

THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE'S
WEEKLY PUBLICATION

UPDATE

Bills would change petition requirements

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee heard testimony Jan. 25 on two bills that would make changes to the petition process.

LB 311, introduced by Sen. Ray

Aguilar of Grand Island, would change provisions relating to petition signature verification to conform to the Nebraska Supreme Court case *Stenberg v. Moore*.

Current law requires that petition

signatures and accompanying information exactly match voter registration records. The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that portion of the law unconstitutional.

Under the bill, the election commissioner or county clerk would compare the petition signer's signature and other information with voter registration records to determine whether the signer was a registered voter. The determination could be rebutted by any evidence that the election commissioner or county clerk finds sufficient.

Neal Erickson, deputy secretary of state, said his office is already making determinations to account for things such as nicknames or variations in addresses.

"Our current verification process complies with this," Erickson said. "It's just putting something back on the books that should be there."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



Omaha Sen. Mike Friend asks questions during the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee hearing Jan. 25. Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls and York Sen. Greg Adams look on.

Bill would fund community colleges with state funds

How citizens fund their community colleges could change under a proposal discussed before the Education Committee Jan. 23.

LB 238, introduced by Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer, would repeal the property tax levying authority of community colleges. Under the bill, community colleges would be funded in the same manner as the University of Nebraska and Nebraska's state colleges.

The state's six community colleges would be governed by a statewide board of trustees. The board would consist of seven members appointed by the governor, one from each of the six community college areas and one at-large.

Local advisory boards would be established for each of the six community college areas. Local pilot programs would be permitted to address immediate and regionally

specific needs.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2009, and the state would assume financial responsibility for long-term obligations funded by local property taxes at that time. Based on the community college system's state aid request for the 2007-09 biennium, approximately \$81.4 million in local property tax revenue is anticipated in fiscal year 2006-07.

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• Committee Hearing Schedule • Committee considers public assistance cuts • Meet Senator Dierks • Weekly Review

ISSUES UPFRONT



Agriculture

Hybrid vaccine bill gains first round approval

A bill that would require hybrid animals to be vaccinated against rabies advanced from general file Jan. 22.

LB 25, introduced by Sen. Chris Langemeier of Schuyler, would define a hybrid animal as a domestic animal bred with a non-domestic animal. The bill would require a licensed vaccine to be administered to hybrid animals.



Sen. Chris Langemeier

Domestic animals are defined as household cats and dogs.

Currently, there is no proven rabies vaccine for hybrid animals. However, Langemeier said the state should prepare for the future.

"Hybrid animals become a little more popular every year," he said. "We don't know when a vaccination will become effective. It's something that could come in a month or that could come in years."

LB 25 was advanced on a 42-0 vote.

Updates to food safety code advance

A bill that would update regulations for retail food establishments advanced from general file Jan. 25.



LB 74, sponsored by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, would incorporate new Food and Drug Administration regulations into the Nebraska Pure Food Act.



Sen. Philip Erdman

The U.S. Public Health Service updates the food code every four years. Nebraska is currently following the 2001 code.

LB 74 would create a separate classification for those food vendors who provide prepackaged food from temporary locations. The bill also would raise the maximum fees paid by food establishments to account for inflation. The new fees would go into effect July 1, 2007.

LB 74 was advanced on a 42-0 vote.

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Immunization coverage loophole to be closed

A bill that would treat insurance certificates and policies the same when it comes to covering childhood

immunizations garnered first round approval by lawmakers Jan. 25.

LB 63, introduced by Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, would require all group and individual sickness and accident insurance certificates issued in Nebraska that provide coverage for a dependent child under six years of age to also provide coverage for childhood immunizations.



Sen. DiAnna Schimek

Schimek explained that such a requirement already exists for health insurance policies in Nebraska, but that some companies that issue certificates instead of policies could avoid the requirement.

LB 63 was advanced to select file by a 41-0 vote.

Business and Labor

CIR pay increase considered

The Business and Labor Committee heard a bill Jan. 22 that would increase pay for judges on the Commission of Industrial Relations.

ISSUES UPFRONT.....

The role of the CIR is to hear labor-related disputes, such as those involving wages or union representation.

LB 211, sponsored by the committee, would increase the per diem pay for CIR judges to the equivalent of the daily compensation for a district court judge. The current per diem rate is \$250. Under the bill, that daily rate would increase to \$488.89.

The committee took no immediate action on the measure.

Education

School aid adjustment bill gets first and second round okay

Lawmakers gave select file approval Jan. 24 to a measure that would change the way early childhood education students are counted under the state's formula for aid to schools.

LB 21, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Ron Raikes, would remove the number of early childhood education students from a cost growth factor used in calculating state aid to schools.

The bill also would delay the 2007 deadline for state aid certification from Feb. 1 to Feb. 15 to allow for calculation changes in time for the 2007-08 school year.

The changes proposed in LB 21 are estimated to reduce state aid to schools by \$6.5 million in fiscal year 2007-08 and by \$10.5 million in FY2008-09.

Raikes said that under legislation

passed in 2005, students who had been enrolled in early childhood education grant programs could be counted under the state aid formula. However, that provision created an artificial growth factor in the state aid formula, he said.

LB 21 would partially address issues with the cost growth factor in the state aid formula, with more legislation coming later in the session, Raikes said.

After having advanced LB 21 to select file Jan. 22 on a 43-0 vote, lawmakers moved the bill to final reading by a voice vote.

General Affairs

Lone gaming statute repeal advanced

Lawmakers advanced a bill Jan. 24 that would repeal gaming statutes that were adopted by Initiative 419 in 2004.

In the 2004 general election, the state's citizens voted on several initiatives and constitutional amendments related to casino gambling. There were four initiatives, 417 through 420.

Only two initiatives passed: Initiative 418, a constitutional provision, and Initiative 419, which created new statutes.

