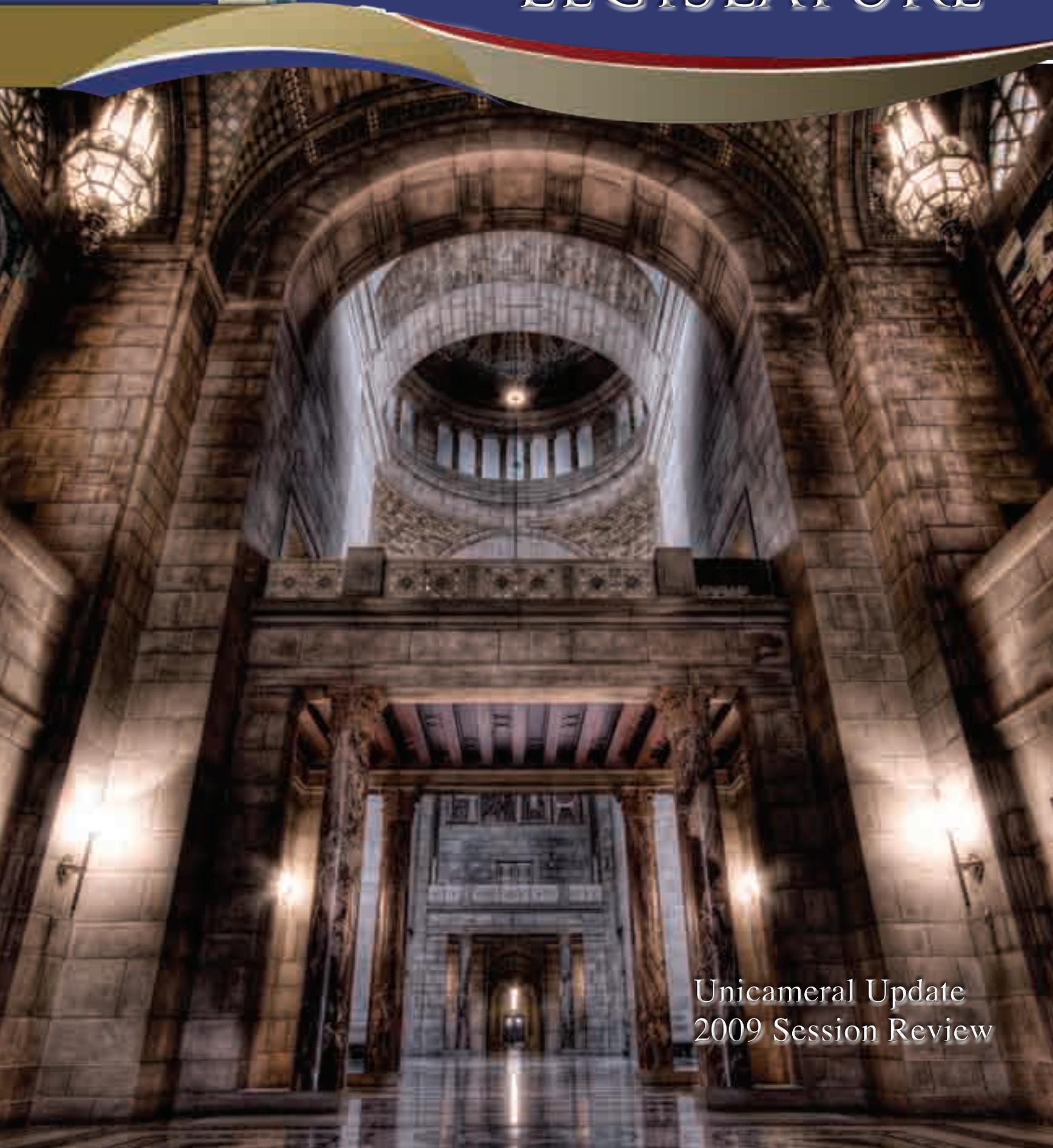


THE  
101<sup>ST</sup>  NEBRASKA 2009  
LEGISLATURE



Unicameral Update  
2009 Session Review

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

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## Volume XXXII, No. 22 2009 Session Review

### Contents

Agriculture .....	3
Appropriations .....	5
Banking, Commerce and Insurance .....	7
Business and Labor.....	9
Education.....	11
General Affairs.....	14
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs .....	16
Health and Human Services.....	19
Judiciary .....	23
Legislature .....	29
Natural Resources.....	30
Retirement Systems .....	34
Revenue .....	35
Transportation and Telecommunications .....	37
Urban Affairs.....	39
Bill Status.....	41
Senators' Contact Information .....	58
Legislative Resources .....	59
About the Unicameral Update .....	59

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## Agriculture



Sen. Tom Carlson, Agriculture Committee chairperson

The 2009 session marked a year of policy refinement and extension for the Agriculture Committee.

A program created under a 2007 law that combats noxious weeds in river basins was extended for four years under **LB98**, introduced by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson.

Passed on a 45-0 vote, LB98 extends the sunset date from 2009 to 2013 for a grant program offering \$2 million annually to weed control entities and natural resources districts to combat invasive species in fully appropriated or overappropriated river basins.

Another pesticide-related bill was **LB254**, introduced by Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas, which would require that crop dusters in Nebraska hold an aerial pesticide business license administered by the state Department of Agriculture. Nebraskan operators would be charged \$50 for a license, whereas out-of-state applicators would be charged \$250, plus \$50 for every Nebraska departure site used.

LB254 remains on general file.



Sen. Annette Dubas

**LB263**, offered by Tekamah Sen. Kent Rogert, deals with fertilizers and seeds.

The bill prohibits political subdivisions from regulating the registration, labeling or sale of seeds based upon the type, nature or genetic makeup of seeds. The bill prohibits regulation of storage, transportation, distribution, registration, notification of use, labeling, planting or cultivation of seeds in addition to or in conflict with the Nebraska Seed Law.

The bill also bars cities and counties from regulating fertilizer and soil conditioners. Political subdivisions will not be allowed to regulate methods of storage, transportation, distribution, notification of use or use in addition to or in conflict with the Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act.

LB263 neither restricts city and county zoning nor limits the authority of natural resources districts to enforce the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. The bill passed 44-4.

Senators addressed the threat of anthrax with the passage of **LB99**, introduced by Carlson, on a 42-0 vote.

LB99 modifies current laws affecting the detection, containment and suppression of anthrax in livestock. Among other provisions, it:

- allows the state Department of Agriculture to access any premise where livestock are suspected to be infected with anthrax for the purpose of making inspections and conducting tests;
- requires the immediate reporting of animals exhibiting signs consistent with anthrax;
- prohibits harboring, selling or disposing of any animal or part of any animal exposed to or infected with anthrax except as provided in the regulations;
- prohibits any person from preventing the testing, vaccination or treatment of any affected herd; and
- establishes the parameters for the sale and use of anthrax vaccine.

**LB241**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, passed 41-0. The bill enhances the state Department of Agriculture's authority to enforce the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act.

The bill permits the department to



Sen. Kent Rogert



Sen. Rich Pahls

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

issue a stop-movement order, which prevents the movement or removal of any dog or cat from the premise, if there is reason to suspect unreasonable sanitation or housing conditions. It also expands the definition of premise in regard to breeding facilities.

The bill defines commercial breeder as any person who:

- sells, exchanges, leases or transfers 31 or more dogs or cats in a year;
- owns or harbors four or more dogs or cats for breeding purposes in a year;
- possesses dogs or cats that produce four or more litters within a year; or
- sells, exchanges or leases dogs or cats for later retail sale or brokered trading.

A second bill affecting pet breeders, **LB588**, was amended into **LB241**.

Introduced by Ewing Sen. Cap Dierks, the bill's provisions set regulations for pet shops, breeders and dealers to guarantee the health of their animals. A pet purchaser will be entitled to a full refund, a new pet of equivalent value or reimbursement for veterinary fees if his or her pet dies or is diagnosed with a serious health problem within seven days of being delivered from a breeder.



*Sen. Cap Dierks*

The committee also advanced a bill adjusting the financing of the new state fairgrounds.

**LB224** permits the city of Grand Island to apply \$1.5 million expended in moving recreational facilities

displaced by the state fair to its \$8.5 million required contribution for the relocation of the fair.

Introduced by Carlson, **LB224** also permits locating state fair facilities on property adjacent to the new fair site at Fonner Park and transfers a pari-mutuel tax credit from the Nebraska State Fairgrounds to Fonner Park. Under the credit, 2.5 percent of the first taxable \$70 million at each race held will be allocated for maintenance and improvements at the fair site.

The bill also establishes Jan. 1, 2010, as the date for the transition of the state fair to its new host city. It requires that the state Department of Revenue provide notice of quarterly lottery collections to the city of Grand Island beginning April 1, 2010.

The bill passed 43-2.

The committee also held a hearing on new incentives for renewable diesel producers.

**LB641**, introduced by Ogallala Sen. Ken Schilz, would provide a 30-cent per gallon payment for those engaged in the production of renewable diesel via qualified technologies or feedstocks. The program would be capped at 100 million gallons, with a 2 million gallon limit per producer. The bill remains in committee.



*Sen. Ken Schilz*

**LB130**, introduced by Dubas, also remains in committee. The bill would create the Farm to School Program Task Force for the purpose of developing a strategic plan to provide farm commodities from local producers to area schools. ■

## Appropriations



Appropriations Committee chairperson Sen. Lavon Heidemann (right), with committee member Sen. Danielle Nantkes

**L**awmakers passed a \$6.9 billion two-year budget package this session.

The 2009-11 budget proposed by the Appropriations Committee provides funds for state government operation and aid during the two-year period, an average annual spending growth rate of 1 percent.

Tight budget constraints due to decreased state revenues were somewhat eased by the receipt of \$523 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and the use of \$254 million from the state's cash reserve fund.

Senators made few changes to the committee's recommendations. Among the adjustments were an additional \$283,000 appropriated to increase developmental disability provider rates and a temporary increase in certain judges' retirement contribution rates combined with a \$1 increase in court filing fees to address a shortfall in the judges' retirement system.

**LB315**, the mainline budget bill, passed on a 46-2 vote.

Also included in the budget package are:

**LB311**, providing for deficit appropriations;

**LB312**, appropriating funds for state senators' salaries;

**LB313**, appropriating funds for constitutional officers' salaries;

**LB314**, appropriating funds for capital construction;

**LB316**, providing for various transfers between funds;

**LB318**, suspending certain depreciation charges assessed by the Department of Administrative Services;

**LB414**, changing salary and retirement provisions for judges;

**LB456**, transferring \$254.4 million from the state's cash reserve fund;

**LB629**, disapproving claims against the state; and

**LB628**, providing for payment of claims against the state, including a \$3.6 million payment resulting from litigation in which the state was found at fault for a traffic accident and \$600,000 to settle a claim made against the Department of Health and Human Services by a father whose daughter died while a resident at the Beatrice State Developmental Center.

Senators voted 46-1 to pass LB414 and passed LB628 and LB629 on 47-0 votes. All remaining bills were passed on 48-0 votes.

Gov. Dave Heineman approved the budget package with no line-item vetoes.

Several other bills had public hearings but remain in committee.

Joint testimony was taken on two bills aimed at reducing the number of individuals on the waiting list to receive developmental disability services in Nebraska.

**LB236**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, would have appropriated \$162.7 million over four years from the state's general fund to provide services for those on the waiting list and past their date of need.



Sen. Steve Lathrop

**LB468**, introduced by Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek would have appropriated \$62.6 million over two years for the same purpose. Both bills would have been matched by federal funds.



Sen. Russ Karpisek

**LB37**, sponsored by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, would have appropriated \$2.3 million from the state's general fund to establish a division of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Nursing at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.



Sen. Mike Flood

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

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**LB572**, sponsored by Elk Creek Sen. Lavon Heide-  
mann, would have reduced to \$1.5  
million annual transfers to the state  
Tobacco Prevention and Control Cash  
Fund in an effort to increase the sus-  
tainability of the state's Health Care  
Cash Fund.

**LB492**, sponsored by Malcolm Sen.  
Ken Haar, would have provided \$3.5  
million in transitional funding to UNL to  
create three new faculty positions focused



*Sen. Ken Haar*

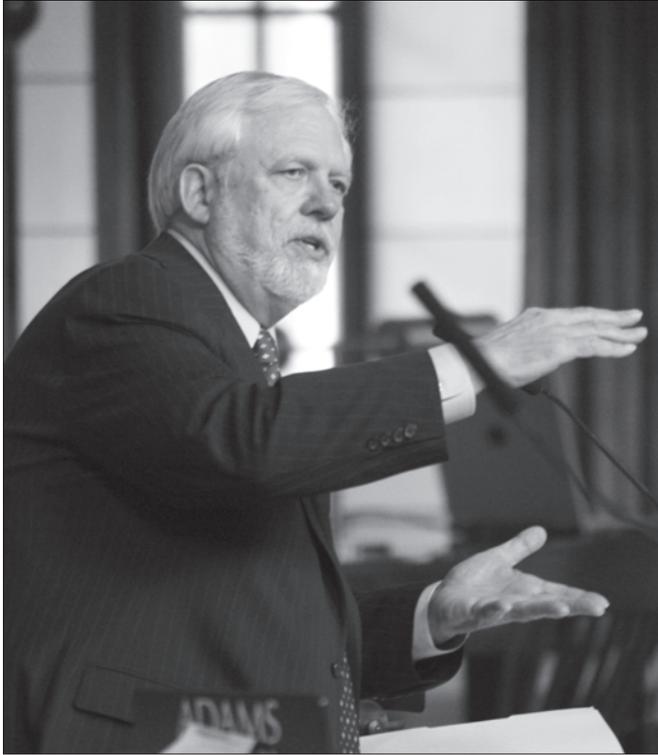
on wind energy.

Lastly, **LB359**, introduced by  
Omaha Sen. John Nelson, would  
have changed the structure of fund  
distribution to the Cultural Preserva-  
tion Endowment Fund, allowing it to  
receive up to \$1 million annually over  
a four-year period based on match-  
ing funds raised by the Nebraska Arts  
Council. ■



*Sen. John E. Nelson*

## Banking, Commerce and Insurance



*Sen. Rich Pahls, chairperson of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee*

**H**ealth insurance, unclaimed property and mortgage regulation topped the list of banking and insurance issues considered by lawmakers this session.

Senators made funding changes to the Nebraska Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool (NECHIP) Act. NECHIP provides health insurance to Nebraska residents who are unable to obtain it at an affordable price or without restrictions because of a medical condition.

**LB358**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, requires the CHIP board of directors to conduct an annual review to determine whether reimbursement rates are excessive and whether savings can be achieved by establishing the reimbursement rate as a multiplier of an objective standard.

Under the bill, people who apply for NECHIP based on eligibility other than that required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act will have to exhaust coverage under the COBRA health coverage program.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

Legislators also passed two bills relating to access to health insurance.

**LB551**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tom White, allows families to continue procuring health insurance for children over 23 years of age.

Currently, insurance policies must indicate that coverage may include any children younger than 23 years old. LB551 increases the age to 30 if a child is unmarried and meets other criteria.

Insurance companies are allowed to charge an additional premium for the child.

The bill passed 45-0.

Senators passed a bill intended to assist the state treasurer in returning unclaimed property and protecting property owners' personal information.

Under **LB432**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John Nelson, the state is required to maintain personal records of abandoned property owners, including social security number, date of birth and last known address, with the same confidentiality as tax return information held by the state Department of Revenue.

The bill also caps the fee that professional finders may charge at 10 percent of the abandoned property's value. To claim a fee, a finder is required to disclose to the claimant in writing when the property was, or will be, abandoned and that the property can be claimed free of charge.

LB432 passed on a 47-0 vote.

Legislators also passed two bills relating to access to health insurance.

Lawmakers also passed a bill that brings the state into compliance with the federal Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act.

**LB328**, introduced by Pahls at the request of the state Department of Banking and Finance, makes several changes to state laws governing mortgage originators. Among other provisions, the bill:

- repeals the exemption of individual mortgage loan originators from state licensure;
- requires individual mortgage loan originators who work for installment loan companies to be licensed; and
- mandates that state-chartered, non-insured depository



*Sen. Tom White*



*Sen. John E. Nelson*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

institutions register their loan originators in the same manner required of insured depository institutions.

LB328 passed on a 49-0 vote.

A bill that clarifies provisions relating to the deposit of public funds was approved by the Legislature.

Current law requires public fund deposits in excess of amounts insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to be secured either by pledged securities or a guarantee bond.

**LB259**, sponsored by Hastings Sen. Dennis Utter, clarifies that references to amounts insured by the FDIC also include amounts guaranteed by the FDIC for any law requiring a bank, capital stock financial institution or qualifying mutual financial institution to secure the deposit of public funds in excess of amounts insured by the FDIC.



*Sen. Dennis Utter*

The bill passed 49-0.

Senators also changed provisions relating to credit report security freezes.

**LB177**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, repeals a requirement that consumer reporting agencies remove a security freeze seven years after it is initiated and reduces to \$3 the fee that agencies may charge for placing, temporarily lifting or removing a security freeze.



*Sen. Steve Lathrop*

LB177 passed on a 45-0 vote.

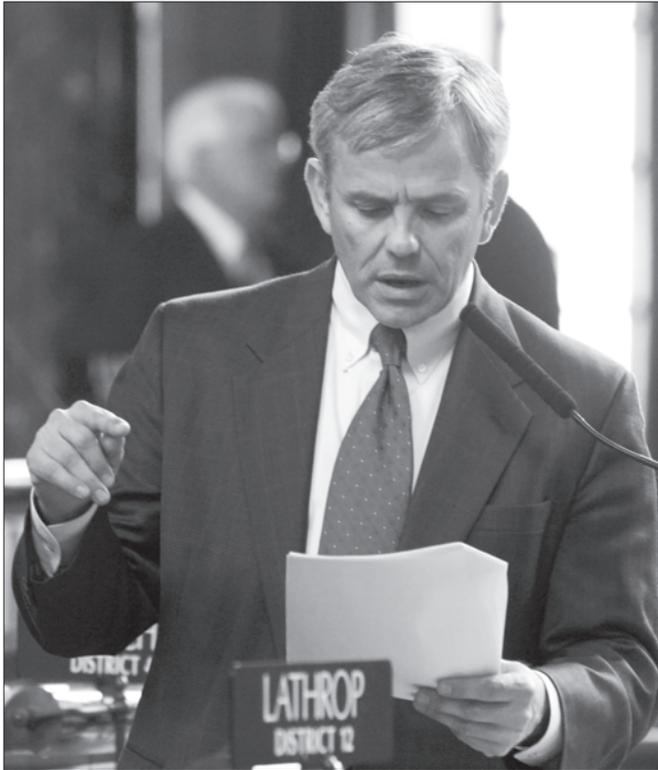
Lastly, lawmakers approved the committee clean-up bill.

**LB327**, introduced by Pahls on behalf of the state Department of Banking and Finance, makes a number of changes to Nebraska's banking laws. Among other provisions, the bill:

- requires state-chartered banks holding fiduciary accounts to pledge collateral to secure amounts that exceed coverage guaranteed by the FDIC;
- provides that examination and investigation reports remain confidential records of the department, even when transmitted to the subject of the report;
- authorizes the department director to allow a state-chartered bank to pay dividends even when its previous losses equaled or exceeded its undivided profits on hand; and
- changes to a sliding scale the amount of pledged securities that trust companies and bank trust departments must pledge to the department to maintain their status.

LB327 passed on a 47-0 vote. ■

## Business and Labor



*Sen. Steve Lathrop, Business and Labor Committee chairperson*

**I**ssues relating to workers' compensation and peace officer safeguards topped business and labor concerns this session.

**LB630**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, made several technical changes to the workers' compensation system, including:

- requiring acceptance by the court before electronic notice is considered given;
- clarifying that any settlement or agreement is voluntary and not final until approved by the court;
- allowing vocational rehabilitation counselors to submit disputes for informal dispute resolution;
- removing a requirement that a duplicate original application for lump sum settlement approval be presented to the court; and
- changing the reimbursement date to Jan. 1, 2011, for inpatient trauma services under the inpatient hospital fee schedule.

The bill was amended to incorporate provisions from two other bills.

**LB194**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Danielle Nantkes, allows lump sum settlements to become final without court approval if:

- the individual is not represented by counsel;
- the employee is a Medicare beneficiary or is eligible, or has a reasonable expectation of becoming eligible, within 30 months of the settlement;
- Medicaid will not be reimbursed or medical expenses will not be paid as part of the settlement; or
- the case involves a death and payments will be made to dependents.

If a settlement does not require court approval, a release must be signed indicating that the employee understands their rights afforded under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act.

The bill also requires the employee or his or her dependent's representative, and the employee's attorney, to file a release confirming the settlement as a full and complete discharge from further liability.

