

**Boards and Commissions  
in Nebraska, 1999**

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# CONTENTS

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<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1999 Action Affecting Boards and Commissions.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The New Boards .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The Disbanded Boards .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Actions Affecting Existing Boards.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Nebraska Boards and Commissions Tables.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Table 1 – Nebraska Boards and Commissions         Created by the Legislature in 1999 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Table 2 – Nebraska Boards and Commissions         Legislative Confirmation and Statutorily         Authorized Per Diems/Expenses .....</b>	<b>9</b>

## APPENDICES

- Appendix A – The Appointment Process in Nebraska**
- Appendix B – Rules of the Nebraska Legislature pertaining  
to the confirmation process**



# BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN NEBRASKA, 1999

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## Introduction

Nebraska has more than 250 statutorily created boards, commissions, and other similarly situated entities (hereinafter, simply referred to as boards) that perform a variety of governmental functions. Often, boards serve narrow functions within larger agencies of government, e.g., the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Advisory Committee within the Department of Health and Human Services. Boards also comprise a large segment of what are known as the “noncode” agencies of government, e.g., the Corn Board, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, and the Foster Care Review Board. Among the many tasks assigned to them, boards provide oversight of governmental programs, regulate and license professionals, and serve numerous state agencies in an advisory capacity.

In 1997, the Executive Board of the Legislative Council requested that the Legislative Research Division compile and annually update a list of statutorily created boards. This publication contains that updated list. With the 1999 edition, this report will no longer attempt to track the myriad boards created by executive order of the Governor. For a list of these entities, which are outside the purview of the Legislature, contact the Governor’s Office, Boards and Commissions.

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## 1999 Action Affecting Boards and Commissions

In 1999, the Legislature created 11 new boards, disbanded six whose statutory duties had expired, and set the state on course to withdraw in five years from the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact.

### The New Boards

*Board to administer the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act (LB 382).* This board was created to review and approve or disapprove applications submitted by political subdivisions who are seeking state financial assistance to develop convention centers. Additionally, the board must annually audit or review audits of the approved facilities to determine the number of participants at the facility who are registered from a location outside Nebraska. Finally, LB 382 requires that the board annually determine and certify to the State Treasurer the amount of new state tax revenue generated due to the construction of the approved facility, employment at the approved facility, and spending by participants of the approved facility who are registered from outside Nebraska. Permanent board members are the Governor, the State Treasurer, the chairperson of the Nebraska Investment Council, and the chairperson of the Ne-

braska State Board of Public Accountancy. The Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education appoints the final board member, a professor of economics on the faculty of a state postsecondary educational institution, to serve a two-year term. The board is considered part of the Department of Revenue for administrative and budget purposes.

***Child Support Commission (LB 407).*** This commission was created to review the child support guidelines adopted by the Nebraska Supreme Court and to make recommendations concerning any changes to those guidelines. Administration of the commission is given to the Legislative Council. The 10 members of the commission must meet the following qualifications: two professionals who work in the field of economics or mathematics or another field of expertise relevant to child support; two judges whose jurisdictions include domestic relations; two members of the Nebraska State Bar Association who practice domestic relations; two members of the Legislature; a custodial parent; and a noncustodial parent. Members serve two-year terms.

***Public Safety Wireless Communication Advisory Board (LB 446).*** This board was created to advise the division of communications of the Department of Administrative Services on implementing the Nebraska Public Safety Wireless Communication System Act. For administrative and budgetary purposes, the advisory board is considered within the division. The board is composed of representatives from state agencies and associations as well as representatives of professional and volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services, with the requirement they have knowledge of the communication needs of their represented agencies or constituencies. Additionally, LB 446 repealed the *Task Force for the Nebraska State Radio Communication System*, Neb. Rev. Stat. secs. 86-1801 to 86-1802.

***Beginning Farmer Board (LB 630).*** This board was created to administer the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act. Its duties include approving and certifying individuals for the programs and tax credits authorized under the act. For administrative and budgetary purposes, the board is within the Department of Agriculture. The board is composed of the Director of Agriculture or designee and the Tax Commissioner or designee, as well as five appointed members whose agricultural backgrounds meet the specifications of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act. The latter five appointees require legislative approval and serve four-year terms.

***Nebraska Budget Act Advisory Board (LB 86).*** This board was created to advise the Auditor of Public Accounts regarding budget procedure development and the electronic transfer of information. (LB 86 gives the Auditor specific duties pertaining to reviewing the budgets of local governments.) The board is to consist of between seven and 11 members, appointed by the Governor. Board members

must represent local governing bodies, professional public administrators, and private-sector accountants whose practice includes performing financial audits of local governments. The board terminates on July 1, 2000.

***Biopower Steering Committee (LB 101).*** This committee was created to study the economic and environmental impact of generating electricity from biomass and agricultural crops. The committee is to consist of three representatives from the Nebraska Power Association, one public interest representative, one environmental interest representative, two agricultural representatives, a representative of the State Energy Office, and a representative of the Game and Parks Commission, all appointed by the Governor; the Director of Economic Development or designee; and the chairpersons of the legislative committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources as ex officio, nonvoting members. The committee must report its findings to the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee each December 1. The committee terminates on December 31, 2003.

***Community-Based Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Advisory Board (LB 519).*** This board was created to advise the Department of Education on issues pertaining to Nebraskans with traumatic brain injury. Specifically, the board is to assist the department in applying for grants to meet the needs of this population. Additionally, the board is to conduct a statewide needs and resource assessment and develop an action plan to help Nebraskans with traumatic brain injury. Finally, the board is to write other reports as required by the Community-Based Neurobehavioral Action Plan Act, which was enacted via LB 519. To qualify for this board, members must have personal or professional interest in special-needs populations. The board is to consist of between nine and 15 members, all but three of whom are appointed by the Commissioner of Education. Governmental agencies, as enumerated in the act, supply three members. The board terminates with the act on July 31, 2000.

