

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board March 4, 2026
Rough Draft

HANSEN: [MALFUNCTION] District, and I serve as Chair of Executive Board. For the purpose of noting attendance, I would ask members of the committee to introduce themselves, starting on my far right with Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Rob Clements, District 2.

FREDRICKSON: John Fredrickson, District 20.

JACOBSON: Mike Jacobson, District 42.

BALLARD: Beau Ballard, District 21.

BOSTAR: Eliot Bostar, District 29.

ARCH: John Arch, District 14.

DORN: Myron Dorn, District 30.

McKINNEY: Terrell McKinney, District 11.

HANSEN: Also assisting the committee is our committee clerk, Natalie Schunk, and our legal counsel, Benson Wallace. So, with that, we'll move on to the first item on the agenda, and do you want to fill them in what's going on?

BENSON WALLACE: Yeah, these are the Speaker major proposals. Pursuant to our rules, the Speaker is allowed to designate major proposals for bills and then, but pending approval by the Executive Board and identified to-- with a letter to the Executive Board [INAUDIBLE].

ARCH: LB1071, LB1072. If I could--

HANSEN: Yeah. Speaker Arch.

ARCH: Thank you. Yeah, in, in the first year of the session, you know, there are more of these budget bills. And so, I've asked for five in the past; there's only really two. LB1071 is the deficit-- is the deficit appropriations bill, LB1072 is the cash transfers bill. What a-- if you're not familiar, what a Speaker's major proposal identification does is it allows me to order the amendments and the motions. It's, it's not-- it isn't, it isn't that amendment can't come up, it's just ordering them. And so, I would request the authority to do that, because

obviously, there are some things that, for instance, the Appropriations Committee may have an amendment that absolutely needs to-- absolutely needs to come up, and, and, and so these are the only two-- on the, on the budget bills, these are only two Speaker major proposals. I think I get-- I think I get five a year. Potential of five. I'm-- but these are the only two that, that-- on these budget bills. I would [INAUDIBLE]. So, happy to answer any questions if [INAUDIBLE]. I think last year-- I think last year I did-- I think as it worked out, all the amendments came up.

_____ : Yeah, they did.

ARCH: You know, so.

JACOBSON: But a big part of this is if you've got a blocking motion, you can bump it aside.

ARCH: Yeah, you can get-- you, you can get the amendments that impact the budget, and-- because obviously, this is the bill that has been the-- will be the focus of our session.

HANSEN: Senator Clements. Oh.

CLEMENTS: Later today, we're going to be already looking at a couple of changes in the budget that we have to make, and they'll-- those won't go into budget Friday, but they'll be on Select File. The-- we'll need to, you know, make some adjustments. And so, this would be very helpful to be able to get the budget organized first, and then other amendments can come up after that.

BOSTAR: I move to designate LB1071 as Speaker major proposal.

_____ : Second.

HANSEN: [INAUDIBLE] OK. All right. All right, there's been a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Seeing none, roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard.

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Bostar.

BOSTAR: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson.

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: No.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen.

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

BOSTAR: I move to designate LB1072 as Speaker major proposal.

BALLARD: Second.

HANSEN: Been a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard.

BALLARD: Yes.

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Bostar.

BOSTAR: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

_____ : You look alike.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson.

JACOBSON: Yes.

Senator McKinney. Senator Hansen.

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator-- Speaker Arch. Yes, you already did.
Yes.

ARCH: Yeah.

BALLARD: [INAUDIBLE] He was first. That's all right.

ARCH: I heard Arch.

BALLARD: That's all right.

ARCH: I'm not surprised. Yes.

HANSEN: And Friday-- oh. That's good?

NATALIE SCHUNK: Yes.

HANSEN: OK. And on Friday-- do we have to vote on that? OK. We also have to vote on administrative leave for Easter. Typically, we always give the Friday and the Monday, Good Friday and Monday after Easter off. I said no,--

BALLARD: [INAUDIBLE] weekend.

HANSEN: No. But so-- but I think it takes a vote at the board, so.

BENSON WALLACE: Third and the sixth.

HANSEN: The third and the sixth. Any concerns with that at all?
OK. [INAUDIBLE] roll call on this, too.

ARCH: Is there a motion?

FREDRICKSON: I'll move to approve administrative leave from the
dates specified.

ARCH: Third and sixth.

HANSEN: Been a motion. Is there a second?

_____ : Second.

HANSEN: Been a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.
There you go, good. And then Friday, we were meeting to discuss
what?

BENSON WALLACE: Brandon was going to talk about [INAUDIBLE].