**LB453**, sponsored by Tekamah Sen. Kent Rogert, requires that exempted agricultural employers notify employees that they are not covered by workers' compensation insurance either at the time of hiring or at more than 30 days prior to an injury.

Lawmakers passed LB630 on a 45-0 vote.

Senators also gave final approval to a bill that guarantees procedural safeguards for peace officers during formal administrative investigations.

**LB158**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tom White, requires villages, second-class cities and sheriff's offices to adopt rules and procedures for the suspension, demotion or removal of any police officer or deputy sheriff, with or without pay, upon a written accusation.

The rules and procedures must:

- include provisions for giving notice and a written copy of the accusation to the officer;
- establish the officer's right to have an attorney present at all hearings and proceedings regarding the accusation;



*Sen. Danielle Nantkes*



*Sen. Kent Rogert*



*Sen. Tom White*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

- authorize both parties, or their attorneys or representatives, to record all hearings and proceedings; and
- establish an appeal process.

The bill's provisions do not apply to an officer or deputy sheriff during his or her probationary period.

LB158 also prohibits:

- disclosure of a peace officer's personal financial records unless pursuant to a valid search warrant or subpoena;
- inclusion of any disciplinary action in a peace officer's records unless the officer has received a written copy of such action;
- public release of a photograph of a peace officer who is the subject of an investigation without written permission from the officer; and
- threat of or actual retaliation against or discharge of a peace officer for exercising his or her rights as outlined in a municipality or county's investigation rules and procedures.

Senators passed LB158 on a 46-1 vote.

A bill originally intended to extend a fine for delayed workers' compensation payments was laid over on select file.

Under existing law, insurance companies face a penalty of 50 percent of the value of a claim if they fail to pay uncontested medical payments in a workers' compensation case. **LB622**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, would have extended



*Sen. Jeremy Nordquist*

the penalty to contested claims under certain circumstances.

LB622 would have entitled injured workers to an additional 50 percent of an uncontested medical bill if an insurance company fails to pay the uncontested portion of a claim within 30 days. The 30-day period would begin at the notice of injury or after the final order issued by the court.

Lathrop brought an amendment that would require insurance companies to pay the portions of a claim on which there is no reasonable controversy when a claim is on appeal.

Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh offered a successful amendment to Lathrop's amendment that would allow non-payment of disputed portions of a claim from the time an appeal is filed, rather than when no reasonable controversy is established.

Upon the adoption of his amendment, Lathrop made a motion to indefinitely postpone the bill and Nordquist laid it over until next session.

Finally, the committee voted to indefinitely postpone a bill dealing with confidentiality in Workers' Compensation Court documents.

Under **LB51**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, documents containing confidential information could not be accessed for public inspection or copying unless certain requirements were met. ■



*Sen. Tony Fulton*

## Education



*Sen. Greg Adams, Education Committee chairperson*

While much of the education policy focus in 2009 was on state aid to schools, senators also passed legislation providing assistance for children of deceased officers and firefighters, offering loan forgiveness for teachers and changing state scholarship programs.

**LB545**, the state aid to schools bill, introduced by York Sen. Greg Adams, originally would have reduced the amount of state aid due to fiscal constraints. An amendment to allocate \$234 million of federal stimulus funds, however, resulted in an overall increase in state aid.

General file debate spanned four days as senators debated how to address the \$61 million gap between the available federal stimulus funds and what the current formula demands.

Adams brokered a compromise between the interests of large and small school districts that resulted in what he called a balanced impact on the state's schools.

The bill decreases the cost growth factor by 0.5 percent in fiscal year 2009-10 and by 1 percent in FY2010-11. The averaging adjustment threshold is the prior year's

amount increased by the basic allowable growth rate plus 0.5 percent, or the statewide basic funding per formula student – whichever is smaller.

The bill reduces school employee retirement aid for non-equalized districts from \$30 million to \$15 million per year. The reduction reflects changes proposed in **LB187**, a Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee bill that proposed a 1 percent rather than a 2 percent additional employer contribution for the next five years. These changes will free up a total of \$30 million dollars over the next two years, Adams said.

Other provisions of the bill will:

- recreate reorganization incentives by allocating \$800,000 in lottery funds to small school districts that consolidate;
- reformulate an existing hold harmless provision in learning communities;
- exempt from spending lids early retirement agreements made before July 1, 2009;
- make changes to employer retirement contributions, excluding them from spending lids and future general fund operating expenditures;
- reduce school district spending authority from 2.5 percent of their general fund operating expenditures to 1.5 percent;
- base the instructional time allowance on the statewide average rather than on a comparison group average;
- enable school districts to use stimulus bond programs with the current levy cap of 5.2 cents per \$100 valuation; and
- set the certification date for state aid to schools as March 1 for next year.

LB545 was passed on a 46-1 vote.

Also in relation to state aid, senators passed a bill delaying the certification of state aid and budget authority to school districts.

The certification date typically falls on Feb. 1. The bill further delays the certification date of state aid to schools from April 1 to June 1.

Adams, the sponsor of **LB548**, said additional time is needed to provide accurate state aid estimates to school districts in light of newly available federal stimulus funds.

LB548 passed on a 35-3 vote.

Children of law enforcement officers and firefighters who perish in the line of duty will be offered postsecondary

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

education assistance under a bill passed this session.

**LB206**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Danielle Nantkes, permits children of deceased police officers and firefighters to attend state universities, colleges and community colleges free of tuition and fees.

The bill limits the assistance to children under 26 years of age. Beneficiaries are required to apply for federal financial aid, as well as state scholarships and grants, to offset tuition and fees.

LB206 passed on a 47-0 vote.

Senators also passed a bill that forgives some educational loans for teachers who pursue graduate degrees.

The Attracting Excellence to Teaching program provides forgivable education loans to teachers who work in areas of high need as established by the state Department of Education.

**LB547**, introduced by Adams, allows \$600,000 of the \$1 million program to be used for teachers pursuing graduate degrees and \$400,000 for undergraduate degrees. Under the bill, the graduate degree must be in the teacher's endorsed area and teachers must commit to stay in the teaching profession for at least two years.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

The state will help provide funding for career education student organizations under a bill passed by senators this session.

**LB476**, introduced by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman, creates the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning to provide financial and administrative support for career education student organizations. These organizations include FFA, Future Business Leaders of America, Family Career and Consumer Leaders of America, Distributive Education Clubs of America, SkillsUSA and Health Occupations Students of America.

The bill repeals the Career Education Partnership Act, thereby freeing up the \$450,000 per year required by the measure.

LB476 passed on a 49-0 vote.

Several technical changes to education policy also were approved by senators this session.

**LB549**, sponsored by Adams, is a cleanup bill from the state Department of Education and includes provisions from four other bills.



Sen. Danielle Nantkes

**LB257**, sponsored by Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms, eliminates the Seamless Delivery System Pilot Project, which ended in 2001, making the statutes obsolete.

**LB530**, introduced by Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan, extends the authori-



Sen. Kate Sullivan

zation for school districts and educational service units to enroll students in early childhood education programs when the students are kindergarten eligible, but not of mandatory attendance age. The authorization does not apply to early childhood education programs that receive state grants or funding through the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. The extension will apply to the 2009-10 school year.

**LB461**, sponsored by Adams, allows members of the state Board of Education to run for state office without having to resign.

The bill also includes provisions originally found in **LB548**, an Adams bill that clarifies that student records include academic and disciplinary material when a student transfers and expands the application of requirements for vehicles used to transport school children.

LB549 passed on a 45-0 vote.

Adjustments to learning community procedures also were approved by lawmakers.

Created by legislation passed in 2007 and enacted in January, a learning community is a political subdivision that shares the territory of member school districts and is governed by a learning community coordinating council.

**LB392**, sponsored by Adams, requires a primary election for candidates running for the coordinating council. The deadline to establish elementary learning centers is delayed under the bill and nonvoting coordinating council members are authorized to participate in achievement sub-councils.

LB392 passed on a 47-0 vote.

Introduced by Adams, **LB62** allows for option enrollment in the first school year a learning community is in place.

Currently, option enrollment is specified to end once a learning community is established.

The bill delays the transportation adjustment by one year to coincide with the current open enrollment provi-



Sen. John Harms

# UNICAMERAL UPDATE

sions.

LB62 also assigns the state Department of Education responsibility for determining the average percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced price lunches in learning communities and member districts.

The criteria for open enrollment are specified in the bill. If space is available for additional students in the district, a student who has a sibling in that district will have first priority. Students who will contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of the enrollment will receive second priority.

LB62 passed 46-0.

Senators also gave final approval to a bill that requires children entering seventh grade to have booster shots for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

Under **LB464**, sponsored by Papillion Sen. Tim Gay, the timing of the booster coincides with a requirement that Nebraska children obtain a physical examination prior to entering seventh grade. As with other immunization requirements, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus boosters can be waived for religious or medical reasons.

The bill passed on a 46-0 vote.

A bill addressing dating violence was amended into LB63, a bill brought by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend aimed at reducing violent crime and gang activity.

**LB64**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, requires the state Department of Education to develop a model dating violence policy by March 1, 2010, to assist school districts in developing policies, which districts must adopt by July 1, 2010.

Lawmakers also addressed postsecondary education this session.

**LB440**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brenda Council, removes the mention of race, ethnicity and culture from a diversity-based state scholarship program. The bill harmonizes the state's Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act with the state constitution, which was amended by voters last November to prohibit racial and gender preferences in public admissions and hiring decisions.



*Sen. Tim Gay*



*Sen. Gwen Howard*



*Sen. Brenda Council*

The bill also includes provisions from **LB103**, a bill introduced by Adams that raises the cost threshold from \$500,000 to \$2 million for capital construction projects requiring approval from the Coordinating Commission of Postsecondary Education.

LB440 was passed on a 44-0 vote.

In an effort to resolve funding disputes between state community colleges, senators passed **LB340**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook, which requires the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to evaluate the community college funding formula.

The bill requires community college officials to resolve disputes about how to divide state aid.

Under the bill, the commission's study will focus on four areas: the role and mission of community colleges, changes in the weighting of courses to reflect that role and mission, the role of the Nebraska Community College Association and whether membership should be required. Each community college is required to participate in the study and the findings will be reported to the Legislature by December 15.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

A bill requiring schools to develop student allergy plans remains on general file.

**LB72**, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett, would require the state Department of Education, in consultation with the state Department of Health and Human Services, to develop and make available policy guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening allergies. ■



*Sen. Tanya Cook*



*Sen. Abbie Cornett*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

## General Affairs



Sen. Russ Karpisek, General Affairs Committee chairperson

Lawmakers approved a cigar bar exemption to the statewide smoking ban that passed in 2008 and took effect June 1.

**LB355**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, allows an exemption for cigar bars that hold a Class C liquor license and earn at least 10 percent of their gross revenue from the sale of cigars and other tobacco-related products, excluding cigarettes.

The bill also:

- prohibits cigarette smoking in cigar bars;
- requires a \$1,000 non-refundable application fee;
- prohibits cigar bars from selling food;
- requires that a walk-in humidor be on the premises;
- prohibits discounting alcohol in conjunction with cigar sales;
- requires that proof of qualifying revenue be submit-



Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh

ted to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission; and

- prohibits counties and cities from passing resolutions or ordinances prohibiting cigar smoking in cigar bars.

Senators passed the bill on a 27-22 vote.

Senators also passed a bill requiring cigarettes sold in Nebraska to meet fire safety requirements.

According to Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman, sponsor of **LB198**, reduced ignition propensity cigarettes are manufactured with additional layers of paper so the tip does not maintain enough heat to ignite other materials if left unattended. Such cigarettes carry an “FSC” stamp or other approved marking signifying fire standard compliance.



Sen. Arnie Stuthman

Penalty provisions from **LB404**, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett, were amended into LB198.

The bill provides a fine for retailers of \$500 for a first offense of knowingly violating the act and \$2,000 for subsequent offenses. Fines increase if the number of noncompliant cigarettes offered or sold exceeds 1,000.



Sen. Abbie Cornett

LB198 passed on a 47-0 vote and becomes effective January 1, 2010.

The distribution of the monies collected from the state lottery and pickle cards will be affected by a bill passed this session.

**LB286**, introduced by Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek, removes the sunset date for directing transfers from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the Education Innovation Fund, the Nebraska Scholarship Fund, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, the Nebraska State Fair Board and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. The bill also provides that the amount transferred be the greater of the dollar amount transferred in fiscal year 2002-03 or at least 22 percent, but not more than 25 percent, of annual lottery ticket sales.

The bill authorizes the tax commissioner and lottery director to transfer available funds exceeding 25 percent of sales.

The bill contains provisions of **LB287**, also sponsored by Karpisek, that permits licensed organizations to use up to 12 percent of pickle card profits to pay for allowable

# UNICAMERAL UPDATE

expenses. Of the 12 percent, no more than 6 percent of the profit may be used for compensation to sales agents for the marketing, sale or delivery of pickle card units.

LB286 passed on a 46-0 vote.

Nebraska community colleges with culinary education programs are allowed to attain catering and Class I liquor licenses under a bill given final approval by lawmakers.

**LB232**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, allows alcohol sales only at events held by a culinary education program on a community college campus or at events catered by such a program as part of the program's educational requirements.



*Sen. Jeremy Nordquist*

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

Lawmakers also gave final approval to a bill that changes provisions relating to municipal cemeteries in Nebraska.

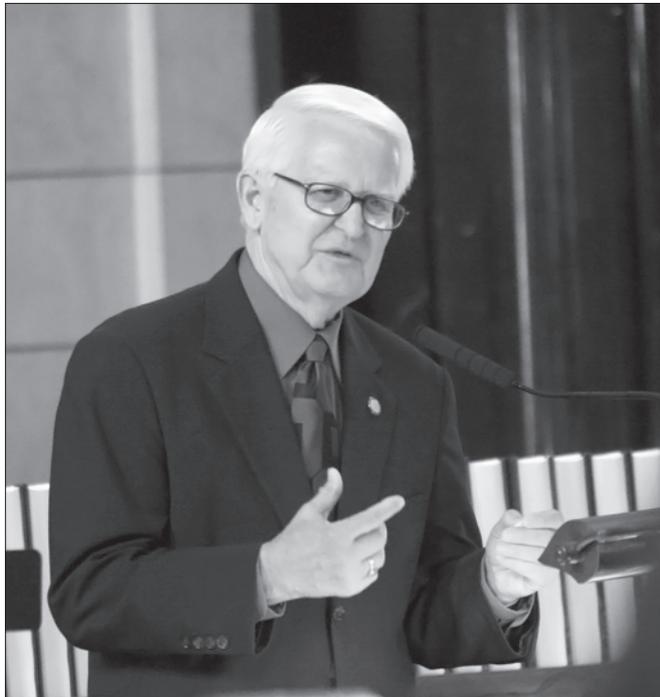
Under **LB500**, introduced by Karpisek, a mayor, city council or board of trustees can set aside donations, bequests and proceeds from the sale of lots as a perpetual fund.

Income from such a fund may be used for the general care, management, maintenance, improvement, beautifying and welfare of the cemetery. No more than 20 percent of the principal may be used for such purposes in any fiscal year and no more than 40 percent in any period of 10 consecutive fiscal years.

LB500 passed 48-0. ■

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

## Government, Military and Veterans Affairs



Sen. Bill Avery, chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Senators dealt with a variety of issues relating to government this session. Among the measures passed were bills dealing with the use of public resources, shooting ranges and county ordinances.

**LB626**, introduced by Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek, allows the incidental use of public resources by public officials and employees.

The bill:

- allows public resources such as cell phones and computers to be used to communicate unexpected schedule changes or essential personal business;
- allows for the use of public resources in preparing, presenting or disseminating information about ballot questions;
- restricts the use of public resources for communicating about a ballot issue once a legislative body puts an issue on the ballot;
- extends the exemption for incidental use of public resources when it could result in personal financial gain or when used in relation to ballot issues;



Sen. Russ Karpisek

- allows public officials and employees to use their official titles when campaigning for or against ballot questions on personal time; and
- outlines appropriate use of government vehicles by public officials and employees.

LB626 passed on a 44-2 vote. The measure was vetoed by Gov. Dave Heineman, but lawmakers voted 35-10 to override the governor's veto and enact the bill.

**LB503**, introduced by Schuyler Sen. Chris Langemeier, prohibits cities, counties and other political subdivisions from regulating existing shooting ranges complying with performance standards through zoning, rules, regulations, ordinances or laws regulating noise or the discharge of a firearm.



Sen. Chris Langemeier

Ranges in compliance with shooting range performance standards, as well as building and safety codes, are permitted to repair or rebuild facilities and expand membership activities within existing areas. Localities still are permitted to regulate the location and construction of new shooting ranges and to use eminent domain for infrastructure projects. Eminent domain cannot be used to acquire property with shooting ranges when the proposed use of the property is for shooting-related activities, recreational activities or private commercial development.

Finally, the bill permits cities, counties and other political subdivisions to limit the operating hours of shooting ranges to between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Senators also passed a bill that allows county boards to enact ordinances and impose penalties for violations.

While counties had the authority to pass only non-binding resolutions, **LB532** now allows county ordinances in four areas:

- parking relating to snow removal and emergency vehicle access;
- abandoned and junk vehicles not including agricultural equipment;
- graffiti; and
- false alarms.

Under the bill, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Scott Price, counties can assess fines of up to \$500. County ordinances will not be valid inside city limits and



Sen. Scott Price

# UNICAMERAL UPDATE

city ordinances over unincorporated areas will preempt county ordinances. The bill requires a public hearing to be held on any proposed ordinance.

LB532 passed on a 45-4 vote.

**LB402**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, extends the deadline from June 1, 2010, to Dec. 31, 2012, for applications made under the Convention Center Facility Assistance Act.

The act permits political subdivisions that have approved general obligation bonds for convention center projects to apply for the remittance of state sales tax revenues generated by entities benefiting from the facility.

LB402 permits bonds approved by more than 50 percent of voters at any statewide or local primary, special, joint or general election.

The bill includes provisions from **LB128**, also introduced by Avery, which provides enabling legislation for a bonding-related constitutional amendment passed by Nebraska voters in 2008.

Senators passed LB402 on a 49-0 vote.

Nepotism laws were clarified this session, under a bill introduced by Avery.

**LB322** prohibits an executive branch official or employee from engaging in nepotism or supervising family members.

Under the bill, a family member is defined as a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild or grandparent by blood, marriage or adoption.

An employee or official is required to notify his or her agency head within seven days of becoming a supervisor to a family member.

Exceptions to the bill's prohibitions are possible, provided the agency head granting the exception shows good cause and notifies the Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

LB322 passed on a 45-0 vote.

Senators also addressed the state employee expense reimbursement process.

**LB533**, introduced by Price, directs the state Department of Administrative Services to require receipts for meal expense reimbursement incurred while traveling on state business. The deadline for submitting reimbursement claims is extended to 60 days. Previously, claims were required monthly.

LB533 passed on a 48-0 vote.

In another effort to streamline government operations, senators passed a bill allowing some public governing bodies to record roll call and voice votes with an electronic voting device.

**LB361**, introduced by Avery, applies to governing bodies created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act and the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act. Under the bill, county governing bodies also are allowed to use electronic voting devices.

LB361 contains provisions from two other bills.

**LB465**, introduced by Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen, allows educational service units to hold meetings by video or telephone conference. No more than half of the annual meetings can be held using such methods.

**LB639**, introduced by Karpisek, allows risk management pool governing bodies to conduct more than half of their annual meetings by telephone conference if their quarterly meetings are conducted in person.

LB361 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Senators also passed **LB434**, introduced by Fremont Sen. Charlie Janssen, which changes ballot questions relating to township organization.

The bill also clarifies county ballot questions regarding discontinuance of a township organization and creation of a county board of commissioners. The ballot must indicate that a vote be taken on whether there will be five or seven county commissioners.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

Also introduced by Janssen, **LB348** authorizes access to tax statements at the register of deeds office.

LB348 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Lawmakers passed a bill that extends building height restrictions on the west side of the state Capitol Building.

Building height restrictions are currently enforced in an area around the building called the Capitol Environs District, which extends to K, 13th, H and 10th streets. **LB450**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, extends the west border to Fifth Street, protecting the area between Lincoln's county-city building and Rosa Parks Way.

LB450 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Senators passed a bill removing from statute several inactive state boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces and working groups.

**LB154**, introduced by Avery, was in response to a



Sen. Mark Christensen



Sen. Charlie Janssen



Sen. Kathy Campbell

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

committee report that surveyed all state boards and commissions.

The bill passed on a 45-0 vote.

A bill introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford was amended into LB35, a bill heard by the Judiciary Committee.

**LB273**, increases fees charged for county sheriffs to hand-deliver court documents. The measure raises five types of fees by 20 percent and allows a plaintiff to recover costs upon a voluntary payment after an action is filed but before a judgment is issued.



