

THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE'S  
WEEKLY PUBLICATION

## UPDATE

## Death penalty ban rejected by one vote

A bill that would abolish the state's death penalty fell one vote short of advancement to select file March 20. The issue may return later this session, however, in a different bill.

**LB 476** would abolish the death penalty and substitute a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Sentences for those currently on death row would be changed to life imprisonment without parole.

The bill would require those sentenced to life to make restitution to the victim's estate for the pain and suffering inflicted upon the victim, the cost of medical expenses incurred by the victim prior to death and the cost of funeral and burial expenses.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers has introduced the bill every year since 1976. The Legislature passed a repeal of the death penalty in 1979, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. Charles Thone and senators did not vote to override the veto. This is the first year the issue has been advanced to the full Legislature for debate since 1988.

Chambers said several reasons exist to abolish the death penalty. The continued appeals of those sentenced to death are a drain on the justice system, he said. The penalty is imposed disproportionately on those whose victims are white. And the expense of the court appeals process has bankrupted counties, he said.

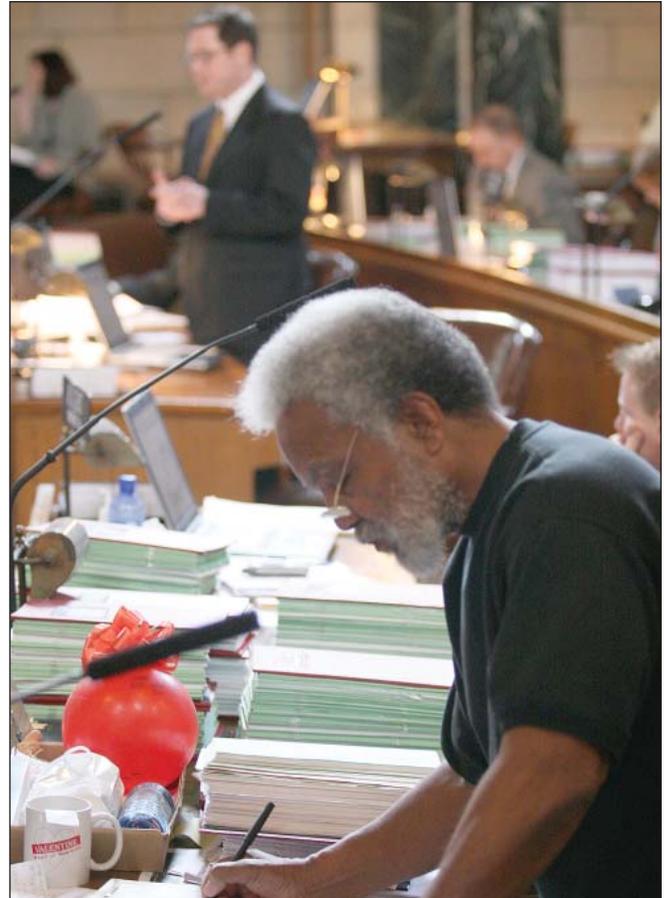
The death penalty is supposed to be reserved for the worst crimes, he said, but "the record demonstrates that is not true."

Those who commit more heinous crimes often receive life sentences as a result of plea bargaining, while those guilty of less heinous crimes are sentenced to death, Chambers said.

Further, the death penalty is not only brutal for prisoners, he said, but also for the employees of the correctional facility.

"Some said if they had known how gruesome it would be, they would not have participated in it," he said.

Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood filed a motion to bracket the bill until May 31, a procedural tactic to allow



Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers takes notes during debate on his measure that would abolish the death penalty. Sen. Mike Flood of Norfolk speaks against the bill in the background.

time for debate. He later withdrew it.

Flood said he opposed the bill because having the death penalty serves four purposes: public safety, retribution, rehabilitation and deterrence.

While he recognized

Chambers' career-long effort to repeal the death penalty, Flood said he still believes it is appropriate for the most heinous and gruesome of crimes committed.

