

Senators change ‘present not voting’ option, adopt permanent session rules

Following three days of debate, lawmakers adopted their permanent rules Jan. 24. The rules of the Legislature govern the lawmaking process and generally are adopted at the beginning of each biennium.

Of the two dozen proposed changes heard by the Rules Committee at a public hearing last week, two were forwarded for consideration by the full Legislature. Central City Sen. Loren Lippincott, committee chairperson, said the other proposals would be studied over the interim.



Sen. Loren Lippincott

“These are rules that the whole committee agreed on unanimously and that provide for expediency and transparency in our processes,” he said.

Committee proposals

First was a proposal originally offered by Sen. Ben Hansen of Blair, which allows for collective consideration of certain gubernatorial appointees.



Sen. Ben Hansen

Currently, all gubernatorial appointees are considered by the committee with subject matter jurisdiction before being



From left: Sens. Daniella Conrad, Loren Lippincott, Ben Hansen and Wendy DeBoer confer during rules debate Jan. 22.

forwarded to the full Legislature for approval. That process will remain unchanged, but appointees other than agency or department heads who serve at the pleasure of the governor may be presented on the floor in a single report by each respective committee.

Hansen said simplifying the consideration of noncontroversial appointments will increase legislative efficiency.

“We’re no longer dealing with just a few gubernatorial appointments,” Hansen said, adding that the number has climbed into the hundreds in recent years.

Under the proposal, if five lawmakers sign a letter indicating that they would like to “pull” a name from a committee report, that individual’s appointment will be considered separately.

Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh expressed concern that the change will not allow sufficient time for lawmakers with questions about a specific appointee to organize and file a pull request.

“I worry about making [the process] more obtuse and less transparent, not only to ourselves but to the greater public,” Cavanaugh said.

The proposal was adopted on a vote of 39-7.

A second change, originally brought to the committee by Sumner Sen. Teresa Ibach, is intended to improve public access



Sen. Teresa Ibach

to statements of intent.

Currently, the statements, which are a brief explanation of a proposed bill’s purpose, must be submitted by the introducer to the chairperson of the committee the bill is referenced to at least three days prior to the measure’s public hearing.

As introduced at the Rules Committee hearing, Ibach’s proposal would have changed that timeline to instead require a statement of intent to be submitted within one day of a bill’s introduction.

Ibach said that during the hearing it was noted that bills must be referenced to a standing committee of subject matter jurisdiction before a

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statement of intent can be submitted to the chairperson.

As a result, she said, her proposal was amended to require submission within three legislative days of a bill being referenced to committee.

“This is aimed to help those watching at home or outside of the building to know the general concept of a bill at the time of its introduction,” Ibach said.

Sen. Megan Hunt of Omaha offered what she termed a “cautionary observation” in regard to the proposal, noting that there is no penalty for failing to comply with the timeline for submitting a statement of intent, neither currently nor under the proposed change.

“Change for the sake of change isn’t an improvement on the process,” Hunt said.

The proposal was adopted 41-2.

Amendments

Lawmakers also approved an amendment offered by Omaha Sen.

Kathleen Kauth.

A version of the proposal, which would have changed the way votes are calculated on all cloture motions, was offered at the Rules Committee hearing but not forwarded for debate.

A cloture motion – which ceases debate and forces a vote on a bill – requires approval by a two-thirds majority of the 49 members of the Legislature, or 33 votes.

Kauth’s revised amendment does not alter the two-thirds threshold, but requires the votes of senators who are present but not casting a vote to be officially recorded as having voted “nay” rather than “present not voting,” if the vote is on a cloture motion that is offered during the third and last round of legislative debate, known as final reading.

It will do the same for votes taken on the question of final passage of a bill.

Kauth acknowledged that there



Sen. Kathleen Kauth

may be strategic reasons for a senator to refrain from voting during earlier rounds of debate – to signal willingness to negotiate, for example – but said senators should be required to “make a final stand” during final reading.

“I think we owe it to our constituents to give transparency and accountability to this process,” Kauth said.

The final version of her amendment also contains a provision that allows members who file a conflict of interest statement on any vote taken under the rule to be recorded as “present not voting” rather than as a no vote. Such votes will be noted with an asterisk in the official legislative record.

Hansen supported the change, saying he has heard from many Nebraskans who are upset by lawmakers who are present in the legislative chamber but do not cast a vote.

“I feel like this is a constituent-driven rule change,” Hansen said.

Sen. Bob Andersen of Omaha agreed, saying his constituents made

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their expectations clear to him on the campaign trail.

“What they did tell me is that when they elected me, they elected me to vote thumbs up or thumbs down. Either vote pro or against,” Andersen said.

Speaking against the change, Hunt said the frustration some constituents feel about the issue is understandable, but that the solution should not be to force lawmakers to vote when their conscience or ethics lead them not to do so.

“[It] forces senators into these binary choices – are you a yes or a no – and it doesn’t recognize the complexity that a lot of these issues have,” she said.

Lincoln Sen. George Dungan also opposed the change. The Legislature already maintains clear records of how members vote, he said, including those who are present but not voting.

Kauth’s change does nothing to provide transparency or accountability for constituents, he said, but rather will simply be used to gain partisan political advantage. It’s up to senators to explain their actions to their constituents, he said, not for members to dictate to each other when they must cast a vote.

“What I fear is that we’re trying to change this rule – to force a ‘present not voting’ to show up as a ‘no’ – so that it can be used in campaigns,” Dungan said.

Senators voted 31-17 to adopt the change.

Lawmakers also considered an amendment offered by Omaha Sen. Terrell McKinney that would remove a cap on the number of bills an individual senator can introduce each session, which was set at 20 last year.



Sen. Terrell McKinney

McKinney said capping the number of bills that members of the Legislature may introduce, but not the number of bills the governor can have senators introduce on his or her behalf, creates an imbalance of power among the two branches of government.

In addition, he said, the current rule makes it difficult for lawmakers to adequately address the needs of those they represent.

“This limitation effectively stifles the voice of the people,’ McKinney said, “making it challenging for senators to effectively respond to constituent concerns.”

Several senators, including Hunt, called the current cap arbitrary and unnecessarily constraining. She noted a number of ways senators have found to circumvent the existing rule, including having another senator introduce proposals for them if they have reached their own bill limit.

Hansen, who introduced the rule change that led to the cap’s adoption in 2024, said it was “premature” to rescind it. Senators introduced roughly 100 fewer bills this session than in 2023, which he said is an indication that the limitation is working as intended.

In response to McKinney’s concerns, Seward Sen. Jana Hughes offered and later withdrew an amendment to his proposal that also would apply the cap to bills introduced on the governor’s behalf.

Hughes said she decided the proposal should go through the committee process before being considered by the full Legislature, however. As a result, she said she would study the issue over the interim and consider offering the proposal again in the future.

The McKinney amendment failed 16-31 and lawmakers then voted 33-6 to adopt the permanent rules. ■

Committee vice chairpersons selected

Agriculture	Sen. Teresa Ibach
Appropriations.....	Sen. Christy Armendariz
Banking, Commerce & Insurance	Sen. Bob Hallstrom
Business & Labor	Sen. Tony Sorrentino
Education.....	Sen. Jana Hughes
General Affairs.....	Sen. John Cavanaugh
Government, Military & Veterans Affairs	Sen. Bob Andersen
Health & Human Services	Sen. John Fredrickson
Judiciary	Sen. Wendy DeBoer
Natural Resources	Sen. Barry DeKay
Nebraska Retirement Systems	Sen. Tony Sorrentino
Revenue.....	Sen. Mike Jacobson
Rules.....	Sen. Wendy DeBoer
Transportation & Telecommunications.....	Sen. Beau Ballard
Urban Affairs	Sen. Stan Clouse
Executive Board	Sen. Teresa Ibach

MEET THE SENATOR

Sorrentino wins race to the Capitol

O maha Sen. Tony Sorrentino keeps his Brooks running shoes in a bright yellow bag in his Capitol office and his running clothes in the trunk of his car.

“Just in case,” he smiles.

Running is more than a hobby for the freshman senator – it’s a philosophy and a way of life. Sorrentino has been running competitively for more than 50 years and is likely the most youthful 70 year old you’ll ever meet.

“It’s certainly my passion,” he said. “It took away my real knees and gave me some fake ones a couple of years ago, but I still run.”

Other parts of his life that contribute to the spring in his step include teaching adjunct at Creighton Law School and serving as the assistant coach for the Creighton women’s cross country team. Over the years, he’s coached runners at almost every level from junior high to college.

“I enjoy being around the students,” Sorrentino said. “They energize you and keep you young.”