*Sen. Brad Ashford*

Several bills heard by the committee remain on general file.

**LB475**, introduced by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman, would eliminate the position of county comptroller.

In counties with a population of 300,000 or greater, the county clerk also serves as comptroller. Currently, Douglas is the state's only county with a qualifying population.



*Sen. Arnie Stuthman*

A bill that would repeal the Campaign Finance Limitation Act and require greater disclosure of political contributions also remains on general file.

Under **LB638**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh, all contributions and expenditures over \$50 would be disclosed. The current requirement for disclosure is set at \$250. LB638 also would require daily electronic filing of contributions and expenditures by 2012.



*Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh*

Another bill currently on general file would change provisions relating to state Military Department personnel and National Guard member peace officer powers.

Under **LB550**, sponsored by Avery, the state Military Department would consist of:

- one adjutant general with a minimum grade of lieutenant colonel;
- one deputy adjutant general, chief of state or deputy director with a minimum grade of colonel;
- one assistant director for Nebraska Emergency Management Agency affairs; and
- other officers and enlisted personnel in the number and grade as prescribed by U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force personnel documents.

The bill also would extend law enforcement authority to Nebraska National Guard members serving federal Title 32 U.S. Code status and to National Guard members from other states and territories while in active service to Nebraska.

Also on general file, **LB512**, introduced by Lautenbaugh, would allow all cities and counties that adopt minimum zoning regulations prescribed by the state Department of Aeronautics to forego the current requirement to form a joint board to set and enforce such regulations.

Under a bill introduced by South Sioux City Sen. Robert Giese, the secretary of state would be required to develop and publish a uniform statewide election guide for election workers.

**LB544** remains on general file.

Another bill introduced by Avery was **LB139**, which would change the name of the Mexican-American Commission to the Hispanic-American Commission.

The measure remains on general file. ■



*Sen. Robert Giese*

## Health and Human Services



*Sen. Tim Gay, chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee*

A bill originally intended to improve community-based behavioral health services in Nebraska became an omnibus proposal to address issues highlighted by the state's 2008 safe haven law.

**LB603**, introduced by Papillion Sen. Tim Gay on behalf of the Health and Human Services Committee, creates a behavioral health education center to be administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Among other provisions, the bill provides funds for additional psychiatry residents, requires rural training for center-funded residents and focuses training on telehealth and other innovative means of care delivery.

The bill also creates a nine-member Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee as a special legislative committee.

Senators will be appointed to the committee by the Executive Board and will include two members each from the Appropriations, Health and Human Services and Judiciary committees and three at-large members. The committee will be charged with monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of behavioral health services for Nebraska's children and their families.

LB603 was amended to incorporate four additional bills, resulting in one proposal to provide a comprehensive approach to behavioral health services delivery in Nebraska.

**LB136**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, increases the SCHIP eligibility level from 185 percent of the federal poverty level to 200 percent.

**LB346**, sponsored by Gay, establishes a 24-hour, seven-day a week behavioral health hotline in Nebraska to provide screening, assessment and referrals to existing community-based resources. The hotline will be staffed by trained personnel under the direct supervision of qualified mental health professionals. The bill also requires establishment of voluntary post-adoption and post-guardianship case management services and a peer support program for families in crisis.

**LB356**, sponsored by Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas, appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2009-10 and \$1 million in FY2010-11 to support children's behavioral health services.



*Sen. Bill Avery*



*Sen. Annette Dubas*



*Sen. Jeremy Nordquist*

**LB601**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, requires HHS to seek by July 1, 2010, either a Medicaid waiver or an amendment to the state's existing Medicaid plan to cover secure residential services and subacute services, both in hospital and non-hospital settings, regardless of whether a recipient has been ordered by a mental health board to receive such services.

LB603 passed on a 45-2 vote.

Two additional bills aimed at addressing the state's health care worker shortage were introduced this session.

**LB196**, introduced by Gay, exempts from the state's open contract requirements student loan and other loan repayment contracts for those participating in the Nebraska Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act. The act is a loan forgiveness program intended to draw professionals to areas of Nebraska with a shortage of health care providers.

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

LB196 passed 47-2.

The second bill remains on final reading. Due to fiscal constraints this session, several senators agreed to delay the passage of bills requiring additional funding, to be taken up next session.

**LB489**, sponsored by Cedar Rapids Sen. Kate Sullivan would provide \$495,000 in state funding over two years for area health education center (AHEC) programs in Nebraska. AHECs are private, nonprofit health education centers that have cooperative agreements with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and identify and implement strategies to address health care workforce needs in underserved urban and federally designated rural or nonmetropolitan communities.



*Sen. Kate Sullivan*

Senators also authorized the development of a Medicaid pilot program this session.

**LB396**, sponsored by Grand Island Sen. Mike Gloor, establishes an advisory council to consult with HHS on the implementation of a medical pilot program for Medicaid recipients in Nebraska. The pilot program will begin by Jan. 1, 2012, and a report will be due to the governor and the Legislature by June 1, 2014. The bill also requires HHS to design and implement reimbursement rate policies to create incentives for providers.



*Sen. Mike Gloor*

The pilot program will terminate June 30, 2014.

The bill passed 48-1.

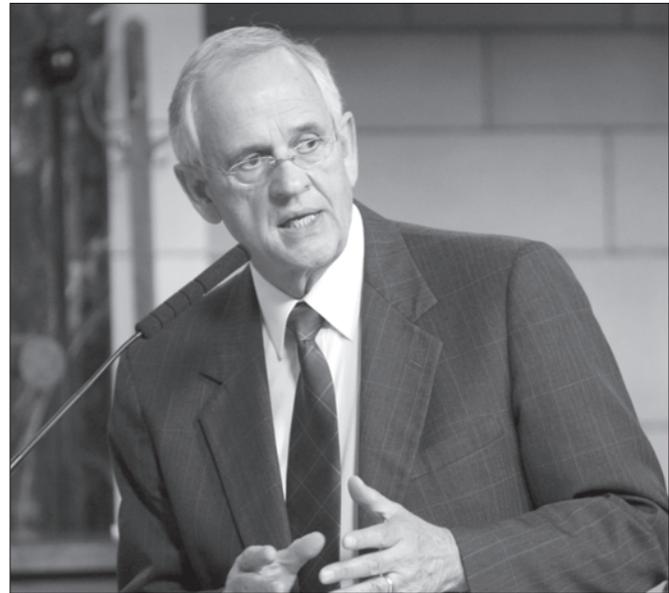
Senators approved a measure extending the length of time Nebraskans receiving public assistance are allowed to acquire vocational training as part of their work activity requirement.

Under **LB458**, sponsored by Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms, vocational training leading to a certificate, diploma or associate degree is added to the list of approved work activities that individuals must engage in to receive Aid to Dependent Children benefits. The bill allows recipients to participate in vocational training for a minimum of 20 hours per week for up to 36 months. Under current law, vocational training is capped at 12 months.

The extension sunsets Sept. 30, 2012.

LB458 passed on a 49-0 vote.

## Children's services



*Sen. John Harms, chairperson of the Performance Audit Committee*

Lawmakers approved a variety of measures dealing with children's health and human services this session, including changes to two entities charged with overseeing services for Nebraska's at-risk youth.

**LB679**, sponsored by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee and introduced by Harms, requires potential Foster Care Review Board members to disclose all funding received from HHS by the appointee or his or her employer.

The bill passed 43-0.

**LB540**, sponsored by Gay, adds the state's probation administrator to the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force.

The bill passed 48-0.

Senators also approved a measure allowing the state-subsidized adoption of children in subsidized guardianships.

**LB91**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, allows subsidized guardians to adopt children under certain circumstances and provides post-adoption assistance that mirrors the previous guardianship assistance.



*Sen. Gwen Howard*

Lawmakers passed the bill 49-0.

Introduced by Gay, **LB342** requires HHS to seek approval for Medicaid coverage of behavioral or psychological treatment for pediatric feeding disorders prior to any attempt to utilize invasive surgical techniques. The

bill requires HHS by July 1, 2010, to seek an amendment to the state Medicaid plan for coverage of a non-invasive treatment method offered by the Munroe-Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska.

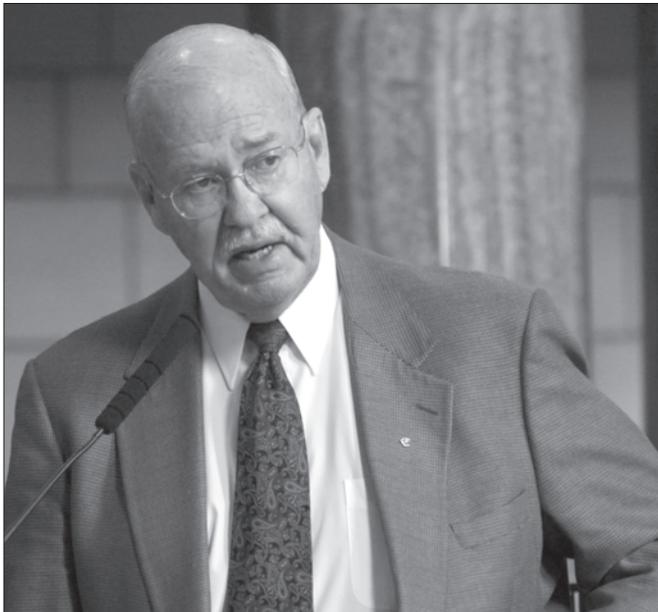
The bill passed 49-0 and will sunset Jan. 1, 2015.

A bill heard by the committee was amended into LB97, which was approved by lawmakers 48-0. **LB290**, sponsored by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman, prohibits both employees and volunteers who have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, or who have been charged with or indicted for a felony or crime of moral turpitude in a case that has not been resolved, from providing transportation through contracts with HHS to those under 19 years old or who are considered vulnerable. Individuals also will be required to undergo a national criminal history information check.



Sen. Arnie Stuthman

## Regulation and licensure



Sen. Cap Dierks

Nebraska joins a growing number of states that provide for licensure of animal therapists under a bill passed this session.

**LB463**, introduced by Ewing Sen. Cap Dierks, adds the category of licensed animal therapist to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act. The bill allows those licensed in chiropractics, massage therapy and physical

therapy to apply their skills to animals in consultation with licensed veterinarians.

A referral from a licensed veterinarian will be required prior to treatment and therapists will be liable for any damage done to an animal.

The bill was amended to include provisions of three other bills sponsored by Dierks.

**LB407** permits civil penalties against an individual who engages in the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine and surgery. The penalty for a first offense is a fine of at least \$1,000 and any subsequent offenses will incur a fine of at least \$5,000.

**LB408** permits licensed health care professionals to consult with any licensed veterinarian to perform collaborative health care tasks on an animal under a veterinarian's care and with a veterinarian's immediate supervision.

**LB586** exempts pharmacies and licensed veterinarians from provisions of the Veterinary Drug Distribution Licensing Act.

The bill passed on a vote of 49-0.

Senators also approved a bill that creates an exemption from the Nebraska Certificate of Need Act for intermediate care facilities for the mentally disabled with 15 or fewer beds.

The bill revises the definition of intermediate care facility under the act to exclude facilities for the mentally retarded with 15 or fewer beds. Such facilities will not be required to seek a certificate of need.

Cortland Sen. Norm Wallman, sponsor of **LB511**, said the bill provides the state more options for housing individuals displaced from the Beatrice State Developmental Center.

The bill passed 49-0.

Lawmakers agreed to indefinitely postpone a bill that would authorize HHS, with the recommendation of the Board of Dentistry, to establish rules and regulations for the education and training of dental assistants.

Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, sponsor of **LB542**, said the department believes it appropriate to regulate dental assistants but needs the Legislature to authorize them to do so.

After extended discussion, Campbell offered a motion to indefinitely postpone LB542, effectively laying the bill over until next session.



Sen. Norm Wallman



Sen. Kathy Campbell

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

## Clean-up bills

Senators passed two omnibus health care bills this session.

**LB288** is the annual clean-up bill for the Health and Human Services Committee, introduced by chairperson Gay on behalf of the state Department of Health and Human Services.

Among other technical changes, the bill:

- changes re-licensure provisions for public water system operators under the Safe Drinking Water Act;
- updates terminology in the Developmental Disabilities Services Act; and
- expands disciplinary provisions for pharmacy technicians.

The bill was amended to include provisions of seven additional bills.

**LB172**, introduced by Gay, establishes a cash fund for recoveries received for the state's costs and attorney fees pursuant to the False Medicaid Claims Act. Money in the fund will be used to pay salaries and related expenses for the Medicaid fraud unit.

**LB173**, also introduced by Gay, allows unused prescription drugs or devices dispensed under a valid prescription to a prisoner or detainee at a state Department of Correctional Services facility, criminal or juvenile detention facility or jail to be returned to the dispensing pharmacy.

Drugs or devices then can be relabeled and re-dispensed to a different prisoner or detainee at another such facility pursuant to a valid prescription.

**LB199**, introduced by Stuthman, makes several changes to the state's child and medical support collection laws.

**LB371**, introduced by Campbell, makes changes to the state's Medicaid Reform Council.

**LB390**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, changes the reimbursement method from an hourly to a daily rate for community-based developmental disability services funded through the HHS developmental disabilities division.

**LB462**, introduced by Dierks, eliminates existing informed consent provisions relating to testing for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). A separate consent for HIV testing will no longer be required, provided that a patient or his or her legal representative signs a general consent form.

**LB599**, introduced by Howard, requires a health care facility or practitioner, upon written request, to provide a free, itemized billing statement that includes diagnostic

codes within 14 days of a request.

The bill passed on a 44-0 vote.

**LB195**, introduced by Gay, brings Nebraska's Statewide Trauma System Act into compliance with federal requirements. The bill requires that trauma plans be updated every five years instead of every two years and updates the duties of the State Trauma Advisory Board and HHS.

As amended, the bill contains provisions from six other bills.

**LB132**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, makes technical changes to the state Barber Act.

**LB220**, introduced by Gloor, is a technical cleanup bill relating to pharmacy practice in Nebraska.

**LB250**, also introduced by Gloor, is a cleanup bill relating to physician assistant practices. Among other provisions, LB250 prohibits a physician from supervising more than four physician assistants at a time and allows physician assistants to sign birth and death certificates.

**LB341**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook, allows nurse practitioners to dispense drugs for the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis that are provided through HHS at no charge to the patient.

**LB367**, introduced by Gloor, exempts from certificate of need requirements a transfer or relocation of long-term care beds from one facility to another, among other provisions.

**LB451**, introduced by Campbell, updates terms relating to hearing instruments, allows for one member not licensed as an audiologist to serve on the state Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists and permits hearing instrument fitters and dealers to practice under an existing license until it expires.

**LB515**, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, creates the following new classifications for out-of-hospital emergency care providers: emergency medical responder, advanced emergency medical technician and paramedic. The bill allows for temporary licensure of care providers who have completed educational requirements but have not yet completed the testing requirements for licensure.

LB195 was passed on a 49-0 vote. ■



Sen. Tony Fulton



Sen. Tanya Cook



Sen. Colby Coash



Sen. Mike Flood

## Judiciary

**S**enators approved lethal injection as the state's method of execution this session. Measures relating to court fees, violent crime and exonerated inmates also were passed by lawmakers.

Since the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that electrocution – previously the sole method of execution authorized by Nebraska law – violated the state constitutional prohibition against inflicting cruel and unusual punishment, the state was left with no legal method for carrying out the death penalty.

### Criminal justice



*Sen. Mike Flood introduces LB36 to the Judiciary Committee.*

**LB36**, proposed by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, changes the method of execution from electrocution to intravenous injection of a substance or substances in a quantity sufficient to cause death.

The bill would require the Department of Correctional Services to establish protocol for conducting lethal injection executions, including selection of the lethal substance or substances to be used.

LB36 passed on a 34-12 vote.

A second bill relating to the death penalty remains on general file.

**LB306**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Brenda Council, would abolish the death penalty and replace it with a maximum sentence of life without possibility of parole and with an order of restitution.

Lawmakers indefinitely postponed a bill on general file that would have changed sentencing requirements for minors.

**LB307**, also introduced by Council, would have removed life imprisonment as a possible sentence for people 18 years old and younger who are convicted of a Class I felony.

Under the bill, people who are between the ages of 16 and 18 at the time a Class 1 or Class 1A felony crime is committed would be sentenced to a minimum of 50 years. Those under 16 who commit a Class I or Class 1A felony crime would be sentenced to a minimum of 40 years.

Council offered the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill on general file and senators agreed without objection.

Lawmakers also approved a bill that provides a process for exonerated inmates to receive government compensation.

**LB260**, introduced by Tekamah Sen. Kent Rogert, creates the Nebraska Claims for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment Act.

The bill entitles wrongfully convicted persons to a maximum of \$500,000. The original bill provided for \$50,000 for each year of incarceration and an additional \$50,000 for each year served on death row.

Claimants must have received a pardon or a vacated or reversed conviction to file a claim.

LB260 passed on a 36-9 vote.

Lawmakers passed a bill aimed at reducing violent crime and gang activity.

**LB63**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, enhances penalties for several existing firearm violations and violent crimes committed with weapons.

The bill increases the criminal penalties for possession of a handgun by a juvenile, illegal transfer of a firearm to a juvenile, possession of a firearm on school grounds, first and second degree assault, first and second degree assault on an officer, shooting at an occupied dwelling,



*Sen. Brenda Council*



*Sen. Kent Rogert*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

felon in possession of a deadly weapon and use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony.

The bill contains a provision from **LB35**, introduced by Ashford, which creates a state Office of Violence Prevention. The office will include a director and advisory board appointed by the governor and will work with state and local law enforcement to implement programs to reduce violence.

The office also will identify programs and services for people previously convicted of violent crimes to help change their pattern of violent behavior and will be funded through a \$350,000 transfer from the Community Corrections Uniform Data Analysis Cash Fund to the Violence Prevention Cash Fund.

Provisions from four other bills are included in **LB63**.

**LB64**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, requires the state Department of Education to develop a model dating violence policy by March 1, 2010, to assist school districts in developing policies, which districts must adopt by July 1, 2010.

Each school district will be required to publish and inform parents about its policy and provide staff training.

**LB429**, sponsored by Sen. Mark Christensen of Imperial, requires that any inmate allowed to participate in a work release program per an arrangement with a school district, educational service unit, community college, state college or university be supervised by an employee of the Department of Corrections while performing their job.

**LB276**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, provides stronger and more comprehensive penalties for graffiti and criminal defacement.



Sen. Heath Mello

**LB277**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Heath Mello, grants judges the authority to order a defendant in a criminal defacement case to clean or repair the defaced property and keep the property clean of graffiti for up to one year. Additionally, the court could require the defendant to



Sen. Brad Ashford



Sen. Gwen Howard



Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

undergo counseling.

The bill passed on a 43-4 vote.

Lawmakers also passed a bill addressing organized crime, identify theft, forgery and deceptive advertising.

**LB155**, introduced by Rogert, prohibits the receipt of proceeds or interest in an enterprise or in real property through racketeering activity or the collection of an unlawful debt.

Violators will be guilty of a Class III felony, unless the racketeering activity is punishable as a Class I, IA or IB felony, in which case perpetrators will be guilty of a Class IB felony.

In addition, the bill strengthens penalties for subsequent felony offenses of criminal impersonation and adds to criminal impersonation offenses violations of providing false identification information for employment or to the courts or law enforcement.

Finally, the bill declares that a person engages in a deceptive trade practice if he or she advertises the price of a good or service in a way intended to mislead or deceive.

**LB155** was passed on a 47-0 vote.

## Firearms



Sen. Mark Christensen

Senators also approved changes to the state's conceal and carry provisions this session.

**LB430**, introduced by Christensen, nullifies all city and village ordinances, permits and regulations regarding the ownership, possession and transportation of concealed handguns.

# UNICAMERAL UPDATE

The bill includes provisions from **LB145**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, which allows universities to prohibit firearms by expanding the definition of schools to include private postsecondary career schools, community colleges, public or private colleges, junior colleges, universities and any other educational institutions.



*Sen. Bill Avery*

**LB430** allows a place of worship to authorize its security personnel with concealed handgun permits to carry concealed handguns.

**LB430** passed on a 45-3 vote.

## Sex offenses

Lawmakers passed two bills relating to sex offenders this session.

**LB97**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh at the request of the state attorney general, creates the offense of unlawful use of the Internet by a registered sex offender and enhances the penalties for crimes relating to enticement of a child and the manufacture, possession and trafficking of child pornography.



*Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh*

Provisions from two other bills were amended into **LB97**.

**LB15**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tom White, requires the addition of driver's licenses, e-mail addresses, instant messaging screen names and other Internet communication identifiers to the database of registered sex offenders.