He disputed Chambers' claims that the state spends

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

## INSIDE:

• Robocalling curtailed under proposal • Investment issue could go before voters • Meet Senator Gay • Weekly Review

# ISSUES UPFRONT



## Appropriations

### Funding shift for behavioral health sought

The Appropriations Committee heard two proposals March 19 that would shift funding from regional centers to behavioral health aid programs.

**LB 542**, introduced by Sen. John Synowiecki of Omaha, would have the effect of shifting \$10.4 million in state funding from regional centers to behavioral health aid beginning in fiscal year 2008-09. **LB 548**, also sponsored by Synowiecki, would reduce funding for regional centers by \$23.2 million in FY2007-08 and \$23.5 million in FY2008-09 and increase funding for community-based behavioral health programs by like amounts.

The committee took no immediate action on either measure.



Sen. John Synowiecki

## Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

### Robocalling curtailed under proposal

Lawmakers voted to advance a bill March 21 that would restrict the use of robocalls in political campaigns.



A robocall is a prerecorded telephone call made using a computer or automated dialing device typically used in election campaigning and telemarketing.

Following the adoption of amendments offered by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, **LB 198** would place restrictions on the dissemination of prerecorded messages relating to a candidate or ballot question.



Sen. DiAnna Schimek

Robocalls made by an automatic dialer device would include, at the beginning of the message, the identity of the person on whose behalf the message is being transmitted.

Robocalls could be disseminated only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. at the location of the person receiving the message.

Campaigns would be limited to making two robocalls per residence per day.

As originally introduced, the bill would have applied only to state and local campaigns. With the adoption of the committee amendment,

however, federal races would be regulated as well.

Schimek said her bill was introduced in response to public outcry over the use of robocalling during last year's campaign. Some of those efforts, she said, were akin to harassment due to the frequency and timing of the calls.

Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton said decorum should be part of political life. The use of robocalling during the 2006 campaign frustrated voters, he said.



Sen. Tony Fulton

"That serves to drag the political discourse down," Fulton said.

Originally, the bill would have limited campaigns to only one call per residence per day. Schimek's amendment, adopted 29-2, changed the limit to two calls per day. She said the amendment was offered in response to concerns about the need to enable campaigns to respond when attacked by their opposition.

Before advancing the bill, Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers offered an amendment that would have prohibited robocalling between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. He said many of the complaints he heard about the

# ISSUES UPFRONT.....

practice involved calls made during family meal times.

“There should be some times when an individual or a family can be free of these types of intrusions,” Chambers said.

He ultimately withdrew his amendment.

LB 198 was advanced to select file by a 31-0 vote.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

at least eight hours of marriage education would be required to pay a higher marriage license fee of \$100, with a 30-day waiting period.

Under the bill, marriage education could be provided by:

- an official representative of a religious institution or his or her designee;
- any clergy member authorized to perform marriages or his or her designee, including mentor couples or other lay volunteers if they are working in a clergy-supervised program;
- any marriage education provider or program approved by the person performing the marriage; or
- marriage education or skills training providers listed in directories maintained by each county clerk's office.

The marriage education courses would be required to teach conflict management in marriage, communication skills, financial responsibility and parenting skills.

LB 696 would give county clerks the ability to waive the \$100 fee and the 30-day waiting period when presented with compelling circumstances such as terminal illness or imminent transfer to a combat zone.

Failed marriages and broken homes not only cause great hurt and suffering for those involved, Christensen said, they also cause more expense for the state. The bill would produce stronger marriages that would result in stronger families, neighborhoods and communities, he said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers questioned whether eight hours of training would make any difference on those issues.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

## Revenue

### ‘Snuff’ tax increase moves to final reading

A bill that would change the tax rate on certain tobacco products was advanced to final reading March 22.