Initiative 418 changed the Nebraska Constitution to require a vote of two-thirds of the Legislature to repeal or change any law enacted by initiative.

Initiative 419 created new statutes to establish a tax and fee schedule for casinos. It proposed a state tax of 36 percent of the first \$15 million of gross gaming revenue and 20 percent of the gross gaming revenue exceeding \$15 million. It passed

with 51 percent of the vote.

Initiative 419 also allocated those tax proceeds to the state's general fund and the communities that had authorized such gaming. Finally, the measure established an annual license fee of \$100 per authorized operator per location.

Since the initiative that would have allowed casino gambling did not pass, the statutory tax structure for casinos created by Initiative 419 is unenforceable.

"**LB 64** should be a no-brainer," said Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, the bill's introducer.

She explained that the statute is unnecessary as long as casinos do not exist in the state.

"It's superfluous, and if we were going to have it, it's wrongheaded," she said. "We are leaving ourselves wide open to casinos coming in and establishing themselves at the \$100 level."

Schimek explained that if casinos were to come to Nebraska, the state would want to negotiate those fees to be as beneficial to the state as possible.

"It is easy to see that gambling would thrive in this state while the state would have little to show for it," she said.

Omaha Sen. Lowen Kruse speculated that the public passed Initiative 419 because they might

have thought it would bring in more fees from casinos to the state.

"This \$100 fee is ridiculous," he said. "In Pennsylvania, it's \$50 million."

Kruse had introduced **LB 181**, an identical bill that was left in the



Sen. Ron Raikes



Sen. Lowen Kruse

ISSUES UPFRONT.....

General Affairs Committee to avoid redundancy.

"If we have another casino push, it should start with a clean slate," Kruse said.

LB 64 advanced to select file 44-0.

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Bill to require domestic state service contracts killed

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee indefinitely postponed a bill heard Jan. 24 that would have required all state contracts for services be awarded to U.S. companies.

LB 87, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, also would have required that the work for state contracts be performed in the United States. Preference would have been given to Nebraska-based companies for any contract employing more than 10 individuals.

Howard said the bill would have helped reduce the number of contracts awarded to foreign countries and supported workforce investment efforts in the state.

The committee voted unanimously to indefinitely postpone LB 87.

Proposal would change state auditor procedures

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee heard

testimony Jan. 24 on a bill that would allow the state auditor to report state program performance issues to the Legislature at any time.

Under current law, if the auditor finds potential issues during the course of conducting an audit of a state agency, the auditor reports the problem to the Legislative Performance Audit Committee.

Under **LB 100**, introduced by Sen. Philip Erdman of Bayard, the auditor could report problems to the Legislature at any time, not exclusively in conjunction with a current audit.

Erdman said the bill would enable the Legislature to learn earlier of potential problems in program administration.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.



Sen. Philip Erdman

Health and Human Services

Bill would end assistance for recent immigrants

A bill heard by the Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 25 would make some non-citizen residents ineligible for state public assistance programs.

Introduced by Speaker Mike Flood at the request of the governor, **LB 326** is part of the governor's biennial budget recommendations.

Under the bill, legal permanent



Sen. Mike Flood

resident aliens who entered the country after August 1996 and have been in the United States for less than five years could no longer receive assistance through the state's food stamp, Medicaid, aid to dependent children and disability aid programs.

In 1996, federal funding program changes required these residents to have been present in the United States for at least five years before they could receive assistance.

The Nebraska Legislature responded in 1997 by enacting LB 864, a bill that extended benefits to those residents no longer receiving federally funded services by allocating state general fund dollars.

Chris Peterson, policy secretary for the state Health and Human Services System, said the bill would help curb state spending while aligning Nebraska law with federal law.

She explained that the federal limitation is based on the principle that "lawful, permanent immigrants, particularly newly arriving ones, should not depend on the government for assistance."

In fiscal year 2005-06, a total of 700 lawful permanent residents received this assistance, she said, costing the state \$2.96 million.

The bill would go into effect July 1 and would not apply to refugees or non-U.S. citizens who are granted asylum, battered spouses and children, active duty military or dependents.

Among those opposing the bill was Rebecca Gould of Nebraska Appleseed, who credited immigrants for boosting the state's rural economy.

"Their economic contributions are significant," she said. "They pay

ISSUES UPFRONT.....

more in taxes than they receive in public assistance.”

Goeld said that there is a common misperception that new immigrants choose to become U.S. residents to take advantage of our assistance programs. From 1995 to 2000, states with lesser amounts of available public assistance funds saw their immigrant populations grow at four times the rate of states offering more public assistance, she said.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

Natural Resources

Expanded grant program for drinking water advanced

A bill that would expand a drinking water grant program to include communities of 10,000 or fewer gained first round approval Jan. 23.

LB 80, introduced by the Natural Resources Committee, would allow public water systems in smaller communities to qualify for funding. The program now provides up to \$2 million annually for drinking water projects and evaluation.

“Currently, smaller communities don’t have any system where they can leverage grant funds,” said Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon, the committee’s chairperson.



Sen. LeRoy Loudon

Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek supported the bill, but was concerned about the depletion of the available funds.

LB 80 was advanced on a 42-0 vote.

Bill would change Environmental Trust Board appointments

The Natural Resources Committee held a hearing Jan. 25 on a bill that would change geographic areas from which members of the Environmental Trust Board are appointed.

LB 291, sponsored by North Platte Sen. Tom Hansen, would model new districts after the Game and Parks Commission districts created in 2002. Currently, the board consists of nine citizen members representing the three congressional districts and five members of the executive branch. Executive branch members include the department directors of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, Agriculture and the secretary of the Game and Parks Commission.



Sen. Tom Hansen

LB 291 would allow the governor to appoint eight citizens, one from each of the eight newly-created districts.