***Agricultural Structure Assessment Task Force (LB 730).*** This task force was created to study the overall structure of agriculture and to recommend legislation that would best help achieve a balance among the various types of agricultural entities. The task force is to consist of 15 gubernatorially appointed members who represent agricultural interests, including the directors of the departments of Agriculture and Economic Development, the chairperson of the Legislature's Agriculture Committee, and another member of the Legislature. The task force terminates on January 1, 2000.

***Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council (LB 829).*** This council was created to implement the Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council Act. The act directs the council to collect, administer, and expend funds; conduct or authorize feasibility studies or any other studies deemed necessary or required under the act; and adopt

and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the act. Council members must have an interest in or knowledge of passenger rail, high-speed rail, or other passenger surface transportation systems. The 11 members of the council are appointed by the Governor with the approval of a majority of the Legislature. The council terminates on June 30, 2003.

***Volunteer Service Award Benefit Review Board (LB 849)***. This board was created to determine the initial standard criteria for what constitutes qualified active service and the necessary requirements to participate in the volunteer service award benefits LB 849 makes available to the state's volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel. The nine board members, three from each congressional district, are appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the Legislature. Members represent governing bodies and volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel. The board terminates on July 15, 2000.

***Substance Abuse Treatment Task Force (LB 865)***. This task force was created to study the substance abuse treatment available to adult and juvenile offenders and to provide a statewide strategy to deliver such services, by addressing the service gaps that currently exist. The task force is also charged with developing and recommending standardized substance abuse evaluation and assessment forms, a task for which it can hire a consultant. The task force is composed of governmental officials from corrections, law enforcement, and the Health and Human Services System, as well as 10 Governor-appointed persons from the private and public sectors with interests in corrections and substance abuse. The task force's final report is due by January 1, 2000.

## **The Disbanded Boards**

***Child Support Task Force (LB 1)***. This task force was to complete its work on or before December 31, 1997.

***Task Force on Electronic Access to State Government Information (LB 10)***. This task force ceased to exist on December 31, 1997.

***Task Force on Unfunded Mandates (LB 11)***. This task force terminated on December 31, 1996.

***Motor Fuel Tax Task Force (LB 143)***. This task force issued its final report and ceased to exist on June 30, 1997.

***The Livestock Waste Management Task Force (LB 870)***. This task force ceased to exist on December 1, 1998.

***Task Force for the Nebraska State Radio Communication System (LB 446)***. This task force was to issue its findings on or before January 1, 1999.



## Actions Affecting Existing Boards

This annual publication does not track every legislative change made to the state's boards. However, significant changes (for example, those affecting a board's essential function or funding issues) are briefly noted below.

***Tax Equalization and Review Commission (LB 32).*** Commissioners, who are considered state employees, can now be reimbursed for expenses via enactment of LB 32. This includes mileage expenses incurred while traveling in the line of duty to and from a commissioner's primary residence to the commission office and living expenses for any commissioner whose residence is more than 80 miles from the commission office, if certain statutory stipulations are met.

***Advisory committees to the Geographic Information System Steering Committee (LB 238).*** State statute allows the Geographic Information System Steering Committee to create advisory committees from various levels of government, industry, or the general public to assist the committee as the need arises. LB 238 allows members of these ad hoc advisory committees to receive expense reimbursement as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. secs. 81-1174 to 81-1177.

***Nebraska Aquaculture Board (LB 405).*** This bill increases the number of Governor-appointed members from two to four and provides that they will be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. The total board now consists of seven members.

***Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact (LB 530).*** The Legislature voted to withdraw Nebraska from the multi-state waste compact. However, per terms of the compact, Nebraska's withdrawal is not effective for five years.

Additionally, the sheer number of boards drew legislative attention in 1999. LB 298 requires the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee to prepare and publish biannual reports detailing information regarding all boards and commissions and similar entities of the executive branch and listing their accomplishments. The first such report is due on December 1, 2000. Further, LB 298 allows the committee to conduct an evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of an individual board, including a recommendation of whether the board should be terminated, continued, or modified. The committee chairperson can also request a more extensive evaluation be done of any board by the Legislative Program Evaluation Committee.

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## Nebraska Boards and Commissions Tables

The following tables list the statutorily created boards in Nebraska, whether legislative confirmation is required for appointees, the per diem rate if paid, and whether expenses are authorized within the statute creating the board. (Neb. Rev. Stat. secs. 81-1178, 81-1179, and 81-1180 authorize expense reimbursement to board members

whether or not the statute creating the board specifies this.) The first table, the 1999 Update, lists only those boards created during the 1999 legislative session. The second table lists all of the statutorily created boards.

TABLE 1

# Nebraska Boards and Commissions Created by the Legislature in 1999

## Legislative Confirmation and Statutorily Authorized Per Diems/Expenses

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute
State Board to administer the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act	13-2603 et seq.			N
Child Support Commission	42-383 et seq.			Y
Public Safety Wireless Communication Advisory Board	86-1811			Y
Beginning Farmer Board	77-5204 et seq.	✓		Y
Nebraska Budget Act Advisory Board	13-504.01			Y
Biopower Steering Committee	66-1701			Y
Community-Based Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Advisory Board	79-11,145			Y
Agricultural Structure Assessment Task Force	2-5201			Y
Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council	74-1504 et seq.	✓		Y
Volunteer Service Award Benefit Review Board	35-1304 et seq.	✓		Y
Substance Abuse Treatment Task Force	83-4,148 et seq.			Y