#### LB 106,

sponsored by Sen. Pat Engel of South Sioux City, would reclassify tobacco-related substances into three categories:

- smoking tobacco, which would include tobacco-related items that can be smoked, with the exception of cigarettes;
- tobacco products, which would include tobacco items intended primarily for chewing; and
- cigarettes, which were not impacted by the bill.

Under LB 106, tobacco products would be taxed at a rate of \$1.05 per ounce.

During previous debate, Engel said the current method of taxing tobacco products creates disparities between specific products. Some are taxed based on weight and others on the purchase price, he said.

LB 106 was advanced to final reading by a 25-13 vote.



Sen. Pat Engel

## Judiciary

### Bill would encourage marriage education

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony March 20 on a bill that would create an incentive for engaged couples to complete eight hours of marriage education.

Introduced by Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen, **LB 696** would lower fees for those applying for a marriage license if they present the county clerk with a certificate signed by a marriage education provider indicating the couple has completed at least eight hours of marriage education.



Sen. Mark Christensen

In Nebraska the current marriage license fee is \$15, with no waiting period. LB 696 would allow those who complete eight hours of marriage education to maintain the current fee with no waiting period.

Those who have not completed

# ISSUES UPFRONT.....

and Highway Allocation Fund in the same manner as sales taxes collected from the sale of motor vehicles. Currently, the sales tax revenues from leased vehicles go to the state's general fund.



Sen. Deb Fischer

The bill would apply to motor vehicle leases that are for a period of more than 31 days.

According to the Legislative Fiscal Office, the bill would reduce revenues for the state's general fund by \$7.3 million in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$9.9 million in FY2008-09. The bill would increase funding to the state Department of Roads by \$3.5 million in FY2007-08 and \$4.8 million in FY2008-09.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers asked lawmakers to indefinitely postpone the bill.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

"I strenuously oppose this raid on the general fund," he said.

Calling the Highway Trust Fund a "sacred cow," Chambers said roads advocates are seeking funding from any source they can find for additional money, but the shifting of funds from the general fund would leave less money available for other spending needs.

Fischer opposed the move to kill her bill. Lower levels of fuel sales and greater fuel efficiencies in cars have resulted in a decrease in gas tax revenues that fund road construction projects, she said.

At one time the leasing of cars was rare, but not anymore, she said.

"I don't view this as a raid on the

general fund," Fischer said. "People who lease cars use our highways."

Sen. Lowen Kruse of Omaha said the state is experiencing a genuine shortage of funding for roads projects.



Sen. Lowen Kruse

The Legislature will need to find funding for roads outside of the state budget, Kruse said. Not addressing the funding shortage will lead to a reduction in the quality of roads in Nebraska, he said.

Chambers argued that no one exercises reasonable oversight on the Department of Roads and how it spends roads funding.

"They do what they want to do," he said.

Fischer noted that the bill, if advanced, would await final legislative action until after the state budget package is passed.

Chambers' motion to indefinitely postpone LB 305 failed by a 5-34 vote. He offered other motions to continue discussion on the bill, all of which were rejected.

The Legislature adjourned for the week before finishing select file consideration of LB 305.

## Urban Affairs

### Public investment amendment could go before voters

Legislators amended and advanced a resolution March 21 that proposes a constitutional amendment to allow investment flexibility for public endowments.

**LR 6CA**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, would ask voters to amend Article XI, Section 1 of

the Nebraska Constitution, which currently limits the types of investments that can be made by city, village or school district endowments.



Sen. Bill Avery

The resolution, if approved by voters, would provide the Legislature with the authority to authorize the investment of the public endowment funds of cities, villages and school districts.

An amendment offered by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers and adopted 45-1 removed public power districts and political subdivisions from the proposal. Otherwise, the resolution is identical to one that was rejected on the 2006 statewide ballot as Amendment 2.

Avery said LR 6CA would allow for a more diverse investment portfolio that would be wisely invested with the skill, care and diligence of a prudent investor.