*Sen. Tom White*

**LB290**, sponsored by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman, prohibits both employees and volunteers who have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, or who have been charged with or indicted for a felony or crime of moral turpitude in a case that has not been resolved, from providing transportation to vulnerable Nebraskans or those under 19 years old through contracts with the state Department of Health and Human Services.



*Sen. Arnie Stuthman*

**LB97** was passed on a 48-0 vote.

Another bill relating to sex offenders was **LB285**, in-

roduced by Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch, which expands information included in the registry and changes the verification process for that information. The bill also expands registry offenses and outlines changes in the duration of registration requirements, penalties for failure to register and public access to the information.



*Sen. Pete Pirsch*

**LB285** is not retroactive and the length of registration is based solely on the convicted offense, rather than on the offender's risk of recidivism.

Senators passed **LB285** on a 46-1 vote.

**LB517**, introduced by North Platte Sen. Tom Hansen, exempts Nebraska courts from making reasonable efforts to reunify a family in which a parent has been convicted of a felony sexual assault of the other parent. In such a case, courts also could terminate the felon's parental rights.



*Sen. Tom Hansen*

The bill also applies to parents who subject any minor child to abandonment, torture, chronic abuse or sexual abuse.

**LB517** was passed 49-0.

## Abortion ultrasounds



*Sen. Tony Fulton explains LB675.*

Senators passed a bill requiring a physician performing fetal ultrasounds prior to an abortion to display the image in a manner viewable by the patient before the procedure is performed.

Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, sponsor of **LB675**, said

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

physicians would be under no obligation to describe the images and patients would not be required to look at them.

The bill also requires the state Department of Health and Human Services to compile a comprehensive list of free ultrasound providers to be available to women considering an abortion. Ultrasounds must be administered by a registered nurse in order for a facility to be included on the list.

LB675 passed on a 40-5 vote.

## Immigration

Senators also addressed illegal immigration this session, passing a bill that will require electronic verification of legal status for some employees and applicants for public benefits.

**LB403**, introduced by Wilber Sen. Russ Karpisek, will prohibit state agencies and political subdivisions from providing federal, state or local public benefits to individuals not lawfully present in the United States.



*Sen. Russ Karpisek*

The bill includes provisions from **LB34**, introduced by Ashford, which will require public employers to verify the legal status of employees by using E-Verify, a federal database operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. Status checks will be conducted after hiring.

Provisions from **LB335**, introduced by Friend, also are included in the bill. The measure denies tax incentives to employers who do not electronically verify the legal presence of all employees working in Nebraska.

The bill passed on a 44-0 vote.



*Sen. Mike Friend*

## Courts

With the approval of an omnibus courts bill, senators addressed issues ranging from court fees to the expansion of the jury pool.

**LB35**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford, increases criminal docket fees from \$1 to \$2. The \$290,000 generated by the increase will be directed to the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. The bill also includes provisions from several other bills.



*Sen. Brad Ashford, chairperson of the Judiciary Committee*

**LB669**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Colby Coash, creates a new Lancaster County District Court judgeship. Originally set to take effect this year, senators voted to delay the new judgeship until July 1, 2011.



*Sen. Colby Coash*

**LB40**, introduced by Flood, makes technical changes to new trial procedures and the Uniform Credentialing Act.

**LB46**, **LB47** and **LB118**, all introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, make technical changes relating to probate law.

Four Ashford bills are included in **LB35**.

**LB273** increases fees charged for county sheriffs to hand-deliver court documents. The measure raises five types of fees by 20 percent and allows the plaintiff to recover costs upon a voluntary payment after the action is filed but before a judgment is issued.

**LB332** makes technical changes to county courts, especially in regards to adoption, foster care and CASA volunteers.

**LB333** raises the Supreme Court Automation fee from \$6 to \$8 to fund the automation conversion of the Douglas County District Court and Juvenile Court to the statewide court computer system.

**LB344** makes technical changes to the Civil Legal Services Program, which provides grants to civil legal service



*Sen. John Wightman*



*Sen. Mike Flood*

# UNICAMERAL UPDATE

providers offering free services to low-income people.

**LB305**, introduced by Council, adds individuals who possess a state identification card to the source list used to create the master jury list. The master jury list was previously comprised of registered voters and registered drivers in the state of Nebraska.

**LB352**, introduced by Lautenbaugh, allows commercial couriers to deliver summons.

**LB353** and **LB354**, both introduced by Lautenbaugh, make technical changes to civil and cross-appeal procedures.



*Sen. Steve Lathrop*

**LB433**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, expands the district courts' exclusive jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases that arise from the same incident as a charged felony.

The bill passed on a 46-1 vote.

Lawmakers passed a bill that will provide more training and resources to Nebraska county attorneys who investigate deaths.

**LB671**, sponsored by Pirsch, grants the Nebraska County Attorney Standards Advisory Council authority to create standardized procedures for death investigations, create and distribute uniform checklists of best practices and establish a region-based state medical examiner system.

The bill also increases from four to six the number of county attorneys on the advisory council and allows one member to be a professor of law or forensic science.

Every person elected or appointed as a coroner in Nebraska will be required to complete initial death investigation training within one year and annual continuing education.

The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

An updated version of the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Juveniles was adopted under a bill passed this session. The compact is an agreement between states to track and supervise juveniles on probation who move across state borders and regulate the return of out-of-state runaways.

**LB237**, introduced by Lathrop, expands the compact's provisions to juveniles who are in other states as a result of adoption, foster care or relative care placement.

LB237 was approved 47-0.

A bill included in the budget package relates to judges' salaries.

**LB414**, introduced by Louisville Sen. Dave Pankonin, increases state Supreme Court judges' salaries by 2.5

percent annually for the next two years. Other judges also receive an increase because their salaries are statutorily tied to the salaries of Supreme Court judges.

The bill requires a monthly 1 percent increase in certain judges' contribution rates from July 1, 2009, until July 1, 2014.

Also included is a \$1 increase in court filing fees, which will be dedicated solely to funding the judges' retirement system and serves as the employer contribution.



*Sen. Dave Pankonin*

## Pets and animals

A bill that increases penalties for the owners of dangerous dogs also passed this session.

**LB494**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Beau McCoy, charges the owner of a dangerous dog with a Class I misdemeanor if the dog mutilates a person or causes the loss of a body part.

The bill defines a dangerous dog as one that, according to the records of an animal control authority, has:

- killed a human being;
- inflicted injury on a human being that required medical treatment;
- killed a domestic animal without provocation; or
- been previously determined to be a potentially dangerous dog by an animal control authority and the owner has received notice of such determination, after which the dog inflicts an injury on a human being that does not require medical treatment, injures a domestic animal or threatens the safety of humans or domestic animals.

A dog also is deemed dangerous if it causes injuries resulting in sutures, surgery or treatment for one or more broken bones.

The bill also includes provisions from **LB71**, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett, which requires animal care workers who have reason to suspect cases of animal abandonment, neglect or abuse to report instances to the appropriate investigative entities. The measure provides immunity from liability for those who make reports.

LB494 passed on a 48-0 vote.



*Sen. Beau McCoy*



*Sen. Abbie Cornett*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers declined to advance **LB83**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill. Under the bill, judges could issue orders directing the care, custody and control of household pets if a victim of domestic abuse provides sufficient evidence in a protection order request that a pet is being used as a part of the abuse.



Sen. Amanda McGill

## Other bills

Lawmakers passed a bill that requires sports agents seeking to represent student athletes to register with the state.

**LB292**, also introduced by Lathrop, requires registration, certification and background checks of sports agents seeking to represent intercollegiate athletes. The process will be administered by the secretary of state.

The bill enables student athletes to opt out of an agreement within 14 days of signing. The director of the school's athletic department must be notified when a student athlete enters into a contract with a sports agent.

LB292 passed on a 49-0 vote.

A bill passed this session adds a new drug to the state's list of controlled substances.

**LB123**, introduced by Karpisek, creates penalties for the possession and use of salvia divinorum and salvinorin

A. Salvia divinorum is a plant native to Mexico that, when smoked or chewed, produces an hallucinogenic effect much like LSD.

Possession would bring a penalty of up to five years in jail, while trafficking of the drug would bring a penalty of up to 20 years.

The bill passed 44-0.

Two other judiciary bills were amended into other bills this session.

**LB356**, sponsored by Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas, appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2009-10 and \$1 million in FY2010-11 to support children's behavioral health services. The bill was amended in to LB603, a package of bills intended to address issues raised by the state's 2008 safe haven law.



Sen. Annette Dubas

A judiciary bill relating to child support was amended into LB288.

**LB199**, introduced by Stuthman, provides for the reporting of independent contractors under the New Hire Act, which aids in the identification of new workers with child support obligations.

Among other provisions, the bill requires a custodial parent to provide health care insurance or cash medical support for a child if the cost does not exceed 5 percent of the parent's gross income. ■

## Legislature



*Sen. John Wightman, chairperson of the Executive Board*

A planning measure was advanced by the Executive Board and passed by the Legislature this session.

Introduced by Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms, **LB653** establishes a special committee of the Legislature called the Planning Committee. Members will include the speaker, Executive Board chairperson, Appropriations Committee chairperson and six senators chosen by the chairperson of the Executive Board. **LB653** passed on a 46-0 vote.



*Sen. John Harms*

A Sentencing and Recidivism Task Force was established with **LR171** on a 39-0 vote.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford, the resolution creates a seven-member task force to study the sentencing of juveniles and adults in Nebraska, as well as issues relating to incarcerated individuals' re-entry into communities. Members will be appointed by the Executive Board and the task force terminates Jan. 1, 2011.



*Sen. Brad Ashford*

The Developmental Disabilities Special Investigative Committee was authorized to remain intact until January 2011 with the passage of **LR11**, on a 43-0 vote.

The committee was established by the Legislature in

2008 to study quality of care and related staffing issues at the Beatrice State Developmental Center.

Sponsored by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, the resolution directs the committee to continue providing oversight to ensure that the terms of the U.S. Department of Justice consent decree and the recommendations from the committee's own report are implemented in a timely fashion. Further reports will be issued as needed.



*Sen. Steve Lathrop*

Current senators will be retained on the committee, and Lathrop will continue to serve as chairperson.

The passage of **LB16** this session set parameters on a Web site to be maintained by the state treasurer's office.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Tom White, the bill directs the state treasurer to develop a searchable Web site that includes information regarding state fund expenditures and tax receipts. The site will include names of those receiving or disbursing funds, amounts received or expended and descriptions of each expenditure's purpose.



*Sen. Tom White*

The Web site, due to be completed by Jan. 1, 2010, will include data beginning with fiscal year 2008-09. New data will be available on the site no later than 30 days after the end of the preceding fiscal year. The bill passed 40-0.

The office of Legislative Audit and Research is divided into two offices with the passage of **LB620**. Introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, the bill enacts recommendations from an independent peer review that suggested the research and audit functions be organized under separate offices with separate budgets.

**LB620** passed on a 49-0 vote.

Finally, **LR257**, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Scott Price, declares the Legislature's support for the collection of private donations to design, construct and install a fountain in each of the four courtyards of the state Capitol Building.



*Sen. Scott Price*

The Capitol's original design by architect Bertram Goodhue called for a fountain in each courtyard. Economic constraints of the Great Depression, however, halted their construction, which has yet to commence. The resolution was adopted 37-0. ■

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

## Natural Resources

**R**enewable energy, natural resources districts, water, gaming and public power districts were some of the topics addressed in bills heard by the Natural Resources Committee this year.

### Renewable energy



*Sen. Steve Lathrop*

The development of wind power in the state was the subject of two bills passed by the Legislature.

**LB561**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, permits public power districts to limit their use of eminent domain to acquire wind power generation facilities.

The bill also changes the eligibility requirements for community-based energy development (C-BED) projects. It subtracts financing for the construction of a project from gross power purchase agreement payments if Nebraskans have at least 33 percent equity ownership in the C-BED project.

**LB561** includes provisions of **LB471**, introduced by Sen. Tony Fulton, which allows public power districts and other electric utilities to submit for Nebraska Power Review Board approval any renewable energy facilities generating more than 10,000 kilowatts of electricity without meeting a standard that allows for only the most economical



*Sen. Tony Fulton*

generators.

C-BED projects may apply to the board if the appropriate utility holds a public hearing and the electricity generated by the project will be sold exclusively to the utility for at least 20 years.

**LB561** passed on a 44-1 vote.

The second bill addressing wind energy was **LB568**, introduced by Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas and passed by the body 48-0.

**LB568** limits the duration of wind agreements to 40 years. Contracts will terminate if development has not started within 10 years, although parties can mutually agree to extend their arrangements.

The bill requires that leases include descriptions of intended developments for a property and plans for decommissioning wind turbines. In addition, the bill mandates that wind rights not be separated from the land from which the wind benefits are derived.

Net metering was another form of renewable energy addressed this session. Introduced by Malcolm Sen. Ken Haar, **LB436** implements a statewide net metering policy to provide credits to consumers for electricity generated via renewable energy.

The bill credits consumers at a retail rate for the electricity they consume from public utilities and consumers will be compensated by utilities at a wholesale rate for additional electricity generated. Utilities will not be required to accommodate additional customer-generators after total capacity of all customer-generators meets or exceeds 1 percent of customer peak demand for that year.

The bill passed 46-0.

Lawmakers called for a plan to develop biotechnology with the passage of **LB246** on a 37-5 vote.

Sponsored by Dubas, the bill directs the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee to develop a plan by June 30, 2010, that includes a review and assessment of the state's biotechnology economic potential and strategies for development to create related wealth and jobs.

The bill defines biotechnology as a technological application that uses biological systems, living organ-



*Sen. Annette Dubas*



*Sen. Ken Haar*

isms or their derivatives to make or modify products or processes.

A nonprofit corporation will be commissioned to provide research, analysis and recommendations for the plan, as well as a matching \$100,000 to fund the research.

The Legislature also extended funding for a scrap tire recycling program.

**LB379**, introduced by Haar, extends by five years the sunset for the program provided by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund. The fund annually provides up to \$1 million for projects ranging from crumb rubber generation to tire-derived products.

The program also reimburses political subdivisions for costs associated with cleaning up scrap tire collection and disposal sites.

The bill passed 46-0.

## Natural resources districts



*Sen. Chris Langemeier, chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee*

Lawmakers established a process by which NRDs can change from a fully appropriated status with the passage of **LB483** on a 46-0 vote.

Introduced by Schuyler Sen. Chris Langemeier, the bill creates a protocol for NRDs to use when the state Department of Natural Resources modifies its designation of a river basin, subbasin or reach from fully appropriated to not fully appropriated.

Under **LB483**, NRDs will draft rules and regulations dictating the prioritization and granting of water well permits for at least a four-year period after the department changes a district's designation from fully appro-

riated to not fully appropriated. NRDs will submit to the department the total number of new irrigated acres they will issue annually under the new designation. If the number is not approved, NRDs will be permitted only 2,500 acres or 20 percent of historically irrigated acres, whichever is less.

Each NRD can retain its rules after the four-year period following the department's designation. Surface water appropriations issued by the department for NRDs shifting back to not fully appropriated status will be capped at 834 acres annually.

Current law requires the appropriate natural resources district to develop an integrated management plan when a river basin, subbasin or reach is designated as overappropriated or receives a final declaration of fully appropriated. The plan examines the effects of existing and potential water uses on existing surface and ground water users.

A bill passed by the Legislature 36-12 permits NRDs to issue bonds for flood control projects.

**LB160**, introduced by Papillion Sen. Tim Gay, permits NRDs containing a city of the metropolitan class to issue bonds for flood protection and water quality enhancement projects until 2020.

Two-thirds approval from an NRD board is required before the issuance of bonds, which may be financed by up to one cent of an NRD's existing levy authority. Bond levies exceeding one cent require voter approval.

Projects including a permanent pool exceeding 20 surface acres must offer public access. County boards may block projects greater than 20 surface acres proposed within their zoning jurisdiction by passing a resolution at a public hearing held within 90 days after the NRD provides notice of the project.

**LB54**, introduced by Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer, requires that plans include procedures for tracking depletions and gains resulting from new, expired or modified water uses. The bill will not affect plans approved before its enactment.

The bill requires that districts use generally accepted methodologies to estimate streamflow depletions and gains and provide information on gains as offsets to new uses.

Districts must verify that new uses will have a minimal



*Sen. Tim Gay*



*Sen. Deb Fischer*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

effect on existing surface or ground water uses, identify water available to mitigate new uses and offer a plan for water offsets for economic development purposes. Districts also will develop application procedures for new water uses and corresponding offsets.

LB54 passed 47-0.

A bill dealing with the use of eminent domain was indefinitely postponed on general file.

LB134 would allow NRDs to use eminent domain for a recreational trail only if it is associated with a flood control structure.

At the request of the bill's sponsor, Louisville Sen. Dave Pankonin, the bill was indefinitely postponed 40-0. Pankonin made the decision to kill his bill after the Lower Platte South NRD and the Cass County Board agreed to a voluntary moratorium on the construction of the MoPac East Trail, a bike route intended to connect the cities of Lincoln and Omaha.



Sen. Dave Pankonin

## Water

Those wishing to transfer a ground water right must follow a uniform procedure provided by LB477.

Introduced by Holdrege Sen. Tom Carlson and passed 49-0, the bill requires NRDs to obtain a title report that identifies lienholders and documents their consent before approving a transfer of certified irrigated acres or other certified water uses. The provisions also pertain to participation in an NRD financial incentive program.



Sen. Tom Carlson

Lienholders who do not consent to a transfer will be permitted to bring action against the person seeking the transfer for damages done to the lienholder's interest in the land.

Another bill authorizes the department to administer riparian water rights, a practice it relinquished after its statutory authority to do so was challenged.

Under LB184, introduced by Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon, the administration of riparian water rights, which affect water usage in streams adjacent to properties, is restored to the department.



Sen. LeRoy Loudon

LB184 passed on a 45-0 vote.

Introduced by Fischer and passed 43-3, LB56 administers penalties for illegally discharging livestock waste into state waters on a facility-by-facility basis.

The bill changes previous law under which violations of the Livestock Waste Management Act resulted in "strikes" being levied against offending National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit holders. Strikes were applied to the violating facility, as well as other facilities in partnership with them.

Under LB56, strikes do not apply to partners, shareholders, parent companies, subsidiaries or affiliates of permit holders. Furthermore, strikes are administered only for discharges caused intentionally or negligently.

## Game and Parks

Members of the Legislature voted 30-18 to pass a bill that permits the placement of traps in county road rights of way.

LB5, introduced by Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen, repeals the 2007 ban on trapping in county road ditches. Counties may opt out of the provisions of LB5 or prohibit trapping only in certain areas.

No traps larger than those allowed by the Game and Parks Commission as of Feb. 1, 2009, may be placed in rights of way.

LB105, introduced by Langemeier, increases limits for fees administered by the commission.

The bill raises the limit for aquatic habitat stamps from \$7.50 to \$10 and lifetime fishing permits from \$100 to \$200.

Other increases in fee limits included in LB105 are:

- migratory waterfowl stamps from \$10 to \$16;
- replacement fees for lifetime habitat stamps, lifetime migratory stamps and lifetime aquatic stamps from \$1.50 to \$5;
- habitat stamps from \$16 to \$20; and
- a fee limit of \$299 for a resident lifetime fur harvesting permit.

The bill includes penalties for offenses ranging from discharging a firearm from a road to hunting without a permit. Fines for hunting using spotlights attached to or used from a vehicle or boat are increased from \$150 to \$250.



Sen. Mark Christensen



Sen. Chris Langemeier

# UNICAMERAL UPDATE

The bill also creates youth hunting permits for various game animals.

LB105 passed on a 47-0 vote.

## Other bills

Chartered territories and sealed bids for public power districts are changed under two bills passed this session.

**LB53**, introduced by Fischer, eliminates separate rules for public power districts operating in fewer than 50 counties. Areas with public utilities that purchase less than half their energy from public power districts are no longer included in the district's chartered territory, and thus have no representation on power boards under the bill.

LB53 passed on a 41-5 vote.

Public power districts are permitted to contract without sealed bids for projects not exceeding \$250,000 under a bill passed 47-0.

**LB300**, introduced by Elk Creek Sen. Lavon Heidemann, raises the sealed bid threshold for the construction and improvement of power systems, irrigations works and hydrogen and ethanol facilities. The current limit for projects contracted without sealed bids is \$100,000.

The bill also raises the threshold for sealed bids to \$500,000 for districts with revenue exceeding \$500 million. ■



*Sen. Lavon Heidemann*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

## Retirement Systems



Sen. Dave Pankonin, chairperson of the Retirement Systems Committee

Lawmakers made several changes to provisions of the state's retirement systems this session.

**LB188**, introduced by Louisville Sen. Dave Pankonin at the request of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System (NPERS), extends two timelines for state and county retirement plan members.

