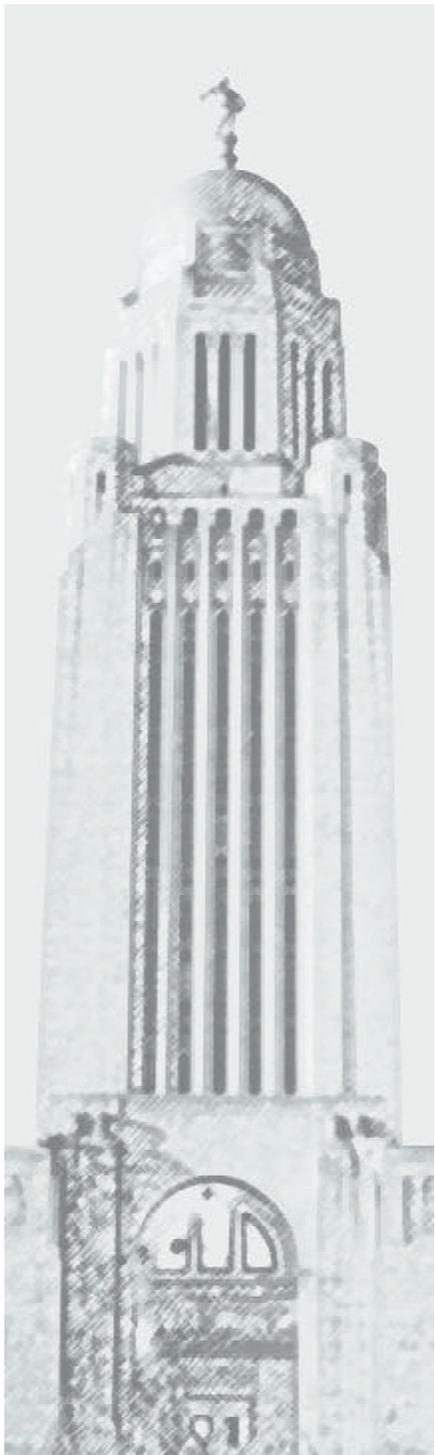


unicameral update



98th Legislature

Second Session • 2004 Session Review

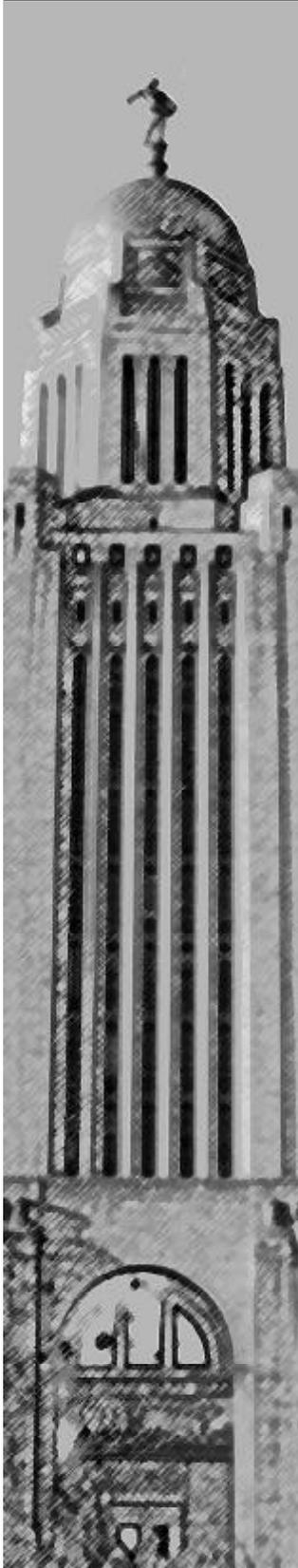


Unicameral Update

Volume XXVII • No. 16

98th Legislature • Second Session • 2004 Session Review

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Agriculture

Nebraska's agriculture policy, specifically Initiative 300, was examined by lawmakers in 2004.

LB 1086, introduced by Aurora Sen. Bob Kremer, would have created a task force to study Nebraska's agricultural policy, including Initiative 300. The act, which prohibits non-family corporations from owning farmland or livestock, became part of the Nebraska Constitution in 1982.

The bill also would have studied policies regarding business, estate and risk management tools that agriculture producers could use to protect their businesses.

LB 1086 advanced from the committee, but the bill did not receive further consideration before the session ended.

The Legislature voted 39-3 to boost funding for the state's noxious weed control program.

LB 869, introduced by the Agriculture Committee, allows the state Department of Agriculture to make transfers from a weed book cash fund to the Noxious Weed Cash Fund and the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Cash Fund. Twenty-five percent of the revenue from sales of the "Weeds of the Great Plains" book also is transferred to the Noxious Weed Cash Fund.

The bill allows the department director to administer a grant program to assist local authorities and other weed management groups in administering weed control programs.

Food vendors at short-term festivals and other special events are now exempt from obtaining a permit and paying inspection fees.

LB 1045, introduced by Scottsbluff Sen. Adrian Smith, treats single-event food vendors in similar fashion to temporary food establishments and subjects them to the same food safety standards. Single-event food vendors are food establishments that operate at no more than one event per calendar year for a period of no more than two days.

LB 1045 was passed by a 43-0 vote.

The Agriculture Committee considered **LB 1037**, a bill introduced by Wausa Sen. Doug Cunningham that would have reimbursed school districts that use a biodiesel blend in their school buses.

Biodiesel is a fuel made of fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats that can be used in existing engines without any modifications. It does not contain petroleum but can be blended with any amount of petroleum diesel.

The fuel would have been required to contain at least 2 percent biodiesel, and payments would have been made from a newly created Biodiesel Fuel Fund.

The committee did not advance the bill.

LB 212, sponsored by Kremer, would have eliminated a requirement that tractor manufacturers obtain permits for models sold in Nebraska. Permits are issued if the University of Nebraska Tractor Testing Laboratory or other certified testing station finds that the model meets the manufacturer's claimed performance specifications.

The bill advanced 6-0 from the Agriculture Committee, but did not receive general file consideration.

LB 1103, introduced by Kremer, would have created a voluntary beef checkoff to be used for industry promotion. The program would have been used if the federal beef promotion program were terminated.

The bill advanced from the Agriculture Committee 6-1 but was not considered by the full Legislature.



Sen. Bob Kremer



Sen. Adrian Smith



Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Banking, commerce and insurance related measures considered in 2004 included a bill aimed at attracting a nationally known insurance company to Nebraska and an omnibus banking bill.

As originally introduced by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, **LB 1047** was a measure intended to clean up statutes pertaining to insurance industry regulation. As amended, the bill also establishes a process for mutual insurance holding companies to transfer their domiciles to Nebraska from another state.

During legislative debate, senators indicated that the bill would make it possible for Pacific Life Insurance Company to locate a service center in Nebraska that could employ as many as 250 individuals.

LB 1047 was passed by a 45-0 vote.