Hansen said all but one of the current citizen trust board members would be transitioned into representing the newly organized geographic structure. The governor would designate which current board members would represent each new district.

The committee voted unanimously to advance LB 291.

Transportation and Telecommunications

Committee considers compact withdrawal

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee held a hearing Jan. 22 on the proposed withdrawal of Nebraska from the Midwest Interstate Passenger Railway Compact.

Enacted in 2001, the purpose of the compact is to promote the development and implementation of improvements to intercity passenger rail service in the Midwest, including long-range plans for high-speed rail passenger service.

Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer, the sponsor of **LB 165**, said Nebraska pays \$15,000 in dues per year to the compact, while the state Department of Roads believes there has been no benefit to the state.



Sen. Deb Fischer

Supporters of improved passenger rail service testified, however, that withdrawing would leave Nebraska without a voice in future development.

The committee took no immediate action on the bill.

ISSUES UPFRONT.....

Urban Affairs

Revenue bonds revisited

The Urban Affairs Committee heard testimony Jan. 23 on a proposed constitutional amendment that failed on the November 2006 ballot.

LR 5CA, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, would authorize the use of revenue bonds by any county, city or village to acquire, own, develop and lease property for use by nonprofit enterprises.



Sen. Mike Friend

The amendment also would allow the issuing of revenue bonds to defray the cost of acquiring and developing or financing such property by construction, purchase

or otherwise.

No taxes could be levied to pay for these bonds.

Financial obligations arising from the bonds could only be satisfied from the project itself and the revenues received under the loan agreement or lease. They would not be obligations of the issuing city or county.

Friend said this was the fourth attempt to put what has become a "convoluted issue" on the ballot for voters' adoption.

He said the amendment contains complicated subject matter, and the challenge is to make it understandable to voters.

"There's an art to this," Friend said. "There is a strategy about trying to communicate this a little better to the public."

James Nissen of Wells Fargo Bank said the 2006 general election ballot contained several divisive issues. Voters had heard so many

negative things about most of them that they were reluctant to support any of them, he said.

Nissen said health and education related nonprofits already can issue such bonds, as can most nonprofits in many other states.

"It gives other nonprofits the same opportunity," he said, citing the Red Cross and Lincoln's Capital Humane Society as examples of organizations that could benefit from the amendment.

"They don't make a profit, but they do have cash flow through programs and generous donations," Nissen explained.

That revenue is used to pay off the bonds, and the nonprofit bondholder is at risk if the bond goes unpaid. Taxpayers do not have to take on the risk, but they benefit from the services that are not tax supported, Nissen said.

The committee took no immediate action.

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A CLOSER LOOK.....

Bills would change petition requirements

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

The committee voted unanimously to advance LB 311.

Another measure, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, would propose changing required signature thresholds for both constitutional amendments and statutory initiatives.

LR 8CA would increase the required number of signatures for constitutional amendments from 10 percent of the state's registered voters to 15 percent. The required number of signatures for statutory initiatives would be decreased from 7 percent to 4.

Avery said the proposal, if adopted by the voters, would make it harder to change the constitution, but easier for citizens to make statutory changes.

"Since at least 1990, the Nebraska Constitution has been under attack mostly from organizations from outside of our state," Avery said.

Since 1990, 18 petition drives have succeeded in getting issues on the ballot and 16 of those proposed constitutional amendments, Avery said.

According to public records, he said, \$9 million has been raised since 1990 for petition drives and 70 percent of that funding came from out-of-state sources.

"I have deep respect for the right of citizens to petition their government," Avery said. "But I also have deep respect for our state constitution. It deserves to be protected from the desires and whims of out-of-state organizations. It is not a trivial document. It's not written in pencil so that whoever has the biggest eraser can come in

and erase it all willy-nilly."

Avery said he hoped the increase in signature requirements for constitutional amendments would encourage people to attempt statutory changes before trying to change the constitution. Statutory changes passed through the petition process are eligible for review by the Legislature and may be repealed by a two-thirds vote of lawmakers.

Lynn Rex of the League of Nebraska Municipalities testified in support of the bill, saying legislators have an important role to play in how the constitution is revised.

"I think, as a Legislature, that you

have an obligation to protect the constitution," she said.

Sen. Mike Friend of Omaha said he was concerned that the proposed increase to 15 percent would not produce the desired result. Wealthy special interest groups would not be deterred by a 5 percent increase, but citizens working on grassroots petition campaigns would, he said.

"There are some that will find no bar too high," Friend said.

Avery said he would be willing to consider other required signature levels.

The committee advanced LR 8CA on a 6-1 vote.



Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery introduced a measure that would propose changing required signature thresholds for both constitutional amendments and statutory initiatives.

A CLOSER LOOK.....

Bill would fund community colleges with state funds

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Fischer said her proposal was not an attack on the community college system. Rather, Nebraska is a high tax state and efforts to cut taxes should focus on local property taxes, she said.

"Property taxes are the single most aired concern that I hear as I travel throughout my district and this state," Fischer said.

Along with the need for property tax relief, Fischer cited governance and equity issues as reasons for the proposed reform.

"We have one set of rules for the university and state colleges, and another for community colleges," she said.

Community colleges can access additional revenue in lean funding times if property values increase, she said. But that ability is not available to other higher education institutions, she said.

The need for property tax relief was echoed by former Sen. Howard

Lamb, who testified in support of LB 238. Lamb, who served in the Legislature from 1977-1993, offered a similar measure during his legislative tenure.

"I pay property tax whether I make any money or not," Lamb said. "I pay income tax based on whether I can afford it."

He said community colleges should be treated more like the university and state colleges when it comes to funding. When community colleges were first created, they were largely trade and technical schools, he said.

"Today, they are full-fledged colleges," Lamb said.