Sorrentino, a CPA and attorney, has competed in 163 marathons in locations all over the world, including finishing the prestigious Boston Marathon six times. At one time he was sponsored – with athletic companies paying for his shoes, clothing and travel – but such deals require a minimum number of races per year. With four children at home, his wife Kate’s own busy career and overseeing his company, there simply wasn’t time.

Sorrentino said one of his most memorable running experiences was in the birthplace of

the marathon. After Greece was chosen as the site for the 2004 Summer Olympics in 1989, he was one of the runners on the newly mapped out course meant to retrace the race’s historic origin.

Unfortunately, the course wasn’t completely marked out by the time the runners arrived.

“The pack I was in got lost and ended up running 28.5 miles,” he laughed. “We were literally stopping people in Athens and asking them where the Panathenaic Stadium finish line was.”

But Sorrentino isn’t daunted by races that don’t go exactly as planned.

He ran for a seat in the Legislature 18 years ago and, in his words, “finished Miss Congeniality.” In the years since, he concentrated on work, teaching, coaching and other interests, but never lost sight of the desire to serve.

After selling his business a few years ago and moving to District 39, which had an open seat last year due to term limits, Sorrentino felt it was time to try again.

“I’ve always had an interest in government,” he said. “I was the beneficiary of good governance – good leadership – all my life growing up in Nebraska. Now I have the time to give back.”

Having a runner’s energy helped when knocking nearly 10,000 doors while on the campaign trail. His advice to others seeking a spot in the legislative hustle and bustle?

“Bring your energy and bring your walking shoes,” Sorrentino said. “It’s going to take both to put together a winning race.” ■



Sen. Tony Sorrentino competing for Team Nebraska in the 2015 Twin Cities Marathon in Minneapolis.

NEW BILLS

January 21, 2025

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB433	Sorrentino	Exempt deputy directors and agency attorneys from the State Personnel System and change membership provisions under the State Employees Retirement Act
LB434	Wordekemper	Change fees for fireworks display permits, fireworks sales licenses, fire alarm inspector certification, late submittal of remodel or construction plans, fire safety inspections, fire protection system contractor certificates, heating oil tank registration, and underground storage tank installation permits and registration
LB435	Wordekemper	Change provisions of the Conveyance Safety Act
LB436	Health & Human Services	Change provisions of the Nebraska Regulation of Health Professions Act
LB437	Riepe	Repeal the Nebraska Health Care Certificate of Need Act
LB438	Spivey	Allow an authorized gaming operator to conduct sports wagering by means of an online sports wagering platform under the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act and change the distribution of taxes collected from sports wagering
LB439	Spivey	Adopt the Property Tax Circuit Breaker Act
LB440	Spivey	Adopt the Education Leave and Support Act
LB441	Spivey	Authorize virtual inspections for certain building permits and require certain inspection records be made available to the public under the Building Construction Act
LB442	Spivey	Establish a state child care subsidy program
LB443	von Gillern	Create the offense of unlawful squatting and provide a penalty
LB444	Dungan	Require certain minimum uninsured and underinsured insurance coverage for certain motor carriers
LB445	von Gillern	Adopt the State Building Construction Alternatives Act and change and eliminate provisions regarding planning, bidding, construction, and procurement of art for state buildings
LB446	Guereca	Change provisions relating to release of health data and statistical research information
LB447	J. Cavanaugh	Provide certain requirements for redevelopment contracts under the Community Development Law
LB448	Dungan	Provide for postconviction relief for a claim of actual innocence, change provisions relating to time limitations, required disclosures, and procedural defaults, and name the Postconviction Relief Act
LB449	Fredrickson	Change provisions relating to the priority of projects and requirements of the state highway system plan
LB450	Fredrickson	Change provisions relating to the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act
LB451	Prokop	Change provisions relating to the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund and the Capitol Restoration Cash Fund
LB452	Prokop	State intent regarding appropriation of federal funds
LB453	DeBoer	Change requirements for background checks for guardians and conservators
LB454	Quick	Change provisions relating to regional behavioral health authority and the Behavioral Health Services Fund and provide for a pilot project
LB455	Hallstrom	Provide for confidentiality of and access to certain injury reports under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB456	Hallstrom	Provide for a patient's waiver for the release of employee hospital and medical records under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB457	Bostar	Require anaphylaxis policies for school districts and licensed child care facilities and provide a limit on the amount an insured is required to pay by an insurance policy or benefit plan for epinephrine injectors
LB458	Bostar	Change provisions relating to tax sale certificates, real property sold for delinquent taxes, certain tax-related foreclosure actions, and land banks and adopt the Permitting Approval Timeliness Act and the By-Right Housing Development Act
LB459	Conrad	Establish the Home Weatherization Clearinghouse within the Department of Environment and Energy
LB460	Juarez	Create the Nebraska Council on Economic Education Cash Fund and provide for a transfer from the State Settlement Cash Fund
LB461	Juarez	Change provisions of the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Retirement Act
LB462	McKinney	Change reporting requirements relating to child abuse or neglect, parental rights, and juvenile court jurisdiction

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB463	Ballard	Require school districts to develop a cardiac emergency response plan under the School Safety and Security Reporting Act and provide for grants for such plans from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund
LB464	Bosn	Create the offense of organized retail crime and provide penalties under the Nebraska Criminal Code
LB465	Bosn	Change provisions relating to annual fees and eliminate requirements for the use of a personal vehicle for transportation network companies
LB466	Bosn	Redefine a term under the Nebraska Juvenile Code
LB467	Riepe	Provide a duty to implement a prior authorization application programming interface under the Utilization Review Act
LB468	Clements	Change provisions relating to inheritance taxes, change certain fee and tax provisions, and eliminate a sales tax exemption relating to data centers
LB469	M. Cavanaugh	Require the State Court Administrator to develop a form to be included by landlords in residential eviction notices concerning resources for tenants
LB470	Bosn	Provide for attorneys to make unsworn declarations under penalty of perjury in lieu of sworn declarations
LB471	McKeon	Prohibit certain restrictions by state agencies, state entities, counties, cities, and villages relating to the energy source of motor vehicles and prohibit certain actions of the Department of Environment and Energy related to vehicle emission standards
LB472	McKeon	Adopt the Regulatory Management Act
LB473	Banking, Commerce & Insurance	Change provisions of the Nebraska Money Transmitters Act
LB474	Banking, Commerce & Insurance	Change and eliminate provisions relating to installment sales and installment loans, rename the Nebraska Installment Sales Act, and transfer provisions of and eliminate the Nebraska Installment Loan Act
LB475	Riepe	Classify tianeptine as a controlled substance
LB476	Guereca	Provide exemptions under the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act
LB477	Fredrickson	Change provisions of the Workplace Privacy Act
LB478	General Affairs	Provide for an auction permit and a wholesalers shipping license and change other provisions of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB479	Moser	Change the distribution of sales and use tax revenue
LB480	DeKay	Change provisions relating to the Water Recreation Enhancement Act
LB481	Ballard	Adopt the Foster Care Child Scholarships Act
LB482	Ballard	Change provisions relating to attorney's fees in insurance cases
LB483	Storm	Limit permissible forms of medical cannabis to pills or liquid tinctures and clarify provisions relating to medical cannabis
LB484	Quick	Redefine agricultural land and horticultural land for property tax assessment
LB485	Quick	Provide for confidentiality for train crew members involved with railroad fatalities and access to confidential information of train crew members and exempt train crew members from being required to display operator's licenses to law enforcement
LB486	Quick	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to implement standards for reimbursement for certain service providers
LB487	McKinney	Adopt the Restitution and Redress for Redlining Task Force Act
LB488	Hallstrom	Require a peace officer to assume custody of a probationer or temporary custody of a juvenile upon request by a probation officer
LB489	Brandt	Prohibit certain entities from operating, maintaining, constructing, or acquiring transmission lines and related facilities
LB490	McKeon	Allow applications for certificates of title for certain agricultural vehicles
LB491	DeKay	Change provisions regarding appropriations from the Museum Construction and Maintenance Fund
LB492	Conrad	Change juvenile court jurisdiction relating to habitual truancy and provisions relating to compulsory school attendance
LB493	Conrad	Adopt the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act and eliminate provisions relating to actions involving public petition and participation