TABLE 2

# Nebraska Boards and Commissions

## Legislative Confirmation and Statutorily Authorized Per Diems/Expenses

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute
1. Abstracters Board of Examiners	76-540 et seq.		\$50	Y
2. Accessibility Advisory Committee	81-5, 149 et. seq.			Y
3. Accountability and Disclosure Commission, Nebraska	49-14, 105 et seq.	✓	\$50	Y
4. Accreditation Committee, State.	79-703			N
5. Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Board of	71-1718.01 et seq.		\$30	Y
6. Advocacy, Commission on Public	29-3923			Y
7. Advisory Council, State	48-610		\$40	Y
8. Aeronautics Commission, Nebraska	3-104			Y
9. Affirmative Action Committee	81-1363, et seq.			Y
10. Affordable Housing Committee, Nebraska	81-1281			Y
11. Aging Advisory Committee	68-1101			Y
12. Agricultural Structure Assessment Task Force	2-5201			Y
13. Agriculture, Nebraska State Board of (State Fair Board)	2-101			Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized in Statute <sup>1</sup>
14. Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Advisory Committee	71-5024 et seq.			Y
15. Anatomical Board, State	71-1001 et seq.			N
16. Antique Farm Machinery and Equipment Commission	51-601			Y
17. Appraisers for Educational Lands and Funds, Board of	72-22403(1)		\$50	Y
18. Aquaculture Board	2-5003			Y
19. Arts Council, Nebraska	82-309 et seq.	✓		Y
20. Athletic Advisory Committee	81-8, 139.01			Y
21. Athletic Training, Board of Examiners in	71-112 et seq.		\$20	Y
22. Audiology and Speech Language Pathology, Board of Examiners in	71-112 et seq.		\$20	Y
23. Barber Examiners, Board of	71-221		\$75	Y
24. Beginning Farmer Board	77-5204 et seq.	✓		Y
25. Bessey Memorial Fund Commission	85-166 et seq.			— <sup>2</sup>
26. Big Blue River Compact Administration	1-115 Appendix			Y
27. Biopower Steering Committee	66-1701			Y
28. Board of Geologists	81-3520 et seq.		— <sup>3</sup>	Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized in Statute
29. Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board	48-739 et seq.	✓	\$50	Y
30. Boundary Commission, Nebraska	1-120 Appendix			Y
31. Brand Committee, Nebraska	54-135 et seq.			Y
32. Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee	71-7012			Y
33. Building Energy Conservation Standards Board	81-1610	✓	\$35	Y
34. Building Renewal, Task Force for, "LB 309 Task Force"	81-174 et seq.		— <sup>4</sup>	Y
35. Canvassers, State Board of	32-1037 et seq.			N
36. Capitol Commission, Nebraska	81-1108-32			Y
37. Capitol Environs Commission, Nebraska State	90-306 et seq.			N
38. Capital Facilities Planning Committee, State Comprehensive	81-1108.41			Y
39. Capitol Mural Commission	72-720 et seq.			Y
40. Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission	71-3521 & 81-1599.02	✓		N
41. Certified Nurse Midwifery, Council of	71-1758 et seq.			N
42. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Advisory Council of	71-1736			N
43. Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board, Nebraska	43-1903 et seq.	✓		Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute
44. Child Care and Early Childhood Education Coordinating Committee	43-2611			Y
45. Child Death Review Team	71-3406 et seq.			Y
46. Child Support Commission	42-383 et. seq.			Y
47. Chiropractic, Board of	71-112		\$30	Y
48. Claims Board, State	81-8, 220 et seq.		— <sup>5</sup>	Y
49. Climate Assessment Response Committee	2-4901 et seq.	✓		Y
50. Collection Agency Licensing Board	45-603 et seq.			Y
51. Colleges, Board of Trustees of Nebraska State	85-301 et seq.	✓		Y
52. Commission on Information Technology	81-1120.33 et seq.			N
53. Commission on Public Advocacy	29-3923			Y
54. Communications Relay Advisory Committee	86-1307			N
55. Community-Based Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Advisory Board	79-11,145			Y
56. Community College Aid, Grant, and Contract Review Committee, Nebraska	85-1539			N
57. Community College Board of Governors	85-1506 et seq.			Y
58. Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee	81-1201.08			Y



Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
59. Compulsive Gambling, Nebraska Advisory Commission on	83-162.01 et seq.	✓		Y
60. Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	85-1403 et seq.	✓		Y
61. Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board	2-3604 et seq.		\$25	Y
62. Cosmetology, Board of	71-373		\$50	Y
63. County Attorney Standards Advisory Council	23-1213 et seq.			Y
64. County, Highway and City Street Superintendents, Board of Examiners for	39-2301 et seq.			Y
65. Crime Victim's Reparation Committee	81-1802 et seq.	✓		Y
66. Critical Incident Stress Management Council	71-7105			N
67. Dairy Industry Development Board, Nebraska	2-3951 et seq.			Y
68. Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Commission for the	71-4720	✓		Y
69. Dentistry, Board of	71-112		\$30	Y
70. Developmental Disabilities, Advisory Committee on	83-1212.01			Y
71. Dispute Resolution, Advisory Council on	25-2905			Y
72. Dry Bean Commission	2-3745 et seq.	✓		Y
73. Economic Development Commission	81-1201.02 et seq.			Y
74. Economic Forecasting Advisory Board, Nebraska	77-27, 156 et seq.	-- <sup>6</sup>		Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized in Statute
75. Education Commission of the States	79-1501 et seq.			N
76. Education, State Board of	79-301 Const. Art. VII, sec.3			Y
77. Education Technology Consortium	79-1301 et seq.			N
78. Educational Finance Authority	85-1710 et seq.			Y
79. Educational Lands and Funds, Board of	72-201 et seq.	✓	\$40	Y
80. Electrical Board, State	81-2103 et seq.	✓		Y
81. Electronic Information Committee	50-440			N
82. Elementary and Secondary School Finance Authority, Nebraska	79-1810 et seq.			Y
83. Emergency Medical Services, Board of	71-5176	✓		Y
84. Emergency Response Commission	81-15,210 et seq.			Y
85. Engineers and Architects, Board of	81-3428 et seq.		\$30	Y
86. Environmental Health Specialists, Board of Registration for	71-3705.01		\$25	Y
87. Environmental Quality Council	81-1503	✓	\$40	Y
88. Environmental Trust Board, Nebraska	81-15, 170 et seq.	✓		Y
89. Equal Opportunity Commission, Nebraska	48-1116 et seq.		\$50	Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>7</sup>
90. Ethanol, Advisory Committee to the Board of	66-1337			N
91. Ethanol Board, Nebraska	66-1335 et seq.	✓	\$25	Y
92. Excellence in Education Council	9-812			N
93. Excellence in Health Care Council	71-7614			Y
94. Expert Review Panel for Infected Health Care Workers	71-535 et seq.			N
95. Family Child Care Rules and Regulations Advisory Committee	43-2610			Y
96. Fire Safety Appeals Board, Nebraska	81-502.01 et seq.			Y
97. Firefighters Training Advisory Committee	81-5, 154 et seq.			Y
98. Foster Care Review Board	43-1302 et seq.	✓		Y
99. Funeral Directing and Embalming, Board of	71-112		\$30	Y
100. Game and Parks Commission	37-101 et seq.	✓	\$35	Y
101. Gaming Commission <sup>7</sup>	9-1,102			N
102. Geographic Information System Steering Committee	81-2602 et seq.			Y
103. Governor's Residence Advisory Commission	72-2101 et seq.			Y
104. Grain Sorghum Development, Utilization and Marketing Board	2-4002 et seq.			Y
105. Hall of Fame Commission, Nebraska	72-724 et seq.			N