Members who have earned credit in another Nebraska government plan will have 180 days to apply for vesting credit under the bill. The current window is 30 days. The window of opportunity for beneficiaries to file death benefit applications under state and county plans will increase to 180 days from the current 120 days.

State and county members who were employed and participating in a retirement system prior to Jan. 1, 2003, who terminate but return to work after 120 days but before five years have transpired, will be enrolled in the cash balance benefit plan.

LB188 also:

- provides a one-year moratorium on required minimum distributions for members of defined contribution plans who have terminated and reached the age of 70 ½ in 2009;
- allows state plan members to transfer an account to a deferred compensation plan after terminating employment; and
- clarifies that employee records received by NPERS and used to administer retirement systems will not be subject to the public records act.

Provisions of **LB81**, sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha, were incorporated into the bill. LB81 increases a state patrol plan member's contribution rate to 16 percent of monthly compensation beginning July 1, 2010. The employer contribution rate also will increase to 16 percent in an effort to close a funding shortfall in the state patrol plan.



Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

LB188 passed on a 45-0 vote.

Lawmakers approved two changes to the school employees retirement system.

**LB187**, introduced by the committee, will increase the contribution rate for both the state school employees' retirement system and the Omaha school employees' retirement system by 1 percent for five years, beginning Sept. 1, 2009. The employer match also will increase and the contribution rate for both retirement systems will increase from 0.7 percent to 1 percent for five years beginning July 1, 2009.

**LB449**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell, allows a disability beneficiary younger than 65 years of age to return to work at a school for less than 15 hours per week if a physician has certified the individual as permanently disabled.



Sen. Kathy Campbell

Both bills passed on 49-0 votes. ■

## Revenue



*Sen. Abbie Cornett, chairperson of the Revenue Committee*

**T**ax credits, sales tax exemptions and county aid were among the issues heard by the Revenue Committee and passed by the Legislature.

Farmers using wood and corn for fuel or applying mineral oil to control dust can utilize a new sales tax exemption offered by **LB9**.

Introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, the bill exempts purchases of wood and corn from sales and use tax when more than half of the purchase is intended to fuel irrigation, farming and electricity generation or is used by a hospital.

Passed 44-3, the bill also creates an exemption for mineral oil applied to grain as a dust suppressant.

Another sales tax exemption made it to the governor's desk before the Legislature reconsidered the bill due to budgetary constraints.

**LB420**, introduced by Kearney Sen. Galen Hadley, would permit nonprofit health clinics and health care practitioner facilities owned by at least one nonprofit hospital to claim a sales and use tax exemption. Current statute requires that clinics be owned by two or



*Sen. John Wightman*



*Sen. Galen Hadley*

more hospitals or parent corporations to be eligible.

Nonprofit health clinics receiving federal funds through the U.S. Public Health Service and serving medically underserved populations also could claim the exemption.

The bill initially passed 42-0, but senators voted 40-2 to reconsider the vote. The bill remains on final reading.

The excise tax levied against chewing tobacco was the subject of another bill this session.

Introduced by Sen. Abbie Cornett, **LB89** changes the taxation of snuff from 20 percent of purchase price to 44 cents per ounce. The bill defines "snuff" as any finely cut, ground or powdered tobacco that is not intended for smoking. It was passed 39-5.

Two bills addressing income tax liability remain on final reading.

**LB112**, introduced by Elk Creek Sen. Lavon Heidemann, would exclude payments made under a program that offers loan repayment in exchange for serving state-designated shortage areas. The measure applies to pharmacists, dentists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, mental health practitioners, psychologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and physicians.



*Sen. Lavon Heidemann*

The maximum amount of state financial assistance annually provided through loan repayments ranges from \$10,000 to \$20,000, depending on the health care professional's practice area.

Introduced by Papillion Sen. Tim Gay, **LB159**, would allow a nonrefundable income tax credit equal to 25 percent of premiums paid for long-term care insurance policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2010. The credit could be claimed for a maximum of three years and an unused credit could not be carried forward to the next tax year.



*Sen. Tim Gay*

Tax credits would be the lesser of a taxpayer's income tax liability or:

- \$150 on individual returns and \$300 on joint returns in fiscal year 2010-11;
- \$200 on individual returns and \$400 on joint returns in FY2011-12; and
- \$250 on individual returns and \$500 on joint returns in FY2012-13, FY2013-2014 and FY2014-15.

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers approved a bill 40-4 that increases the tax credit offered under the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Tom White, **LB555** increases the research tax credit provided by the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act from 15 to 35 percent if a business firm conducts research activities that qualify under the Federal Research and Development Tax Credit at a college or university-owned facility.



Sen. Tom White

Introduced by Cornett and passed 48-0, **LB164** establishes a Dec. 31, 2015, sunset date for the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act, the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act, and Tiers I and III of the Nebraska Advantage Act.

Among other provisions, the bill also extends the sunset date for the Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnership and the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act grant programs from Jan. 1, 2011 to Jan. 1, 2015.

Senators also addressed tax incentive program criteria.

As introduced, **LB335** would deny tax incentives to employers who do not electronically verify the legal presence of all employees working in Nebraska. Any hours worked and compensation paid to unverified employees could not be applied to tax incentives.

Tax incentive programs affected by the legislation, which was sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, include the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act, the Nebraska Advantage Act, the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act and the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act.



Sen. Mike Friend

As amended into LB403, which was passed by lawmakers 44-0, the provisions apply only to newly hired employees.

County aid programs were restructured by a bill passed this session.

**LB218**, introduced by Cornett and passed 37-1, eliminates the jail cost reimbursement program, state aid to counties and the county property tax relief program on July 1, 2011. The programs are replaced with a new aid program based solely on the share of statewide taxable value found in each county.

Funding for the new county aid program ranges from 0.0075 to 0.0125 percent of the total real and personal property valuation of all counties. Each county will receive \$30,000, while the remaining funding will be distributed based on each county's percentage of the total valuation of all counties. Aid distribution will be annually updated.

The state will cease providing property valuations for nine counties with the passage of **LB121** on a 42-6 vote.

Introduced by Wightman, the bill requires Dakota, Dodge, Garfield, Greeley, Harlan, Hitchcock, Keith, Saunders and Sherman counties to reimburse the state for the costs associated with valuations until they resume assessment services. Starting in 2010, reimbursement will begin at 25 percent and grow 25 percent annually until the counties assume 100 percent of the cost in 2013.

The bill includes exceptions for budget limits and levy lids to help counties pay for the new expenses. In addition, LB121 permits noncontiguous counties to pursue interlocal agreements for joint assessment.

Another bill allows counties to bond twice as long for capital improvement projects.

Introduced by Lincoln Sen. Kathy Campbell and passed 48-0, **LB294** extends from 10 to 20 years the time frame during which counties may levy taxes financing bonds for capital improvement projects.



Sen. Kathy Campbell

Finally, a bill approved by the Legislature 45-2 simplifies contractor registration requirements.

**LB162**, introduced by Cornett, will create a single contractor database to be used by the state departments of Labor and Revenue for the purposes of the Revenue Act and the Contractor Registration Act. The Department of Labor will administer the database and both departments will be allowed to share registration information. ■

## Transportation and Telecommunications



*Sen. Deb Fischer, chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee*

The availability of specialty license plates, the administration of motor vehicle documents and the rules of the road were modified with the passage of legislation heard by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee in 2009.

**LB110**, introduced by Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer and passed 46-0, provides for specialty license plates administered by the state Department of Motor Vehicles. The bill:

- permits the printing of specialty plates for qualified nonprofits if 500 prepaid applications for the plates have been collected;
- offers specialty plates to qualified organizations for \$70 per plate;
- increases personalized message plate fees from \$30 to \$40, with additional proceeds directed to the highway trust fund; and

- directs an existing \$5 fee associated with military license plates, such as POW or Pearl Harbor survivors, to the Nebraska veteran cemetery system fund.

Under the bill, the Spirit Plate Proceeds Fund, which establishes endowments to provide scholarships for former university athletes and financial support for academic service units of athletic departments, will receive 57 percent of fees generated by Nebraska Cornhusker Spirit plates until the fund is credited \$5 million, after which proceeds will be directed to the highway trust fund.

Two bills dealing with the issuance of motor vehicle documents passed this session.

**LB49**, introduced by Fischer, requires county treasurers to manage certificates of title, registrations, license plates, renewal decals and the notation and cancellation of liens. County treasurers also are charged with collecting taxes and fees required for motor vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, minibikes, snowmobiles, trailers and motorboats.

Only 47 of Nebraska's 93 counties delegated these duties to county treasurers prior to LB49, which passed 45-0.

**LB202** was introduced by the committee and passed by the Legislature 48-0.

The bill requires that the DMV develop by Jan. 1, 2011, an electronic system for motor vehicle and motorboat titles and liens. A certificate of title will remain in the system if a lien or notice of a lien is filed and owners can obtain printed certificates of title once all liens are discharged.

The bill permits electronic title records to serve as sufficient evidence of an owner's interest in a vehicle or boat. In addition, all security interests and liens will be submitted and cancelled through the system, which dealers and security interest holders can access.

The committee also addressed the administration of the highway safety program with **LB219**, which the Legislature passed on a 39-7 vote.

Sponsored by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, the bill transfers the powers and duties of the highway safety program from the DMV to the state Department of Roads beginning July 1. The DMV will retain responsibility for administering the Motorcycle Safety Education Act.

A bill intended to increase safety for emergency responders passed on a 47-0 vote.



*Sen. Mike Flood*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, **LB92** requires drivers on controlled-access highways with four or more lanes to move into a lane at least one lane apart from stationary emergency and road assistance vehicles that are using audio and visual signals. Violators will be guilty of a traffic infraction for the first offense and a Class IIIA misdemeanor for second and subsequent offenses.



*Sen. Gwen Howard*

Emergency vehicles, as defined in the bill, include motorist assistance vehicles operated by the Nebraska State Patrol, towing and roadside assistance vehicles registered with the U.S. Department of Transportation and vehicles operated by the state Department of Roads.

The bill includes exemptions for poor weather and unavailable lanes. Drivers facing those circumstances are required to maintain a safe speed and proceed with caution.

Another bill would mitigate fines for those charged with speeding in construction zones.

**LB111**, introduced by Fischer, stipulates that speeding fines may be doubled in construction zones only if the officer issuing the citation determines that road workers are present in the construction zone. The bill passed 47-0.

Senators made adjustments to previous legislation intended to combat drunken driving.

**LB497**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, makes changes to legislation passed last year implementing ignition interlock devices to reduce drunken driving recidivism. The bill permits those with two or more DUI



*Sen. Tony Fulton*

convictions to apply for ignition interlock permits and decreases acceptable blood-alcohol concentration limits from 0.08 to 0.03 for ignition interlock devices.

The bill also permits those who refuse to submit to a chemical test to apply for ignition interlock permits 60 days after their license is revoked. This provision is offered only to those who have not refused an additional chemical test within 12 years.

Another modification in the bill is a 45-day minimum waiting period for ignition interlock permit eligibility for those convicted of second or subsequent DUI offenses and for first-time offenders with high blood-alcohol concentrations.

LB497 was passed 47-0.

A second bill dealing with alcohol was advanced by the committee.

Introduced by Tekamah Sen. Kent Rogert, **LB261** would permit retailers selling alcohol, tobacco or lottery tickets to retain information gathered by electronically scanning their customers' identification cards. The bill also would permit the storage of license and ID card holders' ages.

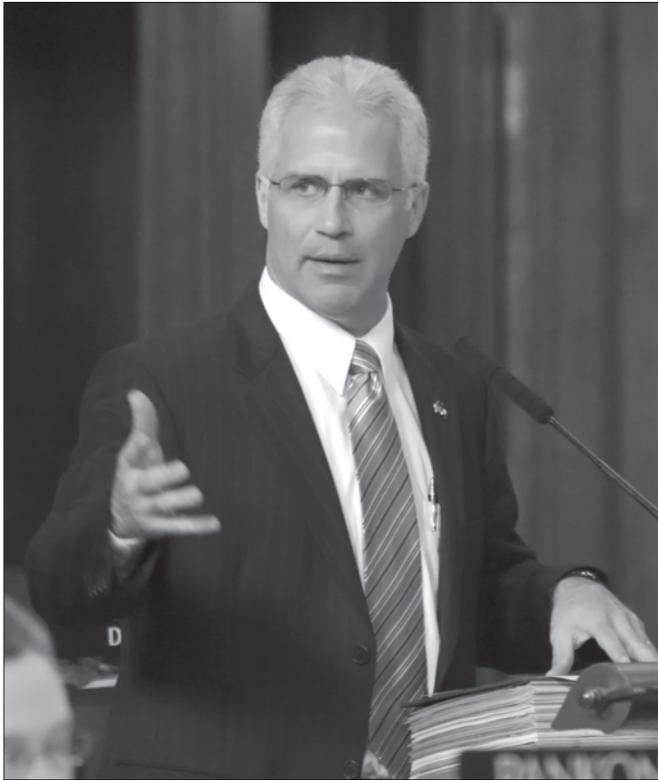


*Sen. Kent Rogert*

The information would be used by law enforcement for the purpose of enforcing restrictions on age-sensitive products. The bill would prohibit retailers from selling the information.

The bill remains on general file. ■

## Urban Affairs



*Sen. Mike Friend, chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee*

**N**atural gas infrastructure replacement, annexation and bonding authority topped the list of issues heard by the Urban Affairs Committee and addressed by lawmakers this session.

Natural gas companies replacing infrastructure due to regulations or public works can recover their losses through a process authorized under a bill sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend.

**LB658** permits investor-owned natural gas providers to institute an infrastructure system replacement mechanism rate between general rate reviews to pay for infrastructure replacements undertaken to comply with state or federal safety requirements or accommodate the construction of a road or another public works project.

The bill permits natural gas utilities to recoup these costs without pursuing a full-scale rate review by the Public Service Commission. Instead, providers may file a petition and proposed rate schedule with the commission to establish a replacement rate to pay for eligible infrastructure system replacements.

Eligible projects include but are not limited to new

mains, valves, service lines, regulator stations and vaults. Utilities may begin submitting petitions and proposed rate schedules beginning Jan. 1, 2010.

LB658 passed on a 48-0 vote.

A measure intended to clarify subdivision property transfers during annexation also was approved.

**LB495**, introduced by Friend, clarifies that a municipality becomes the owner of designated streets and public areas upon annexation and not upon mere approval of a plat.

Three bills were amended into LB495.

**LB104**, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett, changes annexation law for cities and villages in a county with a population of more than 100,000 but less than 200,000. The bill applies only to cities and villages in Sarpy County.

Under the bill, a city or village clerk must send notice by certified mail no later than 14 days before a planning commission hearing on a proposed annexation to listed entities providing energy services to customers in the area proposed for annexation.

**LB338**, sponsored by Friend, changes regulations relating to weed height in first class cities. The bill retains the 12-inch height for a first offense, but cities may reduce the height to eight inches if grasses have been removed at the same location at the city's expense within the same calendar year.

Vegetation planted expressly for weed or erosion control on ground that is vacant or under development is not subject to nuisance vegetation provisions.

**LB647**, sponsored by Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen, requires that first and second class cities and villages provide notice to property owners when such property is the subject of a proposed annexation. Notice must be postmarked at least 10 working days prior to the planning commission public hearing on the proposed annexation. The same notice must be sent by certified mail to the clerk of any sanitary and improvement district that is part of a proposed annexation.

LB495 passed 46-1.

Senators approved a bill allowing municipalities to create urban growth districts and authorize issuance of



*Sen. Abbie Cornett*



*Sen. Mark Christensen*

# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

urban growth bonds.

**LB85**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill, provides for urban growth districts to be created at the edges of cities where development has occurred twenty years prior to a bond's issuance. Bonds will be secured by a pledge of the estimated sales and use tax revenues anticipated to be identified by the creation of urban growth districts. The percentage identified will then be applied to the city's overall sales tax receipts.

Urban growth bond use is limited to roads, streets, streetscapes and bridges. A two-thirds vote of local governing body members is required before a bond can be issued.

The bill passed on a 33-10 vote.

Metropolitan class cities are authorized to establish a land reutilization authority under a bill passed this session.

Currently, counties have jurisdiction to dispose of tax-delinquent land. Under **LB360**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Tanya Cook, metropolitan class cities also are granted land reutilization authority.

Under the bill, a county authority will continue to exist after creation of a municipal land reutilization authority and will retain jurisdiction over property located outside of city limits.

A newly created municipal land reutilization authority also will be allowed to enter into agreements with any county under the Interlocal Cooperation Act.

**LB360** passed 48-0.

A bill heard by the committee was amended into **LB402**, which was approved by lawmakers 49-0. Sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, **LB128**, incorporated into the state constitution the language of a non-self executing constitutional amendment passed by Nebraska voters in 2008.



Sen. Amanda McGill



Sen. Tanya Cook



Sen. Bill Avery

Lawmakers also passed a bill that increases penalties for illegally parking in handicapped-designated spaces.

Introduced by Friend, **LB524** increases the penalty for an initial infraction from \$100 to \$150. Penalties for second and third infractions incurred within a one-year period increase to \$300 and \$500 respectively. Previous penalties were \$200 for a second offense and \$300 for a third offense.

**LB524** passed on a 48-0 vote.

Due to current fiscal constraints, several senators agreed to delay the passage of bills that call for additional funding, to be taken up next session. Among these is a bill that would establish a new statewide grant program for community improvement projects, which remains on final reading.

Under **LB633**, introduced by Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha, the grant program would be administered by the University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Public Affairs and Community Service. Grants would be awarded for projects that benefit a neighborhood, village or second class city.

Eligible grant recipients would demonstrate that a project could be completed in one year, would not duplicate an existing program and would involve residents in its planning, development and execution. Grant recipients also would be required to provide matching funds or other in-kind contributions.