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB494	Dorn	Change provisions relating to the School District Property Tax Relief Act and transfers of General Fund net receipts to the Cash Reserve Fund and the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund
LB495	Hansen	Change provisions relating to community colleges under the Property Tax Request Act
LB496	Murman	Provide requirements under the Nebraska Rules of the Road relating to motorists encountering certain animals being led or driven on highways
LB497	Murman	Provide for admission of and participation in extracurricular activities by certain students that are not residents of the school district
LB498	Murman	Change provisions relating to foundation aid and certification dates under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB499	DeBoer	Change membership provisions relating to the Crime Victim's Reparations Committee
LB500	DeBoer	Create the School Financing Review Commission
LB501	Meyer	Change provisions relating to the assessment of real property that suffers significant property damage
LB502	Meyer	Provide a penalty under the Farm Labor Contractors Act
LB503	Bosn	Authorize the designation of American energy friendly counties and change provisions relating to privately developed renewable energy generation facilities and the nameplate capacity tax
LB504	Bosn	Adopt the Age-Appropriate Online Design Code Act
LB505	Prokop	State intent regarding appropriations for food assistance
LB506	Hunt	Adopt the Landlord and Tenant Radon Awareness Act
LB507	Hunt	Change provisions relating to school transportation expenses for children with disabilities
LB508	Hunt	Change provisions relating to the deployment of the Nebraska National Guard and require the Governor to review current deployments
LB509	Sorrentino	Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide for income tax credits
LB510	Holdcroft	Change provisions relating to the sales tax rate, the Good Life Transformational Projects Act, and the Good Life District Economic Development Act
LB511	Holdcroft	Create the offense of commercial sexual exploitation, require registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act for certain solicitation and trafficking offenses, provide for a grant program for law enforcement, and require the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct education and awareness campaigns
LB512	Holdcroft	Adopt the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act
LB513	Bosn	Change judges' salaries
LB514	Urban Affairs	Provide powers for cities of the metropolitan class to regulate housing authorities by ordinance
LB515	Quick	Provide requirements for certain prescription refills
LB516	Quick	Eliminate provisions relating to counties maintaining office space for the Department of Health and Human Services
LB517	Juarez	Provide requirements for the state school security director regarding protective door assemblies and other school entry systems
LB518	Juarez	Change requirements for a report by the Department of Correctional Services and Board of Parole
LB519	Juarez	Require independent confirmatory testing of potential items of contraband or drugs in prisons
LB520	Juarez	Provide requirements for bed and breakfast establishments regarding food, beverages, and fire safety
LB521	Sanders	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Election Act
LB522	Guereca	Change provisions relating to the date when compensation begins and provide for cost-of-living adjustments under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB523	Juarez	Adopt the Student Teacher Compensation Act
LB524	Juarez	Authorize paraeducator grants under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act and change eligible uses of the Education Future Fund
LR22CA	Dungan	Constitutional amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the state and political subdivisions serve as trustee of the natural resources of Nebraska
LR23CA	Sanders	Constitutional amendment to change the deadline to file initiative and referendum petitions
LR24CA	Dorn	Constitutional amendment to provide for selection of presidential electors
LR25CA	Hansen	Constitutional amendment to change the compensation of members of the Legislature and provide for health insurance
LR26	Conrad	Recognize the month of February 2025 as Turner Syndrome Awareness Month in Nebraska

NEW BILLS

January 22, 2025

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB525	Jacobson	Adopt the Agricultural Data Privacy Act
LB526	Jacobson	Provide for an excise tax on cryptocurrency mining and allow public power districts to require payments or letters of credit from cryptocurrency mining operations for certain infrastructure upgrades
LB527	Jacobson	Adopt the Medicaid Access and Quality Act, redefine health benefit plan under the Nebraska Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act, and change provisions relating to taxes on health maintenance organizations, prepaid limited health service organizations, and insurance companies
LB528	Jacobson	Change and eliminate provisions relating to grants from the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund
LB529	Jacobson	Provide certain exemptions relating to contracts for the Nebraska Investment Council under the State Procurement Act and the Taxpayer Transparency Act
LB530	Kauth	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Rules of the Road, motor vehicle homicide, and motor vehicle homicide of an unborn child
LB531	Kauth	Provide an exception to the requirement that buildings constructed with state funds comply with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code
LB532	Kauth	Require employers to use E-Verify, prohibit knowingly hiring an unauthorized alien, and provide for discipline against employers' licenses
LB533	Kauth	Provide requirements relating to clinician-administered drugs under the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Licensure and Regulation Act
LB534	Kauth	Provide for payment of claims against the state
LB535	Kauth	Prohibit assault on a frontline behavioral health provider or health care worker and clarify provisions relating to assault on officers, emergency responders, certain employees, and health care professionals
LB536	Sorrentino	Adopt the Manufacturing Modernization Pilot Investment Act
LB537	Sorrentino	Provide for requirements for workforce development grants under the Workforce Development Program Cash Fund
LB538	Hardin	Require school boards and postsecondary educational institutions to adopt a policy and provide training relating to discrimination and antisemitism and provide for Title VI coordinators
LB539	Hardin	Change and eliminate provisions relating to handgun purchase requirements
LB540	Holdcroft	Change provisions of the Nebraska Apiary Act and create the Nebraska Apiary Advisory Board
LB541	Holdcroft	Eliminate online voter registration, restrict voter registration by mail, require grounds for early voting, require hand counts of ballots, and change provisions relating to voter registration and voting
LB542	Dover	Change and eliminate payment provisions for road construction costs relating to utility facilities
LB543	Dover	Provide for the delivery of license plates and change provisions relating to the Department of Motor Vehicles' fees
LB544	Dover	Disqualify certain individuals from receiving benefits under the Employment Security Law
LB545	Rountree	Provide immunity from liability for distribution of donated menstrual products
LB546	Rountree	Change provisions relating to emergency proclamations for disasters, emergencies, and civil defense emergencies made by the Governor
LB547	Rountree	Redefine disabled veteran for purposes of motor vehicle and property tax exemptions
LB548	Lippincott	Provide for political subdivisions that own or operate natural gas systems to contract with industrial consumers of natural gas
LB549	Lippincott	Allow a school board to employ a chaplain, including in a volunteer capacity, at a school
LB550	Lippincott	Require school districts to adopt a policy that excuses students to attend a released time course for religious instruction
LB551	Lippincott	Prohibit tenure at certain postsecondary educational institutions and require a written policy regarding terms and conditions of employment
LB552	Lippincott	Prohibit public postsecondary educational institutions from having a diversity, equity, and inclusion office and taking certain actions relating to diversity, education, and inclusion
LB553	Riepe	Change provisions of the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act
LB554	Riepe	Create the Nebraska Health Professions Commission
LB555	Riepe	Provide for assistant funeral directors under the Funeral Directing and Embalming Practice Act
LB556	Riepe	Change jurisdiction of juvenile courts and adult criminal courts and change provisions relating to detention and hearings under the Nebraska Juvenile Code

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB557	Armendariz	Change provisions relating to the enrollment option program and provide funding to students denied option enrollment, change provisions relating to student fees, student transportation, focus schools, focus programs, magnet schools, net option funding, the learning community coordinating council, diversity plans, and certification of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches, and eliminate provisions relating to open enrollment option students and diversity plans
LB558	von Gillern	Create the Infrastructure Review Task Force for the state highway system
LB559	Bosn	Provide for offenses relating to skimmer devices and criminal enterprises involving financial offenses
LB560	Dungan	Change provisions relating to innovative tourism grants
LB561	Brandt	Change maximum weight limits for vehicles carrying raw milk
LB562	Brandt	Change provisions relating to permits and stamps issued by the Game and Parks Commission
LB563	Brandt	Provide for permanent trailer license plates for commercial fertilizer trailers
LB564	Brandt	Change provisions relating to fund transfers to the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund and the amount of tax relief granted under the School District Property Tax Relief Act
LB565	Quick	Provide and change requirements relating to agency guidance documents
LB566	Quick	Eliminate sunset date relating to an income tax credit for the purchase of certain residential property
LB567	Quick	Authorize school policies relating to community engagement
LB568	Fredrickson	Provide for Arbor Day Plates and the Home of Arbor Day Plate Cash Fund and change provisions relating to license plates
LB569	Health & Human Services	Change duties of the Board of Emergency Medical Services
LB570	J. Cavanaugh	Provide for scholarships for nursing students
LB571	J. Cavanaugh	Require cost-of-living adjustments for retirees for any public power district that operates a defined benefit plan
LB572	Hughes	Authorize a school district to exceed its budget authority for stipends paid to a student teacher and change the applicability of the School District Property Tax Limitation Act
LB573	Guereca	Adopt the Meat and Poultry Workers and Contractors Protection Act
LB574	Rountree	Provide rights for firefighters
LB575	Hallstrom	Change provisions relating to the Property Tax Request Act and property tax levy limits
LB576	Dorn	Change provisions of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act relating to surcharges and public hearings
LB577	Dorn	Change licensure requirements for remote dispensing pharmacies and verification requirements for pharmacists
LB578	M. Cavanaugh	Change provisions relating to compensation and employment of jail and prison inmates and disbursements of such funds and require payment of the minimum wage for inmates and government employees
LB579	M. Cavanaugh	Prohibit charging a fee for public records requests by members of the Legislature
LB580	M. Cavanaugh	Appropriate funds to the Department of Environment and Energy
LB581	M. Cavanaugh	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services
LB582	Spivey	Change provisions under the Mechanical Amusement Device Tax Act relating to the amount of tax imposed on cash devices and how such collected taxes are remitted and change the revenue submitted to the Nebraska Tourism Commission Promotional Cash Fund
LB583	Spivey	Change provisions relating to the rate and disbursement of the documentary stamp tax, the Child Care Grant Fund, child care grants, the Military Installation Development and Support Fund, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Innovation Hub Cash Fund, the Economic Recovery Contingency Fund, and the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund
LB584	Spivey	Change sentencing provisions for crimes committed by a person under eighteen years of age
LB585	Spivey	Change provisions relating to distribution of aid under the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program
LB586	Spivey	Provide assistance for voters who are unable to vote in-person and who are residents of certain facilities
LB587	Spivey	Change provisions relating to tenants' remedies under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
LB588	Conrad	Require the maximum level of monthly assistance to be tied to the annual inflation factor for aid to dependent children