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute
106. Health Advisory Board	60-4,118.02 et seq.			Y
107. Health & Human Services System Partnership Council	81-3010 et seq.	✓	\$40	Y
108. Health, State Board of	71-2601	✓	\$20	Y
109. Hearing Aid Instrument Dispensers and Fitters, Board of	71-4715		\$25	Y
110. Hearing Impaired, Special Committee for the Commission for the	71-4728.03			N
111. Highway Bond Commission, Nebraska	39-2202 et seq.	✓	\$20	Y
112. Highway Commission, State	39-1101 et seq.	✓	\$20	Y
113. Historical Society Board of Trustees, Nebraska State	82-101			Y
114. Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee	58-704			N
115. Human Genetic Technologies, Nebraska Commission on	71-8101 et seq.			Y
116. Indian Affairs, Commission on	81-2501 et seq.		\$50	Y
117. Industrial Competitiveness Alliance Board	81-1201.14			N
118. Industrial Relations, Commission of	48-803 et seq.	✓	\$250	Y
119. Inquiry and Review, Board of (Veterans)	80-318			Y
120. Instructional Telecommunications Advisory Committee	79-1327			Y
121. Interagency Coordinating Council, Nebraska	43-2505 et seq.			N

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
122. Interagency Management Committee	71-7106			N
123. Intergovernmental Cooperation, Nebraska Commission On	81-818			Y
124. Intergovernmental Data Communications Advisory Council	81-2304 et seq.			Y
125. Interrelated Water Review Committee of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission	46-656.61			N
126. Interstate Agricultural Grain Marketing Commission	Appendix DD			N
127. Investment Council, Nebraska	72-1237	✓	\$20	Y
128. Investment Finance Authority, Nebraska (NIFA)	58-226 et seq.			Y
129. Jail Standards Board	83-4,124 et seq.			Y
130. Job Training Council, Nebraska	48-1611 et seq.			N
131. Judicial Nominating Commission	24-801			N
132. Judicial Qualifications Commission	24-715			Y
133. Judicial Resources Commission	24-1201 et seq.			Y
134. Juvenile Justice Task Force	43-2802 et seq.			Y
135. Juvenile Services Grant Committee	43-2411 et seq.			Y
136. Labor, State Advisory Board to the Commissioner of	48-610		\$40	Y
137. Laboratory Advisory Board	71-6829			Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
138. Land Surveyors, Board of Examiners for	81-8, 110 et seq.			Y
139. Landscape Architects, State Board of	81-8, 186 et seq.			Y
140. Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Nebraska Commission on	81-1416 et seq.			Y
141. Library Commission, Nebraska	51-401 et seq.			Y
142. Liquor Control Commission, Nebraska	53-105 et seq.	✓	— <sup>8</sup>	Y
143. Livestock Auction Market Board	54-1160		\$10	Y <sup>9</sup>
144. Local Government Innovation and Restructuring, Nebraska Commission on	13-2301 et seq.			Y
145. Local Monitoring Committee (low-level waste)	81-15, 101.01			Y
146. Malpractice Insurance Authority, Residual	44-2837 et seq.			N
147. Managed Care Commission <sup>10</sup>	68-1052 et seq.			Y
148. Manufactured Home and Recreational Vehicle Advisory Committee	71-4609(2)			N
149. Marriage and Family Therapy Committee	71-1, 313		\$30	Y
150. Massage Therapy, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
151. Medical Nutrition Therapy, Board of Examiners in	71-112, et seq.		\$30	Y
152. Medical Literature Review Panel <sup>11</sup>	44-788			Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
153. Medical Review Panel	44-2841 et seq.		\$30	Y
154. Medically Handicapped Children's Committee	71-1401			Y
155. Medicine and Surgery, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
156. Mental Health Planning and Evaluation Council, State	71-5008			Y
157. Mental Health Practitioners, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
158. Mental Health Regional Governing Boards <sup>12</sup>	71-5004			Y
159. Mental Health Regional Governing Boards, Advisory Committees to <sup>13</sup>	71-5006			Y
160. Mental Health Regional Quality Review Teams	71-5003.01			Y
161. Midwestern Higher Education Commission	85-1301 et seq.			Y
162. Missouri Basin Natural Resources Council	2-32, 103 et seq.			N
163. Mexican-Americans, Commission on	81-8,262 et seq.		\$35	Y
164. Modular Housing Advisory Board	71-1565			Y
165. Motor Carrier Advisory Council	75-387 et seq.	✓		Y
166. Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board	60-1402 et seq.	✓	\$50	Y
167. Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee	60-2122 et seq.			Y
168. Native American Foster Home Licensing Advisory Committee	71-1906.02			N