HANSEN: Oh, Brandon is? Yes. OK. Yeah, you [INAUDIBLE]. Yeah.
Sorry.

CLEMENTS: Are we going to vote on that motion?

ARCH: We just did a voice vote.

CLEMENTS: A voice vote? OK. And I have a comment with
[INAUDIBLE], but go ahead.

BRANDON METZLER: Thank you, members of the board. If I could
quickly, a couple of things I talked to the chairman about that
I wanted to address. You've already introduced the printing
bill, but the printing invoice for rosters came, and I spoke
with, with Chairman Hansen. I was going to request a little bit
more flexibility in terms of when we print those things. I know
there's some interest in, in reducing printing as is. It's not a
lot, it's \$5,000, but we're printing, you know, 2,500 copies.
The constitution, we're not required to print, but that's
another \$2,000. Rule Book, we print 700, and that's \$1,500. So,
I, I think while we've got some things that we've already
discussed, like session laws, bound Journal, statute books, that
sort of stuff is in statute, and you've got the bill to make

changes. What I had asked the chairman for is, is just some confirmation via Exec Board, Exec Board vote and communication from the Executive Board [INAUDIBLE] office indicating that there's this desire to go digital with more of this stuff, which I think I could then use to reduce the number of printing, go digital [INAUDIBLE] those things. Certainly, there's things like the, the Rule Book and the rosters internally that, that a lot of people value. We wouldn't stop printing Rule Books, but perhaps the number of rosters, we could look at seriously. And we've already got the ability to go digital with some of that. So, that was the first thing I wanted to address quickly.

HANSEN: Yeah. I-- these are all those little changes I think we can make to kind of, you know, again, be fiscally responsible. So, all these things that we print off, we can supply them digitally. So, the, the roster, we could just make it-- with the new website, put a digital tab on it that says digital roster, people just click right on it if they want to, so. I figure it's, it's these little things, I think, that are kind of eating away [INAUDIBLE] it's almost \$5,000, \$6,000 to print off rosters. And then, we have to give them to people, and, you know-- the constitution, like, people don't look that up online. They want [INAUDIBLE] print one off. So, I was going to see if the board would be willing to vote to give discretion to the Clerk to be able to provide digital copies of material that is not-- that, that-- that's allowable by statute, I guess, right? So as not to--

BRANDON METZLER: Right. This is all stuff that's not in statute. And for the record, you know, this is more something that I can kind of hang my hat on if somebody comes and says, why aren't you printing rosters or why aren't you printing as many rosters, why are you out of rosters, that sort of thing. I mean, I think there's already discretion within the Clerk's office as to how much we would print, but I just want to make sure that the board-- you know, that we have some communication from the Executive Board that this is indication on the direction that you want to go.

HANSEN: Yup.

ARCH: And it's, and it's discretion, right? I mean, it's not, it's not all-or-nothing. We're going, we're going all digital--

HANSEN: No.

ARCH: --there'll be no printed copies.

HANSEN: It'd be like-- like, for the Rule Book, we would get so much pushback from that.

BRANDON METZLER: Again--

HANSEN: The Rule Books do need to be printed because people are writing them and they're crossed-- so like, that's the one we probably want to keep.

ARCH: And I'm, I'm old enough to like copies of the roster.

HANSEN: Yeah. So, we'll-- we-- we're just kind of-- you know, we're just leaving [INAUDIBLE] the Clerk's office. It's just some direction to say, OK, look--

ARCH: Discretion.

HANSEN: --nobody's given us any hard time about this. We can start moving towards a digital-- like the state did with their [INAUDIBLE] digital roster.

BRANDON METZLER: Yeah, the state's, state's agency directory is entirely digital.

HANSEN: Yeah. They, they changed theirs a couple of years ago, so. So, I would entertain a-- I just want to make sure the vote-- the vote-- the board votes on it. Sorry, my head is still weird. So then we can give direction to the Clerk for the printing of material. So I would entertain a motion and a second, if somebody wants to do that.

BOSTAR: So moved.

ARCH: To give him direction, or to give him discretion?

HANSEN: Discretion.

BOSTAR: I move that.

HANSEN: There's been a motion. Is there a second?

DORN: Second.

HANSEN: Been a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All right. Roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Bostar.

BOSTAR: Yup.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson.

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney.

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch.

ARCH: Yep.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard.

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen.

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

ARCH: [INAUDIBLE] twice.