However, the executive director of the Nebraska Community Colleges Association argued that the mechanism for providing property tax relief through the community college aid formula already exists.

Dennis Baack said the state could simply overfund the formula, which would reduce the need for local property tax revenues to fund community college operations.

Historically, the connection

“Property taxes are the single most aired concern that I hear as I travel throughout my district and this state.

Sen. Deb Fischer
Valentine

”

between community colleges and property taxes has been based on the desire for local control, he said. Baack expressed concern about the potential impact that having to rely on fluctuating state revenues could have on tuition rates in the future.

"We're supposed to be the most open and accessible system in the state," he said.

The committee took no immediate action on LB 238.



Sen. Deb Fischer

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BUDGET

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MEET THE SENATORS

“Shy” Dierks becomes animal vet, public servant

When visiting with Sen. M.L. “Cap” Dierks it’s hard to imagine him as a shy person. But as a junior in high school, Dierks was asked to emcee Ewing High School’s senior banquet.

“I don’t know how that happened,” he said. “I was scared stiff.”

As it turned out, Dierks didn’t have much to worry about. The banquet went well and served as a positive base from which to begin a future filled with public speaking.

After receiving a degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Dierks graduated from the Kansas State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine where he was active in the student council.

His public service continued when he returned to Ewing and served on the school board for 15 years before being elected to the Legislature in 1986. He served in the Legislature until 2003.

Dierks is often asked about the origin of his first name and said he only really used the M.L. when he first ran for the Legislature in 1985.

In 1918, Dierks’ uncles Leo and Sylvester Sanders were killed on the same day in World War I. Leo had always been called Cap and when Leo’s sister had a son, M.L., everyone began calling him Cap.

“Nobody knows who M.L. is,” Dierks said.

Public service has proven to be a natural choice for Dierks.

“I think people owe it to themselves, if not to other citizens, to be helpful if they’ve got a way,” he said.

Since 1961, Dierks has had his own veterinary practice in the Ewing and O’Neill area. He and his son are also involved in operating the family ranch.

His interest in veterinary work came from watching the vets from O’Neill care for cattle on his dad’s ranch.

“I’d watch them and think, ‘Well, this is really neat,’” he said.

Dierks said it’s been a pleasure to return to his hometown and be involved in the community. He enjoys the community as much as he enjoys the environment of Holt County.

“I’ll go walking in the hills (of his ranch) and just take in the beauty of them,” he said. “It’s just a really nice place to go walking.”

When he’s not busy on the ranch or with his vet practice, Dierks and his wife, Gloria, enjoy spending time with their 11 grandchildren. He’s also a big Husker football fan. He can often be found reading historical non-fiction, working on crosswords and Sudoku puzzles and listening to semi-classical music.

“I’ve always got my mind working on something,” he said.



Darin Epperly/Norfolk Daily News
Sen. Cap Dierks works his way down the chute vaccinating cattle before returning them to pasture April 15, 2003, on his ranch.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 122 (*Banking, Commerce and Insurance*) Change provisions relating to banking and finance

LB 124 (*Banking, Commerce and Insurance*) Revise powers of state-chartered banks, building and loan associations, and credit unions

LB 125 (*Pahls, et al.*) Change provisions relating to community development investments

LB 126 (*Pahls, et al.*) Provide for regulation of trust company names

LB 156 (*Langemeier, 23*) Change provisions relating to bank boards, investments, and premiums

Business and Labor

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 57 (*Preister, et al.*) Provide for fair share representation contributions for certain labor representation by labor organizations

LB 210 (*Business and Labor Committee*) Change membership of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board

LB 472 (*Chambers, 11*) Change statutory references to members of the Commission of Industrial Relations

LB 543 (*Synowiecki, 7*) Change and eliminate conveyance safety provisions

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 590 (*Cornett, 45*) Change provisions relating to educational service unit reorganization

LB 600 (*Raikes, 25*) Provide for educational service unit boundary changes

LB 601 (*Raikes, 25*) Create the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council

LB 602 (*Raikes, 25*) Establish election districts for educational service unit boards

LB 603 (*Raikes, 25*) Change core services and technology funding provisions relating to educational service units

General Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 441 (*McDonald, et al.*) Change provisions relating to distribution of shippers' license fees

LB 549 (*Synowiecki, 7*) Provide for microdistilleries

LB 645 (*Heidemann, 1*) Change Nebraska Liquor Control Act provisions to exempt a bed and breakfast establishment from an occupation tax

Nebraska Retirement Systems

Room 1510 - 12:15 p.m.

Richard DeFusco - Nebraska

Investment Council

John M. Dinkel - Nebraska

Investment Council

Transportation and Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 70 (*Fischer, 43*) Permit operation of ATV's within municipalities by municipal employees

LB 288 (*Louden, 49*) Provide for operation of all-terrain vehicles on highways as prescribed

LB 307 (*Stuthman, 22*) Restrict operation of all-terrain vehicles within municipalities

LB 163 (*Fischer, 43*) Require certification of payment of sales tax to obtain a certificate of title for an all-terrain vehicle

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007

Agriculture

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 200 (*Burling, 33*) Change the definition of tractor for purposes of tractor testing

LB 273 (*Kopplin, 3*) Change the definition of tractor for purposes of tractor testing

LB 108 (*Agriculture*) Change provisions relating to fence disputes

LB 422 (*Erdman, 47*) Change membership of the Nebraska Brand Committee

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 127 (*Pahls, et al.*) Change provisions relating to loan brokerage agreements

LB 128 (*Pahls, et al.*) Change the Nebraska Installment Sales Act

LB 130 (*Pahls, et al.*) Provide for a licensee relocation fee under the Nebraska Installment Loan Act

LB 149 (*Gay, 14*) Change provisions relating to the unauthorized use of the word bank

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 66 (*Stuthman, 22*) Require school districts to develop driver safety courses

