB833	Blood	Adopt the Prescription Drug Affordability Act
LB834	Blood	Establish requirements for a resident dental license
LB835	Blood	Adopt the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
LB836	Low	Provide requirements for retail licensees relating to the display of co-branded alcoholic beverages under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB837	Low	Change procedures for voting or election precincts for public power districts
LB838	Low	Change provisions relating to the appointment of members of the Nebraska Arts Council
LB839	Low	Change provisions relating to the executive director and members of the State Racing and Gaming Commission
LB840	McKinney	Adopt the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act
LB841	McKinney	Adopt the School Leadership Engagement Act
LB842	McKinney	Change provisions relating to affordable housing under the Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act, the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act, and the Nebraska Housing Agency Act
LB843	McKinney	Change provisions of the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act
LB844	Erdman	Change provisions of the Farm Labor Contractors Act
LB845	Hunt	Prohibit eviction of certain tenants during the school year
LB846	Hunt	Adopt the Bed Bug Detection and Treatment Act
LB847	Brewer	Change provisions relating to emergency response agreements with other states and withdraw from the Interstate Civil Defense and Disaster Compact
LB848	Brewer	Change the maximum age for the Adjutant General
LB849	Jacobson	Change provisions relating to insurance rate adjustments
LB850	Jacobson	Change the authorized use of certain Federal Funds for housing
LB851	Jacobson	Change provisions relating to internship grants
LB852	Jacobson	Provide limitations for reimbursement for durable medical equipment
LB853	Jacobson	Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions
LB854	Jacobson	Change examination eligibility, certification, and permitting requirements relating to certified public accountants
LB855	Conrad	Prohibit school districts from taking certain actions relating to outstanding debts on a school lunch or breakfast account
LB856	Fredrickson	Change eligibility requirements for the federal child care subsidy program
LB857	Dungan	Create the Nebraska Prenatal Plus Program
LB858	Linehan	State intent to appropriate funds to the State Department of Education to expand the office of finance and administrative services
LB859	Linehan	Change conflict of interest provisions for certain political subdivision officers
LB860	Linehan	Change a reporting requirement relating to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB861	Linehan	Change procedures to remove a name from a petition under the Election Act
LB862	Linehan	Change provisions relating to the transportation of students and require school districts to submit a report regarding certain student transportation
LB863	Linehan	Change an income tax adjustment for federal retirement annuities
LB864	Dungan	State intent regarding appropriations to the Supreme Court for interpreter services
LB865	Bostelman	Require annual reports to the Nebraska Broadband Office
LB866	Bostelman	Change provisions relating to service on the Nebraska Power Review Board
LB867	Bostelman	Provide for a voluntary hunting and fishing guide and outfitter database
LB868	Bostelman	Extend the sunset date for reimbursement for remedial action under the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund
LB869	Bostar	Change provisions relating to services of the county veterans service committees
LB870	M. Cavanaugh	Provide for additional rights of notification, information, and preservation of evidence under the Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights Act
LB871	M. Cavanaugh	Require a report by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program
LB872	Clements	Prohibit acceptance of central bank digital currency by state and local governments
LB873	Ballard	Change provisions relating to real estate closing agents
LB874	Bostar	Change requirements relating to child care licensing and child care facilities
LB875	Hughes	Prohibit sales of alcohol or beer for consumption off the premises at less than cost under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB876	Holdcroft	Adopt the Newborn Safe Haven Act
LB877	Holdcroft	Change provisions relating to agricultural or horticultural land receiving special valuation
LB878	Holdcroft	Change provisions regarding certain bond and related elections
LB879	M. Cavanaugh	Repeal the Let Them Grow Act and the Preborn Child Protection Act
LB880	Hughes	Change requirements relating to the Land Acquisition and Source Water Loan Fund
LB881	Ballard	Redefine a term under the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act
LB882	Bostar	Change provisions relating to benefits under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
LB883	Brewer	Eliminate requirement to obtain handgun purchase certificate and change provisions on criminal history record checks for firearms and explosives
LB884	Bostar	Change provisions relating to medicaid estate recovery
LB885	Bostar	Provide requirements for insurance coverage of lung cancer screening
LB886	Conrad	Provide restrictions on homeowners associations regulation of political signs
LB887	Brewer	Adopt the Nebraska Nonprofit Security Grant Program Act
LB888	Vargas	Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development
LB889	Vargas	Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development
LB890	Bosn	Provide for certified copies of sealed juvenile records for certain attorneys
LB891	Bosn	Redefine manufacturer under the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act
LB892	Bosn	Change provisions relating to controlled substances under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act
LB893	Ibach	Change provisions of the ImagiNE Nebraska Act relating to the types of property receiving a property tax exemption
LB894	Ibach	Change law enforcement certification requirements for candidates for county sheriff
LB895	Sanders	Change provisions relating to recruitment and retention for the Nebraska National Guard
LB896	Ballard	Change provisions relating to telehealth consultations
LB897	Lippincott	Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development for a workforce housing grant program
LB898	Ibach	Adopt the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact
LB899	Hughes	Exempt Class III school districts from the prohibition on suspending a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade
LB900	Brandt	Change provisions of the Nebraska Rules of the Road relating to the length of vehicles
LR275CA	Blood	Constitutional amendment to repeal provisions that prohibit a person from being denied employment because of membership in or nonmembership in a labor organization
LR276	Ibach	Urge Congress to change the boundary of the Central Time Zone in Nebraska