The bill would be funded by general fund transfers of \$125,000 per year for four years and would sunset June 30, 2013. An annual report would be provided to the Legislature each November. ■



Sen. Heath Mello

# UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB1	Executive Board	Revisor bill to repeal sections governing settlement escrow that terminated July 1, 2004	S	
LB2	Executive Board	Revisor bill to repeal the Nebraska Transit and Rail Advisory Council Act that terminated June 30, 2005	S	
LB3	Executive Board	Revisor bill to repeal the Nebraska Venture Capital Forum Act that terminated December 31, 2003	S	
LB4	Christensen	Change the rate of jury compensation to minimum wage	C	12
LB5	Christensen	Authorize counties to prohibit trapping wildlife in county road rights-of-way and eliminate a penalty	S	5, 7, 8
LB6	Christensen	Authorize school permitholders to drive to work	C	3
LB7	Wightman	Provide a residency requirement for clerks of the district court	S	
LB8	Wightman	Change fees received by clerks and registers of deeds	IPP	
LB9	Wightman	Exempt from sales and use taxes wood and corn used as fuel and mineral oil applied as a dust suppressant	S (+233)	17, 18, 20
LB10	Langemeier	Provide for specialty license plates	IPP	5
LB11	Langemeier	Change provisions of the Nebraska Real Estate License Act	S	
LB12	Langemeier	Appropriate funds to the Department of Natural Resources	C	
LB13	White	Change and rename the Property Tax Credit Act	C	7
LB14	White	Provide energy conservation standards for certain state buildings	C	3
LB15	White	Require driver's license and Internet address information as part of sex offender registration	C (>97)	10, 16
LB16	White	Adopt the Taxpayer Transparency Act	S	17, 20, 21
LB16A	White	Appropriations Bill	SF	
LB17	White	Provide for a tuition waiver for combat-injured veterans	C	
LB18	Christensen	Prohibit irrigation of certain educational lands	W	
LB19	Christensen	Change marriage license fee provisions and provide for marriage education	C	
LB20	Harms	Change provisions of the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act	S	
LB21	Harms	Rename and change provisions of the Nebraska Scholarship Act	C	9
LB22	Friend	Change tax levy authority of educational service units and school districts	IPP	
LB23	Friend	Change membership provisions of the Nebraska Investment Council	IPP	
LB24	Friend	Change provisions relating to work done on radiological instruments by the Military Department	S	
LB25	Friend	Provide for licensure of and medicaid payments to children's day health services	GF	
LB26	Friend	Change the priority of liens for special assessments	GF	
LB27	Pahls	Change the Medical Assistance Act and the Autism Treatment Program Act	S	
LB27A	Pahls	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB28	Pahls	Authorize the issuance of undercover license plates and driver's licenses to federal law enforcement agencies	S	
LB29	Pahls	Change branch office management requirements under the Nebraska Real Estate License Act	S	
LB30	Pahls	Change provisions of the Nebraska Real Estate License Act	S	
LB31	Pahls	Change Public Accountancy Act provisions	S	
LB32	Pahls	Change provisions relating to unauthorized use of the word bank	S	
LB33	Fulton	Change county zoning provisions with respect to density of population	C	
LB34	Ashford	Require employment verification of employees by employers and by contractors who want to be awarded a public contract	C (>403)	7, 8, 12
LB35	Ashford	Change legal process regarding limited liability companies, courts, civil and criminal procedure, grants, estates, real estate, adoption, foster care, juveniles, court appointed special advocates, and administrative hearings and change fees	S (+40, 46, 47, 118, 273, 305, 332, 333, 344, 351, 352, 353, 354, 374, 375, 433, 669) (>63)	7, 10, 15, 19, 20, 21
LB35A	Ashford	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB36	Flood	Change method and procedure for inflicting the death penalty	S	4, 20, 21
LB37	Flood	Appropriate funds for a new division of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing in Norfolk	C (>315)	9
LB38	Flood	Change assault, assault on an officer, and offenses by a confined person provisions	C	11

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB39	Flood	Adopt new rules of evidence relating to sexual offenses	IPP (>97)	
LB40	Flood	Correct references to statutory provisions in civil procedure statutes	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB41	Flood	Clarify references to the county sheriff	SF	
LB42	Flood	Change provisions relating to rural water districts	GF	
LB43	Flood	Eliminate the Department of Natural Resources Interstate Water Rights Cash Fund	GF	
LB44	Flood	Correct a definition and eliminate obsolete statutory references in revenue provisions	SF	
LB45	Flood	Eliminate references to a fund that terminated	SF	
LB46	Wightman	Provide for costs and expenses of estate administration	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB47	Wightman	Change the amount of the intestate share of the surviving spouse	IPP (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB48	Fischer	Adopt updated federal motor carrier safety and hazardous material regulations	S	
LB49	Fischer	Require titling and registration of motor vehicles and motorboats be performed by county treasurers	S	3
LB49A	Fischer	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB50	Fischer	Change provisions relating to motor vehicle manufacturers	S	
LB51	Fulton	Provide for confidentiality of Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court documents and information	IPP	6
LB52	Fischer	Change employment qualifications relating to county veterans service offices	S	
LB53	Fischer	Change provisions relating to formation, territory, and the operating area of public power districts	S	7, 8
LB54	Fischer	Change integrated management plan provisions under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act	S	4, 11, 18
LB55	Fischer	Change qualifications for office for county attorneys	S	
LB56	Fischer	Change the Livestock Waste Management Act	S	14, 16, 18
LB57	Louden	Exempt repairs and parts for agricultural machinery or equipment from sales and use taxes	C	
LB58	Louden	Exempt heating oil or propane used for residential heating purposes from sales and use taxes	C	
LB59	Louden	Increase liquor taxes and adopt the Citizen Safety Grant Fund Program Act	IPP	
LB60	Adams	Redefine abandoned vehicle	S	
LB61	Adams	Change certification dates for state aid to schools	S	
LB62	Adams	Change enrollment option program provisions	S	3
LB63	Friend	Change provisions and penalties relating to assault, firearms and other weapons, graffiti, gang affiliation, juveniles, bail, jailhouse informers, appeals, violence prevention, prisoner employment, and dating violence policies	S (+35, 64, 276, 429)	7, 10, 11, 19, 20
LB63A	Ashford	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB64	Howard	Adopt the Lindsay Ann Burke Act and provide duties for the State Department of Education and school districts with respect to dating violence	IPP (>63)	5, 19, 20
LB65	Dubas	Exempt agricultural machinery repair parts from sales tax	C	
LB66	Rogert	Change limits on contributions and gifts under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	C	
LB67	Friend	Adopt the Elementary and Secondary Education Opportunity Act	C	
LB68	Wallman	Provide procedures for closure of state residential facilities for persons with developmental disabilities	C	3
LB69	Cornett	Exclude military retirement benefits from income taxation as prescribed	C	5
LB70	Cornett	Exclude military retirement benefits from income taxation as prescribed	C	
LB71	Cornett	Require animal care professionals to report cases of animal abandonment, cruel neglect, or cruel mistreatment	IPP (>494)	4, 18, 20
LB72	Cornett	Provide for management of students' and children's life-threatening allergies	GF	3
LB72A	Cornett	Appropriations Bill	GF	
LB73	Cornett	Ratify the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children	GF	
LB73A	Cornett	Appropriations Bill	GF	
LB74	Pirsch	Authorize pledging of Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka letters of credit as security for private deposits	S	
LB75	Pirsch	Change provisions relating to automatic teller machine usage and fees	S	
LB76	Pirsch	Authorize the aggregation of amounts under forgery in the second degree and criminal possession of a forged instrument	IPP (>155)	
LB77	Gay	Change provisions relating to income tax credits and long-term care insurance	IPP	
LB78	Gay	Provide for deposit of inmate wages into the Victim's Compensation Fund	C	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB79	Pirsch	Change when a county attorney files a child support order modification complaint	C (>288)	
LB80	Nelson	Change the Uniform Principal and Income Act	S	
LB81	Nordquist	Change contribution provisions of the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act	IPP (>188)	14
LB82	Howard	Require notification of change in a juvenile's case manager under the Nebraska Juvenile Code	C	10
LB83	McGill	Provide for the care of domestic animals in protection orders	GF	6, 7
LB84	McGill	Eliminate the termination date for the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council	S	
LB85	McGill	Authorize urban growth districts and provide bond authority	S	4, 5, 7
LB86	Wallman	Change the Capitol Landscape Restoration Master Plan	C	5
LB87	Pahls	Change provisions relating to the effects of errors and omissions in financing statements	S	
LB88	Pahls	Change provisions relating to unauthorized use of the word bank	SF	
LB89	Cornett	Change tax calculations under the Tobacco Products Tax Act	S	8, 10
LB90	Heidemann	Eliminate certain requirements regarding audiovisual court appearances	S	
LB91	Howard	Provide for a subsidized adoption of a child who was under a subsidized guardianship prior thereto	S	3, 4, 8
LB92	Howard	Require vehicles to move over upon approaching stopped emergency and road assistance vehicles	S	3, 15, 18
LB93	Howard	Prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle with an occupant under sixteen years of age	IPP	10
LB94	Howard	Authorize late homestead exemption applications for medical reasons	S	
LB95	Howard	Prohibit violators of immigration laws from receiving certain tax incentives	IPP	5
LB96	Heidemann	Eliminate obsolete provisions relating to the State Energy Office Cash Fund	C (>316)	
LB97	Lautenbaugh	Change provisions relating to foreign corporations, child enticement, child sexual assault, child pornography, incest, sex offenders, use of technology and providers of transportation services, and adopt and change evidence rules regarding sexual conduct and admissibility of evidence	S (+15, 39, 290)	10, 16, 17, 20
LB97A	Lautenbaugh	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB98	Carlson	Change noxious weed grant programs and the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force	S	13, 14, 18
LB98A	Carlson	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB99	Carlson	Adopt the Anthrax Control Act	S	4, 7
LB100	Carlson	Change Pesticide Act provisions	S	
LB101	Carlson	Eliminate the Farm Mediation Act termination date	S	
LB102	Adams	Provide a definition of high school graduate for postsecondary admission and financial aid purposes	S	
LB103	Adams	Change provisions relating to postsecondary educational institutions' capital and facility expenditures	IPP (>440)	20
LB104	Cornett	Change annexation requirements for cities of the first class	IPP (>495)	17, 18
LB105	Natural Resources	Change provisions relating to fees, licenses, permits, funds, penalties, and damages under the Game Law and the State Boat Act	S	4, 5, 13,
LB105A	Langemeier	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB106	Harms	Eliminate the requirement that occupant protection system laws be enforced as a secondary action	C	7
LB107	Haar	Require an employer to provide an employee a reason for termination	GF	
LB108	Carlson	Exempt certain all-terrain vehicles from identification inspection requirements	IPP	
LB109	Rogert	Authorize the operation of low-speed vehicles on highways	C	8
LB110	Fischer	Change motor vehicle registration fees and fee distribution and provide for specialty license plates	S	5, 8, 13
LB110A	Fischer	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB111	Fischer	Change provisions relating to fines for speeding in a construction zone	S	9, 11, 15
LB112	Heidemann	Exclude certain health education loan repayments from income taxation	FR	6, 17
LB113	Pankonin	Change Securities Act of Nebraska provisions	S	
LB114	Louden	Provide for operation of minitrucks on highways without registration	C	8
LB115	Louden	Eliminate the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery Advisory Board	C (>154)	3, 4
LB116	Fischer	Authorize certain volunteer emergency responders to participate in the state health insurance program	IPP	
LB117	Fischer	Authorize an income tax credit for certain retail business taxpayers	IPP	
LB118	Wightman	Change decedents' estates provisions relating to collection of personal property by affidavit and succession to real property by affidavit	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB119	Wightman	Change inheritance tax provisions	IPP	3
LB120	Wightman	Change inheritance tax provisions	S	
LB121	Wightman	Provide for reassumption of property tax assessment functions by certain counties	S	10, 14, 15

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB121A	Wightman	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB122	Coash	Change terminology for the central register of child protection cases	S	
LB123	Karpisek	Change the Uniform Controlled Substances Act to include Salvia divinorum or Salvinorin A	S	3, 4, 7
LB124	Hansen	Extend deadlines for transfers from the Job Training Cash Fund to the Cash Reserve Fund	C (>315)	
LB125	Avery	Provide for voter registration on election day	C	
LB126	Avery	Require financial disclosure statements from constitutional officers and candidates	C	
LB127	Avery	Exempt college textbooks and school expenses from sales tax as prescribed	IPP	10
LB128	Avery	Authorize the investment of public endowment funds by any city which is authorized by the Constitution of Nebraska to establish a charter	IPP (>402)	5, 18, 20
LB129	Dubas	Authorize actions and procedures for invalid financial transactions when registering a vehicle	S	
LB130	Dubas	Create the Farm to School Program Task Force	C	4
LB131	Dubas	Change the boundary descriptions of Merrick and Polk counties	S	
LB132	Fulton	Change the Barber Act	IPP (>195)	16, 18, 20
LB133	Heidemann	Change location requirements for county postprimary conventions	S	
LB134	Pankonin	Change natural resources districts eminent domain powers	IPP	3, 21
LB135	Heidemann	Change an appropriation to the Department of Health & Human Services	S	
LB136	Avery	Change provisions for eligibility for medical assistance	IPP (>603)	13, 17, 20
LB136A	Avery	Appropriations Bill	IPP	
LB137	Avery	Redefine the term "campus" for purposes of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	S	
LB138	Avery	Provide an income tax credit for public school teachers	IPP	
LB139	Avery	Rename the Commission on Mexican-Americans	GF	3
LB140	Avery	Provide duties relating to investment of state funds in Sudan-related companies	C	9
LB141	Rogert	Adopt the Brain Injury Act	C	
LB142	Hansen	Change recorded brand provisions and a fee	S	
LB143	Langemeier	Adopt the Nebraska Shooting Range Protection Act	W	
LB144	Avery	Allow accessibility to certain disciplinary records regarding police officers and school district personnel	IPP	8
LB145	Avery	Prohibit firearms at schools, colleges, and universities as prescribed	IPP (>430)	
LB146	Howard	Provide for simulated pharmacies	C	
LB147	Pirsch	Provide name-change court orders to update the central register of child protection cases and the central registry of sex offenders	GF	
LB148	Pirsch	Change penalties for motor vehicle homicide and motor vehicle homicide of an unborn child	C	3
LB149	Pankonin	Require insurance coverage for prosthetics as prescribed	C	7
LB150	Heidemann	Repeal the Nebraska Prostitution Intervention and Treatment Act	IPP	3
LB151	Stuthman	Change exemptions relating to ephedrine-containing substances under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	S	
LB152	Pahls	Change a provision relating to uninsured and underinsured motorist coverages	S	
LB153	Lautenbaugh	Adopt the Tourism Liability Act	C	
LB154	Gov't, Military & Veterans Affairs	Eliminate certain boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, working groups, and related statutory provisions	S (+115)	3, 4
LB155	Rogert	Adopt the Public Protection Act, change provisions relating to theft, criminal impersonation, forgery, and bad and no-account checks, and create the offenses of identity theft and identity fraud and an additional deceptive trade practice	S (+76)	4, 18, 19, 20
LB156	Lautenbaugh	Eliminate the strict liability requirement for pursuits by law enforcement officers	IPP	
LB157	McCoy	Exempt state vehicles from carrying uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage	IPP	5
LB158	White	Change provisions relating to employment, removal, and discipline of peace officers	S	5, 14, 18
LB159	Gay	Provide an income tax credit for long-term care insurance policy premiums	FR	14, 16
LB159A	Gay	Appropriations Bill	FR	
LB160	Gay	Authorize issuance of flood protection and water quality enhancement bonds by natural resources districts	S	3, 15, 17, 19, 20
LB161	Pahls	Adopt the Business Provided Sales Tax Holiday Act	IPP	10
LB162	Cornett	Change provisions relating to contractor registration and income tax withholding	S	15, 18
LB163	Pankonin	Change school board membership provisions	S	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB164	Cornett	Change provisions relating to tax incentive programs	S	11, 15
LB165	Cornett	Change revenue laws	S (>420)	
LB166	Cornett	Change provisions relating to property tax	S	
LB167	Avery	Provide for discount program participation and electronic funds transfers for state employees	S	
LB168	Avery	Provide for reverse auctions by the state purchasing bureau	S	
LB169	Hadley	State intent relating to appropriations to the Department of Health & Human Services for the medical assistance program	C	
LB170	Wightman	Change temporary conservator appointment provisions	IPP	
LB171	Nantkes	Change a research tax credit	IPP	7
LB172	Gay	Change the False Medicaid Claims Act and create a fund	IPP (>288)	7, 17, 20, 21
LB172A	Gay	Appropriations Bill	IPP	
LB173	Gay	Provide for relabeling and redispensing of prescription drugs at certain correctional facilities	IPP (>288)	17, 20, 21
LB174	Lathrop	Change vehicle registration and fee provisions for cities of the metropolitan class	C	
LB175	Lathrop	Change provisions for replacing lost license plates	S	
LB176	Lathrop	Prohibit use of credit information for insurance purposes and repeal the model act	C	6
LB177	Lathrop	Change security freeze provisions relating to credit reports	S	8, 13
LB178	Lathrop	State intent relating to appropriations to the Department of Health & Human Services for developmental disability aid	C	
LB179	Natural Resources	Change project limit adjustments under the Nebraska Resources Development Fund	S	
LB180	Natural Resources	Change provisions relating to solid waste management	S	
LB181	Fischer	Provide requirements for agreements between railroads and telecommunications carriers	GF	
LB182	Pankonin	Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development	C	
LB183	Fischer	Provide requirements for the sale of an exchange under the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act	GF	
LB184	Louden	Authorize Department of Natural Resources to administer riparian water rights	S	4, 6, 11, 13
LB185	Louden	Change provisions relating to presentence investigations	IPP	
LB186	Karpisek	Change sales and use tax collection fees	IPP	
LB187	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Change contribution rates for school employee retirement plans	S	18, 20
LB188	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Change provisions relating to retirement programs for county and state employees and the Nebraska State Patrol	S (+81, 425)	6, 14, 17, 18
LB189	Pankonin	Change terminology relating to problem gambling services	S	
LB190	Avery	Provide for collection of DNA samples from individuals convicted of a felony	GF	3, 19
LB191	Fulton	Provide for the waiver of a fine or penalty for an information collection requirement for small businesses	C	
LB192	Pahls	Change insurance provisions	S	
LB193	Nantkes	Change a restriction on use of cigarette tax proceeds for bonds	C (>316)	
LB194	Nantkes	Change workers' compensation provisions on lump-sum settlements	C (>630)	17, 20
LB195	Gay	Change provisions relating to barbering, pharmacy, physician assistants, certificates of need, hearing instrument specialists, emergency medical services, tuberculosis detection and prevention, and statewide trauma services	S (+132, 220, 250, 341, 367, 451, 515)	16, 18, 20
LB196	Gay	Change loan agreement provisions under the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act	S	3, 4
LB197	Fulton	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska educational savings plan	GF	
LB198	Stuthman	Adopt the Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity Act	S (+404)	6, 13, 16, 19
LB198A	Stuthman	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB199	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to court support orders and collection of such support	IPP (>288)	9, 20, 21
LB200	Janssen	Change motorcycle and moped helmet requirements	C	9
LB201	McGill	Change the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act relating to international application	S	
LB202	Transportation & Telecommunications	Provide for electronic certificates of title and lien notification	S	11, 15

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB202A	Fischer	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB203	Rogert	Eliminate provisions relating to multiple constables and the service or execution of legal process	IPP	
LB204	Transportation & Telecommunications	Change certain commercial motor vehicle penalty provisions	S	
LB205	Nordquist	Require educational and ethics training for board members of certain retirement systems	GF	
LB206	Nantkes	Adopt the In the Line of Duty Dependent Education Act	S	4, 12, 15
LB207	Avery	Change provisions governing the Governor's residence and powers of the Department of Administrative Services and the Director of Administrative Services	S	
LB208	Lautenbaugh	Add false information about employees to the crime of fraudulent insurance act and to the Insurance Fraud Act	S	
LB209	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to time for construction of irrigation projects and dams	S	
LB210	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to aid to natural resources districts	GF	10
LB211	Pirsch	Provide for issuance of certain license plates to spouses of veterans	IPP	
LB212	Cornett	Authorize single commissioner hearings before the Tax Equalization and Review Commission	C	8
LB213	Cornett	Change Tax Equalization and Review Commission provisions	C	8
LB214	Cornett	Redefine nail technology under the Uniform Credentialing Act	C	
LB215	Fischer	Create the School Finance Review Committee	IPP	
LB216	Wallman	Eliminate civil liability provisions relating to motor vehicle and aircraft guest statutes	GF	
LB217	Louden	Provide requirements for electrical entities placing wires across railroad rights-of-way	C	
LB218	Cornett	Change, eliminate, and provide state aid to various political subdivisions	S	18, 21
LB218A	Cornett	Appropriations Bill	IPP	
LB219	Flood	Transfer responsibility of the highway safety program to the Department of Roads from the Department of Motor Vehicles	S	21
LB219A	Flood	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB220	Gloor	Change provisions relating to pharmacy practice and pharmaceuticals	IPP (>195)	4, 16, 18, 20
LB221	Nordquist	Change provisions relating to payment of school funds	IPP (>392)	18, 20
LB222	Giese	Restrict issuance of learner's permits	IPP	
LB223	Nantkes	Classify swimming pools and provide operator requirements	C	
LB224	Carlson	Change Nebraska State Fair and Nebraska State Fair Board provisions	S	17, 19, 20
LB225	Haar	Provide for volunteer firefighter license plates	IPP	
LB226	Rogert	Change the age of majority to eighteen years of age for certain purposes	C	
LB227	Rogert	Adopt the Interior Designers Certification Act	IPP	
LB228	Rogert	Prohibit school membership in certain activity-regulating organizations	IPP	5
LB229	Fischer	Adopt federal regulations and change operator's license and state identification card provisions	C	4
LB230	Stuthman	Eliminate integrated practice agreements for nurse practitioners	C	
LB231	Avery	Change Rural Development Commission membership provisions	S	
LB232	Nordquist	Permit sales of alcoholic liquor by community college culinary programs	S	17, 20
LB233	Adams	Exempt mineral oil to be applied to grain as a dust suppressant from sales and use taxes	IPP (>9)	
LB234	Adams	Change a sales and use tax exemption relating to fuel and energy	GF	
LB235	Adams	Provide the Board of Educational Lands and Funds with the power to issue leases relating to solar and wind energy and enter into contracts relating to carbon sequestration rights	GF	
LB236	Lathrop	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health & Human Services	C (>315)	12
LB237	Lathrop	Adopt the Interstate Compact for Juveniles and the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children	S	11, 15, 20
LB237A	Lathrop	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB238	Lathrop	Adopt the Public Power Infrastructure Protection Act and change penalty provisions regarding trespass	S	
LB239	Lathrop	Provide a homestead property tax exemption for certain disabled veterans	IPP	
LB240	Pahls	Require a minimum level of expenditures for direct classroom instruction	C	11
LB241	Pahls	Change the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act and adopt the Dog and Cat Purchase Protection Act	S (+588)	5, 17, 21
LB242	Karpisek	Increase the mandatory retirement age under the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act	C	
LB243	Nantkes	Provide for annual adjustment for workers' compensation total disability income benefits	C	6, 17
LB244	Coash	Add Tramadol and Carisoprodol to schedules of controlled substances	C	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB245	Dubas	Change provisions governing unlawful obstruction of railroad crossings	C	
LB246	Dubas	Provide for a statewide strategic plan for biotechnology and repeal the Biopower Steering Committee	S	14, 20
LB246A	Dubas	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB247	Dubas	Require accreditation of the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health & Human Services	C	4
LB248	Dubas	Change income tax credit provisions	C	5
LB249	Fulton	Change sales tax collection fees	IPP	
LB250	Gloor	Change physician assistant provisions	IPP (>195)	18, 20
LB251	Cornett	Update references to the Internal Revenue Code	S	
LB252	Cornett	Prohibit possession of animal fighting paraphernalia	C	
LB253	Ashford	Adopt a new Nebraska Juvenile Code and change child abuse reporting and registry, child relinquishment, and Foster Care Review Act provisions	C	
LB254	Dubas	Require a Nebraska aerial pesticide business license for aerial pesticide application	GF	6
LB255	Harms	Require lap-shoulder belts in school buses	C	7
LB256	Harms	Appropriate funds to the Game and Parks Commission	C (>314)	
LB257	Harms	Eliminate the Seamless Delivery System Pilot Project	C (>549)	18, 21
LB258	Harms	Change and provide penalties for minors in possession of alcoholic liquor	C	11
LB259	Utter	Clarify Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation coverage with respect to public funds	S	5, 8
LB260	Rogert	Adopt the Nebraska Claims for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment Act	S	7, 9, 12, 13
LB261	Rogert	Provide for use of machine-readable information encoded on drivers' licenses and state identification cards	GF	4, 8
LB262	Rogert	Change times relating to alcoholic liquor sales and lottery sales as prescribed	C	5
LB263	Rogert	Provide that state law preempts local law for the Nebraska Seed Law and the Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act	S	18, 20
LB264	Fischer	Change motor fuel tax calculations	IPP	
LB265	Giese	Change the Sexual Predator Residency Restriction Act	C	10
LB266	Karpisek	Adopt the Racetrack Gaming Act and change provisions relating to horseracing	C	4
LB267	Lathrop	Prohibit mandatory overtime for state employees providing services to individuals in residential care	GF	10
LB268	Lathrop	Require liability insurance as prescribed for child care licensees	C	
LB269	Heidemann	Change Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund, Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund, and Stem Cell Research Cash Fund provisions	C (>316)	
LB270	Haar	Create a homestead property tax exemption	IPP	7
LB271	Haar	Adopt the Car Tax Reduction Act	IPP	
LB272	Friend	Redefine underground facility for purposes of the one-call notification system	IPP	
LB273	Ashford	Change sheriff's fees and handgun certificate fees	IPP (>35)	5, 15, 19, 20, 21
LB274	Christensen	Authorize the Director of Correctional Services to assign felony offenders to an incarceration work camp as prescribed	S	
LB275	McGill	Require crisis, information, and referral services relating to behavioral health	IPP	5
LB276	Nordquist	Change criminal mischief provisions and prohibit defacement	C (>63)	4, 10
LB277	Mello	Prohibit the purchase of spray paint and industrial-strength marking pens by minors	IPP	10
LB278	Mello	Permit municipalities to allow pedestrians to solicit in roadways	S	
LB279	Avery	Require notification to military installations regarding development of real property	GF	
LB280	Avery	Create the Commission on Military Affairs	GF	
LB280A	Avery	Appropriations Bill	GF	
LB281	Mello	Change educational service unit board membership provisions	GF	
LB282	Mello	Adopt the Nebraska Advantage Film Production Incentive Act	IPP	
LB283	Cornett	Change community college aid calculations	IPP	
LB284	Fulton	Authorize employment restrictions for sexual predators	C	10
LB285	Pirsch	Change Sex Offender Registration Act provisions	S	11, 17, 20, 21
LB286	General Affairs	Change definite profit amounts relating to bingo and pickle cards and change distribution of lottery funds	S (+287)	14, 17, 18
LB287	General Affairs	Change provisions relating to the definite profit of pickle cards	IPP (>286)	17