LB 999, sponsored by the committee, makes numerous changes to state banking law:

Subsidiaries of financial institutions are authorized to establish automatic teller machines and point-of-sale machines in the same manner as parent financial institutions.

Authorization for the conveyance of real estate owned or held in trust by a trust company must be specifically documented in the minutes of the company's board of directors.

A fee for filing a notice to establish an automatic teller machine is eliminated, and fees for credit card bank applications and charters are clarified.

Statutes relating to credit card banks are updated and clarified.

A drafting error in state law pertaining to installment loans is corrected.

Obsolete law relating to revolving charge agreements is eliminated, and sellers are required to close stale accounts.

The response time for certain regulatory inquiries from the state Department of Banking and Finance is shortened from 30 to 21 days.

Installment loan licensees are required to file their annual reports by March 1. The previous deadline was Feb. 15.

Law relating to limitations on interest rates and origination fees as they apply to certain home equity loans are clarified.

Credit unions are allowed to offer gifts and prizes as part of promotions and open houses.

Numerous laws relating to real estate foreclosure, nonprobate transfers, support enforcement, capital expansion, trust deeds, public funds deposits, public funds investment and the Uniform Trust Code also were amended.

LB 999 was passed by a 47-0 vote.

LB 155, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mark Quandahl, provides that any portion of certain leases of one year or longer that fail to comply with certain legal requirements are void as to any previous creditors and subsequent purchasers. Leases affected by the bill include farm leases and single-family residence leases that are entered into after the bill's enactment and that involve parties with a family relationship specified in the law.

The bill also makes title insurers liable for misappropriations by title agents, such as missing escrow funds and security deposits. Notice is required for those funds that are not protected. The state is authorized to seek cease and desist orders against title agents in certain circumstances. Finally, the bill eliminates certain auditing requirements that are no longer needed as the result of the new protections.

LB 155 was passed by a 44-0 vote.

LB 1185, sponsored by Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon, would have required insurers to file their workers' compensation rates with the state Department of Insurance on a "file and use" basis rather than a "prior approval" basis. The same would have been true for personal lines

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Sen. Mark Quandahl



Sen. LeRoy Loudon

Banking, Commerce and Insurance

(Cont. from Page 4)

property and casualty rates and forms and farm and ranch lines rates and forms. For insurance coverage subject to file and use filing, the existing statutory authority allowing insurers to increase or decrease premiums on individual risks up to 40 percent would not have extended to personal lines and farm and ranch risks.

LB 1185 was on general file, but died with the end of the session.



Budget

During the 2004 session, lawmakers continued to grapple with how to best make expenditures and revenues meet. That included discussion about cutting spending, raising taxes and addressing upcoming litigation costs.

The state is projected to end the current biennium with a \$154 million gap between expenditures, including required reserves, and estimated revenues. The projected gap at the end of the 2005-07 biennium is \$294.7 million. These estimates include \$160 million to pay for a judgment against Nebraska in a lawsuit over the state's withdrawal from a low-level radioactive waste disposal compact. The state is appealing the judgment.

The projected gap at the beginning of 2004 was about \$211 million. However, the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board met Feb. 27 and revised revenue estimates downward by \$104 million, making the new projected gap \$315 million.

The Legislature addressed the fiscal issue by passing the Appropriations Committee's budget adjustment package that reduced general fund appropriations by \$56.7 million in the current biennium and made various fund transfers. Senators opted not to raise taxes to help fill the projected fiscal gap.

LB 1089, which was approved by a 39-7 vote, was the primary legislation used to make budget adjustments to agency operations and state programs. Some of the key provisions in LB 1089 included:

- operating budget reductions for most agencies of either 1 or 0.5 percent, totaling \$4.3 million in fiscal year 2004-05;
- a one-time \$43.1 million infusion of federal Medicaid assistance;
- reinstatement of \$7.3 million in annual funding for the Lincoln Correctional Center;
- \$8.2 million of reductions in employee health insurance costs for the current biennium; and
- medical cost containment initiatives for correctional inmates, saving \$7.6 million for the current biennium.

LB 1090, passed 49-0, cancelled a scheduled \$22.5 million transfer from the state's general fund to the state's cash reserve fund and transfers \$23 million from the cash reserve fund to the general fund. It also redirects interest from the cash reserve fund to the state's building renewal fund beginning in 2007.

Senators debated adding various proposals to LB 1090 that would have raised revenue to address the potential low-level waste judgment as well as further address the state's fiscal gap. Among the ideas discussed were:

- a \$160 million proposal offered by Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler that would have placed a 5 percent surcharge on consumer electricity bills;

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Budget

(Cont. from Page 5)

- a \$270 million proposal offered by Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear that would have issued highway construction bonds and redirected a corresponding level of highway trust funding to the general fund;
- a \$104 million proposal offered by Bellevue Sen. Paul Hartnett that would have increased income tax rates by 5 percent for two years; and
- a \$158 million proposal offered by Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen that included a 3 percent electricity surcharge, a one-year 5 percent increase in income tax rates and a one-year state sales tax rate increase from 5.5 to 5.75 percent.

All of the proposals were either rejected or withdrawn.

LB 1091, passed 48-0, made various cash transfers, including a transfer of \$8 million in the next biennium from the Education Innovation Fund, which is lottery money, to the general fund. Of that amount, \$3 million will remain in the general fund in each year of the biennium and \$2 million will be used for reorganization incentives for small school districts.

The program will pay one-time incentives to Class II or III school districts of fewer than 390 students that merge to form districts of more than 390 students. In order to be eligible, the consolidations must take place after May 31, 2005, and before June 1, 2007.

LB 1092 defers capital building depreciation assessments, resulting in reduced revenue from state building renewal funds but saving various state agencies expenditures for those depreciation charges. LB 1092 was passed 47-1.

LB 297, introduced by Hartnett, made various changes to services for individuals with developmental disabilities. It states legislative intent to fully fund community-based services to the developmentally disabled by 2010. The bill also states that funding for specialized services will be subject to an objective assessment process overseen by the state Department of Health and Human Services. LB 297 was passed 48-0.

LB 514, introduced by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr, appropriated about \$217,000 to cover one-half of a deficiency in the State Patrol employees retirement plan. Employer and employee contributions both increase 1 percent for one year beginning July 1. LB 514 was passed 48-0.

LB 917, introduced by Plattsmouth Sen. Roger Wehrbein, acknowledges the Nebraska Forest Service in statute and establishes its mission. Last session, the Legislature provided minimal funding for the forest service, but LB 1089 includes \$300,000 for it in FY2004-05 and \$590,000 per year starting in the next biennium. LB 917 was passed 48-0.

LB 1071, sponsored by Wehrbein, permits the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to review certain capital construction projects proposed by nonprofit corporations affiliated with the university or state college systems. LB 1071 was passed 46-1.

LB 1144, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Lowen Kruse, eliminates general fund financing for public transportation aid and shifts it to highway trust funds. The move will save the general fund about \$500,000 per year. Due to a line-item veto of corresponding funds in LB 1089, an increase in the variable fuel tax associated with LB 1144 will not take place. LB 1144 was passed 35-4.