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
169. Natural Resources Data Bank, Technical Advisory Committee to	2-1570			N
170. Natural Resources Commission	2,154 et seq.	✓	\$50	Y
171. Nebraska Budget Act Advisory Board	13-504.01			Y
172. Nebraska Education Council	79-1502			N
173. Nebraska Information Technology Commission	86-1505 et seq.	✓		Y
174. Nebraska Pesticide Board	2-5104			Y
175. Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council	74-1504 et seq.	✓		Y
176. Nebraskaplex Commission	90-405			N
177. Niobrara Scenic River Local Management Council	72-2001 et seq.			
178. Nurse-Practitioner-Anesthetist Advisory Council	71-1736			N
179. Nursing Home Administration, Board of Examiners in	71-6065 et seq.		\$20	Y
180. Nursing Home Advisory Council	71-6044 et seq.			Y
181. Nursing, Board of	71-1,132.07 et seq.		\$25 <sup>14</sup>	Y
182. Occupational Therapy Practice, Board of	71-6115			Y
183. Oil and Gas Conservation Commission	57-904 et seq.	✓	\$50	Y
184. Optometry, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y



Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
185. Pardons, Board of	83-1,126 et seq.			N
186. Parole, Board of	83-188 et seq.	✓	— <sup>15</sup>	N
187. Personnel Board, State	81-1318 et seq.	✓		N
188. Pharmacy Education, Committee on Continuing	71-1,44.02			Y
189. Pharmacy, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
190. Physical Therapy, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
191. Physician Assistant Committee	71-1,107.25			Y
192. Podiatry, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
193. Police Standards Advisory Council	81-1406 et seq.			Y
194. Potato Development Committee, Nebraska	2-1803			Y
195. Poultry and Egg Development, Utilization and Marketing Committee, Nebraska	2-3404 et seq.		\$25	Y
196. Power Review Board, Nebraska	70-1003 et seq.	✓	\$60	Y
197. Private Postsecondary Career Schools Advisory Council	85-1607			N
198. Private Postsecondary Career Schools Tuition Recovery Cash Fund Advisory Committee	85-1655			N
199. Professional Counseling Committee	71-1,313		\$30	Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
200. Professional Practices Commission	79-861 et seq.			Y
201. Propane Education and Research Council	66-1617 et seq.			N
202. Psychologists, Board of	71-112 et seq.			Y
203. Public Accountancy, Educational Advisory Committee to the Board of	1-113			N
204. Public Accountancy, Nebraska State Board of	1-107		\$100	Y
205. Public Employees Retirement Board	84-1501 et seq.	✓		Y
206. Public Health Clinic Formulary Advisory Committee	71-1, 147.59			N
207. Public Roads Classifications and Standards, Board of	39-2106	✓	\$20	Y
208. Public Safety Wireless Communication Advisory Board	86-1811			Y
209. Public Service Commission	Ne. Const., Art. IV, sec. 20		— <sup>16</sup>	N
210. Public Water Supply, Advisory Council on	71-5311			Y
211. Quality Jobs Board	77-4908			N
212. Racing Commission, State	2-1201			Y
213. Radiation Advisory Council	71-3506		\$20	Y
214. Railway Council, Nebraska	74-1403 et seq.	✓	\$60	Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
215. Real Estate Appraiser Board	76-2222 et seq.		\$100	Y
216. Real Estate Commission	81-885.07		\$100 <sup>17</sup>	Y
217. Redevelopment Board, Nebraska	58-503			N
218. Rehabilitation Advisory Council	83-211.02		\$30	Y
219. Renal Disease Advisory Committee	71-4902		\$20	Y
220. Reorganization of School Districts, State Committee for the	79-435 et seq.			Y
221. Research and Development Authority	58-405 et seq.	✓	\$250	Y
222. Respiratory Care Practice, Board of	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
223. Review Incentives Program Committee	77-5102	— <sup>18</sup>		Y
224. Rules and Regulations Advisory Council	2-2626(3)			N
225. Rural Development Commission	81-3601 et seq.			Y
226. Rural Health Advisory Commission	71-5654 et seq.	✓		Y
227. Safety Center Advisory Council	85-1008			N
228. School Finance Review Committee	79-1032			N
229. Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel	81-1505.3	— <sup>19</sup>		Y
230. Small Employer Health Reinsurance Board, Nebraska	44-5261			N

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
231. Social Work Committee	71-1,313		\$30	Y
232. Soybean Development, Utilization, and Marketing Board <sup>20</sup>	2-3327			N
233. State Board to Administer the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act	13-2603 et seq.			N
234. State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts	79-435 et seq.			Y
235. State Communications Advisory Board	81-1120.18			Y
236. State Records Board	84-1204 et seq.			Y
237. State Tax Board	77-501 et seq.			N
238. Substance Abuse Treatment Task Force	83-4,148 et seq.			Y
239. Suggestion Award Board	81-1348 et seq.			Y
240. Task Force for Nebraska State Radio Communication System	86-1802			Y
241. Task Force to Study Service Delivery for Mental Illness and Substance Abuse	71-5054			N
242. Tax Equalization and Review Commission	Const. Art. IX, sec. 2877-5003 et seq.	✓	— <sup>21</sup>	Y
243. Technical Advisory Committee <sup>22</sup>	81-15, 189 et seq.			Y
244. Technical Advisory Committee for Regulation of Health Professions	71-6224			Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	Per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute <sup>1</sup>
245. Technology Review Panel For the Nebraska Information Technology Commission	86-1511			N
246. Telecommunications Commission, Nebraska Educational	79-1313 et seq.	✓		Y
247. Telecommunications Universal Service Advisory Committee	86-1408			N
248. Title XXI Committee	68-1037.6			N
249. Transition Commission	79-1183.01			N
250. Trauma Advisory Board, State	71-8236			Y
251. Trauma Advisory Board, Regional	71-8251			Y
252. Uniform State Laws, Commission on	49-901 et seq.			Y
253. University of Nebraska Board of Regents	Const. Art. VI, Sec 10 & 85-103			Y
254. Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee	72-812			N
255. Veteran's Advisory Commission	80-401.06 et seq.			Y
256. Veterans' Coordinating Committee	86-323 et seq.			N
257. Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Board of Examiners in	71-112 et seq.		\$30	Y
258. Visually Impaired, State Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the	83-211.02		\$30 <sup>23</sup>	Y
259. Vocational Education, State Board of <sup>24</sup>	79-321			Y