LB 72 (*Fischer, 43*) Prohibit beginning a school year before Labor Day

LB 73 (*McGill, 26*) Change school breakfast reimbursement provisions

LB 205 (*Howard, et al.*) Require schools to adopt a bullying policy

LB 490 (*Harms, 48*) Repeal the Seamless Delivery System Pilot Project

LB 563 (*Adams, 24*) Change provisions relating to learners with high ability

Transportation and Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 297 (*Pedersen, 39*) Eliminate a requirement relating to a telecommunications surcharge

LB 661 (*Transportation and Telecommunications Committee*) Change provisions relating to telecommunications

LB 660 (*Transportation and Telecommunications Committee*) Change the Nebraska

Telecommunications Universal Services Fund Act

LB 560 (*Fischer, 43*) Provide for regulation of communications providers

LB 330 (*Schimek, et al.*) Change the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Urban Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 309 (*Heidemann, 1*) Change provisions relating to handicapped or disabled parking permits

LB 347 (*Mines, 18*) Change provisions relating to the giving of bonds by city or village officials

LB 517 (*Erdman, 47*) Provide for the consolidation of one or more cities of the first class

LR 6CA (*Avery, et al.*)

Constitutional amendment to provide for investment by political subdivisions

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 61 (*Avery, 28*) Prohibit certain gifts and contributions to candidates for or members of the Public Service Commission

LB 198 (*Schimek, 27*) Change requirements for campaign messages

LB 361 (*Raikes, 25*) Prohibit public funds' use for dues or membership fees as prescribed

LB 434 (*Avery, 28*) Change late filing fees under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act

LB 527 (*Aguilar, 35*) Provide registration fees for political committees and allow waiver of interest on late filing fees and penalties

Health and Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 144 (*McDonald, 41*) Adopt the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act

LB 194 (*Pahls, 31*) Change disciplinary provisions of the Uniform Licensing Law

LB 427 (*Johnson, 37*) Change authorized procedures for dental hygienists

LB 463 (*Johnson, 37*) Adopt the Uniform Credentialing Act

LB 538 (*Schimek, et al.*) Change authorized functions for dental hygienists

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 476 (*Chambers, 11*) Change penalty from death to life imprisonment without possibility of parole and provide for restitution

LB 470 (*Chambers, 11*) Change provisions relating to dissemination of records of arrest

LB 465 (*Chambers, 11*) Change provisions relating to jailhouse informants

LB 674 (*Lathrop, 12*) Prohibit use of social security numbers by employers as prescribed and provide a penalty

LB 215 (*Ashford, 20*) Change provisions relating to life imprisonment

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 295 (*Natural Resources Committee*) Change provisions relating to irrigation and regulation of water and water wells

LB 314 (*Louden, et al.*) Redefine water well for purposes of registration

LB 568 (*et al.*) Extend a scrap tire grant program

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 331 (*Janssen, 15*) Eliminate the estate tax and sales tax on construction services and change income tax calculations

LB 325 (*Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.*) Repeal business child care income tax credits

LB 338 (*Gay, et al.*) Change income tax deductions for the Nebraska educational savings plan trust

LB 436 (*Raikes, 25*) Change income tax calculations, rates, and schedules and eliminate certain itemized deductions and taxes

LB 10 (*Mines, 18*) Terminate estate and generation-skipping taxes

LB 282 (*Stuthman, 22*) Terminate estate and generation-skipping taxes

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Executive Board

Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.

LB 34 (*Schimek, 27*) Create the State-Tribal Relations Committee

LB 402 (*Schimek, 27*) Adopt the Redistricting Act

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 199 (*Schimek, 27*) Changes municipal cooperative financing and open meetings provisions

LB 389 (*Aguilar, 35*) Change provisions relating to public records

LB 391 (*Mines, 18*) Change provisions relating to public records and meetings

LB 622 (*Pirsch, 4*) Require training courses in public records and the Open Meetings Act for all members of a public body, public officers, and public employees

Health and Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 48 (*Dierks, 40*) Exempt certified registered nurse anesthetists from certain radiation-use qualifications

LB 385 (*Johnson, 37*) Change provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses

LB 395 (*Johnson, et al.*) Adopt a new Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act

LB 584 (*Preister, 5*) Adopt the Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity Act

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 137 (*Flood, 19*) Change provisions relating to inheritance tax liens

LB 152 (*Pankonin, 2*) Change insurer reporting requirements regarding professional liability claims

LB 220 (*Dierks, 40*) Provide for medical liens for chiropractors

LB 586 (*Cornett, 45*) Change medical lien provisions

LB 384 (*Wightman, 36*) Prohibit certain actions by judgment creditors

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

LB 618 (*Pirsch, 4*) Authorize State Treasurer to collect certain bad debt fees electronically

LB 619 (*Pirsch, 4*) Change provisions relating to bad debt charges by the State Treasurer

LB 620 (*Pirsch, 4*) Change provisions relating to child support collection, bad debts, and the State Disbursement Unit

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 579 (*Louden, et al.*) Allow alternative energy production through customer-generators

LB 581 (*Preister, 5*) Adopt the Energy Conservation and Self-Reliance Act

Nebraska Retirement Systems

Room 1525 - 12:15 p.m.