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB589	Conrad	Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs and support services and require school districts to provide special education staff with professional leave as prescribed
LB590	Moser	Provide for a mitigation bank or an in-lieu fee program relating to the incidental taking of threatened or endangered species
LB591	Ballard	Change provisions relating to when licenses are required and provide powers to certain licensees relating to affiliates under the Nebraska Installment Loan Act
LB592	Ballard	Change provisions relating to the achieving a better life experience program
LB593	Moser	Update references relating to automotive spark ignition engine fuels
LB594	Prokop	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the use of handheld wireless communication devices while operating a motor vehicle
LB595	Prokop	Create the Research Excellence Cash Fund
LB596	Sanders	Change requirements for legal publications and notices required by law
LB597	DeBoer	Change provisions relating to foundation aid, local effort rate yield, adjusted valuations of property, and certification dates under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB598	DeBoer	Provide funding to school districts to cover extraordinary increases in limited English proficiency student expenditures, change provisions relating to the elementary site allowance and certification dates under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and reimbursement for special education programs and support services, and change eligible uses of the Education Future Fund
LB599	DeBoer	Require the State Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to cybersecurity
LB600	DeBoer	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Rules of the Road and the Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act
LB601	DeBoer	Clarify provisions relating to motions for a new trial in a criminal case
LB602	Juarez	Adopt the Data Elimination and Limiting Extensive Tracking and Exchange Act
LB603	Ballard	Change provisions relating to care management units under the Nebraska Community Aging Services Act
LB604	Storm	Change provisions regarding initiative and referendum petitions
LB605	Raybould	Require each school board to adopt a policy relating to transgender student participation in extracurricular activities sponsored by a school or an athletics or activities association
LB606	Holdcroft	Eliminate the Division of Parole Supervision and the position of Director of Supervision and Services, transfer powers and duties to the Department of Correctional Services, and change provisions relating to correctional system overcrowding emergencies
LB607	Bostar	Adopt the Environmental Stewardship of Batteries Act, the Extended Producer Responsibility Data Collection Act, and the Minimum Recycled Content Act, and change provisions relating to the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund
LB608	Bostar	Change insurance provisions relating to firefighters and include correctional officers, youth detention officers, and certain children in the First Responder Recruitment and Retention Act
LB609	Bostar	Adopt the Controllable Electronic Record Fraud Prevention Act, require certain notice to purchasers of gift certificates or gift cards, provide for forfeiture of controllable electronic records, and provide for forfeiture of assets for theft by deception, forgery, and identity theft
LB610	Bostar	Change provisions relating to supplemental reimbursement for ground emergency medical transport under the Medical Assistance Act
LB611	Urban Affairs	Adopt updates to building and energy codes
LB612	Andersen	Require the state to pay fifty percent of the operational costs of county courts
LB613	Andersen	Change provisions relating to the disclosure of tax information to municipalities
LB614	Andersen	Provide for exemptions from regulatory authority of cities of the first and second class and villages for certain farm buildings
LB615	J. Cavanaugh	Prohibit distributing deepfakes under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act
LB616	J. Cavanaugh	Provide for enforcement of red light violations using automatic license plate reader systems
LB617	Kauth	Change provisions of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
LB618	Kauth	Deny claims against the state
LB619	Ballard	Provide for cities of the primary class and certain counties to receive grants relating to certain highways
LB620	Guereca	Adopt the Neighborhood Revitalization Act and authorize certain civil actions relating to real property

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB621	Dover	State legislative intent regarding appropriations and provide for transfers from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund
LB622	Dover	Provide for the Statewide Housing Assistance Program and change provisions relating to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, recipients of assistance, and selection of recipients under the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act and the rate and disbursement of the documentary stamp tax
LB623	Dover	State intent regarding appropriations
LB624	Dover	Appropriate funds to the State Treasurer for education scholarships
LB625	Dover	Provide for the establishment of a database of financial information from all school districts in the state
LB626	Dover	Authorize redevelopment projects involving affordable housing under the Community Development Law
LB627	Dover	Provide for a capital construction project for the University of Nebraska
LB628	Dover	Adopt the Recreational Trail Easement Property Tax Exemption Act and change provisions relating to the filing of statements of recorded easements and property tax exemptions
LB629	Hardin	Adopt the County Initiative and Referendum Act
LB630	Hansen	Provide and change scope of practice requirements under the Occupational Therapy Practice Act
LB631	Hansen	State intent relating to funding for the School Emergency Response Mapping Fund
LB632	Hansen	Require a health care facility to dispose of the remains of aborted unborn children
LB633	Hansen	Change provisions relating to applications rejected under the enrollment option program and create the Nebraska Option Enrollment Tuition Account Program
LB634	Hansen	Adopt the Legislative Sunset Review Act and eliminate the Legislature's Planning Committee
LB635	Hansen	Authorize the regulation of professional bare-knuckle mixed martial arts, professional mixed martial arts on ice, amateur kickboxing, and slap fighting by the State Athletic Commissioner
LB636	Ibach	Change provisions relating to fees allowed for sheriffs and provide for reimbursement to counties for medical services for jail inmates
LB637	Ballard	Adopt the Destination Nebraska Act and provide for certain taxing authority
LB638	Ibach	Change provisions of the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act
LB639	Clouse	Require dental plan carriers to meet a minimum dental loss ratio and provide a report
LB640	Judiciary	Change calculation of a sentence reduction for good behavior during confinement in a jail
LB641	Bostar	Change provisions relating to medicaid estate recovery
LB642	Bostar	Adopt the Artificial Intelligence Consumer Protection Act
LB643	Prokop	Prohibit income tax deductions relating to interest or taxes paid on or maintenance of certain properties and provide exemptions to prohibited deductions
LB644	Bostar	Adopt the Foreign Adversary and Terrorist Agent Registration Act and the Crush Transnational Repression in Nebraska Act, provide requirements under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act for conduct relating to certain foreign entities, change provisions of the Foreign Adversary Contracting Prohibition Act, and regulate storage and remote access of genetic sequencing data
LB645	Ballard	Change provisions relating to the School Retirement Fund
LB646	Ibach	Provide for exempt feedlots under the Livestock Brand Act
LB647	Revenue	Change property tax provisions relating to net book value
LB648	Revenue	Change the sales and use tax rate
LB649	Revenue	Change provisions relating to an income tax rate
LB650	von Gillern	Eliminate certain sales tax exemptions, change income tax provisions relating to nonresident income and certain tax credits, and provide and change certain sunset dates relating to tax incentives
LB651	Conrad	Change provisions of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Patient Protection Act and the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act and provide for regulation of medical cannabis
LB652	Hansen	Terminate the Board of Educational Lands and Funds
LB653	Murman	Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs, support services, and the enrollment option program, provide reimbursement for certain students under the enrollment option program, and change the authorized uses of the Education Future Fund
LB654	Murman	Appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture
LB655	Murman	Provide for medical conscience-based objections
LB656	Andersen	Change work requirements under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
LB657	Andersen	Create the offense of assault on a sports official and provide a penalty under the Nebraska Criminal Code