He cited the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln as an example, which was created in 1998 by the sale of Lincoln General Hospital. He estimated that \$3.96 million in additional investment income would have been returned to the community had the city been allowed to diversify its portfolio.

This money was lost, he said, because of the current investment limitations, placed in the Nebraska Constitution in 1875. Those limitations allow only investments in bonds, which have gained interest of only between 3 and 5 percent.

Avery explained that these public endowments are created to house investments from donations and the sale of public properties to generate income rather than

# ISSUES UPFRONT.....

being spent immediately.

Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek said voters become more educated about a proposal when it appears on the ballot multiple times. It took voters several times to be persuaded to

become a unicameral, too, she said.

She reiterated that the proposed amendment would involve only endowment funds, not general operating funds.

“This is not about public entities

using general funds for investments,” she said. “This is not going to have school districts spending their state aid.”

LR 6CA advanced to select file 42-0.

# LEGISLATIVE TERMS.....

**Amendment On File** - an amendment of 10 or more pages, not printed separately or in the Journal, that is available in the Clerk’s Office (Room 2018).

**Appropriation Bill (“A” Bill)** - a bill to appropriate funds to finance another bill bearing the same number.

**Bracket** - to delay consideration of a bill.

**Cloture** - a parliamentary action to cease debate on a bill and vote immediately on its advancement. A motion for cloture may be made after eight hours of debate on most bills and after 12 hours on appropriation bills introduced by the Appropriations Committee.

**Constitutional Amendment Resolution** - a proposal to amend the state constitution, ratify or reject an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, or petition Congress about amending the U.S. Constitution. State CA resolutions have the suffix “CA” by the resolution number, and they must be approved by the voters as well as the Legislature.

**Executive Session** - a closed meeting of a committee to discuss and act on bills and resolutions. An executive session is open only to committee members, committee staff and the media.

**Final Reading** - the third and last stage at which a bill is considered by the entire Legislature. The clerk

reads the entire bill aloud, unless final reading is waived, and senators vote without debate on whether to submit the bill to the governor.

**General File** - the first stage at which a bill is considered by the full Legislature. Bills on General File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Select File.

**Indefinitely Postpone (IPP)** - to kill a bill.

**Legislative Bill (LB)** - a proposal to create, change or delete one or more laws.

**Legislative Resolution (LR)** - a proposal to make a formal expression of opinion, intent or recognition; amend the state or federal constitution; or authorize a study of an issue during the interim. See also Constitutional Amendment Resolution, Interim Study Resolution.

**One-liner** - a one-line description of a bill or resolution.

**Priority Bill** - a bill that has priority status and generally is considered ahead of other bills in debate. Each senator may select one priority bill, each committee may select two priority bills, and the speaker may select up to 25 priority bills.

**Select File** - the second stage at which a bill is considered by the entire Legislature. Bills on Select File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to

Final Reading.

**Session** - a period of time, usually a number of days, during which the Legislature meets and transacts business.

**Session Laws** - compilation of all laws and constitutional amendment resolutions passed in a session.

**Sine Die** - without setting a future date for reconvening. When the Legislature adjourns sine die, the legislative session is finished for the year.

**Slip Law** - a bill or constitutional amendment resolution printed individually in its approved form after being enacted into law or submitted to voters.

**Speaker of the Legislature** - the officer of the Legislature, elected from among the senators, who prepares the daily agenda and the session calendar and who presides in the absence of the lieutenant governor.

**Special Session** - a limited legislative session called for a specific purpose by the governor or two-thirds (33 members) of the Legislature.

**Veto** - the power of the governor to reject bills passed by the Legislature. The governor has five days, excluding Sundays, to either sign or veto a bill. The Legislature then has an opportunity to override the veto.

**Veto Override** - the power of the Legislature to pass a bill over the governor’s veto. A veto override requires the approval of three-fifths (30 members) of the Legislature.