Sen. Roger Wehrbein





Business and Labor



Sen. Doug Cunningham

Lawmakers debated an unemployment benefit waiting period, passed a lunch break regulation and rejected a proposal for a family and medical leave trust.

LB 1049, introduced by Wausa Sen. Doug Cunningham, would have changed the waiting period to 13 weeks for employees who leave work without good cause or because of misconduct. The current waiting period is between seven and 10 weeks.

The bill also would have prevented one-half of a person's Social Security benefits from being deducted when calculating unemployment benefits.

Senators were unable to reach agreement on the length of the waiting period, and the bill was removed from the agenda during select file debate.

Lawmakers voted 44-0 to pass **LB 382**, which requires employers to provide employees with a 30-minute lunch break during each eight-hour shift. The bill was sponsored by Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki.

Under previous law, only assembly plants, workshops or mechanical establishments were required to provide lunch breaks to employees. Those businesses were exempt if they operated 24 hours a day.

LB 382 does not apply to employment covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Senators rejected a proposal to allow eligible employees to invest money in a trust for future unpaid family or medical leaves of absence.

Under **LB 37**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Marian Price, the money invested in the trust would have been treated as an income tax deduction and would have been subject to state income tax upon withdrawal.

In fiscal year 2004-05, the general fund would have covered the cost of the bill. After that, the state treasurer would have used an administrative cash fund created from fees and service charges connected with the trust.

LB 37 was voted down 17-17 on final reading.

One Business and Labor Committee priority bill advanced from the committee, but was not considered further.

LB 198, sponsored by the Business and Labor Committee, would have streamlined functions performed by the Workers' Compensation Court.

The bill also would have made procedural changes to other statutes, including those on first reports of injury, three-judge panel review, attorney fees, cancellation notices, new revocation procedures, liability, self-insured employers, appointment of judges and administrators and vocation rehabilitation.

The bill advanced from the committee 6-0 but was not considered further.

LB 893, introduced by Table Rock Sen. Floyd Vrtiska, would have adjusted the taxable wage base for the unemployment insurance program.

The Business and Labor Committee held the bill.



Sen. Marian Price



Child Welfare

Child welfare was an issue that drew attention during the 2004 legislative session. Among the various proposals considered was **LB 1075**, a bill introduced by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman at the governor's request that contained recommendations from the governor's Children's Task Force. The task force was formed to investigate child deaths in the state and examine ways to improve the child protection system.

Under LB 1075, the attorney general would have been allowed to file petitions in counties without a separate juvenile court. Only three counties – Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy – have juvenile courts. Petitions could have been filed at the attorney general's discretion, at the request of the county attorney or at the request of child abuse and neglect investigation and treatment teams.

Although LB 1075 was left on general file when the session ended, funding for five assistants in the attorney general's office was authorized in **LB 1089**, the mainline budget bill.

LB 1238, introduced by Sen. David Landis of Lincoln, would have created at least nine investigation and prosecution centers across the state. Skills-based training would have been required for those involved with handling child abuse or neglect calls. The bill was still under consideration by the Judiciary Committee when the session ended.

LB 1217, sponsored by Decatur Sen. Matt Connealy, would have capped child abuse and neglect caseloads for Health and Human Services caseworkers. The bill also would have appropriated \$6.8 million for caseworkers in fiscal year 2004-05. LB 1217 was under consideration by the Appropriations Committee when the session ended.

LB 1251, introduced by Grand Island Sen. Ray Aguilar, would have given the Foster Care Review Board access to all child abuse and neglect reports and investigation records. The board would have been required to review at least 10 percent of the records turned over to it and then report its findings and recommendations to the governor, the Legislature, state agencies and the public. LB 1251 was under consideration by the Judiciary Committee when the session ended.



Civil Law

Lawmakers passed a bill to address the growing number of medical malpractice claims and revised several civil procedure laws.

Under **LB 998**, introduced by North Platte Sen. Don Pederson, physicians and hospitals will pay more into the state's excess liability fund to ensure its future viability.

The fund represents pooled resources designed to provide a reserve for malpractice claims that exceed the average claim, currently about \$400,000.

The bill increases liability amounts to \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1 million in total liability for individual providers and \$3 million in total liability for hospitals.

LB 998 was passed 46-0.

The Legislature voted 48-0 to pass **LB 1207**, which changes some of Nebraska's civil procedures.

The bill, introduced by Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear, makes technical changes to the filing of post-trial motions, forcible entry and detainer actions and divorce proceedings.

The Legislature adopted amendments to incorporate provisions of 10 other bills.

LB 788, introduced by Omaha Sen. Mark Quandahl, provides that any time after a judg-

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Sen. Arnie Stuthman



Sen. Matt Connealy



Sen. Don Pederson



Civil Law

(Cont. from Page 8)

ment is issued against a debtor, the creditor is entitled to a court order compelling the debtor's presence in court.

LB 877, introduced by Brashear, changes the boundaries of two district court judicial districts. Clay and Nuckolls counties move from the 10th district to the 1st district in southeast Nebraska.

LB 882, introduced by Quandahl, provides for service of process in forcible entry and detainer action by leaving a copy at the premises or mailing a copy to the defendant's last known address.

LB 887, introduced by Quandahl, changes the maximum amount of a supersedeas appeal bond to 50 percent of the appellant's net worth.

LB 1012, introduced by Table Rock Sen. Floyd Vrtiska, gives people who own, maintain or install anhydrous ammonia immunity from liability when someone tampers with their supply. Anhydrous ammonia, commonly used by farmers, is a volatile substance that also is a key ingredient in the illegal drug methamphetamine. People are not immune from liability in cases of reckless or intentional acts or omission.

LB 1035, introduced by Brashear, allows an objection to a forma pauperis designation to occur at any time if the grounds are that the initial application was fraudulent.

LB 1068, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, authorizes the disclosure of presentence reports and psychiatric examinations to the Supreme Court or its agent for research purposes. Identifying information is prohibited from being released.

LB 1157, introduced by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, exempts the federal and state earned income tax credit from garnishment in bankruptcy proceedings.

LB 1182, introduced by Brashear, allows the Supreme Court to relocate a district or county judge within his or her judicial district.

LB 1210, introduced by Brashear, makes technical changes to references to the Counsel for Discipline, the disciplinary body for licensed practicing lawyers.

In the end, the Legislature did not grant minors the right to sign certain contracts.

LB 391, as originally proposed by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, would have changed Nebraska's age of majority from 19 to 18.

Amid concerns that the bill would affect too many significant policy issues, such as child support and legal guardianship, Erdman offered an amendment on general file that gutted the bill.

That amendment would have allowed financially independent 18-year-olds to sign contracts essential to their basic living needs, such as apartment leases and auto loans.

During select file, Erdman withdrew the bill from consideration, saying there was too much confusion about the intent of LB 391.

Friend Sen. Jeanne Combs introduced a bill to protect the food industry from lawsuits based on obesity.