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB658	Andersen	Provide labeling and advertising requirements for manufactured-protein food products
LB659	Andersen	Change provisions relating to vote counting devices under the Election Act
LB660	Andersen	Adopt the Secure Drone Purchasing Act
LB661	Andersen	Change provisions relating to the duties of the Nebraska Investment Council, the state investment officer, and the State Treasurer
LB662	Andersen	Provide for a federal funding inventory from each state agency and restrict maintenance-of-effort requirements
LB663	Storer	Provide for required education for members of county planning commissions and county boards and change provisions relating to conditional use or special exception determinations by county planning commissions and county boards
LB664	Storer	Change the Administrative Procedure Act to require agencies to allow for public comment and submissions on proposed rules and regulations and change permissible venue for civil actions challenging rules and regulations
LB665	Storer	Prohibit the use of certain electronic identification devices under the Animal Health and Disease Control Act
LB666	Storer	Change provisions relating to duties of the Public Service Commission under the Rural Communications Sustainability Act
LB667	Storer	Change provisions of the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act
LB668	Storer	Change provisions relating to the Adult Protective Services Central Registry, the central registry of child protection cases, and child welfare case managers
LB669	Storer	Change requirements for voluntary and informed consent and civil actions relating to abortion
LB670	Murman	Require schools to adopt a safety plan and provide and change requirements related to training for staff of child care and schools
LB671	Murman	Change and eliminate provisions relating to reports regarding the enrollment option program, programs for expelled students, educator evaluations, information related to dyslexia, the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program, high-need retention grants, property tax request documentation, and the College Pathway Program and eliminate obsolete provisions and provisions relating to the Junior Mathematics Prognosis Examination
LB672	Raybould	Provide a contribution limit for candidate committees under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act
LB673	Raybould	Change provisions relating to the Perkins County Canal Project and provide for a transfer from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund
LB674	Raybould	Change provisions relating to the Perkins County Canal Project and provide for transfers from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund
LB675	Raybould	Provide requirements for the purchase, lease, sale, or exchange of school lands located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation
LB676	Hansen	Change and eliminate provisions relating to certified nurse midwives and provide for applicability of the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act
LB677	Hansen	Change provisions of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act and provide for regulation of medical cannabis
LB678	Hardin	State intent regarding appropriations to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges
LB679	Ballard	Change provisions relating to the sale of real property for delinquent taxes
LB680	Education	Change provisions relating to educational service units
LB681	Education	Change provisions relating to the definition of graduate degree program
LB682	Education	Update terminology relating to individualized education programs for high school students
LB683	Raybould	Change provisions relating to duties of county assessors regarding notification of real property assessments and eliminate and change provisions of the Property Tax Request Act
LB684	Bostar	Transfer juvenile probation functions to a new Juvenile Probation Agency in the executive branch
LB685	Lonowski	Require schools to install a secure master key box as prescribed, provide powers and duties to the state school security director, change provisions relating to a grant program for security-related infrastructure projects and the School Safety and Security Fund, and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund
LB686	Lonowski	Prohibit government entities and officials from keeping certain lists relating to the ownership of firearms and prohibit using merchant category codes to distinguish firearm retailers

NEW BILLS

Bill	Introducer	One-line description
LB687	Lonowski	Adopt the Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination Act
LB688	Lonowski	Prohibit advertising of electronic nicotine delivery systems
LB689	Lonowski	Redefine terms under the School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Act
LB690	Lonowski	Change provisions relating to the regulation and operation of all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles
LB691	Murman	Require school districts and private, denominational, and parochial schools to display the Ten Commandments in school buildings as prescribed
LB692	Murman	Change provisions relating to property tax request authority under the School District Property Tax Limitation Act
LB693	McKeon	Prohibit as a deceptive trade practice certain conduct relating to assistance or referrals in veterans benefits matters
LB694	Guereca	Prohibit discrimination based on military or veteran status
LB695	Dover	Require the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District to construct a dam and provide for flood control measures
LB696	Raybould	Change, provide, and eliminate provisions of the Professional Landscape Architects Act
LB697	Strommen	Change requirements relating to compounding and delegated dispensing permits under the Pharmacy Practice Act
LB698	Strommen	Change provisions of the Nebraska Healthy Families and Workplaces Act
LB699	Strommen	Change provisions relating to certain sales and use tax incentives under the ImagiNE Nebraska Act
LB700	McKinney	Provide for confidentiality of prosecutions and adjudications of minors, extend jurisdiction under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, provide requirements for custodial interrogations of juveniles and young adults, prohibit use of certain statements, prohibit sending juveniles out of state, and provide for use and reimbursement of reporting centers
LB701	McKinney	Provide for reimbursement of doula services by the Department of Health and Human Services
LB702	McKinney	Adopt the Neighborhood Empowerment Act
LB703	McKinney	Provide for an exchange program for the Commission on African American Affairs
LB704	McKinney	Change provisions relating to the review and modification of an incarcerated parent's child support order
LB705	McKinne	Change provisions of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Patient Protection Act and the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act, provide for regulation of medical cannabis, and adopt the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Justice Act and the Cannabis Conviction Clean Slate Act
LB706	Spivey	Require adult protective services social workers to accompany law enforcement officers
LB707	von Gillern	Change provisions relating to project eligibility under the Good Life Transformational Projects Act
LB708	Ibach	Change boundaries of certain community college areas
LB709	Bostar	Adopt the Adoption Tax Credit Act
LB710	Bostar	Increase the earned income tax credit
LB711	Hunt	Change provisions relating to the new school adjustment under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB712	Hughes	Change the tax on sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems
LB713	Ballard	Change provisions of the School Employees Retirement Act
LB714	Clements	Change provisions relating to motor vehicle taxes and fees
LB715	Hunt	Require insurance coverage for pre-exposure prophylaxis medication
LR27CA	Hunt	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three consecutive terms
LR28CA	Hansen	Constitutional amendment to eliminate provisions creating the Board of Educational Lands and Funds
LR29	Holdcroft	Provide the Legislature names the new prison facility being built as the Arbor Correctional Center

GOVERNMENT, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

Limits on school, ESU bond elections proposed

A bill that would limit when school bond elections may be held was heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 22.

LB135, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Rick Holdcroft, would prohibit schools and educational service units from conducting special elections for a bond issue, property tax levy or exceeding a property tax levy limitation. Under the bill, such questions could appear on ballots only during regularly scheduled elections or on traditional election dates.



Sen. Rick Holdcroft

Holdcroft said the proposal is similar to a bill he sponsored last session, but has been broadened to allow such measures to be considered during primary, general and municipal elections.

He said having school bond questions coincide with regularly scheduled elections, which generally have higher voter turnout than special elections, would engage more voters and make sure their voices are heard on issues that affect their property taxes.

"I believe it is important that there is as much voter input as possible when it comes to proposed ballot questions impacting our tax bills," Holdcroft said.

Nicole Fox, testifying in support of the measure on behalf of the Platte Institute, agreed. Nebraska has the seventh highest property tax rate in the country, she said, and school bonding

and levy overrides are contributing factors.

"LB135 is a good governance bill," Fox said. "It reflects the need to limit bond elections to when voter turnout is higher."

Testifying in opposition was Jack Moles, executive director of the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association. He said the proposal likely would hinder the ability of many communities to keep pace with enrollment growth and building maintenance because school budget timelines do not necessarily align with the election calendar.

"If the [school] election is tied to a primary or general election, the local board would only get to go to the people every other year to seek approval for an override," Moles said.

Jeremy Knajdl, business manager for Minden Public Schools, also opposed the bill. Representing the Nebraska Association of School Administrators, he said LB135 unfairly targets schools because it would not restrict the bonding authority of any other political subdivision.

In addition, Knajdl said, primary and general elections occur at the busiest times of the year for agriculture producers in rural communities while special elections done by mail allow voters time to thoughtfully consider ballot issues.

"This is a loss of local control and an undue burden for our schools and our school boards," Knajdl said.

Kyle Fisher, board member of Springfield Platteview Community Schools, opposed the bill. LB135 could cause schools to have to postpone projects, likely increasing costs over the long term, he said.

"[This bill] would strip an elected board of its ability to manage local affairs efficiently, flexibly and cost-effectively for their district," Fisher said.

The committee took no immediate action on the proposal.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Medicaid postpartum home visitation program considered

A bill that seeks to connect postpartum mothers and infants enrolled in Medicaid with in-home support services was considered by the Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 23.

LB22, introduced by Lincoln Sen. George Dungan, would implement targeted case management for evidence-based nurse home visiting services. The program would serve postpartum mothers and infants younger than three who are enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.



Sen. George Dungan

Under the bill, the state Department of Health and Human Services would be required to submit a state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by Oct. 1, 2025, to allow nurse home visiting programs to bill Medicaid directly for services provided.

The bill also states legislative intent to use the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund for any remaining costs not covered by federal funds.

Dungan said his proposal is modeled on a program currently operated by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department called Family Connects. A recent appropriation from the Legislature also funded a ver-

sion of nurse home visiting as a pilot program in Douglas County, he said.

Dungan said authorization from Medicaid to reimburse providers for evidence-based nurse home visiting would allow such services to be available to families statewide.

“Nurse home visitors form trusting relationships with mothers and families to help them during an important time after their baby is born,” he said. “All mothers in the state should be offered this important service.”