# A CLOSER LOOK.....

method of execution from the electric chair to lethal injection. While he strongly believes that the electric chair does not violate the U.S. Constitution's protections against cruel and unusual punishment, he said the issue is worthy of discussion.

Chambers said he opposed using lethal injection as well, as the "three-

drug cocktail" is often incorrectly administered, causing severe pain and burns.

Eleven states have enacted a moratorium on the use of lethal injection because of these problems, he said.

"There is realistically no painless, clean, efficient way to kill a person," he said.

LB 476 failed to advance on a 24-25 vote. The Judiciary Committee, however, is considering amending a version of the bill into **LB 377**, a committee priority bill that originally would have reallocated district court judgeships. If advanced from committee, the death penalty issue would reach the floor again later this session for further debate.

## Capital Punishment in Nebraska: A Timeline

Currently, an offender in Nebraska can be sentenced to death if he or she has committed first-degree murder under certain aggravating circumstances identified in state law. These circumstances include when the victim is a law enforcement officer or when the murder was exceptionally depraved.

A jury must determine whether aggravating

circumstances are present that make execution an option for sentencing. The defendant may waive the right to a jury determination. If that occurs, a three-judge panel must reach a unanimous decision that aggravating circumstances exist.

Electrocution is the only legal method of carrying out the death penalty in Nebraska.

### 1972

In *Furman v. Georgia*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that death penalty laws in Georgia and Texas violated the U.S. Constitution. Although the Court did not specifically declare the death penalty to be unconstitutional, the justices did suggest that the death penalty had not been administered in a fair, impartial manner. States began the process of revising their death penalty laws.

### 1973

Nebraska legislators updated the state's capital punishment legislation in deference to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Furman* decision.

### 1978

Out of a concern for the fairness of capital punishment sentencing in Nebraska, a series of reforms were instituted by legislators to ensure that "scrupulous standards of fairness and uniformity" were utilized in the

administration of the death penalty by prosecutors and the courts.

### 1979

Legislators came close to repealing the death penalty when a bill sponsored by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers to end the practice was passed but vetoed by then-Gov. Charles Thone.

### 1998

Legislators passed LB 1266, which prohibited the execution of individuals who are mentally disabled. The law applies to those persons with an intelligence quotient of 70 or below.

### 1999

Legislators passed LB 76, which would have imposed a two-year moratorium on executions and appropriated funds for a study of the death penalty. While Gov. Mike Johanns vetoed the death penalty moratorium, LB 76A, which provided \$160,000 to the Nebraska Crime

Commission to complete the capital punishment study, was signed into law.

### 2002

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Ring v. Arizona* that the U.S. Constitution empowered only juries to determine whether evidence supported the existence of aggravating circumstances that can trigger a death sentence.

In response, the Legislature met in special session and enacted legislation that gave juries the duty of determining whether aggravating circumstances are present in murder cases.

### 2007

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers introduced LB 476, which would repeal the death penalty in Nebraska.

The Judiciary Committee advanced the bill to the full Legislature for debate. The bill, however, fell one vote short of advancing to select file.

# MEET THE SENATORS

## Sen. Gay appreciates ‘citizen legislature’

**E**lected office is not new to Tim Gay. At 29 years old, he ran for and won a seat on the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners, where he served for 12 years. He said his interest in politics began at the age of six, when his father was elected to the Public Service Commission.

Gay grew up in Columbus, studied business at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and then moved to Papillion, the area he now represents. He manages a group of financial advisors at a local bank. He and his wife, Tonee, have three children: Matt, 11; Kathryn, 9; and Nicholas, 6.

He’s grateful that his wife and employer have been so willing to shuffle responsibilities to allow him to serve as a senator, he said. Running for the Legislature was an opportunity for him to change things he thought needed changing.

“As a county commissioner, you can only administer the law. I wanted to be involved in the process of changing it.”