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB288	Health & Human Services	Change provisions relating to Health & Human Services	S (+79, 172, 173, 199, 371, 390, 462, 599)	17, 20, 21
LB288A	Gay	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB289	Christensen	Appropriate funds to the Game and Parks Commission	C (>311)	
LB290	Stuthman	Require criminal history background checks on individuals who transport vulnerable adults and children under contracts with the Department of Health & Human Services	IPP (>97)	4, 17, 20
LB290A	Stuthman	Appropriations Bill	IPP	
LB291	Lathrop	Require rules and regulations regarding safety, care, and habilitation of persons receiving developmental disabilities services	C	8
LB292	Lathrop	Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Athlete Agents Act	S	8, 11, 15
LB292A	Lathrop	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB293	Nantkes	Adopt the Short-Term Lenders Act and eliminate the Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act	IPP	8
LB294	Campbell	Change the length of time for county building levies	S	12, 15
LB295	Campbell	Provide and change recording requirements for filings with the register of deeds	C	
LB296	Dubas	Change a reciprocal sales and use tax exemption	IPP	
LB297	Dubas	Adopt the Nebraska Beginning Farmer and Small Business Linked Deposit Loan Act	GF	
LB298	Harms	Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development	C	
LB299	Harms	Add a member to the Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council established by the Board of Regents	S	3, 20
LB300	Heidemann	Change bidding requirements for public power and irrigation districts	S	11, 15
LB301	Gloor	Repeal exemption from fees for medical records	IPP	4
LB302	Campbell	Change provisions relating to transfer of a homestead exemption	S	
LB303	Nordquist	Exempt social security benefits from income tax	IPP	5
LB304	Council	Change limitation of action provisions under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act	GF	
LB305	Council	Include state identification card holders in jury lists	IPP (>35)	5, 15, 19, 20, 21
LB306	Council	Repeal the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole	GF	4, 20
LB307	Council	Change sentencing requirements with respect to certain minors	GF	7, 9, 17
LB308	Heidemann	Change levy provisions for rural and suburban fire protection districts	C	
LB309	Schilz	Provide a capital gains exemption for sale of certain assets	IPP	
LB310	Haar	Change provisions relating to deaf and hard of hearing persons	C	
LB311	Speaker Flood	Provide for deficit appropriations	S (+289)	8, 18, 19
LB312	Speaker Flood	Appropriate funds for salaries of members of the Legislature	S	8, 18, 19
LB313	Speaker Flood	Appropriate funds for salaries of constitutional officers	S	8, 18, 19
LB314	Speaker Flood	Appropriate funds for capital construction	S (+256)	8, 18, 19
LB315	Speaker Flood	Appropriate funds for state government expenses	S (+37, 124, 236, 369, 459, 468, 569, 608, 636)	8, 18, 19
LB316	Speaker Flood	Change provisions relating to certain funds and provide for transfers of funds	S (+96, 193, 269, 359)	8, 18, 19
LB317	Speaker Flood	Provide for transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund	C	8
LB318	Speaker Flood	Change provisions governing depreciation charges for capital improvement projects	S	18, 19
LB319	Speaker Flood	Change provisions relating to child care reimbursement	C	
LB320	Friend	Change highway funding provisions and motor fuel taxes	IPP	8
LB321	Avery	Provide for state employees to participate in mentoring programs	C	7
LB322	Avery	Prohibit nepotism and supervision of family members by executive branch officials and employees	S	4, 13, 18
LB323	Fulton	Change distribution of motor vehicle tax proceeds	IPP	
LB324	Nelson	Provide for designation of voting entrances and change restrictions on electioneering	C	6
LB325	Nelson	Change provisions relating to elections	GF	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB326	Rogert	Change provisions relating to the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act	C	
LB327	Pahls	Change regulatory provisions regarding financial institutions and entities	S	10, 13
LB328	Pahls	Change banking, mortgage bankers, and installment loan provisions	S	11, 15
LB328A	Pahls	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB329	Cornett	Provide for firefighter license plates and training for emergency response personnel	IPP	
LB330	Transportation & Telecommunications	Change telecommunications provisions relating to the Public Service Commission	C	
LB331	Transportation & Telecommunications	Change Department of Motor Vehicles provisions	S	
LB332	Ashford	Change provisions relating to courts	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB333	Ashford	Increase and provide for court fees	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB334	Giese	Designate the state expressway system and change provisions relating to highway planning	C	10
LB335	Friend	Require electronic employee verification for certain tax incentives	IPP (>403)	5
LB336	Friend	Exempt municipal water from sales tax	IPP	
LB337	Friend	Change restrictions on advertising and promotional materials relating to the Nebraska educational savings plan trust	C	
LB338	Friend	Change weed height requirements for cities and villages	IPP (>495)	17, 18
LB339	Friend	Change community development authority provisions relating to cities and villages	S	
LB340	Cook	Require the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to facilitate a study of the Nebraska community college system	S	13, 15, 18
LB341	Cook	Change provisions relating to tuberculosis detection and prevention	GF (>195)	20
LB342	Gay	Provide duties for the Department of Health & Human Services relating to payment for pediatric feeding disorder treatment	S	17, 20
LB342A	Gay	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB343	Ashford	Designate the time a judge's term ends	S	
LB344	Ashford	Change administration of the Civil Legal Services Program	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB345	Gay	Change juvenile court jurisdiction to exclude school truancy	IPP	
LB346	Gay	Adopt the Children and Family Behavioral Health Support Act	IPP (>603)	5, 9, 17, 20
LB346A	Gay	Appropriations Bill	IPP	
LB347	Cornett	Eliminate governmental agency liability with respect to dogs	S	
LB348	Janssen	Authorize access to tax statements at the office of the register of deeds	S	
LB349	Lautenbaugh	Change provisions relating to recall of elected officials	C	
LB350	Lautenbaugh	Change provisions relating to real estate tracts and the designation of industrial areas	C	
LB351	Lautenbaugh	Provide for charging orders against a limited liability company member's transferable interest	C (>35)	
LB352	Lautenbaugh	Change civil procedure service of summons provisions	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB353	Lautenbaugh	Change pleading provisions in an action for disputed corners and boundaries	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB354	Lautenbaugh	Provide for cross-appeals in contested cases under the Administrative Procedure Act	IPP (>35)	19, 20, 21
LB355	Lautenbaugh	Authorize cigar bars under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act and provide duties for owners of cigar bars	S	6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15
LB356	Dubas	Direct distribution of General Funds for Nebraska children in need of behavioral health services	IPP (>603)	8, 10, 17, 20
LB356A	Dubas	Appropriations Bill	IPP	
LB357	Hadley	Change the cigarette tax collection commission	GF	
LB358	Pahls	Change the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act	S	8, 18, 20
LB359	Nelson	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund	C (>316)	11
LB360	Cook	Authorize creation of a land reutilization authority by a city of the metropolitan class	S	7, 15, 20
LB361	Avery	Authorize and change requirements for videoconferencing, telephone conferences, and electronic voting devices for public meetings	S (+465, 639)	11, 15

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB362	Avery	Change requirements for candidate filing forms	C (>501)	
LB363	Avery	Prohibit certain expenditures by campaign committees	C	9
LB364	Pankonin	Permit school districts to exceed expenditure limits for costs relating to voluntary termination agreements	C (>545)	
LB365	Pankonin	Change retirement annuity provisions under the Judges Retirement Act	C	
LB366	Pankonin	Increase the mandatory contribution rate under the State Employees Retirement Act	C	
LB367	Gloor	Change health care certificate of need provisions	IPP (>195)	16, 18, 20
LB368	Mello	Change point system violation regarding reckless driving and willful reckless driving	IPP	9
LB369	Nantkes	Appropriate funds for the Every Woman Matters Program	C (>315)	
LB370	Nantkes	Require a medicaid waiver application for family planning services	C	7
LB371	Campbell	Change Medicaid Reform Plan and Medicaid Reform Council provisions	IPP (>288)	17, 20, 21
LB372	Campbell	Change provisions relating to the release of driver's license digital images or digital signatures	S (+384)	
LB373	Lautenbaugh	Change death and disability-related provisions pertaining to emergency response personnel	GF	
LB374	Lautenbaugh	Authorize recovery of costs as part of the settlement of a civil action	IPP (>35)	
LB375	Lautenbaugh	Increase claim amount and provide for payment for costs for certain civil suits	IPP (>35)	
LB376	Fulton	Provide an income tax credit for certain qualified residents caring for dependents as prescribed	IPP	
LB377	Pankonin	Adopt the Nebraska Governmental Unit Credit Facility Act	S	
LB378	Gloor	Require insurance coverage of medical clinical trials	C	7
LB379	Haar	Extend a scrap tire grant program	S	6, 10
LB380	Rogert	Change a state aid program relating to Indian reservations	IPP	12
LB381	Rogert	Adopt the Community Improvement District Act and the Transportation Development District Act	C	
LB382	Rogert	Provide for voter registration on election day at the election office	C	
LB383	Pahls	Provide for limited immunity from prosecution under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	C	
LB384	Pahls	Authorize release to federal civil authorities of certain information under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act	IPP (>372)	
LB385	Pahls	Terminate sales tax provisions	IPP	11, 15
LB386	Pahls	Change and suspend sales tax exemptions, change collection fee, change tax rates, state intent relating to property tax relief	IPP	
LB387	Gay	Eliminate certain taxing authority of learning communities and change state aid calculations	IPP	
LB388	Langemeier	Change public power district officials compensation provisions	GF	4
LB389	Carlson	Change membership provisions for the Climate Assessment Response Committee	S	
LB390	Coash	State intent regarding reimbursement rates for assisted services for persons with developmental disabilities	IPP (>288)	8, 17, 20, 21
LB391	Adams	Change the manner of distribution of tax revenue within learning communities	C (>392, 545)	
LB392	Adams	Change learning community provisions and school district warrant provisions	S (+221, 391)	18, 20
LB393	Adams	Change agenda provisions for meetings of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council	C	
LB394	Fulton	Define unprofessional conduct for physicians with regard to anatomic pathology services	S	
LB395	Fulton	Adopt the Stroke Registry Act	C	
LB396	Gloor	Adopt the Medical Home Pilot Program Act	S	6, 13, 15
LB397	Nordquist	Adopt the State Scholarship Award Program Act and the Scholarship Assistance Program Act and repeal the Nebraska Scholarship Act	C	
LB398	Nordquist	Provide for collegiate spirit license plates for private colleges and universities	IPP	
LB399	Lautenbaugh	Change residency provisions relating to the Nebraska Scholarship Act	C	
LB400	Lautenbaugh	Change fiscal year provisions for calculation of community college base revenue need	IPP	
LB401	Friend	Adopt the High Priority Surface Transportation Development Act and the Surface Transportation Revolving Fund Act	C	8
LB402	Avery	Change the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act and authorize investment of public endowment funds	S (+128)	16, 18, 20
LB403	Karpisek	Require verification of lawful presence in the United States for certain public benefits, public employment, contracting with public bodies, and tax incentive programs	S (+34, 335)	7, 8, 12
LB404	Cornett	Adopt the Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity Act	IPP (>198)	6, 13, 16, 19
LB405	Cornett	Change income tax provisions related to planned gifts	GF	4

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB405A	Cornett	Appropriations Bill	GF	
LB406	Fulton	Permit certified nurse midwives to have clinical privileges in hospitals	C	9
LB407	Dierks	Provide civil penalties for engaging in veterinary medicine and surgery without authorization	IPP (>463)	13, 20
LB408	Dierks	Authorize consultation between veterinarians and other health care professionals	IPP (>463)	13, 20
LB409	Dierks	Provide violations and penalties for offenses against arson dogs	C	
LB410	Karpisek	Change provisions relating to recounts of elections	C	
LB411	Giese	Update the references to the National Electrical Code in the State Electrical Act	GF	
LB412	Giese	Change provisions relating to sanitary and improvement district elections	S	
LB413	Ashford	Adopt the College Choice Grant Program Act	C	
LB414	Ashford	Change salary and retirement provisions for judges and a fee	S (+424)	18, 19
LB414A	Ashford	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB415	Christensen	Prohibit tobacco sales from self-service displays	IPP	9
LB416	Fulton	Provide for one license plate on motor vehicles	C	
LB417	Friend	Change provisions of the Optometry Practice Act	C	
LB418	Price	Require valuation changes by the Tax Equalization and Review Commission among counties which have learning communities	C	
LB419	Hadley	Eliminate limits on tax credits under the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act	C	
LB420	Hadley	Change a sales tax exemption relating to nonprofit organizations	S (+165)	7, 14, 20, 21
LB421	Nordquist	Suspend collection of fuel tax on compressed natural gas for a prescribed period	GF	
LB422	Cornett	Define veteran of the Global War on Terror	S	
LB423	Cornett	Change child custody provisions and the Parenting Act	C	12
LB424	Pankonin	Change mandatory contribution rates under the Judges Retirement Act	IPP (>414)	
LB425	Pankonin	Change mandatory contribution rates under the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act	IPP (>188)	
LB426	Pankonin	Name and change provisions relating to the Police Officers Retirement Act	C	11
LB427	Pankonin	Adopt the County Law Enforcement Officer Retirement Act	C	
LB428	Christensen	Authorize deposit of public funds in credit unions and clarify Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and National Credit Union Administration coverage	C	
LB429	Christensen	Change employment provisions of persons committed to the Department of Correctional Services	IPP (>63)	7, 19, 20
LB430	Christensen	Change provisions relating to the Concealed Handgun Permit Act	S (+145)	10, 13, 14, 16, 19
LB431	McGill	Change Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act provisions	C	
LB432	Nelson	Change provisions relating to the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act	S	5, 15, 20
LB433	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to interchange of court judges and court jurisdiction	C (>35)	15, 19, 20, 21
LB434	Janssen	Change ballot questions regarding township organization	S	
LB435	Janssen	Change fee provisions related to modular housing units, manufactured homes, and recreational vehicles	C	
LB436	Haar	Provide for net metering of electricity	S	6, 14, 18
LB437	Haar	Create the Wind Energy Development Zone Task Force	C	
LB438	Fischer	Prohibits instream appropriations in fully or overappropriated areas	C	5
LB439	Fischer	Adopt the Home Energy Alternatives Act	C	
LB440	Council	Change diversity criteria under the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act and change provisions relating to postsecondary capital and facility expenditures	S (+103)	9, 14, 19, 20
LB441	Council	Change provisions relating to the cost of certain municipal proceeding transcripts	S	
LB442	Council	Change procedural and relief provisions of the Nebraska Fair Housing Act	C	8
LB443	Christensen	Provide for the regulation of adult and sexually oriented businesses	C	10
LB444	Christensen	Adopt the Escort Services Accountability and Licensing Act	C	9
LB445	Fulton	Change the Health Insurance Access Act	S	
LB446	Fulton	Provide for a loan repayment program under the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act	S	
LB447	Schilz	Change a beginning farmer or livestock producer qualification under the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act	S	
LB448	Campbell	Require an influenza vaccination pilot program	C	5