Kerry Kernan, health director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, spoke in support of the measure. Since the launch of the Family Connects program, she said, there have been approximately 925 postpartum visits completed – which include health assessments, breastfeeding support and referrals to community resources.

Kernan also cited research that indicates nurse home visits are linked to reductions in infant hospital and emergency department visits, postpartum anxiety and child protective service investigations.

“[Family Connect has] been found to improve parents’ mental health, enhance the quality of home environments, reduce infants’ emergency medical care and increase parents’ utilization of higher quality child care for their children,” she said.

Testifying in favor of LB22, Kaitlyn Lickei shared her experience with home visitation after giving birth to her first child. She said the services provided are lifelines for postpartum mothers and infants.

“[The nurse] helped us navigate newborn care, answered our questions about feeding and sleep and offered resources for my family’s well-being,” Lickei said. “This experience was invaluable to us at the time.”

No one testified in opposition to

LB22 and the committee took no immediate action.

Medicaid memory care waiver considered

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony Jan. 22 on a bill that seeks to establish a Medicaid reimbursement rate for assisted living facilities that provide memory care services.

LB61, introduced by Whitman Sen. Tanya Storer, would require the state Department of Health and Human Services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services no later than Sept. 30, 2025, for a waiver amendment to include reimbursement rates for assisted living memory care.

The bill also states intent to appropriate an undetermined amount from the General Fund for fiscal year 2025-26 and FY2026-27 for the payment of memory care rates.

Storer said the current reimbursement structure – which provides an umbrella reimbursement rate for assisted living facilities regardless of the level of care provided – does not adequately account for the additional support, training and staffing that memory care facilities require.

She also noted the growing number of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in Nebraska.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, she said, over 35,000 Nebraskans age 65 and older currently are living with Alzheimer’s, a number that is projected to increase by 21% this year.

“It is undeniable that we are going to have a significant increase in need in

our state,” Storer said. “Ignoring that reality is not going to make it go away.”

Kiersten Reed, speaking in support of the bill on behalf of LeadingAge Nebraska, said the costs associated with specialized care for dementia disorders – which is the most expensive to provide – has caused many providers to close.

The number of Nebraskans experiencing dementia has steadily increased while the number of assisted living facilities that accept Medicaid and provide memory care services has dropped significantly, she said.

“The current reimbursement rate and the current system that we have is not set up to manage that kind of influx,” Reed said. “We just simply don’t have the capacity with 44 providers.”

Heath Boddy, testifying on behalf of Vetter Senior Living, said lawmakers need to take swift action to ensure access to care for vulnerable Nebraskans.

“I can say with certainty that access to care, specifically assisted living memory care, in rural Nebraska for those that rely on state assistance is already an issue,” Boddy said. “My assessment is that this is only going to get worse.”

No one testified in opposition to LB61 and the committee took no immediate action.



Sen. Tanya Storer

JUDICIARY

Proposals would provide immunity for naloxone alternatives

The Judiciary Committee heard joint testimony Jan. 23 on a pair of measures that would broaden legal im-

munity to those prescribing, dispensing or administering medications that rapidly reverse an opioid overdose.

Currently, Nebraska law provides such immunity only for the use of naloxone, commonly known by its brand name Narcan. The committee considered two bills that would amend the Uniform Controlled Substances Act to broaden immunity language to include any opioid overdose reversal drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

LB5, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Carolyn Bosn, would replace “naloxone” in state statute with “opioid antagonist,” and LB195, sponsored by Sen. Glen Meyer of Pender, would replace the term with “opioid reversal medication.”



Sen. Carolyn Bosn

Given the similarities between the bills, Bosn said she and Meyer would collaborate to advance LB195 because its broader language and terminology are preferred by the state Department of Health and Human Services.



Sen. Glen Meyer

Meyer said that since FDA approval of naloxone in 2019, additional medications for opioid overdose have become available. Broadening state law to allow the use of generic and alternative opioid reversal medications can save more lives, he said.

“This change in the statutory language will allow Nebraskans wider, less expensive and more efficient access to the lifesaving drugs that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose,” Meyer said.

Thomas Janousek, director of the Division of Behavioral Health

at DHHS, testified in support of the proposals.

Eliminating obstacles to accessing other medications will convey to health care providers, emergency responders and the public that Nebraska can adapt to the evolving landscape of opioid overdose intervention, he said.

“This is particularly important for underserved, rural communities where limited access to medical resources can mean the difference between life and death,” Janousek said.

Also testifying in support of the proposals was DHHS Chief Executive Medical Officer Roger Donovanick.

Opioid reversal medications are safe, have no potential for abuse and are harmless if taken when not experiencing an overdose, Donovanick said.

“There’s no risk in making opioid reversal medication more widely acceptable and encouraging its use in emergencies,” he said.

No one testified in opposition to LB5 or LB195, and the committee took no immediate action on either bill.

Limits on restrictive housing, ‘double bunking’ ban proposed

A bill that would redefine and limit the use of restrictive housing in the state’s correctional facilities was heard by the Judiciary Committee Jan. 24.

LB99, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ashlei Spivey, would limit the use of restrictive housing – commonly referred to as solitary confinement – to 15 consecutive days. The bill also would redefine solitary confinement in state law as the isolation of an incarcerated individual in a cell with reduced or no natural light for at least



Sen. Ashlei Spivey

22 hours a day, with limited access to reading materials, television, radio, group activities or visitors.

The proposal also would broaden the definition of “serious mental illness” in state law in an effort to prevent individuals with mental health conditions from being placed in restrictive housing. Similar exceptions already exist for vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and individuals with developmental disabilities.

In addition, LB99 would ban the practice of “double bunking” – or housing two incarcerated individuals in a single cell designed for one – in a restrictive housing setting unless both individuals voluntarily agree to the placement in writing.

Spivey said solitary confinement does more harm than good, and exacerbates symptoms of existing mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and post-traumatic stress disorder. While there is no conclusive evidence that solitary confinement improves safety, she said, outcomes indicate that the practice fails to rehabilitate, protect or prepare incarcerated individuals for reintegration into society.

“I really think it’s imperative for us to explore alternatives that will actually contribute to our shared goals of accountability, rehabilitation and safer outcomes for all,” Spivey said. “That’s what this bill does.”

Testifying in support of the proposal was Jasmine Harris, legal and advocacy director of RISE, a nonprofit that provides rehabilitation and re-entry support to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Harris said she has encountered many individuals whose mental health has suffered as a result of their time in restrictive housing. While some may think that solitary confinement

is reserved for only individuals with specific convictions or sentences, she said, the impacts are broader than one might expect.

“Ninety percent of people who are incarcerated will come home to our communities,” Harris said. “Solitary confinement and restrictive housing are not punishments used just for individuals who have long-term or life sentences.”

Robbie McEwen, legal director of Nebraska Appleseed, also testified in support of the bill.

McEwen said he worked as an attorney on a class-action lawsuit in 2020 that challenged various conditions within the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Through his involvement in the lawsuit, McEwen said, he witnessed firsthand the damaging effects of restrictive housing.

“Personally, I’ve interacted with a substantial number of persons who have experienced this and I can say without hesitation that directly observing the effects of solitary confinement on these individuals was the most traumatic experience of my legal career,” he said. “It will forever be seared into my memory.”

NDCS Director Rob Jeffreys opposed the measure and said restrictive housing is necessary to keep incarcerated individuals and correctional staff safe.

Limiting the use of restrictive housing to 15 days would send the wrong message that there are no serious consequences for violent behavior, Jeffreys said. Of the 155 people currently in restrictive housing, 95 committed serious acts of violence and 42 threatened serious acts of violence, he said.

“This is a small number [of] the community within the department of corrections that makes it unsafe,” Jeffreys said. “In order to operate safe prisons, we must have a mechanism to

separate those who create significant risks of harm — just like in the communities in which you and I live.”

The committee took no immediate action on LB99.



Expanded sustainable aviation fuel tax credit considered

The Revenue Committee heard testimony Jan. 22 on proposed changes to a recently enacted state income tax credit for producers of sustainable aviation fuel.

Under a measure passed by the Legislature last year, a producer or importer of sustainable aviation fuel may claim a nonrefundable income tax credit based on the number of gallons in all sold or used qualified mixtures multiplied by the sum of 75 cents and an applicable supplementary amount.

Lincoln Sen. George Dungan, sponsor of LB8, said Nebraska is “perfectly positioned to fill the market” for sustainable aviation fuel, which is made from biomass and has a smaller carbon footprint than standard jet fuel.



Sen. George Dungan

Although last year’s bill is a good start, he said, several changes to the credit are needed to effectively attract industry investment.

“The interest is there,” Dungan said. “We just have to make sure that we do what we can to make this a viable option for them.”