Gay said balancing his new schedule has been challenging, requiring a lot of early mornings and late evenings. Having a phone and computer connected to his bank office in Papillion allows him to juggle the duties of his profession and his legislative service. He speculated that recent technologies like the Internet and

cell phones probably make it a lot easier for senators to keep in contact with their responsibilities to their employment outside the Legislature, he said.

“I’m getting a handle on the time management,” he said. “The time commitment and number of issues we

deal with is pretty intense. I try to stay focused on the ideas I want to get done and where I can make a difference.”

Gay said he tries to focus on what drives him—issues like taxes and government efficiencies. He serves on two committees—the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee—covering a wide variety of issues.

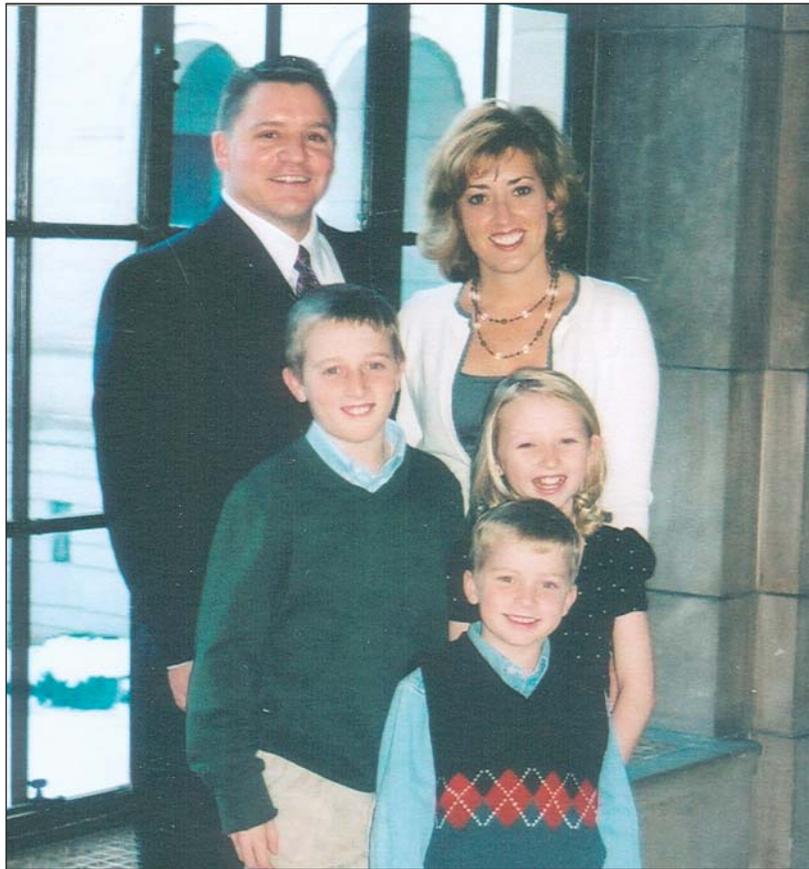
While he is interested in learning all he can about the hundreds of bills introduced this session, he said he is finding you can’t be an expert on

all the issues.

Instead, he said he listens and learns from the expertise the senators bring with them from their professions and experiences.

“My colleagues are an unfiltered resource. That’s one of the nice things about being here,” Gay said. “The lobbyists have their input, but we have ranchers, grocery store owners, bankers, lawyers and surgeons who are senators. They’re the experienced people I listen to.”

“That’s a citizen legislature,” he said.