NEW BILLS

January 4, 2024

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB901	Linehan	Provide a sales and use tax exemption for purchases by certain nonprofit organizations
LB902	DeBoer	Prohibit assisted-living facilities from requiring a third-party guarantee of payment
LB903	DeBoer	Change provisions relating to membership of the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council and the State Alzheimer's Plan
LB904	DeBoer	Change duties of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding child care reimbursement rates
LB905	Riepe	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a waiver or state plan amendment for medical respite care
LB906	Riepe	Change provisions relating to child labor laws
LB907	Riepe	Require medicaid coverage for treatment of obesity
LB908	Aguilar	Eliminate provisions relating to a legislative policy on telephones and telefax machines
LB909	Aguilar	Change state agency notice requirements regarding occupational regulation
LB910	Riepe	Authorize emergency care providers to provide care to injured law enforcement canines
LB911	Blood	Require Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Probation Administration to make reports under the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act
LB912	Slama	Provide for contracting for reasonable terms for coverage under the Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Insurance Coverage Act
LB913	Hunt	Require a state plan amendment for postpartum coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program
LB914	J. Cavanaugh	Adopt the Uniform Unlawful Restrictions in Land Records Act
LB915	Brewer	Provide financing authority to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges related to student housing or student activity facilities
LB916	Brewer	Adopt the Controlled Substance Offenses Forfeiture Act and change provisions relating to forfeiture
LB917	Wayne	Require the establishment of a standard prior authorization process for health benefit plans and the approval and use of prior authorization forms
LB918	Wayne	Allow individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status to receive law enforcement officer training and certification
LB919	McKinney	Require the demolition of the Nebraska State Penitentiary
LB920	McKinney	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Restaurant Meals Program
LB921	McKinney	Provide for mentorship programs for individuals under supervision by probation and parole officers
LB922	McKinney	Adopt the Parolee and Probationer Business Empowerment Act
LB923	McKinney	Allow the use of tribal enrollment cards for proof of age and identity for certain firearm and alcohol laws
LB924	McKinney	Provide a homestead exemption for residents of qualified census tracts
LB925	Aguilar	Adopt the Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination Act
LB926	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to the Museum Property Act
LB927	Fredrickson	Require suicide awareness and prevention training for certain employees of child-placing agencies and employees of the Department of Health and Human Services
LB928	Fredrickson	Provide for the appointment of a mental health director for the Department of Correctional Services
LB929	Fredrickson	Provide for coordination of the 911 service system and the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline
LB930	Fredrickson	Change provisions relating to appropriations to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
LB931	Fredrickson	Change appropriations of Federal Funds for behavioral health purposes
LB932	Fredrickson	Change provisions relating to provisional mental health practitioner licenses
LB933	Bosn	Change medicaid coverage requirements for continuous glucose monitors
LB934	Bosn	Change provisions relating to venue and enforcement powers of the Attorney General under the Consumer Protection Act and the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act and provide for jury trials
LB935	Ibach	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for medicaid dental services
LB936	Bostar	Eliminate provisions relating to county regulation of certain recreation, entertainment, and amusement activities