LB8 would make the credit refundable, meaning that the credit amount could exceed a producer’s state in-

come tax liability.

It also would repeal the limit on the number of years in which a producer may claim the credit as well as the \$500,000 annual cap on total credits the state Department of Revenue may approve. Finally, the bill would make the credit available beginning in tax year 2028, one year later than under current law.

The department estimates that LB8 would decrease state general fund revenue by \$2 million in fiscal year 2028-29.

Dawn Caldwell testified in support of the measure on behalf of Renewable Fuels Nebraska and a group of eight agricultural organizations. She said the proposed changes could make Nebraska a leader in a fast-growing industry.

“Sustainable aviation fuel has been identified as a key solution to reducing the carbon footprint of air travel,” Caldwell said, “and by supporting SAF producers through an enhanced tax credit, LB8 aligns Nebraska with global efforts to decarbonize the aviation industry.”

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

Housing assistance for abuse survivors proposed

A tax increase on Nebraska real estate transactions would be used to meet the immediate housing needs of survivors of sex trafficking and domestic violence under a bill heard Jan. 22 by the Revenue Committee.

Currently, counties collect a documentary stamp tax on the transfer of real estate at a rate of \$2.25 for each \$1,000 in value. Counties remit all but 50 cents of each \$2.25 collected to the state treasurer, who credits the proceeds to affordable housing and

other programs.

LB78, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar, would increase the rate to \$2.32 for each \$1,000 in value and direct the additional proceeds to a new fund administered by the state Department of Health and Human Services.



Sen. Eliot Bostar

The department would use the funding to provide housing-related assistance, including rental and utility payments, for survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking based on a formula it would create. The department could contract with qualifying nonprofit organizations to provide the assistance.

Bostar said the bill would create a stable, dedicated funding source to meet the immediate housing needs of an “incredibly vulnerable” population that, without assistance, might become homeless or be forced to remain in a dangerous situation.

“A lack of housing and resources for housing assistance make it more difficult for survivors to later secure stable employment, ensure the safety of their children and address their

own emotional well-being,” he said.

The state Department of Revenue estimates that the 7-cent rate increase would generate \$830,000 for the program’s cash fund in fiscal year 2025-26, \$1.1 million in FY2026-27 and \$1.2 million in FY2027-28.

Bostar said LB78 would allow the department to use any leftover funds to acquire or build housing for domestic violence and sex trafficking survivors.

Testifying in support was Jo Bair, executive director of enCourage Advocacy Center, which provides support to those who experience domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking in south central Nebraska. She said most victims of domestic violence are subjected to economic abuse and intentionally isolated from family members, making it “all but impossible” for them to secure safe housing on their own.

Although requests for emergency shelter are increasing, Bair said, decreases in federal funding have forced providers to shelter only those with the highest risk of being killed by their abuser if they cannot flee.

“This bill would offer survivors the stability they need to rebuild their lives, regain their independence and break free from cycles of abuse,” she said.

Randi Ezeafulukwe of Lincoln also testified in support, saying she became homeless after fleeing from an economically abusive partner. Without housing and other assistance from various community programs, Ezeafulukwe said, she would have remained homeless for much longer and might have had to return to the relationship out of financial necessity.

She said LB78 would help others who choose to leave an abusive relationship.

Testifying in opposition to the bill was Korby Gilbertson on behalf of the Nebraska Realtors Association and groups representing Lincoln and Omaha home builders. She said LB78 is one of several bills introduced this session that would raise the documentary stamp tax to pay for various programs rather than using state general funds.

“We would recommend general funds be looked at for this type of issue,” Gilbertson said. “If it is that important to the state of Nebraska, the state of Nebraska should be able to step up and do it, not just ... shift the tax to people that are trying to sell their homes.”

The committee took no immediate action on the bill. ■



COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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

Monday, Jan. 27

Banking, Commerce & Insurance Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

LB21 (J. Cavanaugh) Adopt the Uniform Unlawful Restrictions in Land Records Act
LB187 (Dover) Change provisions of the Nebraska Real Estate License Act
LB139 (Dungan) Change provisions relating to the Real Property Appraiser Act and the Nebraska Appraisal Management Company Registration Act

Business & Labor Room 2102 - 1:30 PM

LB229 (Hallstrom) Exclude marketplace network contractors working for marketplace network platforms from the Employment Security Law
LB308 (Ibach) Adopt the Health Care Staffing Agency Registration Act
LB144 (Rountree) Change provisions relating to veterans preferences for employment
LB100 (Spivey) Adopt the Business Innovation and Startup Act
LB197 (Storm) Change provisions relating to disqualification for benefits, claim determinations, and claim redeterminations under the Employment Security Law

Education Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

Appointments: Connie Edmond, Robert Engles - Board of Trustees of the Neb. State Colleges
LB378 (Andersen) Require that each public or private two-year or four-year college or university provide a report to the Attorney General relating to certain funding from a foreign source
LB282 (Prokop) Provide for reimbursement for teachers for school supplies
LB352 (Ballard) Change provisions relating to reports on student achievement and discipline required under the Quality Education Accountability Act
LB300 (Murman) Change provisions relating to the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act and provide a limit for superintendent and educational service unit administrator compensation

General Affairs Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

Appointments: James S. Brummer, Nathan Michael Lon Francis - State Electrical Board
LB177 (Clouse) Redefine a term under the Gambling Winnings Setoff for Outstanding Debt Act and change provisions relating to the Mechanical Amusement Device Tax Act
LB357 (General Affairs) Change provisions relating to the State Racing and Gaming Commission, the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act, racetrack enclosures, and racing and gaming funds

Transportation & Telecommunications Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

Appointments: Josh Hohensee, Edward Jarrett, Robert Knapp, Aaron Krebs - Underground Excavation Safety Committee
LB362 (DeBoer) Eliminate provisions of and rename the Emergency Telephone Communications Systems Act and the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act and change provisions of the 911 Service System Act

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Agriculture Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

LB7 (DeKay) Change provisions relating to real estate and the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act
LB372 (McKeon) Eliminate the Nebraska Origin and Premium Quality Grain Cash Fund, the Agricultural Suppliers Lease Protection Act, labeling requirements for honey, a deceptive trade practice and provisions relating to grain inspections, special certificates, fees, and powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture
LB145 (Ibach) Require the Director of Agriculture to administer a grant program relating to noxious weeds and restate intent regarding appropriations for vegetation management

Banking, Commerce & Insurance Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

LB231 (Hallstrom) Adopt the Uniform

Special Deposits Act
LB251 (Jacobson) Adopt changes to federal law regarding banking and finance and change provisions regarding loan limits, branch banking, failing financial institutions, credit unions, surety bonds, and interest rates for damages payable to irrigation districts
LB250 (Jacobson) Change provisions relating to the composition of the board of directors of a bank

Education Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

LB249 (Sanders) Provide for military impact funding and change provisions relating to local formula resources under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
LB296 (Arch) Require the State Department of Education to create a centralized education records system and employ registrars relating to students under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and change provisions relating to graduation requirements and the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund
LB335 (Conrad) Redefine child under the In the Line of Duty Dependent Education Act

Transportation & Telecommunications Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

LB23 (J. Cavanaugh) Provide for grants for bike-sharing programs
LB98 (Moser) Redefine all-terrain vehicle and utility-type vehicle in the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act, the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, and the Nebraska Rules of the Road
LB196 (Storm) Authorize the operation of all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles between the hours of sunset and sunrise if used for snow removal
LB337 (Wordekemper) Change provisions relating to the regulation and operation of all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles

Urban Affairs Room 2102 - 1:30 PM

LB286 (Urban Affairs) Change provisions relating to application dead-

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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lines under the Nebraska Innovation Hub Act and the Nebraska Rural Projects Act
LB289 (Urban Affairs) Change provisions relating to cities and villages and redefine qualifying business under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act
LB240 (Jacobson) Change certain notice provisions under the Community Development Law
LB290 (Urban Affairs) Change provisions relating to grant funding for a business park under the Economic Recovery Act

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

LB294 (Storer) Change provisions relating to grants from the County Visitors Improvement Fund
LB373 (Hansen) Change provisions relating to section lines and vacation or abandonment of public roads
LB266 (Dover) Prohibit political subdivisions from enacting ordinances which have the effect of imposing rent controls on private property
LB123 (Sanders) Change provisions relating to withholding money due to noncompliance with budget limits and annual audits for certain political subdivisions

Health & Human Services Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

LB118 (Hardin) Change supervising authority for a pharmacist
LB138 (Riepe) Change provisions relating to pharmacy dispensing fees under the Medical Assistance Act
LB119 (Hardin) Provide requirements for the Rural Health Opportunity Program and provide tuition waivers
LB162 (Juarez) Adopt the Child Care Safety and Security Act