Board/Commission	Statute	Legislative Confirmation Required	per Diems	Expenses Authorized In Statute
260. Volunteer Service Award Benefit Review Board	35-1304 et seq.	✓		Y
261. Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Board	46-1217 et seq.			Y
262. Wheat Development, Utilization and Marketing Board, Nebraska	2-2302 et seq.			Y
263. Women, Nebraska Commission on the Status of	81-8,255			N
264. Worker Training Board, Nebraska	48-622.03			N
265. Wyuka Cemetery Board of Trustees	12-101 et seq.			N

Sources: *Nebraska Boards and Commissions, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, May 1999* and *Nebraska Revised Statutes, Table prepared by Legislative Research Division, November 1999*

## Endnotes

**General note:** As per Neb. Rev. Stat. sec. 71-112, the professional boards in the various health-related fields receive expenses as well as a per diem not to exceed \$30. Additionally, the per diem and expenses cannot be greater than "is received in fees from the applicants taking the examination in any particular profession." Each individual board sets its own per diem within those parameters. Additionally, these boards may set per diems and pay the expenses up to this rate for any subcommittees they create. The per diems listed here were provided by the Health and Human Services Department of Regulation and Licensure Credentialing Division.

1. A "Y" in this column indicates that a provision authorizing expenses exists in the statute creating the board or commission; an "N" indicates the enacting statute makes no mention of allowing expenses. However, Neb. Rev. Stat. secs. 81-1177, 81-1179, and 81-1180 provide that all statutory boards and commission are entitled to expense reimbursement.
2. The University of Nebraska Board of Regents serves as the Bessey Memorial Fund Commission. Nothing in state statute indicates the regents receive expenses expressly for this purpose.
3. LB 1161 states, "Each member of the board shall receive as compensation the same per diem and travel expenses as other state employees for each day actually spent in traveling to and from and while attending sessions of the board and its committees or authorized meetings of the National Association of State Boards of Geology, or their subdivisions or committees, and all necessary expenses incident to the performance of his or her duties under the Geologists Regulation Act as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177." However, those sections make no explicit mention of a per diem.
4. Compensation for the Task Force for Building Renewal members is "established by the Governor on a per diem basis. . . ."
5. Claims Board members are the Director of Insurance, Commissioner of Labor, and the Director of Administrative Services, who shall "receive no compensation for their services except that provided by law for the offices they hold. . . ."
6. Five members are appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council and four members are appointed by the Governor.
7. Although the Legislature created the Gaming Commission in 1991, the statute (sec. 9-1,102) provides no details about who is to comprise such a commission nor how it is to operate, and no such commission was ever created, according to Jim Bogatz of the Revenue Department's Charitable Gaming Division.
8. The Liquor Control Commission members are salaried. Neb. Rev. Stat. sec. 53-112 states this annual salary is "not to exceed" \$12,500.
9. The Livestock Auction Board is a three-person board with one appointed member, who receives expenses.
10. The Managed Care Commission statutorily was to sunset on April 1, 1997.

11. LB 1162 does not give this panel a name; rather it simply refers to them as a "panel of five medical experts."
12. There are six; one for each mental health service region in the state.
13. Each regional mental health governing board can appoint one advisory committee.
14. The Board of Nursing statute authorizes up to a \$100 per diem.
15. The Parole Board chair receives an annual salary of \$55,900; the other four members receive an annual salary of \$45,900.
16. PSC members receive an annual salary of \$42,000.
17. The chairman of the Real Estate Commission is the Secretary of State and does not receive a per diem.
18. Three of the seven members of the Review Incentives Program Committee are appointed by the Executive Board, a fourth is a legislative staffer appointed by the Executive Board upon recommendation of the committee.
19. Four of the seven members of the panel are chosen by the Legislature.
20. In 1995, the Legislature passed LB 434, which essentially laid the groundwork for transferring the duties of the Soybean Board to a private nonprofit corporation as allowed under the federal Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) See Neb. Rev. Stat. secs. 2-3325 and 2-3326 for further information.
21. By statute, the members of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission are considered employees of the state.
22. The Technical Advisory Committee, implemented to help the Department of Environmental Quality carry out the provisions of the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage Act was extended to 2000 as per Laws 1997, LB 590.
23. Only members who are not state employees receive a per diem.
24. Membership is comprised of the State Board of Education.



## APPENDICES



## APPENDIX A

### The Appointment Process in Nebraska

The procedures in Nebraska by which an appointee goes from nomination by the Governor to confirmation by the Legislature is standard and somewhat perfunctory. The rules governing the confirmation process can be found at Rule 3-4(e)(ii)-(v) and Rule 3-13 of the *Rules of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature*. A copy of the pertinent rules has been placed in Appendix B. Additionally, Article IV, secs. 10 and 12 of the Nebraska Constitution define the parameters for appointments to boards and commissions. Sec. 10 applies to initial appointments by the Governor of officials whose appointment or election is not otherwise provided for by law and sec. 12 applies to vacancies in nonelective state offices.

Once the Governor's appointees have been forwarded to the Legislature, the Executive Board sitting as the Reference Committee refers all appointees to the appropriate standing committee in the same manner it handles bills and resolutions. Subject matter determines the committee to which appointees are referred; for example, appointees to the Motor Vehicle Licensing Board would be referred to the Transportation Committee.

The Clerk's office is responsible for collecting and disseminating to the appropriate committee all the paperwork regarding a nomination as required by Rule 3-4(e)(iii). This paperwork consists of: (1) the nomination letter from the Governor, which is also printed in the Journal; (2) a certificate of appointment; (3) the nominee's resume or, lacking that, a copy of the executive application form which the nominee has completed for the Governor; and, (4) a financial disclosure statement, if required. The first three items are provided by the Governor's office; the latter comes from the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. All of this material is then forwarded to the relevant committee.