BRANDON METZLER: I have one more piece, if I could. I can get you copies as long as I printed enough, but just quickly, I don't want to take too much of your time. Back in 2024, the Auditor audited the Legislature. Part of that was the Legislative Council, through the Clerk's office, didn't have the-- any sort of determination as to how we came up with fees

to charge for our histories. So, in outside organizations, whether it's the attorney general's office or private law firms, they asked for history requests of the concealed carry-- history of concealed carry in Nebraska, right? We go through, we get all the statutes, and we, we put that together, and we charge for that. I don't know how this came to be. It's very backwards in the way we charge, but pages one through 10, we don't charge for. If it goes into a page 11, we then suddenly charge for the first 10 pages plus anything past 10. So, what I have asked for and what I put together-- and I can show you the numbers, but basically, we took how much it costs for a ream of paper, the toner, the annual maintenance divided by, you know, how much printing we do for histories. It's essentially five cents a page. Or, not essentially, it is five cents a page is what we would charge, flat-fee, going forward. Whether you're getting two physical copies of, of a page or you're getting, you know, 500 pages. Five cents a page. This wouldn't count for digital history requests. So, a lot of our stuff that has been, this is just the stuff on microfilm that we have to go back into the archives and pull out. If it's anything that we had digitally already that we're compiling and we're sending digitally to an email, there isn't a cost at all for that. This is just those physical copies that oftentimes law firms need to, to walk into the courtroom.

HANSEN: Yeah, I don't think we need-- do we-- I don't know if we have to vote on that, even.

BRANDON METZLER: Ideally, we want a vote--

HANSEN: OK.

BRANDON METZLER: --and a message from the executive.

HANSEN: And if we could-- we, we talked about this, and I said, like, if they can get all this stuff digitally now with no cost, but we're paying people to print this off, spend the time to do it. It's five cents a copy, so I don't expect any pushback.

ARCH: So, how, how do you collect five cents a copy? In change?

BRANDON METZLER: Well, yeah, typically they're not asking for one pages. Most history requests come in between 20 to 250 pages, depending on what they're asking for.

ARCH: All right.

HANSEN: [INAUDIBLE] Well, they're not making pennies anymore, so.

FREDRICKSON: That's actually true.

HANSEN: All right. I'll entertain a motion.

BOSTAR: So moved.

_____ : Second.

HANSEN: All right. Been a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All right. Go ahead and roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Bostar.

BOSTAR: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

BRANDON METZLER: Thank you.

HANSEN: All right. Thank you, Brandon. Appreciate it. Senator Clements, did you have something?

CLEMENTS: Yes. Information about you, what, what you're going to see in the budget for legislative council. The printers that we have are six years old, due for replacement. The, the amount of use that they've had is a lot less than their capacity. That was \$200,000 that we did not fund. The security system-- we have reserved \$921,000 so far--

HANSEN: Yep.

CLEMENTS: --for the security system expense, for the phase one, or from one door. That's still funded. We get down to needing to find dollars, that'll be on the bubble. Those are the carryover funds of the Legislature, we got down to-- well, we're below Keisha's comfort level, but we've lapsed some more of our funds. But saved that \$921,000 and eliminated the, the printer, printer replacement for now. As what-- you'll see that in the budget recommendation.

JACOBSON: So, it's--

DORN: And, and we did--

JACOBSON: Plus, I just want to be clear that the printers are under six years old. You're talking about the printing machines, not the actual people who print.

DORN: [INAUDIBLE] you did, I call it, for travel. Theoretically, there's been 2,500. I tried to talk to Ben about this. We-- I think it was 86,000 funded or left to-- I can't remember which one.

CLEMENTS: We saved \$86,000 by reducing travel funding from \$2,500 to \$1,000 per Senator, is what's funded. And you have to vote, though, how much to make that allowance. But the funding is there for \$1,000 per senator.

HANSEN: Probably bring up [INAUDIBLE]. Yep. We'll bring up [INAUDIBLE]. But yeah. I-- Hilgers already gave me a hard time. He said, well, we did zero back in his day. When he first-- when we first started. Remember that?

ARCH: It was a billion-dollar deficit.

HANSEN: Yeah. So they, they froze all, all travel requests. And I think we're leaving them--

CLEMENTS: [INAUDIBLE] a day when we didn't think about it. Didn't even mess with anything less than \$500,000. Now, we're looking at \$86,000 items, and \$200,000 items. That's how it's been going.

HANSEN: OK. All right, well, that's all.

ARCH: Move to adjourn.

FREDRICKSON: Second.

HANSEN: Been a motion and second. All those in favor, say aye. Thanks.