LB 1046 would have prohibited civil liability for personal injury or wrongful death if the claim was based on weight gain or obesity caused by the long-term consumption of food.

The bill advanced from the Judiciary Committee 7-1 but was not considered on general file before the Legislature adjourned.



Sen. Kermit Brashear



Sen. Ernie Chambers



Sen. Jeanne Combs



Criminal Law and Courts

Domestic assault is now a crime, and Nebraska's statutes on hate crimes and sexual abuse of children were updated.

The Legislature voted 48-0 to pass a bill that will allow for confidential communications between victims and advocates in cases of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Under **LB 613**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, a victim, advocate or necessary third party cannot be required to give testimony or produce records that pertain to the victim-advocate relationship.

The privilege also applies to information about the location or identity of safe houses.

LB 613 was amended to include **LB 850**, introduced by Sarpy County Sen. Ray Mossey. The bill provides for the offense of domestic assault in the first, second and third degrees.

Additionally, the bill establishes that domestic assault occurs when the people involved have intimate relationships and clarifies that sexual assault can occur between spouses.

The Legislature voted 41-4 to bring Nebraska's hate crime law into compliance with recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings. **LB 270**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear, requires a jury to hear a discrimination-based allegation along with the underlying offense. Previously, the offender first had to be found guilty of the underlying criminal offense without disclosing the hate crime allegation to the jury. It was then up to the judge to decide whether to enhance the penalty.

The bill also creates statutory authorization for the victim's rights amendment to the Nebraska Constitution, approved by voters in 1996. The bill gives crime victims the right of notification, the right to be present at proceedings and the right to make written or oral statements for sentencing and release proceedings.

LB 943, introduced by Papillion Sen. Nancy Thompson, eliminates the statute of limitations on sexual abuse involving children. Previously, the statute of limitations was seven years, or seven years after the victim's 16th birthday. That means once the victim was 23 years old, it was too late to prosecute an offender.

The bill also makes it a Class III felony to use a computer to entice a child 16 or younger for sexual activity. This provision was originally part of **LB 670**.

LB 943 passed 48-0.

A bill introduced in 2003 to make drug courts part of Nebraska's court system passed on a 48-0 vote early this session.

LB 454, introduced by Grand Island Sen. Ray Aguilar, gives the Nebraska Supreme Court authority to oversee the drug courts and develop rules and regulations.

Those charged with drug- or alcohol-related offenses may enter drug court programs for rehabilitation. The programs were previously operated by district or juvenile courts in seven counties.

Gov. Mike Johanns vetoed a bill that would have expanded the state DNA database.

LB 139, introduced by Kearney Sen. Joel Johnson, would have required that records relating to missing people, relatives of missing people and unidentified human remains be maintained in the database. It also would have added burglary and robbery to the list of crimes that require offenders to provide DNA samples upon sentencing.

In his veto explanation, Johanns objected to a provision of the bill that would have clarified the law in cases when body fluid tests required for employment have inaccurate results. If a person were accused of wrongdoing based on a body fluid test, he or she could have requested DNA typing by the State Patrol. If those results showed the first test was on a body fluid belonging to someone other than the accused, then the first test could not have been used to prove wrongdoing.



Sen. Patrick Bourne



Sen. Ray Mossey



Sen. Joel Johnson

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Criminal Law and Courts

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Johanns said it would be wrong to bring the State Patrol into testing disputes between employers and employees.

LB 602, sponsored by Scottsbluff Sen. Adrian Smith, would have banned the reproductive and therapeutic cloning of human embryos. The bill stalled after six hours of general file debate.

The matter of contention was the proposed ban on therapeutic cloning, also known as somatic nuclear cell transfer, in which the cell develops into an embryo and is destroyed to obtain stem cells.

Smith filed a motion for cloture – to cease all debate and take an immediate vote – but the motion failed by one vote.

Several other bills – including another controversial issue from 2003 – advanced to general file but did not reach a vote.

LB 526, introduced by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman at the governor's request, would have changed the state's method of capital punishment from electrocution to lethal injection.

Those already sentenced to death and those convicted of a capital crime before the bill's effective date would have had 30 days to make a written choice between electrocution and lethal injection. The bill proposed that an inmate who did not choose would get lethal injection.

Aguilar introduced **LB 656**, which would have allowed county corrections boards to contract with private businesses to build, finance and manage county jails.

Lincoln Sen. Mike Foley introduced **LB 958**, which would have provided criminal penalties for the assault of an unborn child. Nebraska already has criminal and civil penalties for homicide of an unborn child.

LB 958 would not have applied to any action or conduct by the mother, licensed health professional conducting a medical procedure with the consent of a mother or a person who dispenses a drug or device in accordance with the law.

The bill did not receive a vote by the full Legislature before the session ended.

LB 876, introduced by Brashear, would have increased the number of district court judges in the ninth district from three to four.

LB 1085, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, would have required a court to vacate a conviction and order the release of a person if there is "clear and convincing" DNA evidence of innocence. A new trial would have been ordered if the court found "clear and convincing" DNA evidence that would have undermined the reliability of the original trial. It also would have clarified that the DNA Testing Act is the sole method of seeking either release or a new trial based on DNA test results.

The bill also would have changed standards for seeking a new trial when new non-DNA evidence is discovered.

LB 1253, introduced by Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki, would have merged the Office of Parole Administration and the Office of Probation Administration. The bill would have eliminated parole officers and probation officers and replaced those positions with community corrections officers.

LB 203, introduced by Bourne, would have established a Missing Persons Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse would have been overseen by the Nebraska State Patrol and used by all law enforcement agencies as a central database for missing persons' information.

The Judiciary Committee did not act on these bills:

LB 933, introduced by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr, would have allowed a person to leave

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Sen. Mike Foley



Sen. John Synowiecki



Criminal Law and Courts

(Cont. from Page 11)

an infant 72 hours old or younger with a safe haven provider. Those providers would have included on-duty firefighters or emergency medical technicians, staff members at licensed hospitals and substance abuse treatment centers and licensed child placement agencies or churches that posted a public notice of accepting newborns.

Chambers introduced **LB 1000**, which would have placed a licensed psychiatrist in charge of the state's mental health program. The bill also would have required a special housing unit for inpatient treatment of inmates with major psychiatric disorders as well as mental health screening for all new admissions to the correctional system. It also called for the establishment of specialized programs dealing with HIV, suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues.

LB 1131, sponsored by the Performance Audit Committee, would have clarified the Nebraska Parole Board's staffing and management structure.



Economic Development

Economic development legislation enacted in 2004 focused on the state's ethanol production incentive program.

LB 1065 and **LB 479**, both sponsored by Trenton Sen. Tom Baker, made various changes to laws regulating the program and the funding stream used to sustain the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund, also known as the EPIC fund. Created in 1992, the EPIC fund provides eligible manufacturers of new ethanol plants with production credits.

Currently, a portion of the taxes paid on fuels used for off-road purposes is refunded to the taxpayer. From Jan. 1, 2005, through Dec. 31, 2009, LB 1065 will cause an additional 1.25 cents per gallon of the non-highway fuel taxes to be retained by the state for ethanol incentives funding.