LB 328 (*Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee*) Change provisions relating to county and state retirement plans

LB 329 (*Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee*) Change qualifications of the director of the Public Employees Retirement Board

LB 665 (*Karpisek, et al.*) Provide for the election of cash balance benefits for state and county employees

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 334 (*Dierks, 40*) Merge the Department of Property Assessment and Taxation with the Department of Revenue

LB 366 (*Janssen, et al.*) Provide state funding for community colleges, change valuation of agricultural land, and create a homestead exemption

LB 430 (*Langemeier, 23*) Change property tax levies

LB 453 (*White, et al.*) Provide an income tax credit for property taxes

LB 684 (*Dubas, et al.*) Provide for an income tax credit based upon certain property taxes

LB 510 (*Avery, 28*) Create a homestead exemption and the Scholarship Trust Fund

LB 511 (*Avery, 28*) Change valuation of agricultural land and create a homestead exemption

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2007

Health and Human Services

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 410 (*Howard, 9*) Change child welfare caseload provisions

LB 411 (*Howard, 9*) Require standards for training for certain new health and human services employees

LB 461 (*Dubas, 34*) Provide rights for foster parents

Judiciary

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 695 (*Christensen, et al.*) Limit the power of cities to regulate the carrying of concealed handguns

LB 692 (*Hudkins, 21*) Prohibit intentional discharge of firearm within two hundred yards of a dwelling

LB 491 (*Harms, 48*) Change provisions relating to concealed handguns

LB 138 (*Flood, 19*) Provide penalties and change other provisions relating to sex offenders

LB 81 (*Schimek, et al.*) Create the offense of school trespass and prohibit certain activities of registered sex offenders

LB 143 (*McDonald, 41*) Prohibit government officials from requiring a polygraph examination of a victim of a sex offense

Natural Resources

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

Ann Bleed - Department of Natural Resources

LB 390 (*Aguilar, 35*) Require certain rules and regulations related to underground storage tanks and tank operators

LB 593 (*Louden, 49*) Amend the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act to eliminate an insurance provision

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 367 (*Janssen, et al.*) Change motor vehicle and sales tax rates and eliminate sales tax on construction services

LB 608 (*Raikes, 25*) Change the sales tax rate

LB 340 (*Wightman, et al.*) Authorize a local option income tax for school capital construction purposes

LB 487 (*Wallman, 30*) Authorize an income tax for support of schools

LB 173 (*Engel, et al.*) Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 129 (*Pahls, et al.*) Change the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act

LB 380 (*Pahls, 31*) Change a license application requirement under the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act

LB 346 (*Pahls, 31*) Change provisions relating to farm product security interests

LB 381 (*Pahls, 31*) Eliminate oral requests for information regarding farm product liens

Business and Labor

Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 255 (*Rogert, 16*) Change the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act

LB 271 (*Friend, 10*) Change fringe benefit provisions under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act

LB 505 (*Mines, 18*) Change provisions of the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

Larry Teahon - Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

LB 440 (*Preister, 5*) Change and eliminate provisions relating to learning communities

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

LB 547 (*Kopplin, 3*) Adopt the Nebraska Student Advantage Act
LB 641 (*Raikes, 25*) Provide for the division of a learning community into separate education centers and establish procedures

General Affairs

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

David E. Gardels - Nebraska Arts Council

LB 637 (*General Affairs Committee*) Change procurement provisions under the State Lottery Act

LB 638 (*General Affairs Committee*) Change and eliminate provisions relating to bingo, lotteries, and raffles

LB 301 (*Janssen, 15*) Extend the current distribution of state lottery proceeds until 2013

LB 546 (*Synowiecki, 7*) Provide for parimutuel wagering on historic horseraces

Nebraska Retirement Systems

Room 1525 - 12:15 p.m.

LB 370 (*Erdman, 47*) Adopt the Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Survey Act

LB 371 (*Erdman, 47*) Adopt the Nebraska Peace Officer Retirement Act

LB 372 (*Erdman, 47*) Adopt the Law Enforcement Officer Retirement Act

Transportation and Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 466 (*Chambers, 11*) Provide for private party In Transit stickers

LB 349 (*Stuthman, 22*) Change provisions relating to motor vehicles and trailers

LB 358 (*Hudkins, 21*) Change provisions relating to interstate motor carriers

LB 279 (*Stuthman, 22*) Change provisions relating to driver training schools

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Agriculture

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 516 (*Agriculture Committee*) Adopt the Corporate Farming Policy Advisory Act

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 136 (*Flood, 19*) Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act

LB 114 (*Pahls, 31*) Change the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code

LB 189 (*Mines, 18*) Change the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code

LB 116 (*Pahls, 31*) Change provisions relating to priority of purchase-money security interests

Education

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 91 (*Cornett, 45*) Change boundary provisions relating to learning communities

LB 473 (*Chambers, 11*) Change provisions relating to learning communities and Class V school district elections

LB 558 (*Ashford, 20*) Add housing pattern information to the integration plan for a learning community

LB 642 (*Raikes, 25*) Change educational service units' role and mission provisions

Transportation and Telecommunications

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 489 (*Harms, 48*) Change provisions relating to and require buses to have occupant protection systems

LB 147 (*McDonald, 41*) Change penalty provisions for vehicle loads

LB 561 (*Fischer, 43*) Change provisions relating to removal of disabled or immobilized vehicles

LB 621 (*Pirsch, 4*) Change provisions relating to points and fines for speeding

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

Revenue

Room 1524 - 2:30 p.m.

LB 442 (*Stuthman, 22*) Redefine animal life for sales tax purposes

LB 159 (*Heidemann, 1*) Exempt repair or replacement parts for agricultural equipment from sales tax

LB 423 (*Burling, 33*) Change sales and use tax collection fees

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Executive Board

Room 2102 - 12:00 p.m.