*Sen. Tim Gay poses for a picture in the hall of the Capitol building with his wife, Tonee, and their three children: Matt, 11; Kathryn, 9; and Nicholas, 6.*

# WEEKLY REVIEW

A REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TAKEN MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007, THROUGH THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

## Agriculture

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
12	MINES	Change the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act	Placed on Final Reading

## Banking, Commerce and Insurance

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
124	BANKING	Change provisions relating to banking and finance	Signed by Governor
368	ERDMAN	Adopt the Nebraska Limited Cooperative Association Act	Placed on General File

## Education

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
192	HARMS	Adopt the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act and eliminate the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act	Placed on Final Reading
231	RAIKES	Change provisions relating to the Early Childhood Training Center	Signed by Governor

## General Affairs

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
578	MCDONALD	Change provisions relating to liquor licenses	Placed on Select File
638	GENERAL AFFAIRS	Change and eliminate provisions relating to bingo, lotteries, and raffles	Advanced to Final Reading

## Government, Military, Veterans Affairs

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
198	SCHIMEK	Change requirements for campaign messages	Placed on Select File
248	NANTKES	Provide for road improvement district elections to be conducted by mail	Signed by Governor
389	AGUILAR	Change provisions relating to public records	Advanced to Final Reading
646	NELSON	Change provisions relating to counting ballots	Placed on General File

## Health & Human Services

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
292	HANSEN	Provide for transfers of county funds for medicaid purposes	Advanced to Final Reading

## Judiciary

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
83	SYNOWIECKI	Provide for Board of Parole recommendations relating to incarceration work camps	Signed by Governor
237	PAHLS	Change the homestead exemption amount for judgments and execution	Signed by Governor
476	CHAMBERS	Change penalty from death to life imprisonment without possibility of parole and provide for restitution	Failed on General File

# WEEKLY REVIEW

A REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TAKEN MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007, THROUGH THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

## Natural Resources

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
390	AGUILAR	Require certain rules and regulations related to underground storage tanks and tank operators	Signed by Governor
458	CARLSON	Require vegetation management in certain streams	Placed on General File
568	NATURAL RESOURCES	Extend a scrap tire grant program	Placed on Final Reading
636	NATURAL RESOURCES	Exempt certain public power district contracts from sealed bidding requirements	Placed on Select File
677	DUBAS	Change late fees under the Livestock Waste Management Act	Placed on Select File

## Retirement

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
328	NEBRASKA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	Change provisions relating to county and state retirement plans	Advanced to Final Reading

## Revenue

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
106	ENGEL	Change the tax on snuff	Advanced to Final Reading
145	MCDONALD	Require annual notices to property tax homestead exemption claimants	Signed by Governor
170	KOPPLIN	Change the tax levy authority of educational service units	Indefinitely postponed
304	GAY	Change qualifications for tax credits relating to long-term care insurance	Placed on Select File
334	DIERKS	Merge the Department of Property Assessment and Taxation with the Department of Revenue	Placed on General File
575	KRUSE	Exempt assisted-living facilities from sales and use taxes	Placed on General File
604	RAIKES	Change educational service units' taxing authority	Indefinitely postponed
687	KARPISEK	Redefine household income for homestead exemption purposes	Indefinitely postponed
688	KARPISEK	Provide for development of an income-based method of valuing agricultural land	Indefinitely postponed