The checkoff fee paid on corn and grain sorghum increases from one-half cent to three-quarter cent per bushel or hundredweight from Oct. 1, 2004, to Oct. 1, 2010. The minimum balance in the EPIC fund that triggers a suspension of grain checkoff fee collection was raised from \$15 million to \$20 million.

Until 2011, \$1.5 million will be transferred annually to the EPIC fund from a fund used to pay for cleaning up leaky underground storage tank sites.

The state Department of Revenue can suspend the transfer of funds for ethanol production credits if the balance in the EPIC fund is not sufficient. According to the bill's fiscal note, this will not reduce the state's liability for production credits under the law but could impact the timing of production credit payments to eligible recipients.

According to Baker, LB 1065 is intended to make sure the state can financially fulfill its contractual obligations to four high-volume ethanol plants. The EPIC fund was projected to fall short of meeting obligations beginning in August 2005.

LB 479 requires ethanol manufacturers to produce 100,000 gallons annually for eight years or be on schedule to meet that requirement when they apply for the program. If the plant meets that requirement, it will receive 18 cents per gallon of ethanol produced, or \$22.5 million.



Sen. Tom Baker

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Economic Development

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June 30 is the deadline to qualify for the incentive program. Under LB 479, the state tax commissioner is no longer allowed to accept new applications for EPIC funds.

LB 1065 was passed 46-0. LB 479 was passed 47-1.

Several measures were introduced regarding the Employment and Investment Growth Act program, also known as the LB 775 tax incentive program. LB 775 income tax credits are awarded to qualifying companies that produce a required level of financial investment and job growth.

Among those measures was **LB 945**, a bill introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers. LB 945 would have eliminated the program altogether. LB 945 was indefinitely postponed by the Revenue Committee on a 5-0 vote.

LR 224CA, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, would have proposed an amendment to the Nebraska Constitution halting the future approval of LB 775 tax incentive applications. The measure was under consideration by the Revenue Committee when the session ended.

Sen. Curt Bromm of Wahoo introduced a measure that was intended to encourage economic development in communities with 5,000 or fewer residents. **LB 1190** would have allowed second class cities and villages to give low-interest or no-interest loans to entrepreneurs who create new businesses and jobs within the community.

LB 1190 was advanced to general file but not debated before the end of the session.

LB 1233, offered by Bellevue Sen. Paul Hartnett, proposed changes to two different aspects of tax increment financing. Specifically, the bill would have addressed issues relating to cost-benefit analyses and the use of funds generated from tax increment financing. LB 1233 was advanced to general file but not debated before the end of the session.



Education

Major education legislation in 2004 involved aspects of school funding and reorganization, including extending the current levy limit, examining the viability of the smaller school districts and providing financial incentives to schools wishing to reorganize.

In 2002, the Legislature made changes in state aid to schools as part of an effort to address a state budget shortfall. The maximum property tax levy for schools, which was \$1 per \$100 of property valuation, was increased to \$1.05, and a temporary aid adjustment factor of 1.25 percent was added to the state aid formula. State aid for schools was effectively reduced by the aid adjustment factor, and a levy exception was allowed so schools could replace the revenue lost because of the aid decrease.

Those state aid policy changes were set to expire at the end of fiscal year 2004-05. **LB 1093**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Ron Raikes at the request of the governor, extended the \$1.05 levy lid and accompanying state aid reduction through the end of FY2007-08.

LB 1093 was passed 43-5.

LB 1048, sponsored by Raikes, would have required Class I districts – school districts that have only grades K-8 – to merge with a K-12 district by the 2005-06 school year. Class VI school districts, which are districts that contain only a high school and are affiliated with Class I districts, would have been required to become K-12 districts.



Sen. Ron Raikes

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Education

(Cont. from Page 13)

The bill, as advanced by the Education Committee, also would have established conditions under which school districts would not be allowed to close elementary attendance centers and would have provided for methods of merging the property and assets of Class I districts into their new districts.

LB 1048 was pending on general file when the session ended.

As an alternative to LB 1048, Rockville Sen. Vickie McDonald offered **LB 1119**. LB 1119 would have required individual mandatory Class I school reorganization plans to be approved by affected Class I district voters before taking effect. LB 1119 remained in the Education Committee at the close of session.

Senators approved the use of \$2 million in lottery proceeds from the 2005-07 biennium for school reorganization incentives. The program will pay one-time incentives to Class II or III school districts of fewer than 390 students that merge to form districts of more than 390 students. In order to be eligible, the consolidations must take place after May 31, 2005, and before June 1, 2007.

The incentive money was originally proposed as part of **LB 1105**, a bill introduced by Raikes. However, the proposal was passed in **LB 1091**, part of the Appropriations Committee's budget package.

Under **LB 868**, a bill introduced by Omaha Sen. Pam Redfield, the ages for mandatory school attendance have been changed.

Previously, parents or guardians were required to enroll their children who are younger than 16 in school unless the student had already received a high school diploma. The age was increased to 18 except for students who have:

- reached age 16 prior to July 15, 2004;
- obtained a high school diploma;
- completed a program of instruction offered by a home school; or
- reached age 16 and have a signed notarized statement from their parent or guardian.

An exception was eliminated for individuals between ages 14 and 16 whose earnings are necessary for their own support or for the support of dependents.

LB 868 also included provisions from **LB 934**, introduced by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr.

Currently, a child must be 5 years old by Oct. 15 of the year he or she is to enroll in kindergarten. Students who are 4 years old may apply for enrollment in kindergarten based on certain exceptions in the law, including successful completion of an assessment if the local school district offers such an option. However, some students could be as old as 7 when entering kindergarten.

Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, LB 868 will require attendance of students in kindergarten if the child reaches age 6 by Jan. 1 of the current school year. An exception will be made for students who are in a program designed to prepare them for entry into the first grade the following year.

LB 868 also included two other provisions. Teachers who are required by state regulation to be trained in administering treatment to students having an asthma attack were granted temporary legal immunity until July 1, 2005. Also, privacy protections intended to prevent identity theft were extended to nonpublic school students as well as public school students.

LB 868 was passed 47-0.

LB 172, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Mike Foley, removed a legal requirement that schools provide students with information on the judicial waiver process for bypassing the state's parental notification law regarding abortion. The law previously required public schools to

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Sen. Vickie McDonald



Sen. Pam Redfield



Education

(Cont. from Page 14)

provide the information to students in grades 7-12. LB 172 was passed 33-7.

LB 236, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Chip Maxwell, restricts the release of student information by public schools. Previously, schools had to release directory information to anyone who asked for it, regardless of how the requester planned to use the information.

Under LB 236, schools are allowed to release information specified in federal privacy laws, such as students' names, addresses and birth dates. However, schools must give public notice of the types of information they will release.

LB 236 was passed 43-0.