LR 1CA (*Preister, 5*) Constitutional amendment to change legislative salaries

LR 7CA (*Kruse, 13*) Constitutional amendment to change legislative salaries based on inflation as determined by the Legislature

LR 3CA (*Friend, 10*) Constitutional amendment to change from a unicameral legislature to a bicameral legislature

Revenue

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

LB 488 (*Wallman, 30*) Authorize an income tax credit for perpetual conservation easement donations

LB 648 (*Preister, et al.*) Provide tax credits relating to wind energy projects

LB 512 (*Fulton, et al.*) Provide income tax credits

LB 514 (*Fulton, et al.*) Provide an income tax credit for employer contributions to employee long-term care insurance

LB 531 (*Nantkes, 46*) Provide tax credits for employers providing health insurance

LB 343 (*Langemeier, 23*) Provide an income tax credit for investments in biodiesel facilities

WEEKLY REVIEW

A REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TAKEN MONDAY, JAN. 22, 2007, THROUGH FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 2007

Agriculture

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
25	LANGEMEIER	Change rabies control provisions to include hybrid animals	Placed on Select File
74	ERDMAN	Change the Nebraska Pure Food Act	Advanced from General File
110	ERDMAN	Adopt the Bovine Tuberculosis Act	Advanced from General File
111	ERDMAN	Change provisions relating to milk	Advanced from General File

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
24	PAHLS	Change provisions relating to a reciprocal certificate as a certified public accountant	Placed on Final Reading
26	LANGEMEIER	Redefine real estate broker under the Nebraska Real Estate License Act	Placed on Final Reading
63	SCHIMEK	Change insurance coverage provisions relating to childhood immunizations	Advanced from General File
115	PAHLS	Redefine automobile liability policy	Placed on Select File
186	LANGEMEIER	Change provisions relating to the credentialing of real property appraisers	Advanced from General File

Education

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
21	RAIKES	Change school finance provisions relating to the cost growth factor	Placed on Final Reading
95	FLOOD	Clarify reference to expense reimbursement for the Professional Practices Commission	Advanced from General File
150	ADAMS	Change provisions relating to certificate fees paid to the State Department of Education	Advanced from General File

Executive Board

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
1	EXECUTIVE BOARD	Revisor bill to delete unconstitutional language relating to picketing	Placed on Final Reading
2	EXECUTIVE BOARD	Revisor bill to delete obsolete statutes relating to appropriations	Placed on Final Reading

General Affairs

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
64	SCHIMEK	Eliminate a gaming fee and tax adopted by initiative	Advanced from General File

Government, Military, Veterans Affairs

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
17	MINES	Change provisions relating to multiple office holding	Placed on General File
27	ADAMS	Authorize the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct certain audits	Placed on General File
44	GAY	Change provisions relating to precinct lists of registered voters and sign-in registers	Placed on Select File

Health & Human Services

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
185	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	Change provisions relating to health and human services	Placed on General File
283	STUTHMAN	Provide for biennial renewal of medication aide registrations	Placed on General File
296	JOHNSON	Reorganize the Health and Human Services System	Placed on General File

Judiciary

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
99	WIGHTMAN	Change provisions relating to the appointment of receivers by the district court	Placed on General File
213	ASHFORD	Change provisions relating to preserving testimony	Placed on General File
237	PAHLS	Change the homestead exemption amount for judgments and execution	Placed on General File
341	SCHIMEK	Change Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act provisions	Placed on General File

Natural Resources

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
79	NATURAL RESOURCES	Change provisions related to reporting under the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act	Placed on Select File
80	NATURAL RESOURCES	Authorize additional assistance for projects under the Safe Drinking Water Act	Placed on Select File
161	NATURAL RESOURCES	Raise the range for permissible application fees for certification as wastewater treatment operators	Placed on Select File
333	JOHNSON	Change the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act	Placed on General File

Revenue

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
4	PAHLS	Provide income tax credits and adjustments relating to long-term care insurance	Indefinitely postponed
41	HUDKINS	Change motor fuel tax rates and allocation of the revenue	Indefinitely postponed
94	CORNETT	Authorize municipalities to receive certain sales and use tax information	Placed on Select File
98	FLOOD	Eliminate references to a fund that terminated	Placed on Select File
166	REVENUE	Change provisions relating to property taxation and assessment	Placed on General File
167	REVENUE	Change property tax provisions relating to appeals, equalization, and assessor certification	Placed on Select File
264	HUDKINS	Adopt the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act and provide for an income tax credit	Indefinitely postponed
270	JOHNSON	Exclude certain rural health loan repayments from income for income tax purposes	Indefinitely postponed
305	FISCHER	Change distribution of certain sales tax revenue	Advanced from General File
315	JANSSEN	Update references to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986	Advanced from General File
344	BURLING	Change the termination date of the Tax Policy Reform Commission	Placed on General File
359	PANKONIN	Change use of certain sales tax proceeds	Indefinitely postponed
459	GAY	Allow an income tax deduction for interest on education loans	Indefinitely postponed

Transportation and Telecommunications

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
35	JANSSEN	Set maximum speed limit for non-Interstate freeways	Advanced from General File
43	HEIDEMANN	Provide for mowing and hay-harvesting permits for right-of-ways of highways	Advanced from General File
84	HOWARD	Regulate traffic approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle	Indefinitely postponed
148	HEIDEMANN	Provide an exception to weight and load limits for trucks	Advanced from General File

Urban Affairs

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS
11	MINES	Change provisions relating to annexation by cities of the first class	Placed on Select File
28	ADAMS	Change provisions relating to conveyance of personal property by cities of the second class and villages	Placed on Select File
206	FRIEND	Change provisions regarding the city treasurer and the county treasurer serving as ex officio city treasurer in cities of the metropolitan class	Advanced from General File
207	FRIEND	Provide a power for the board of directors of a metropolitan utilities district	Advanced from General File

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION



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831 W. Fourth St.
York, NE 68467

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471-2622 (Capitol)
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Sen. Bill Avery
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Sen. Carroll Burling
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471-2732 (Capitol)
1112 Brown St.
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GUIDE TO LEGISLATIVE TERMS

“A” Bill - see Appropriation Bill.

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).

Amendment Printed Separate - an amendment of 10 or more pages, printed separately from the Journal, that is available in the Bill Room (Room 1102).