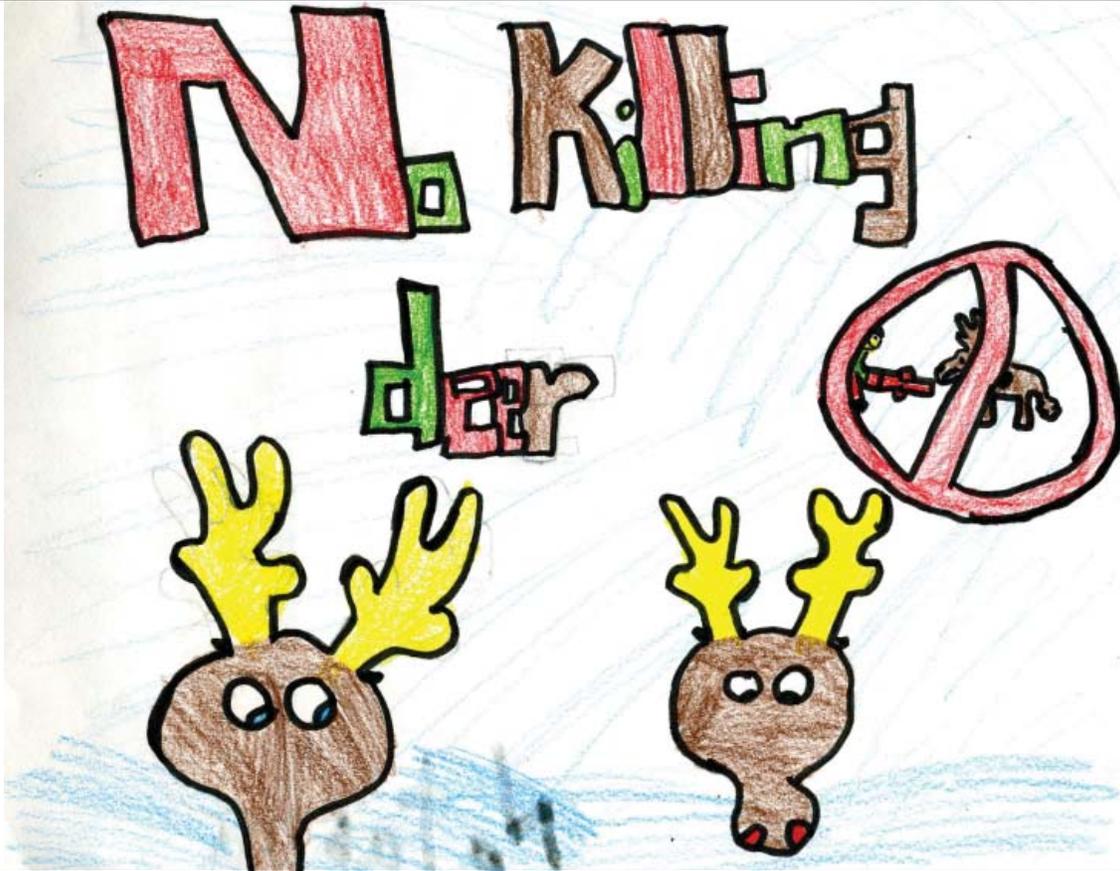
## Transportation and Telecommunications

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
239	FISCHER	Update references to federal law in certain state motor vehicle statutes	Signed by Governor
286	TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	Change the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act and the Motor Vehicle Registration Act	Placed on Final Reading
681	PEDERSEN	Increase motor vehicle dealer licensing fees and a bond	Advanced to Final Reading

## Urban Affairs

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
160	CORNETT	Change fire and rescue department provisions relating to clothing, equipment, and donations	Advanced to Final Reading
347	MINES	Change provisions relating to the giving of bonds by city or village officials	Signed by Governor
LR 6CA	AVERY	Constitutional amendment to provide for investment by political subdivisions	Placed on Select File

## IF I COULD MAKE A LAW



Natasha Barrett, age 10, Heartland Community Schools, Henderson. "No killing deer allowed."

### STUDENT ART SERIES

To commemorate the 100th Nebraska Legislature, fourth- through sixth-grade students throughout the state were invited to submit artwork depicting a law they would propose if they were a senator.

Selected entries will be published in each edition of this session's *Unicameral Update* and also will be posted on the Legislature's website at [nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/learning/makealaw](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/learning/makealaw).

Published entries were selected by Larry Starr, director of social science education at the state Department of Education, Karen Janovy, curator of education for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Heidi Uhing, civic learning coordinator for the Nebraska Legislature. The top three entries will be published in the last three issues this session.

## UNICAMERALUPDATE

The Unicameral Update is a free, weekly newsletter offered during the legislative session covering actions taken in committees and on the floor of the Legislature.

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