LB 698, introduced by the Education Committee, proposed changes in the school aid formula. The bill would have changed the method of calculating a school system's fiscal need to equal the sum of the system's basic funding, poverty allowance, limited English proficiency allowance, special education allowance, special receipts allowance, transportation allowance, elementary site allowance, averaging adjustment, teacher education adjustment and student growth adjustment minus adjustments for local choice and corrections in student growth. Exceptions to budget limits would have been provided for growth in the poverty and limited English proficiency allowances. A stabilization factor in the formula also would have been increased from 85 percent to 90 percent. The changes would have taken effect beginning with the 2005-06 school year.

The bill also included provisions from two other bills. **LB 1104**, introduced by Raikes, would have provided a mechanism for dissolving unified school systems and set a deadline for forming new unified systems. **LB 1161**, also sponsored by Raikes, would have allowed for the modification of state aid payments to reflect transfers of annexed property or dissolutions of Class I school districts.

LB 698 died on general file when the session ended.

Two other state aid measures introduced by Maxwell also died at the end of the session.

LR 228CA proposed a constitutional amendment to allow for a state property tax. The state property tax would have been used to fund K-12 education. Local authority to levy a property tax to fund schools, except for capital improvements or by a vote of the district patrons, would have been eliminated.

LB 1248, Maxwell's companion measure to LR 228CA, would have abolished the current system of funding for K-12 education in 2005 and replaced it with a uniform subsidy of \$6,000 per student. The subsidy would have been adjusted every two years for inflation.

LR 228CA died in the Revenue Committee, while LB 1248 died in the Education Committee.



Sen. Chip Maxwell



Environment

The Legislature approved two major environmental reform policies this session. The bills tighten the state's water use policy and streamline the livestock waste permit process.

LB 962, sponsored by the Natural Resources Committee, requires the state Department of Natural Resources to evaluate river basins annually and determine whether basin water is being overused. If the department determines that a basin has reached full usage or over usage, it must halt new water usage until the department and local natural resources district develop a water management plan. The plan will be implemented within three to five years.

In fiscal year 2004-05, the new policy will be funded with \$1.5 million generated from interest accrued in the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund and \$1 million from the Environmental Trust Fund.

Lawmakers voted 44-2 to pass LB 962.

LB 916, sponsored by Elm Creek Sen. Ed Schrock, coordinates the state's Livestock Waste Management Act with new federal regulations. Owners of livestock feeding operations need only one permit to construct a waste management system on their property instead of separate federal and state applications.

Other provisions of LB 916 include:

The application fee for construction permits is \$200.

The site inspection fee for new or renovated facilities is \$100 to \$500, depending on the size of the operation.

Operators will pay an annual fee based on the type, number or weight of the animals in their facility.

Beginning in FY2007-08, the Legislature will evaluate the program annually and adjust the fees so the revenue generated will amount to at least 20 percent of the program's operating costs.

LB 916 passed 41-1.

The Legislature voted 42-0 to pass a bill requiring owners of plants and businesses that emit air pollutants to pay a construction permit application fee.

The state Department of Environmental Quality will use the revenue generated by **LB 449** for its clean air program. The bill, introduced by Schrock, will take effect Jan. 1, 2005.

The fees are \$3,000 for large facilities, \$1,500 for medium-sized facilities and \$250 for small facilities. The size of a facility is classified by how many tons of pollutants it emits in one year.

LB 449 includes provisions of two other bills:

LB 1163, introduced by Omaha Sen. Don Preister, strengthens requirements for the state's wastewater treatment contractor certification program.

Registered environmental specialists are allowed to construct, repair, inspect and perform other duties related to wastewater management.

Treatment systems constructed or modified by environmental specialists are required to register with the DEQ.

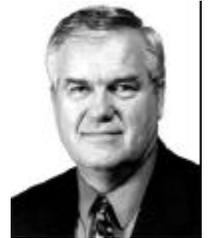
The DEQ may contract with local political subdivisions for certification, as long as the subdivision's standards are as stringent as the state's.

LB 923, introduced by Schrock, creates the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Fund, which is used for projects to clean up solid waste, hazardous waste, petroleum and other hazardous materials that could harm the environment.

Entities that ask the department to oversee cleanup projects will be required to pay a \$5,000 application fee.

A bill that would have given local governments a new way to fund storm water manage-

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Sen. Ed Schrock



Sen. Don Preister



Environment

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ment stalled on general file.

LB 32, introduced by Schrock, would have affected metropolitan, primary or first class cities required by federal law to develop, establish and implement storm water management programs and obtain a federal storm water permit.

As lawmakers struggled to find a way to fund the program, Schrock withdrew the bill from consideration.



Gaming and Liquor

Legislative efforts to regulate gaming and liquor in 2004 were highlighted by the Legislature's decision to place a proposal on the ballot to allow casino gaming in Nebraska.

LR 11CA, introduced by Sen. Ray Janssen of Nickerson, would allow the Legislature to authorize up to two casinos. It also would give local voters an opportunity to approve or disapprove of a casino in their county.

The proposal stalled in the 2003 legislative session but was revived following a failed attempt to move **LR 14CA**, another casino proposal offered by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, through the legislative process.

LR 11CA was approved by the Legislature on a 31-16 vote. It will appear on the November general election ballot.

LB 485, sponsored by the General Affairs Committee reorganized the state's liquor licensing system and fee structure. Many of the fees had been unchanged since 1935. The bill simplifies the license application process, reducing the number of license classifications from 12 to five.

The bill also:

- allows retail liquor license holders to apply for catering licenses and raises the license fee from \$75 to \$100;
- allows nonprofit corporations holding liquor licenses to sell to the public, in addition to members and guests;
- limits counties to charging an occupation tax of twice the application fee to liquor license holders; and
- allows for the quarterly proration of liquor license fees for newly acquired licenses.

LB 485 was passed 48-0.

LB 995, introduced by Omaha Sen. Don Preister, would have prohibited the Liquor Control Commission from issuing or renewing liquor licenses in unincorporated villages located within five miles of a reservation where alcohol sales are banned. Exceptions would have been granted to villages with adequate law enforcement, public restrooms and licensed establishments that allow on-site alcohol consumption. The bill was intended to address liquor sales in the village of Whiteclay, which is located near South Dakota's Pine Ridge reservation.

The bill was still under consideration by the General Affairs Committee when the session ended.



Sen. Ray Janssen



Health and Human Services

The Legislature began the process of reforming Nebraska's mental health care system. Senators voted 44-2 to pass **LB 1083**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Jim Jensen. The bill will result in the closing of the Hastings and Norfolk regional centers in exchange for more community-based programs for treating behavioral health disorders.

The bill also establishes the Division of Behavioral Health Services within the state Department of Health and Human Services. The new division is responsible for the state's six behavioral health regions.

The division is required to notify the Legislature and the governor when a regional center reaches 20 percent or less of its capacity. The Legislature's Executive Board will then decide whether to allow the division to close the center and transfer patients to appropriate community-based services.