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

Attorney General’s Opinion - a written analysis of a question of law prepared by the attorney general for the governor, the head of an executive department or any state senator.

Bill - see Legislative Bill.

Bracket - to delay consideration of a bill.

Call of the House - a procedure used to compel attendance of unexcused senators in the chamber.

Carry-over Legislation - bills and resolutions introduced during the regular session in an odd-numbered year and held over for consideration during the regular session in an even-numbered year.

Chair - the presiding officer.

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.

Consent Calendar - a portion of the agenda in which relatively noncontroversial bills are considered and quickly advanced to the next legislative stage. Usually, a bill on consent calendar can be debated for no more than 15 minutes.

“E” Clause - see Emergency Clause.

E&R - see Enrollment and Review.

Emergency Clause (“E” Clause) - a provision that allows a bill or a portion of a bill to take effect immediately after the governor signs it or after the Legislature overrides the governor’s veto.

Engrossment - the process of preparing a bill for Final Reading by incorporating all adopted amendments.

Enrollment and Review (E&R) - the process of incorporating adopted amendments into a bill and reviewing the bill for technical and grammatical accuracy.

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.

Fiscal Note - a statement prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Office estimating the effect a bill would have on state and/or local expenditures and revenue.

Floor - the area of the legislative chamber where the senators sit. When a committee advances a bill “to the floor,” that means the bill is being sent to the full Legislature for consideration.

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.

Hearing - a regularly scheduled committee meeting to receive public comment on proposed bills and resolutions.

House Under Call - the term used when all unexcused senators are required to be in their seats in the chamber and unauthorized personnel must leave the floor.

Indefinitely Postpone (IPP) - to kill a bill.

Interim - the period between regular legislative sessions.

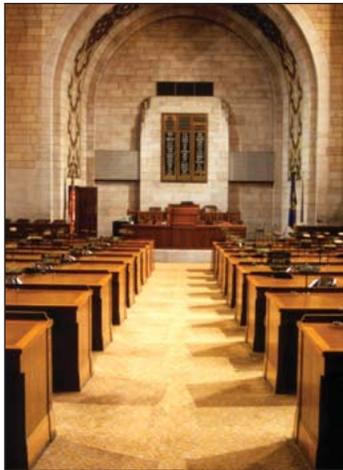
Interim Study Resolution - a resolution authorizing a committee to study an issue following adjournment of a legislative session.

IPP - see Indefinitely Postpone.

Journal - see Legislative Journal.

Laws of Nebraska (Session Laws) - bound compilation of all laws and constitutional amendment resolutions passed in a legislative session, the state Constitution, and subject and section indexes.

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



Legislative History - the committee and floor debate records for any bill. A history includes transcripts of the bill's hearing and all floor debate.

Legislative Journal - official record of legislative floor action, including all motions, the number of yeas and nays on each vote, etc.

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.

Line-Item Veto - the power of the governor to make specific reductions in any part of a budget bill passed by the Legislature.

Machine Vote - a vote taken by electronic voting system. The voting board shows how each senator voted, but only vote totals are entered in the Legislative Journal.

Major Proposal - a bill or constitutional amendment resolution that the speaker designates as important enough for scheduling priority. Each session, up to five bills may be chosen as major proposals, all of which must be senator priority bills and must get the approval of two-thirds of the Executive Board.

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

Override a Veto - see Veto Override.

President of the Legislature - the lieutenant governor. While senators address whomever is in the chair as Mr. or Madame President, the lieutenant governor alone holds that official title.

Presiding Officer - the senator currently presiding over legislative proceedings.

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.

Record Vote - a vote on which a record is kept of how each senator voted. The vote is taken by electronic voting system, and the senators' names and corresponding votes are then printed in the Legislative Journal.

Regular Session - the annual session that begins the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January.

Resolution - see Legislative Resolution.

Revisor Bill - a bill, prepared by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, proposing a technical correction or the repeal of an obsolete statute.

Roll Call Vote - a vote during which the senators vote one at a time as the clerk reads their names. Senators cast their votes verbally, and their names and correspond-

ing votes are printed in the Legislative Journal.

Select Committee - a permanent committee with a subject-matter jurisdiction related to the administration of the Legislature.

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 Committee - a committee created by law for a specific reason. Except for the Executive Board, special committees have no jurisdiction over bills or resolutions.

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

Standing Committee - a permanent committee with a subject-matter jurisdiction related to an area of public policy. Almost all bills and resolutions are referred to one of the 14 standing committees.

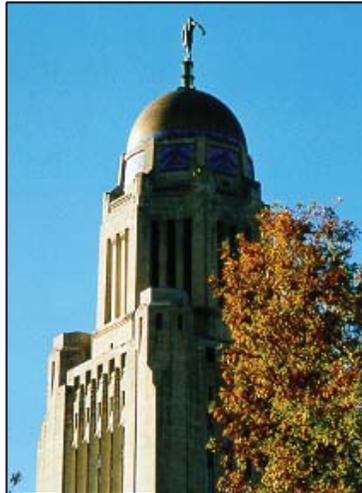
Summary Sheet - a daily list of all legislative activity that has taken place in one legislative day, including action taken on bills and resolutions.

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.

Voice Vote - a vote in which senators cast their votes orally and no totals are recorded.

Worksheet - a list, prepared daily, that indicates the status of all bills and resolutions at the end of that legislative day.



IF I COULD MAKE A LAW

IF I COULD MAKE A LAW I WOULD
MAKE SMOKING ILLEGAL



Sean Ho, age 12, Park Middle School, Lincoln. "I would make smoking illegal."

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.

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.

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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.

The Unicameral Update is produced by the Clerk of the Legislature's Office through the Unicameral Information Office.

To subscribe, you may contact the Unicameral Information Office, P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509, (402) 471-2788. You can also subscribe by e-mailing: uio@leg.ne.gov

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