LB937	Bostar	Adopt the Caregiver Tax Credit Act
LB938	Brandt	Change provisions of the County Purchasing Act
LB939	Erdman	Adopt the My Student, My Choice Act
LB940	Dorn	Authorize certain actions by counties relating to facilities, programs, and services for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB941	Dorn	State intent regarding appropriations for medicaid assisted-living facility rates
LB942	Dorn	State intent regarding appropriations for medicaid nursing facility rates
LB943	Dorn	Change appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services for behavioral health aid
LB944	Dorn	Provide for use of the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund for behavioral health needs
LB945	Hughes	Require certain documents, information, and materials be provided to children before leaving foster care
LB946	Day	Change requirements for payments to Child Care Subsidy program providers
LB947	Day	Authorize virtual inspections for certain building permits and require certain inspection records be made available to the public under the Building Construction Act
LB948	McDonnell	Provide certain requirements for redevelopment contracts under the Community Development Law
LB949	Linehan	Change provisions relating to inspection of real property by county assessors
LB950	Linehan	Change provisions relating to the collection of occupation taxes
LB951	Linehan	Adopt the Public Officials on Private Boards Open Meetings Act
LB952	Day	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the federal Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program
LB953	Kauth	Provide tuition waivers for student teachers as prescribed
LB954	Kauth	Adopt the Biometric Autonomy Liberty Law
LB955	Bostar	Require business entities to provide certain notice to purchasers of gift certificates and gift cards
LB956	Bostar	Provide requirements for light-mitigating technology on certain wind turbines
LB957	Dungan	Provide for early childhood aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB958	Wishart	Provide for annual adjustments of provider rates under the Medical Assistance Act
LB959	Dungan	Require transfer of cases to juvenile court if a county or district court fails to rule on a motion to transfer within thirty days
LB960	Jacobson	Provide powers and duties for the State Athletic Commissioner relating to the regulation of certain professional and amateur martial arts, kickboxing, and boxing sparring matches and exhibitions
LB961	Dungan	Prohibit noncompete agreements for lower-wage employees
LB962	Wayne	Prohibit the use of certain projection maps in public schools and require each school board to adopt a policy relating to projection maps
LB963	Wayne	Provide for powers and duties of county attorneys and deputy county attorneys to be performed by district attorneys and deputy district attorneys appointed by the Attorney General
LB964	Dungan	Adopt the Special Education Teacher Forgivable Loan Program Act and provide for scholarships under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act
LB965	Holdcroft	Change provisions relating to certain license plates issued to persons with military affiliation as prescribed
LB966	DeKay	Change provisions relating to traffic control signals and excise tax rates on certain fuels
LB967	DeKay	Change provisions relating to trafficking offenses and the Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Fund
LB968	DeKay	Adopt the Live Adult Entertainment Establishment Fee Act
LB969	DeKay	Change provisions relating to contracts and sealed bids for public power districts
LB970	Lippincott	Provide for carrying out the death penalty by nitrogen hypoxia
LB971	Lippincott	Provide for a free hunting permit for veterans to hunt on Veterans Day
LB972	Lippincott	Prohibit kratom as a controlled substance
LB973	Brewer	Provide for free issuance of annual combination fishing, fur-harvesting, and hunting permits, habitat stamps, aquatic habitat stamps, and Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamps to certain veterans
LB974	Holdcroft	Change penalties for motor vehicle homicide of an unborn child