LB 1083 includes provisions of **LB 1145**, also introduced by Jensen. The bill establishes mandatory licensing for certified alcohol and drug abuse counselors, known as CADACs. The CADACs may screen patients for mental illnesses and refer them to mental health professionals if necessary.

The Legislature passed a number of other health care measures this session.

LB 818, introduced by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, moves the termination date of the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council from Dec. 31, 2004, to Dec. 31, 2009. The bill passed 38-0.

Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr introduced a bill to establish licensure requirements for tattoo artists, body piercers, permanent color technicians and other body artists.

Under **LB 906**, practitioners who begin practicing on or after April 1, 2005, will have to obtain a license from the state Department of Health and Human Services.

To apply for a practitioner's license, applicants will have to:

- be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or GED;
- submit evidence of training or experience in the practice of body art for which they are seeking licensure; and
- complete an exam that tests the applicant's knowledge of safety, sanitation, sterilization techniques and infection control practices.

The state Board of Cosmetology establishes the training and testing requirements. The HHS department may waive all or part of the examination for practitioners who are in business prior to April 1, 2005.

LB 906 passed 36-2.

LB 944, introduced by Jensen, changes release-from-escrow provisions for tobacco manufacturers that did not participate in the national tobacco settlement.

The tobacco settlement requires nonparticipating companies either to become participating manufacturers or place a specified amount into a qualified escrow account based on the number of units sold in the state.

Nonparticipating manufacturers have been able to obtain refunds for a large percentage of their escrow deposits based on the state's allocable share of the payments they would have been required to make under the tobacco settlement. Jensen's bill prevents those unintended refunds.

LB 944 passed 43-1.

The Legislature also passed a Health and Human Services Committee cleanup bill.

Among other things, **LB 1005**:

- requires a national criminal history check for all adoptive parents and for applicants for foster care licenses;



Sen. Jim Jensen



Sen. DiAnna Schimek

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Health and Human Services

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- allows a child to be placed in foster care, in emergency situations, before the completion of the background check;
- requires licensure of people providing child care programs; and
- requires HHS to maintain a complaint tracking system for child care licensees.

Senators adopted amendments incorporating provisions of numerous other bills relating to occupational therapy, dentistry, in-home daycares, assisted-living facilities, critical access hospitals, local health departments and the state's loan program for mental health students.

Senators voted 49-0 to pass LB 1005.

Under **LB 1084**, introduced by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, the attorney general's office now oversees a Medicaid fraud control unit. The unit's mission is to investigate and prosecute Medicaid provider fraud and patient abuse and neglect.

Until LB 1084 passed 44-0, Nebraska was one of two states without a Medicaid fraud unit.

Several other bills did not receive a vote by the full Legislature this session.

Lincoln Sen. Marian Price introduced **LB 1027**, which would have created one standard for the regulation of all advanced practice registered nurses under the state Board of Nursing. A single license would have been required for all advanced practice registered nurses with separate certifications for individual specialties.

The Health and Human Services Committee took no action on LB 1027.

LB 1100, introduced by Plattsmouth Sen. Roger Wehrbein, would have given the state Department of Health and Human Services authority to use an objective assessment process to allocate services to those with developmental disabilities.

The bill was advanced from the Health and Human Services Committee 7-0 but ended the session on general file.

LB 1128, introduced by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, would have imposed a provider tax on nursing facilities according to their total resident days. The fee would have been used to supplement the Medicaid funds nursing homes receive.

The Revenue Committee did not act on the bill.



Sen. Philip Erdman



Law Enforcement

Among legislation affecting law enforcement was a bill to change how law enforcement training is funded and a measure that provided for new requirements for county sheriffs.

LB 1162, sponsored by Blair Sen. Mick Mines, allows the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island to continue paying trainees' tuition costs until Jan. 1, 2007. Previous law prohibited the training center from paying the tuition after July 1, 2005.

The training center receives money from the \$2 Law Enforcement Improvement Fund fee charged in certain criminal proceedings, which will expire Jan. 1, 2007.

The state is transitioning from training paid for by municipalities and counties to a tuition-based academy.

LB 1162 also contained the provisions of two other bills.

LB 1213, introduced by Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear, extended the requirement that racial profiling data from traffic stops be collected and reported until 2007.

LB 1101, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, prohibited Douglas and Lancaster counties from establishing a law enforcement reserve force.

Finally, LB 1162 created the Racial Profiling Advisory Committee, to be led by the executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. Members of the committee will include representatives appointed from Nebraska's law enforcement organizations and other interested groups.

LB 1162 was passed 45-0.

LB 75, sponsored by Malcolm Sen. Carol Hudkins, requires sheriff candidates to pass a criminal investigation check as well as reading comprehension and English language portions of a basic education test. The background checks and tests will be administered by the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center. Applications for background checks must be filed at least 30 days prior to the election filing deadline. Those already possessing a state-based law enforcement certificate or diploma are exempt from the new requirements.

LB 75 was passed by a 41-0 vote.

LB 304, introduced by Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki, would have provided certain due process rights to police officers being formally investigated for administrative sanctions. Under the bill, interrogations of officers would have been restricted with respect to time, place and duration. Officers under investigation would have been entitled to know the name and rank of the person in charge of their interrogation, the nature of the interrogation and the names of all complainants. The bill was not applicable to criminal investigations.

General file debate on LB 304 began, but the bill died at the end of the session.

LR 4CA, sponsored by Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek, proposed a constitutional amendment that would have named hunting, fishing and trapping as a protected constitutional right subject to reasonable legal restrictions. The proposal died on general file with the end of the session.

LB 853, introduced by Table Rock Sen. Floyd Vrtiska, would have changed the length of time during which an individual can be held in civil protective custody. Currently, an intoxicated individual can be held in civil protective custody for up to 24 hours. LB 853 would have allowed individuals to be held in civil protective custody for up to 72 hours if they have been placed in civil protective custody three or more times in the previous six months.

LB 853 was advanced to general file, but died with the end of the session.



Sen. Mick Mines



Sen. Carol Hudkins





Local Government



Sen. Curt Bromm

Measures relating to municipal insurance, county board meeting requirements and the state's energy code were among the local government issues considered in 2004.

Lawmakers considered a measure introduced by Wahoo Sen. Curt Bromm that would have allowed municipalities that self-fund insurance coverage through interlocal agreements to jointly purchase excess insurance.

LB 511 would have allowed cities and villages to jointly purchase excess insurance while keeping the self-funded portion of the employee benefit plans separate. The bill's intent was to help municipalities respond to high health insurance costs.

The bill reached select file but did not receive further consideration before session ended.

Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman introduced **LB 323** to change meeting requirements for certain county boards.

Previous law required counties with the board of supervisors form of government to hold an organizational meeting and elect a chairperson on the second Tuesday in January.

LB 323 allows the meeting to take place on any day in January.

The bill also simplifies the process for filing for county offices.

In the previous system, a candidate paid the filing fee to the county treasurer and took the receipt to the county clerk or election commissioner to file. With LB 323, the candidate pays the fee to the clerk or election commissioner, who then remits the money to the treasurer.