Once received by committee, the respective committee clerks are responsible for contacting the appointees to schedule a hearing and notifying the Clerk of this hearing date. All appointees are required to attend this hearing, unless "waived for good cause" (Rule 3-4 (e)(iv)) by a majority vote of the committee. Several committee clerks with whom we spoke indicated that their committee chairs were more likely to waive appearances by reappointees rather than persons appearing for the first time. Page 3 of the Committee Clerk's Manual addresses these duties and the manual also provides a list of sample questions for conducting confirmation hearings. Appointment hearings, as are all hearings before committees, are governed by Appendix "A" to Rule Three, Model Committee Rules.

Once the hearing is completed, the committee generally votes on the appointees in executive session and then forwards a copy of the Standing Committee Report for Gubernatorial Appointments with its recommendation, including a record vote of each senator on the committee, to the Clerk. If approved by the committee, the appointment is then scheduled for a vote by the full Legislature. Appointment letters received by the Clerk in the last eight calendar days of any regular legislative session are deferred until the next regular or special session. The Clerk's Office does not keep a tally of those appointees who have been rejected, but this is apparently a rare phenomenon.



**RULE 3**

The Legislature shall then have the opportunity to accept or reject the report of the committee.

(B) To underscore or remove underscoring, as the case requires, in standing committee reports and in General File, Select File, and specific amendments.

(C) When an amendment to add the emergency clause, the severability clause, or provide an operative date is adopted on Select File which does not spell out the standard clause or section and make the necessary change in the title, the Chairperson of Enrollment and Review shall also have the authority to add to the engrossed bill the standard clause or section, assigning to it the appropriate section number, and make the necessary change in the title as a matter of course without including such action in his or her reports and recommendations to the Legislature or making any special record thereof.

(D) To add and/or delete names of introducers to reflect action on the bill while the bill remains in the possession of the Legislature at any stage of consideration.

(E) To reflect votes on Final Reading as they may occur pursuant to Rule 6, Section 10 and Rule 6, Section 15.

(e) Reference Committee.

(i) The Executive Board shall constitute the Reference Committee. The Reference Committee shall review each bill and resolution and either refer the matter to the appropriate committee or to General File. The appropriate committee is that committee which has subject-matter jurisdiction over the issue or which has traditionally handled the issue.

(ii) All nominations made to the Legislature by the Governor, requiring confirmation by the Legislature shall be referred to the appropriate standing committee and the same procedure shall be followed as governs the handling of other matters before standing committees, unless the Legislature shall otherwise direct by unanimous vote.

(iii) The Clerk of the Legislature's office shall be responsible for the collection of pertinent information on gubernatorial appointments. That information will be distributed to the appropriate standing committee prior to the time of the confirmation hearing. The Clerk's office shall be the "depository" for background information on the individual, a statement of financial interests if applicable, and other biographical information that the committee chair feels is appropriate for the committee to have before it during the confirmation process.

(iv) The committees to which a gubernatorial appointee has been referred for confirmation shall conduct a confirmation hearing. Each appointee shall be required to appear in person before the committee conducting the confirmation hearing. The appearance of the members may be waived for good cause shown by a majority vote of the members assigned to the committee conducting the hearing.

The committee shall prepare a report either approving or rejecting the appointment. Said report shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature.

(v) Any appointment letter received by the Clerk of the Legislature during the last eight calendar days of any regular legislative session shall not be acted upon. Acknowledgement of receipt of the appointment shall be deferred until the next regular or special session of the Legislature.

(f) Rules Committee.

All proposed rules changes shall be set for public hearing within five legislative days after their referral to the committee. The hearing shall take place within fifteen legislative days after the referral, and the committee shall take final action on the proposal within ten legislative days after the hearing.

(g) Investigating Committees.

The Committee on Committees may appoint other select committees when authorized by the Legislature. No investigating committee of the Legislature shall be created except by resolution which shall set forth, with supporting statements, the reasons for and the purposes of the investigation, and no committee thus established shall function except during the interim between legislative sessions.

Sec. 5. Special Committees. (a) Special committees shall include all authorized committees other than standing and select committees. Unless otherwise specifically provided, special committees shall not have jurisdiction over legislative bills, but shall be subject to the same procedural rules as standing committees, insofar as they are applicable.

(b) The special committees authorized by statute as of January 1, 1980 are as follows:

Building Maintenance. RRS 81-185 .....	6 members
Education Commission of the States. RRS 79-2504 .....	3 members
Executive Board of the Legislative Council. RRS 50-401.01 .....	9 members
Intergovernmental Cooperation. RRS 81-816 .....	5 members
Legislative Program Evaluation. RRS 50-1204 .....	5 members

(c) The following special provisions shall be in force with regard to the following special committees:

(i) Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee.  
In addition to the members of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee chosen in accordance with Section 81-816, the Executive Board may appoint temporary members to serve on such assignments as the chairperson shall direct.

(ii) The Executive Board is authorized to exercise jurisdiction over legislative bills and resolutions and hold hearings regarding such legislation when the issue presented by the legislative bill or resolution is one of general import to the Legislature and its operations as a whole. Such legislative hearings shall comply with the provisions in Rule 3, Sec. 13.

(iii) The Legislative Program Evaluation Committee is authorized to hold hearings, at the committee's discretion, to receive testimony regarding topics it has selected for review. Such hearings shall comply with the provisions in Rule 3, Sec. 13.

**Sec. 6. Meeting Times.** (a) After consultation with the Speaker, the Committee on Committees shall publish a schedule of standing committee meetings, in such manner as to avoid, as far as possible, conflicts in the assignment of members to committees. Standing committees shall meet at 1:30 p.m. on weekdays, unless otherwise approved by the Legislature, except for the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee, which shall meet as called by the chairperson.

(b) A standing committee which decides not to hold meetings on the appointed day shall report that decision to the Clerk of the Legislature.

(c) Any legislative committee shall be subject to the call of its chairperson or to the call of a majority of its members, in accordance with the notice and procedural requirements set forth in its committee rules.

**Sec. 7. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson.** (a) The chairperson of each standing and select committee shall be selected by secret ballot on the floor of the Legislature.

(b) The chairperson of a special committee shall be selected in the manner provided by the act authorizing the committee, or if not specified, by the Executive Board.

(c) Each committee shall elect from its membership a vice chairperson to serve in the absence of the chairperson.