NEW BILLS

January 5, 2024

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB975	Ibach	Redefine qualified nonprofit organization under the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act
LB976	Blood	Provide for an education and training program for judges and court staff
LB977	Blood	Prohibit discrimination based on military or veteran status
LB978	DeBoer	Provide for adoption by a second adult person and change provisions relating to adoptions
LB979	DeBoer	Require an annual report on active cases by the Department of Correctional Services, the Office of Probation Administration, and the Division of Parole Supervision
LB980	McKinney	Change provisions relating to persons present when the death penalty is carried out
LB981	Holdcroft	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Nebraska Lottery and Raffle Act and the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act
LB982	Riepe	Provide for employment of nurse aides in intellectual and developmental disabilities facilities
LB983	J. Cavanaugh	Provide for duties and procedures relating to plea agreements and sentencing
LB984	Hardin	Prohibit certain actions relating to distribution of drugs by 340B entities
LB985	Linehan	Change provisions relating to grant eligibility under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act
LB986	Linehan	Terminate loan repayment assistance and provide grants to teachers under the Teach in Nebraska Today Act
LB987	Linehan	Change provisions relating to applicability of and assessment instruments under the Quality Education Accountability Act
LB988	Linehan	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions regarding elections for certain purposes
LB989	Dungan	Change and eliminate provisions of the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act and the Real Property Appraiser Act
LB990	Bostar	Change provisions of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Licensure and Regulation Act
LB991	Bostar	Adopt the Blockchain Basics Act
LB992	Dungan	Change provisions of the Real Property Appraiser Act
LB993	Ibach	Adopt the Apprenticeship Grant Act
LB994	Wayne	Provide for the Legislature to administer the Department of Correctional Services and appoint the Director of Correctional Services
LB995	Wayne	Change provisions relating to deferred judgments
LB996	Wayne	Provide for the Department of Correctional Services to operate the county jails
LB997	Ibach	Require the State Department of Education to establish criteria for salary supplements for child care and early education providers
LB998	Conrad	Adopt the State Acceptance of Gifts Act
LB999	Ibach	Change provisions of the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act
LB1000	Brandt	Provide for the anonymity of certain state lottery prize winners
LB1001	Conrad	Provide for a migratory waterfowl hunting season for veterans
LB1002	Brandt	Change provisions of the Nebraska Biodiesel Tax Credit Act
LB1003	Hansen	Change a requirement relating to child care licensing in cities, villages, or counties
LB1004	Hansen	Change motorcycle, moped, and autocycle helmet provisions
LB1005	Walz	Change provisions relating to the Attracting Excellence in Teaching Program and the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund under the Excellence in Teaching Act
LB1006	Walz	Change provisions relating to allocated income tax funds under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB1007	Walz	Provide for medicaid coverage for certain aged, blind, and disabled individuals
LB1008	Walz	Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education
LB1009	Walz	Change provisions of the Barber Act
LB1010	Walz	Provide transfers to the Education Future Fund for reimbursements for special education
LB1011	Walz	Change provisions relating to early childhood education under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB1012	Walz	Change provisions relating to certain tax levy and bonding authority of school districts
LB1013	Walz	Create the Family Engagement Grant Program for certain schools
LB1014	Walz	Change requirements relating to school psychologists
LB1015	Walz	Change provisions of the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB1016	Walz	Eliminate a termination date relating to prioritization of certain developmental disabilities services Change the schedule of compensation for certain injuries resulting in disability under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB1017	Bosn	
LB1018	Holdcroft	Provide that positions of public employment shall not require a postsecondary degree and require equal consideration for non-degree-holders' wages and benefits
LB1019	Holdcroft	Change provisions relating to the correction of assessment and tax rolls
LB1020	M. Cavanaugh	Require public contractors to provide records to members of the Legislature
LB1021	M. Cavanaugh	Require programs for inmates related to compensation and employment and require minimum wage for inmates of jails and Department of Correctional Services facilities and state and political subdivision employees
LB1022	Sanders	Adopt the Cast and Crew Nebraska Act and provide for tax credits and grants
LB1023	von Gillern	Provide income tax exemptions from certain research or experimental expenditures
LB1024	Bostar	Change provisions relating to documents and information provided to an independent review organization under the Health Carrier External Review Act
LB1025	Bostar	Adopt the Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Support Act and provide tax credits
LB1026	Hardin	Change provisions relating to the achieving a better life experience program
LB1027	Clements	Change provisions relating to schools which elect not to meet accreditation and approval requirements
LB1028	Clements	Require city-county health departments to obtain approval for directed health measures
LB1029	Conrad	Change provisions relating to compulsory attendance regarding illness
LB1030	Bostelman	Change provisions of the County Bridge Match Program and provide for a transfer of funds from the Roads Operations Cash Fund
LB1031	Bostelman	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund, dark fiber leases, and broadband telecommunications services
LB1032	Bostelman	Redefine terms under the First Responder Recruitment and Retention Act
LB1033	Lippincott	Provide for enforcement of violations relating to use of handheld wireless communication devices as a primary action
LB1034	Lippincott	Prohibit a school district from punishing an employee or prohibiting an employee from engaging in religious expression when an employee is on duty at school
LB1035	Hughes	Adopt the Prescription Drug Donation Act
LR277CA	Sanders	Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to enact laws providing for life imprisonment for sex or labor trafficking of a minor and certain sex offenses involving minors

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CEREMONIES

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Day two bill introduction

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Senators will continue the introduction of new bills through the first 10 days of the legislative session.