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB449	Campbell	Change disability retirement allowance provisions of the School Employees Retirement Act	S	13, 15
LB450	Campbell	Change Nebraska State Capitol Environs District height restriction provisions	S	6, 15, 20
LB451	Campbell	Rename the Hearing Aid Instrument Dispensers and Fitters Practice Act	IPP (>195)	16, 18 20
LB452	Avery	Adopt the Advance Directives Identification Act	C	
LB453	Rogert	Change provisions relating to an employer notice that employees are not covered by workers' compensation insurance	C (>630)	17, 20
LB454	Lathrop	Change Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund provisions	C	
LB455	Nordquist	Provide renewable energy sales and use tax credit and exemption for eligible entities	C	9
LB456	Heidemann	Change provisions relating to the Cash Reserve Fund	S	18, 19
LB457	Friend	Change provisions relating to certified nurse midwives	C	9
LB458	Harms	Provide for vocational training for public assistance recipients	S	12, 15
LB459	Harms	Appropriate funds for the Stay in the Game Program	C (>315)	
LB460	Friend	Change a sales tax exemption for nonprofit hospitals	IPP	
LB461	Adams	Change provisions relating to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education	IPP (>549)	10, 18
LB462	Dierks	Change provisions relating to human immunodeficiency virus testing	IPP (>288)	17, 20, 21
LB463	Dierks	Provide for licensure of animal therapists, change authorization for collaborative animal health care tasks and veterinary drug distribution definitions, and change distribution of veterinary legend drugs provisions	S (+407, 408, 586)	13, 20
LB463A	Dierks	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB464	Gay	Require certain booster immunizations for students entering seventh grade	S	13, 20
LB464A	Gay	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB465	Christensen	Provide for videoconferencing and telephone conferences for educational service unit board meetings	C (>361)	11, 14
LB466	Wallman	Eliminate an excise tax on corn and grain sorghum	IPP	10
LB467	McCoy	Require voter approval for annexation of cities or villages	IPP	
LB468	Karpisek	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health & Human Services	C (>315)	12
LB469	Karpisek	Create the Agricultural Land Valuation Task Force	IPP	12
LB470	Pirsch	Establish a limit on certain city occupation taxes	C	
LB471	Fulton	Change public power special generation application provisions	GF (>561)	18
LB472	Fulton	Change payment terms for scrap copper and catalytic converters	IPP	
LB473	Louden	Adopt the Nebraska Elementary Attendance Region Act	C	10
LB474	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to property exempt from property taxes	IPP	
LB475	Stuthman	Eliminate the position of county comptroller	GF	10
LB476	Stuthman	Adopt the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act and repeal the Career Education Partnership Act	S	17, 20
LB476A	Stuthman	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB477	Carlson	Change provisions relating to water transfer permits	S	12, 15
LB478	Rogert	Provide for alcoholic liquor sale and consumption on Game and Parks Commission property	C	8
LB479	Rogert	Change enrollment provisions relating to early childhood education	IPP (>549)	
LB480	Dierks	Change budget limit and tax levy limitation provisions	IPP	7
LB481	Haar	Eliminate restrictions on midwives attending home deliveries	C	9
LB482	Langemeier	Change provisions of the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act	C	
LB483	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to water well permits	S	12, 13
LB484	Stuthman	Provide for partial payment of insurance policy proceeds to a city or village by ordinance	IPP	
LB485	Cornett	Exempt natural gas from sales tax and impose an excise tax on natural gas	IPP	
LB486	Karpisek	Require certain governmental entities to identify themselves as such in their official name	C	
LB487	Dubas	Adopt the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act and provide an income tax credit	IPP	
LB488	Gloor	Change provisions relating to veterans' homes	S	
LB489	Sullivan	Adopt the Area Health Education Centers Act	FR	7, 14
LB489A	Sullivan	Appropriations Bill	FR	
LB490	Giese	Change provisions relating to nonresident hunting permits	C	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONELINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB491	Haar	Provide for home energy efficiency loans	C	
LB492	Haar	Provide for funding certain positions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	C	9
LB493	Karpisek	Require insurance coverage for cochlear implants	C	
LB494	McCoy	Require animal health care professionals to report cases of animal abuse and change dangerous dog provisions	S (+71)	17, 18, 20
LB495	Friend	Change provisions relating to annexation, additions, and control of weeds by cities and villages	S (+104, 338, 647)	15, 17, 18
LB496	Fulton	Authorize enforcement of traffic control signal violations by automated traffic enforcement systems	C	
LB497	Fulton	Change employment driving permit and ignition interlock device provisions and penalties	S	14, 17, 18
LB497A	Fulton	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB498	Fulton	Add trustees to the board of Wyuka Cemetery and require statements of conflicts of interest	S	
LB499	Dubas	Allow breast-feeding as prescribed	C	
LB500	Karpisek	Authorize certain cities and villages to use funds for the general care of cemeteries	S	10, 15, 20
LB501	Sullivan	Change provisions relating to submission of ballot issues, candidate filing form requirements, and elections by mail	S (+362)	
LB502	Langemeier	Change the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act	GF	
LB503	Langemeier	Adopt the Nebraska Shooting Range Protection Act	S	7, 18, 20
LB504	Langemeier	Authorize permits and provide penalties relating to discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the state	C	8
LB505	Pirsch	Create the Economic Development Committee of the Legislature	IPP	6
LB506	Pirsch	Change penalties related to the duty to stop at a motor vehicle accident	C	
LB507	Pirsch	Change provisions and penalties regarding domestic assault in the third degree	C	
LB508	Pirsch	Prohibit certain gang-related initiations	C	
LB509	Pirsch	Redefine election period for the Campaign Finance Limitation Act	C	
LB510	Pirsch	Require the deposit and distribution of certain surcharges and inmate wages for the benefit of victims of crime	C	12
LB511	Wallman	Redefine intermediate care facility for purposes of certificate of need	S	15
LB512	Lautenbaugh	Change airport zoning provisions relating to the regulation of airport hazards	GF	6
LB513	Lautenbaugh	Eliminate subrogation and contribution rights against a political subdivision or the state for property damage related to vehicular pursuit	C	
LB514	Lautenbaugh	Change workers' compensation disability compensation provisions	IPP	
LB515	Flood	Change provisions relating to emergency medical responders	IPP (>195)	16, 18, 20
LB516	Hansen	Require compensation for certain structures located on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds in Lancaster County	C	
LB517	Hansen	Change provisions relating to family reunification and termination of parental rights	S	9, 13, 15
LB518	McGill	Change provisions relating to homicide and other criminal offenses and penalties	C	
LB519	McGill	Provide for rate increases for behavioral health care providers and create the Provider Reimbursement Rate Commission	C	5
LB520	Hadley	Provide for an income tax credit for perpetual conservation easement donations	C	
LB521	Pankonin	Provide additional tax levy authority for learning communities	IPP	12
LB522	Urban Affairs	Change provisions relating to the use of funds by volunteer fire and rescue departments	GF	
LB523	Urban Affairs	Change provisions regarding funds collected by volunteer fire and rescue departments	C	
LB524	Friend	Increase fines for handicapped parking infractions	S	10, 15, 20
LB525	Friend	Change tax levy and economic development programs of cities and villages	GF	8
LB526	Friend	Provide requirements for land annexation by certain cities and villages	GF	6
LB527	Fulton	Require installation of automatic vehicle location system devices in state-owned vehicles	C	10
LB528	Fulton	Authorize electronic transmissions as a means of notice, delivery, and appointment under the Business Corporation Act	S	
LB529	Pahls	Transfer ownership of certain computer equipment from the Secretary of State to county clerks	C	
LB530	Sullivan	Change enrollment provisions relating to early childhood education	IPP (>549)	18
LB531	Sullivan	Redefine a term under the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act	S	
LB532	Price	Provide for the adoption of ordinances by counties	S	13, 18, 20
LB533	Price	Change expense reimbursement provisions for state employees, state officers, and others	S	10, 15, 20
LB534	Price	Change provisions relating to learning community diversity plans	IPP	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB535	Stuthman	Change membership of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and provisions relating to natural resources districts	C	
LB536	Stuthman	Authorize creation of transportation development districts and imposition of a local sales tax	IPP	8
LB537	Giese	Change provisions relating to the hours of duty of firefighters	S	
LB538	Giese	Exempt government employee retirement benefits from income tax	IPP	5
LB539	Coash	Authorize a refund of sales tax on certain residential building products	IPP	9
LB540	Gay	Change membership of the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force	S	5, 15, 20
LB541	Campbell	Exempt certain adult dental services from medicaid limitations	C	
LB542	Campbell	Provide for rules and regulations regarding dental assistants	SF	18, 19, 20
LB543	Campbell	Provide an exemption from motor vehicle industry licensing requirements	IPP	
LB544	Giese	Require the Secretary of State to publish guidelines for election workers	GF	6
LB544A	Giese	Appropriations Bill	GF	
LB545	Adams	Adopt, change, and eliminate provisions relating to school funding and state aid to schools	S (+364, 391, 546)	6, 16, 17, 19
LB545A	Adams	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB546	Adams	Change school organization provisions	C (>545)	
LB547	Adams	Rename and change provisions relating to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Act	S	11, 14, 15
LB547A	Adams	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB548	Adams	Change dates for certification of state aid to schools	S (>549)	11, 12, 18
LB549	Adams	Change provisions relating to schools	S (+257, 461, 479, 530, 548)	18
LB550	Avery	Change provisions relating to Military Department personnel and provide peace officer powers to National Guard members	GF	8
LB551	White	Extend the limiting age on sickness and accident insurance policies	S	13, 18
LB552	White	Adopt the Nebraska Construction Prompt Pay Act	GF	
LB553	White	Change certain property tax valuation protest procedures	C	
LB554	White	Prohibit certain employers from requiring use of paid leave under certain circumstances	C	
LB555	White	Change provisions relating to a research tax credit	S	7, 13, 20
LB556	White	Change workers' compensation third-party claims provisions	C	
LB557	Nantkes	Provide for a fair share representation contribution from employees who are not members of the labor union	C	10
LB558	Nantkes	Require use of funds from the temporary school fund for enhancing salaries of certificated teachers	IPP	
LB559	Gloor	Change the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act	C	11
LB560	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to towing motor vehicles	IPP	9
LB561	Lathrop	Change public power district eminent domain powers, special generation applications for electric generation facilities, and community-based energy development project provisions	S (+471)	13, 18, 20, 21
LB562	Lathrop	Provide for the continued service of metropolitan utilities district board members after annexation	S	
LB563	Lathrop	Adopt the Contractor Employee Classification Act	C	
LB564	Lathrop	Require licensure of contractors under the Contractor Registration Act	C	12
LB565	Louden	Adopt the Woody Biomass Energy Act	C	
LB566	Dubas	Provide tax incentives for windmill manufacturing	IPP	6
LB567	Dubas	Change provisions relating to the State Energy Office and the Director of the State Energy Office	C	
LB568	Dubas	Provide requirements for wind agreements	S	17, 19, 20
LB569	Dubas	Appropriate funds for a grant program for school wind projects	C (>315)	
LB570	Nordquist	Exempt museum memberships from sales and use taxes	IPP	
LB571	Pahls	Adopt the Guaranteed Asset Protection Waiver Act	SF	
LB572	Heidemann	Change Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund provisions	C	12
LB573	Nordquist	Change Conveyance Advisory Committee membership	GF	
LB574	Rogert	Change reporting requirements under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	C	
LB575	Rogert	Change initiative and referendum petition provisions	C	10
LB576	Rogert	Provide for licenses for sales of liquor and for consumption of liquor in state parks	C	8
LB577	Rogert	Change provisions relating to improvement project areas of natural resources districts	IPP	
LB578	Fulton	State intent relating to the state aid distribution to schools	IPP	

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB579	Cornett	Adopt the Professional Employer Organization Registration Act	GF	
LB580	Cornett	Change the standard of review by the Tax Equalization and Review Commission	C	8
LB581	Carlson	Change disposition of funds from Pesticide Act fees and weed book sales	C	
LB582	Dierks	Create the Nebraska Invasive Species Council	C	
LB583	Dierks	Change sales, property, and income tax provisions and education funding	C	
LB584	Dierks	Adopt the Agricultural Commodities Protection Act	C	
LB585	Dierks	Adopt the Bovine Trichomoniasis Control Act	C	
LB586	Dierks	Exempt veterinarians from the Veterinary Drug Distributor Licensing Act	IPP (>463)	13, 20
LB587	Dierks	Exempt animal grooming from sales tax as prescribed	S	
LB588	Dierks	Adopt the Dog and Cat Purchase Protection Act	IPP (>241)	5, 17, 21
LB589	Dierks	Designate both parents as joint custodians in a child custody determination unless there is proof otherwise	C	12
LB590	Dierks	Change the Disabled Persons and Family Support Act to provide financial compensation and special food and medical needs provided by families	C	8
LB591	Dierks	Change approval provisions relating to electric generation facilities	C	
LB592	Dierks	Redefine a term under the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act	C	
LB593	Dierks	Restrict entity ownership of agricultural land and farm and ranch operations	C	
LB594	Dierks	Adopt the Women's Health Protection Act governing abortion and provide a civil remedy for failure to comply with the act	C	9
LB595	Karpisek	Change coroner's examination provisions in motor vehicle accident cases	C	
LB596	Ashford	Change a legal services fee	C	
LB597	Ashford	Change provisions relating to collaborative focus schools and programs and magnet schools	C	
LB598	Ashford	Change the Nebraska Crime Victim's Reparations Act and authorize a Community Trust to assist with tragedies of violence or natural disaster	S	
LB599	Howard	Require health care facilities to provide itemized billing statements upon patient's request	IPP (>288)	17, 20, 21
LB600	Karpisek	Authorize pool halls under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act and provide duties for owners of pool halls	C	6
LB601	Nordquist	Provide for a medicaid waiver for community-based behavioral health services	IPP (>603)	13, 17, 20
LB601A	Nordquist	Appropriations Bill	IPP	
LB602	Dierks	Provide for expense reimbursement for first purchasers of certain commodities	IPP	
LB603	Health & Human Services	Change medical assistance and behavioral health provisions	S (+136, 346, 356, 601)	7, 11, 17, 20
LB603A	Gay	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB604	Howard	Change the Pharmacy Practice Act to change provisions relating to medical gas distribution	S	
LB605	Howard	Change liquor license provisions	C	8
LB606	Karpisek	Redefine terms and change a grant qualification provision in the Microenterprise Development Act	IPP	
LB607	Gay	Adopt the Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program Act	IPP	
LB608	Mello	Appropriate funds to the Supreme Court for a salary increase for county court employees	C (>315)	
LB609	Mello	Provide for child-care contracts as prescribed and provide duties for the Department of Health & Human Services	C	
LB610	Mello	Change medicaid limitation provisions relating to services for persons with disabilities	C	6
LB611	Karpisek	Amend the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act to provide cities, villages, and counties the authority to regulate smoking	IPP	5
LB612	Avery	Prohibit school districts from making contributions or reimbursements relating to retirement benefits	C	
LB613	Dierks	Eliminate a restriction on base-year employees for certain tax incentive laws	IPP	
LB614	Howard	Provide for licensure of macro social workers	W	
LB615	Cornett	Adopt the Family Entertainment and Sports Attraction Act and rename the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund Act and authorize a county sales tax	C	11
LB616	Cornett	Rename and change provisions of the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund Act and change cigarette tax distribution provisions	IPP	11
LB617	Cornett	Change provisions relating to county community buildings, authorize a community building district, and authorize a sales and use tax	IPP	11

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BILL	INTRODUCER	ONLINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUES
LB618	Cornett	Adopt the Family Entertainment and Sports Attraction Act, authorize use of sales and use taxes, and authorize a county sales tax	IPP	11
LB619	Howard	Change mental health board membership provisions	C	
LB620	Wightman	Change provisions relating to the Office of Legislative Audit and Research	S	11, 15, 18
LB621	Wightman	Provide an exemption from licensure as a massage therapist	C	
LB622	Nordquist	Provide time limits and penalties for late workers' compensation medical payments	SF	15, 21
LB623	Haar	Adopt the Interstate Compact on the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote	IPP	10
LB624	Haar	Provide for energy efficiency loans for public buildings	C	
LB625	Pirsch	Prohibit intentional exposure to another of a life-threatening communicable disease	C	11
LB626	Karpisek	Change prohibited activities for public officials and public employees use of public resources	VO	9, 18, 19, 20, 21
LB627	Business & Labor	Require inspection of domestic potable hot water heaters under the Boiler Inspection Act	S	
LB628	Business & Labor	Provide for payment of claims against the state	S	12, 18, 19
LB629	Business & Labor	Disapprove claims against the state	S	12, 18, 19
LB630	Business & Labor	Change workers' compensation provisions relating to certain notices, fees, payments, settlements, and procedures and informal dispute resolution	S (+194, 453)	17, 20
LB631	Business & Labor	Change Employment Security Law provisions	S	
LB632	Mello	Adopt the Nebraska Green Building Advantage Act and authorize a sales tax refund	IPP	
LB633	Mello	Create the Neighborhood Development Act	FR	8, 17, 19
LB633A	Mello	Appropriations Bill	FR	
LB634	Mello	Redefine household income for homestead exemption purposes	IPP	
LB635	Mello	Change reporting requirements for political party committees under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	GF	
LB636	Mello	Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development	C (>315)	
LB637	Mello	Require disclosure of information by certain group health carriers	C	
LB638	Lautenbaugh	Repeal the Campaign Finance Limitation Act and change reporting requirements under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	GF	9
LB639	Karpisek	Change provisions relating to telephone conferencing for public meetings	C (>361)	11, 15
LB640	Schilz	Provide a local option on refundability of sales tax under tax incentive laws	IPP	11
LB641	Schilz	Create a production incentive for renewable diesel fuel	C	6
LB642	Schilz	Provide for Nebraska agriculture license plates	IPP	
LB643	Schilz	Change and provide notice requirements of road construction near electric lines	C	
LB644	Mello	Adopt the Electronics Recycling Act	C	
LB645	Mello	Change provisions relating to public contracts for services	C	
LB646	Christensen	Adopt the Livestock Growth Act	C	
LB647	Christensen	Provide requirements for notice to property owners of city and village annexation proceedings	IPP (>495)	17, 18
LB648	Christensen	State intent relating to funding for a highway-related study	C	
LB649	Christensen	Change provisions for special permits for overweight vehicles	IPP	
LB650	Christensen	Authorize the operation of minitrucks on public highways	C	8
LB651	Christensen	Adopt the Water Resources Revolving Loan Fund Act	C	
LB652	Christensen	Change the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act	C	6
LB653	Harms	Create the Legislature's Planning Committee	S	16, 18
LB654	Harms	Provide for borrowing by a school district for special building fund projects	IPP	
LB655	Harms	Require community college compliance with association membership provisions	IPP	
LB656	Harms	Adopt the Health Care Accessibility and Affordability Act	C	
LB657	Harms	Change the Microenterprise Development Act	GF	
LB658	Friend	Provide for infrastructure system replacement cost recovery by certain natural gas public utilities	S	9, 20, 21
LB659	Fulton	Provide for data collection relating to persons released from incarceration	C	
LB660	Fulton	Change provisions relating to the Legislative Performance Audit Section and the Auditor of Public Accounts	C	
LB661	Gay	Change preferred drug list provisions under the Medicaid Prescription Drug Act	C	7
LB662	Janssen	Change provisions relating to nomination for certain offices	C	
LB663	Janssen	Adopt the Net Metering Act	C	6

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LB664	Janssen	Change provisions relating to sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor on public property	C	
LB665	Janssen	Adopt the Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Act	IPP	5
LB666	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to the Niobrara Council	C	
LB667	Sullivan	Change provisions relating to division fences	C	
LB668	Gay	Create offenses of assault on an emergency services provider or a health care provider in the first, second, and third degrees	W	
LB669	Coash	Change the number of district, county, and separate juvenile court judges	GF (>35)	5, 15, 19
LB669A	Ashford	Appropriations Bill	GF	
LB670	Pirsch	Change funding for the Property Tax Credit Act	IPP	7
LB671	Pirsch	Provide powers and duties for and change membership of the Nebraska County Attorney Standards Advisory Council relating to death investigations, require training for coroners and deputy coroners, and provide duties for the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	S	17, 20
LB671A	Pirsch	Appropriations Bill	S	
LB672	Pirsch	Change provisions and penalties for certain firearms crimes	W	
LB673	Price	State intent for appropriations to the community colleges	IPP	
LB674	Nantkes	Authorize establishment of an internal auditing system by the University of Nebraska	GF	
LB675	Fulton	Provide for additional voluntary and informed consents from a woman prior to abortion	S	9, 19, 20, 21
LB676	Fulton	Provide for additional voluntary and informed consents from a woman prior to abortion	C	9
LB677	Haar	Change the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act	IPP	5
LB678	Haar	Change provisions relating to minutes of public meetings	C	
LB679	Legislative Performance Audit	Require certain disclosures from potential members of the State Foster Care Review Board	S	13, 21
LB680	Appropriations	Appropriate funds to carry out the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	C	12
LB681	Flood	Provide for refund of unconstitutional taxes, assessments, and penalties	IPP	
LR1CA	Friend	Constitutional amendment to reduce the maximum number of legislative days in a regular legislative session	IPP	6
LR5CA	Friend	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three consecutive terms	IPP	6
LR6CA	Karpisek	Constitutional amendment to authorize and regulate racetrack gaming	C	4
LR9	Fulton	Encourage law enforcement agencies to enter into a memoranda of agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to perform immigration law enforcement functions	C	
LR11	Lathrop	Provide for continuation of the Developmental Disabilities Special Investigative Committee	P	6
LR26	Lautenbaugh	Strongly oppose the federal Freedom of Choice Act and urge Congress to summarily reject it	C	
LR171	Ashford	Create the Sentencing and Recidivism Task Force	P	21
LR223	Council	Urge the members of Nebraska's congressional delegation to pass immigration reform legislation	C	
LR224	Mello	Create the Budget Reform Task Force	P	
LR245	Lathrop	Provide the Executive Board appoint members to fill vacancies on the Developmental Disabilities Special Investigative Committee of the Legislature	P	
LR257	Price	Support collection of private donations to design, construct, and install a fountain in each of the four courtyards of the Capitol	P	

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- learn about and contact a senator
- find the status of bills and resolutions
- research statutes
- view the legislative calendar
- find legislative documents and reports
- watch live coverage of floor debate and committee hearings
- order legislative publications
- browse the Nebraska Blue Book
- learn about the history of unicameralism
- discover the Legislature's student programs

To find the status of a bill or resolution by telephone:

Legislative Hot Line (V/TTY) - Lincoln: (402) 471-2709  
Legislative Hot Line - Nebraska, outside Lincoln: (800) 742-7456

To write a letter to a senator, include the senator's name and district number in the address:

(SENATOR'S NAME)  
(DISTRICT #)  
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 94604  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-4604

## About the Update

The Unicameral Update is a daily legislative news source produced by the Clerk of the Legislature's Unicameral Information Office.

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