**Sec. 8. Committee Quorum.** A majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present for the transaction of any committee business except a public hearing.

**Sec. 9. Quorum at Committee Hearings.** A quorum of committee members should be maintained throughout all committee hearings.

**Sec. 10. Conduct During Committee Hearing.** (a) No member, staff, media representative, or individual shall smoke or otherwise consume tobacco products during a committee hearing or while the committee

conducts an executive session within the hearing room assigned to that committee for such purpose, unless the committee by a vote of the majority, with all the members present, taken at least once a session, decides otherwise.

(b) The use of any mobile, portable, or wireless communication device, other than those authorized by the Legislative Council or used by licensed medical persons on duty, is prohibited in legislative hearing rooms during a meeting of a legislative committee.

**Sec. 11. Temporary Appointments.** (a) When a member is unable to serve, the chairperson of the committee, after a majority vote of the remaining members, shall request that such vacancy be filled by the Committee on Committees unless such vacancy is on the Appropriations Committee in which case the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board pursuant to Rule 3, Section 2(c).

(b) A temporary appointment may be made by the Chairperson of the Committee on Committees, or in the case of the Appropriations Committee, the Executive Board, for only one day when requested by a chairperson of a standing committee which lacks a quorum. When a member is appointed from an eight-member committee, the consent of the member to be appointed shall first be obtained. The temporary appointee shall have the right to vote only on the bill or bills that actually have been heard by the appointee and provided that the vote is taken on such bills on the day the bill or bills are heard. When such appointment is made in case of an incapacitated member, such appointee shall cease to be a member of such committee upon the return of the incapacitated member for whom he or she was appointed.

**Sec. 12. Consideration and Correlation of Bills and Resolutions.** (a) Committees shall consider and report without unnecessary delay all bills and resolutions referred to them. Committees shall be authorized to combine and to correlate the provisions of different bills and resolutions referred to them and related to the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee. Committees may, before taking final action on any bill or resolution, adopt amendments thereto, for the consideration of the Legislature.

(b) The chairperson of each committee shall set for hearing all bills and resolutions referred to the committee, except as provided for in Rule 1, Section 17.

**Sec. 13. Public Hearing, Notice.** Before taking final action on a bill, resolution, or gubernatorial appointment, a committee shall hold a public hearing thereon and shall give at least seven calendar days' notice, after the bill or pronouncement of the appointee shall have been printed, by

committee by a three-fifths vote of the elected members upon motion made within three legislative days after the committee makes its report to the Legislature, or by a two-thirds vote of the elected members upon motion made more than three legislative days after such committee report. Not more than one bill shall be raised from committee on any one motion. A motion to raise cannot be amended to include any other bill or subject matter. A motion to raise must be disposed of by the Legislature within five legislative days after the motion is available for consideration or it shall be deemed defeated.

**Sec. 18. Committee Statement.** (a) The chairperson of each committee with the assistance of the legislative staff shall, when reporting a bill, submit with such bill a committee statement which shall contain, but need not be limited to, the following information:

- (1) the one-line title and number of the bill;
- (2) a roll call vote of final committee action taken on the bill;
- (3) the date of the public hearing on the bill;
- (4) a list of all individuals testifying for and against the bill and any organization they represent;
- (5) a summary of the bill's purpose and a description of all major provisions for change in the bill as written and as amended by the committee;
- (6) if committee amendments are to be introduced, a copy of the amendments and an explanation thereof.

(b) A copy of the proposed statement shall be distributed to each committee member within five days after final action on the bill has been taken by the committee. A minority or concurring statement bearing the signature or signatures of its proponents and setting forth objections to the bill, to proposed amendments, or to the majority statement may be filed by its author(s) with the Clerk of the Legislature at any time prior to the first hearing of the bill on General File.

(c) A copy of the committee statement and any minority statements submitted shall be distributed to each senator after filing with the Clerk of the Legislature. Copies of such statements shall be made available to the public.

**Sec. 19. Request From Committee, Bills Held.** (a) Except for the general appropriation bills necessary for the support of the state government for the biennium, the Legislature may, by vote of a majority of the elected members, request a status report from any committee at any time after said committee shall have been in possession of a bill or resolution for twenty legislative days.

publication in the Legislative Journal. No bill or resolution having been set for public hearing shall be withdrawn nor the hearing cancelled within seven calendar days of the date set for said public hearing.

**Sec. 14. State Officials Appearing Before Committees.** State officials and department heads or their designees and state employees are encouraged to appear before any legislative committee to comment upon bills having an impact on the operations of the administrative agency or department for which they work.

**Sec. 15. Executive Sessions and Closed Meetings.** (a) Executive session shall mean any meeting or portion of a meeting which is closed to the general public, and the proceedings of which are not electronically recorded and transcribed, unless the committee so provides, but the records of which shall be available for public inspection. Executive sessions shall be open to members of the news media who may report on action taken and on all discussions in executive session.

(b) All other meetings of a committee shall be public unless the committee, by a majority vote of all of its members, determines that a meeting should not be open to the public, including members of the news media, in a particular instance, due to rare and extraordinary circumstances. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken.

**Sec. 16. Report of Bill to Legislature.** (a) In reporting a bill to the Legislature, whether with or without amendments, a committee shall by vote of a majority of its members, recommend that the bill be placed on General File or that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

(b) A report on a bill or resolution must be made to the Legislature within eight calendar days after the committee has taken final action upon the particular measure. Final action shall mean an affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members to advance a bill to General File with or without committee amendments or an affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members to indefinitely postpone the bill. A committee may reconsider any final action prior to the committee making a report on the bill or resolution to the Legislature, provided the reconsideration takes place within eight calendar days of the final action.

(c) No bill shall be reported by the committee to be placed on General File unless the amendments, if any, are approved as to form and draftsmanship by the Bill Drafter.

**Sec. 17. Indefinitely Postponed Bills.** If the committee action on a bill be to postpone indefinitely, the bill shall stand indefinitely postponed; except that such bill may be placed on General File or referred back to the