Judiciary

Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

LB6 (Bosn) Provide for a penalty enhancement for a controlled substances violation resulting in serious bodily injury or death

LB431 (Lippincott) Prohibit kratom as a controlled substance
LB230 (Hallstrom) Adopt the Kratom Consumer Protection Act
LB165 (Hunt) Authorize syringe services programs in municipalities and counties and provide exceptions to penalties related to drug paraphernalia under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act
LB316 (Kauth) Prohibit conduct relating to hemp other than cannabidiol products and change provisions of the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act
LB16 (J. Cavanaugh) Adopt the Nebraska Consumable Hemp Control Act

Natural Resources

Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

LB36 (Brandt) Provide for notification of certain regulations and permits to controlling entities by counties, cities, and villages under the Wellhead Protection Area Act
LB129 (McKeon) Prohibit restrictions on the provision of certain energy services
LB377 (Natural Resources) Change term limits for the Game and Parks Commission

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 PM

LB401 (von Gillern) Change provisions relating to income taxes imposed on partnerships and small business corporations and notices of deficiency determinations, deficiencies, and denials of claims for refunds
LB272 (Dungan) Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions for certain disabled veterans and surviving spouses
LB425 (Andersen) Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions for certain disabled veterans and surviving spouses

Thursday, Jan. 30

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

*NOTE: This hearing will operate under annotated committee guidelines
**LB3 and LR24CA will be combined in a joint hearing*

LB3 (Lippincott) Change provisions relating to selection of presidential electors
LR24CA (Dorn) Constitutional amendment to provide for selection of presidential electors

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

LB84 (Rountree) Adopt the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
LB83 (Rountree) Adopt the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact
LB148 (Hansen) Change requirements for licensure and reciprocity under the Dentistry Practice Act
LB310 (Hansen) Provide an exemption from newborn screening for certain diseases or conditions

Judiciary

Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

LB92 (McKinney) Adopt the Residential Tenant Clean Slate Act
LB101 (Dungan) Provide a right to trial by jury under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
LB185 (Dover) Provide for electronic notices by landlords under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act and the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act
LB223 (Guereca) Prohibit discrimination based on lawful source of income under the Nebraska Fair Housing Act
LB235 (Conrad) Change deadlines for trials for actions for possession and execution of writs of restitution under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act

Natural Resources

Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

LB121 (Hardin) Prohibit land disposal of solar panels and wind turbine blades and the component parts of solar

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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panels and wind turbine blades
LB163 (Spivey) Create the Office of
Climate Action

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 PM

LB305 (Ibach) Adopt the Preceptorship
Tax Credit Act
LB391 (Murman) Adopt the Give to En-
able Scholarship Act and provide for
certain income tax adjustments
LB458 (Bostar) Change provisions
relating to tax sale certificates, real
property sold for delinquent taxes,
certain tax-related foreclosure ac-
tions, and land banks and adopt the
Permitting Approval Timeliness Act
and the By-Right Housing Develop-
ment Act

Friday, Jan. 31

Government, Military & Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

LB302 (Murman) Eliminate daylight
saving time
LB34 (Hunt) Provide for year-round
daylight saving time

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

LB82 (Rountree) Adopt the Cosmetol-
ogy Licensure Compact
LB160 (Riepe) Change examination
requirements for a license under the
Barber Act
LB110 (Hughes) Provide requirements
for pelvic examinations
LB87 (Dorn) Provide for a statewide
support service provider program for
deaf-blind persons

Judiciary

Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

LR15CA (McKinney) Constitutional
amendment to prohibit the death
penalty
LB432 (Lippincott) Provide for carry-
ing out the death penalty by nitrogen
hypoxia
LB358 (Guereca) Require the Depart-
ment of Correctional Services to
provide committed offenders with
access to their individual files
LR5CA (M. Cavanaugh) Constitutional

amendment to eliminate provisions
relating to marriage and marriage
licenses

LR6CA (M. Cavanaugh) Constitutional
amendment to recognize marriage
of couples regardless of gender and
race and strike language regarding
gender

*NOTE: The hearings on LR15CA &
LB432 may use the annotated hear-
ing procedures at the discretion of
the chair.*

Nebraska Retirement Systems

Room 1524 - 12:00 PM

Appointments: Patrick Bourne, Jacob
Curtiss - Public Employees Retire-
ment Board
LB295 (Nebraska Retirement Systems)
Change provisions relating to the
County Employees Retirement Act,
the Judges Retirement Act, the Ne-
braska State Patrol Retirement Act,
the School Employees Retirement
Act, the State Employees Retirement
Act, the Spousal Pension Rights Act,
and the Public Employees Retirement
Board

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 PM

LB314 (Sorrentino) Change provisions
of the Sports Arena Facility Financing
Assistance Act
LB117 (Holdcroft) Provide a sales and
use tax exemption for electricity,
natural gas, propane, and sewer
utilities
LB212 (Wordekemper) Change tax pro-
visions relating to cigars, cheroots,
and stogies

Monday, Feb. 3

Business & Labor

Room 2102 - 1:30 PM

LB94 (McKinney) Adopt the Digital
Skills Empowerment Act and change
the use of the Workforce Develop-
ment Program Cash Fund
LB297 (Ibach) Change provisions relat-
ing to the combined tax rate under
the Employment Security Law
LB265 (Sorrentino) Eliminate certain
funds, change provisions relating

to the state unemployment insur-
ance tax rate and the Workforce
Development Program Cash Fund,
and eliminate the Nebraska Worker
Training Board

LB353 (Lonowski) Allow public school
employees to join or terminate mem-
bership in a labor organization

LB320 (Sanders) Require that hotels
and similar public lodging estab-
lishments place posters relating to
human trafficking in such establish-
ments and provide for training on
human trafficking to employees of
such establishments

General Affairs

Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

LB478 (General Affairs) Provide for an
auction permit and a wholesalers
shipping license and change other
provisions of the Nebraska Liquor
Control Act
LB33 (Hunt) Remove nonalcoholic beer
from regulation under the Nebraska
Liquor Control Act
LB186 (Dover) Change provisions relat-
ing to entertainment districts under
the Nebraska Liquor Control Act
LB178 (Clouse) Require mandatory
server training under the Nebraska
Liquor Control Act
LB113 (Quick) Change provisions relat-
ing to licensees under the Nebraska
Liquor Control Act

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Agriculture

Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

LB245 (DeKay) Change provisions of
the Nebraska Pure Food Act
LB394 (DeKay) Change provisions of
the Weights and Measures Act
LB375 (Ibach) Adopt the Grocer Rein-
vestment Option Act

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

LB274 (Hunt) Change requirements
under the Child Care Licensing Act
for liability insurance coverage and
inspections and investigations

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

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LB248 (Sanders) Exempt certain programs from child care licensing requirements

LB154 (Hardin) Change provisions relating to hearing instrument specialists

LB374 (Hansen) Adopt the Licensed Midwives Practice Act

Judiciary

Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

Appointment: Jeff Bucher - Board of Parole

Thursday, Feb. 6

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

LB339 (Hallstrom) Require the Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services to provide a report regarding the federal Child Care Subsidy program

LB304 (DeBoer) Eliminate a sunset date for the federal Child Care Subsidy program

LB46 (McKinney) Establish a Restaurant Meals Program under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

LB102 (Spivey) Change requirements relating to the standard of need under the aid to dependent children program

LB192 (Quick) Eliminate a sunset date under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Friday, Feb. 7

Health & Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

LB104 (Raybould) Adopt the Family Home Visitation Act

LB203 (Kauth) Change powers and duties of health directors in certain local public health departments

LB312 (Strommen) Provide for student loans to students in nurse anesthesia practice programs and loan repayments for nurse anesthetists under the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act

LB257 (Quick) Change reciprocity provisions for credentialing of marriage and family therapists ■

GET LEGISLATIVE NEWS ONLINE

The Unicameral Update print edition is mailed weekly, while the online version, located at Update.Legislature.ne.gov, is updated throughout each legislative day.

Readers may search Update stories by bill number, senator's name or keyword using the search box provided in the top-right corner.

The screenshot shows the website header with the title "UNICAMERAL UPDATE" and the tagline "The Nebraska Legislature's official news source since 1977". A navigation bar includes links for "ABOUT", "COMMITTEES", "FEATURES", "PRINT ARCHIVE", "SUBSCRIPTIONS", and "SESSION REVIEW 2024". The main content area features a large image of senators in a hearing room. Below the image is a "RULES" section with a sub-header "Senators change 'present not voting' option, adopt permanent session rules" and a date of "January 24, 2025". A search box is located in the top right corner. A "Most read" section lists several articles, and a "Resources" section lists various legislative tools and schedules.

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