LB 323 was passed by a 43-0 vote.

Notification rules for recall elections changed under a measure introduced by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek.

Certified mail was the only legal method of notifying public officials if they were subject to a recall election. **LB 820** allows filing clerks to notify officials by certified mail, by leaving an affidavit with the official or by leaving an affidavit at the official's residence with a person of suitable age.

If notification cannot be made by any of these methods, the filing clerk may notify the official by leaving a copy of an affidavit at the official's address and mailing a copy to the official's last known address.

The same procedures are used when notifying the official that sufficient signatures have been gathered on a recall petition filed against him or her.

LB 820 passed 41-0.

The Legislature passed a bill 47-0 to upgrade the state's 21-year-old energy code.

Under **LB 888**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, the state adopted the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code. The energy code ensures that newly constructed or renovated buildings and homes have energy-efficient insulation, electrical components and heating and air conditioning systems.

LB 969, introduced by the Natural Resources Committee, allows public power districts, municipalities and electric cooperatives to enter purchase agreements to produce power.

The power plants share costs based on the percentage of energy each plant uses.

Municipalities are not held liable for the costs of generating electricity or maintaining the facility if another participant cannot meet its financial obligation, unless otherwise specified in the agreement.

LB 969 passed 48-0.

The Urban Affairs Committee voted unanimously to kill a bill that would have prohibited municipalities from levying motor fuel occupation or business taxes.

LB 1246, introduced by Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen, would have terminated any such tax in effect upon the bill's effective date.



Sen. Mike Friend



Sen. Dwite Pedersen

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Local Government

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Several other bills did not receive a vote from the full Legislature.

LB 784, introduced by Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen, would have allowed local governments that work together to construct or finance public buildings and related improvements to issue joint bonds to finance the projects. The bill died on general file at the end of the session.

Voting requirements for creating a municipal county would have changed under **LB 870**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pam Brown.

The bill died on general file with the end of the session.

Blair Sen. Mick Mines sponsored a bill that would have authorized a surcharge on monthly electric bills of 50 cents for residences and \$2 for businesses. The revenue from **LB 1176** would have been used to fund the establishment, operation and maintenance of a statewide communications system for public safety and utility personnel.

The Revenue Committee took no action on the bill.

LB 1252, introduced by Kearney Sen. Joel Johnson would have allowed cities to increase their budgets by the total percentage increase in taxable valuation or the percentage increase in net taxable retail sales not exceeding 5 percent.

Currently, cities can increase their budgets by the percentage increase in taxable valuation that is more than 2.5 percent.

The Revenue Committee took no action on the bill.



Miscellaneous

Other issues of interest in 2004 included adding another state veteran cemetery, continuing rate contracts for certain natural gas users and making changes to engineering and architectural regulations.

The Legislature voted 49-0 to approve construction of a third state veteran cemetery.

LB 1231, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Paul Hartnett, adds another veteran cemetery in Sarpy County. The other two are located in Box Butte and Hall counties.

State general fund dollars will not be used for the project.

Another Hartnett bill, **LB 499**, allows ratepayers designated as high-volume natural gas users to contract for gas rates with a provider.

A natural gas regulation bill passed in 2003 inadvertently prevented certain high-volume users from entering such contracts.

High volume users that have maintained the same usage levels as they did under the old law are considered high-volume users until June 1, 2007.

LB 599, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Gene Tyson, permits the state Board of Engineers and Architects to use negotiated rulemaking.

Previous law required state and local political subdivisions to use a licensed engineer or architect in public works projects costing more than \$80,000. LB 599 increases that threshold to \$86,000 and allows for an inflationary adjustment every five years beginning in 2009.

The bill also makes other changes in engineering and architectural regulations.

LB 599 passed 45-0.



Sen. Paul Hartnett



Sen. Gene Tyson

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Miscellaneous

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Sen. Pam Brown

Senators voted 45-1 to change the procedures for housing discrimination claims.

Under **LB 625**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pam Brown, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission is required to inform parties against whom a housing discrimination claim has been filed that they have the right to obtain copies of all records and reports related to that investigation. The commission also is required to provide those records upon request to the complainant and the party being investigated.

LB 278, introduced by Omaha Sen. Don Preister, advanced 5-1 from the Business and Labor Committee but remained on general file when the Legislature adjourned sine die.

The bill would have created a uniform method of licensing and testing elevator contractors and mechanics.

Kenesaw Sen. Carroll Burling proposed **LB 921**, which would have made technical changes to the statutes allowing heirs of deceased adoptees to search state records.

The bill advanced 7-0 from committee but did not receive further consideration.

LB 1201, introduced by Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen, would have created a Statewide Cemetery Registry to be maintained by the State Historical Society. The registry would have been a central data bank of accurate and current information regarding the location of and the human remains contained in cemeteries, burial grounds, mausoleums and columbariums in the state.

The bill advanced 8-0 from the General Affairs Committee but remained on general file when the Legislature adjourned sine die.



Motor Vehicles

In 2004, the Legislature extended Nebraska's license plate cycle, developed an organ donor registry and considered changes to laws that affect drivers and passengers under age 18.

The Legislature voted 40-3 to lengthen the license plate cycle from three years to six years.

Sen. Jim Jones of Eddyville, sponsor of **LB 279**, said Nebraska will save \$3.50 per license plate by following a six-year cycle. The bill alleviates storage problems at county courthouses where license plates are kept.

The cost of plates and renewal stickers was increased from \$2.50 to \$3.50.

Several senators proposed adding specialty license plates.

Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon introduced **LB 838**, which would have created military plates to represent armed force affiliations. Ten dollars from each plate fee would have been used to maintain state veterans cemeteries.

The bill advanced 6-0 from the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee but did not receive further consideration.

Papillion Sen. Nancy Thompson introduced **LB 865**, which would have created a child abuse prevention license plate. The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund would have received a portion of the revenue generated by the plates.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee did not act on the bill.

Senators voted 48-0 to pass **LB 559**, which establishes an organ donor registry.

The registry was originally proposed in **LB 1036**, introduced by Thompson. Nebraskans who designate themselves as organ or tissue donors when they receive their driver's license

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Sen. Jim Jones



Motor Vehicles

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have their names listed in a statewide database. Donors also may change their donor status online or by telephone.

LB 559, as originally introduced by Trenton Sen. Tom Baker, related to identification required for the issuance of a license or state identification card. These provisions were eventually removed from the bill.

It is now illegal for anyone under age 18 to ride in or on any portion of a vehicle not designed or intended for passengers, such as the cargo area of a pickup truck.

Violations of **LB 227**, introduced by Sen. Ray Aguilar of Grand Island, will be enforced as primary offenses. Primary offenses are those for which a driver can be stopped without any other apparent cause or reason.

The bill makes exceptions for passengers riding in a lawful parade or exhibition. It also requires drivers to make passengers ages 6 to 18 wear seat belts. Previously, the law applied only to passengers through age 16.

The Legislature voted 25-18 to pass LB 227.

Senators decided to allow judges to either impound or revoke learner's driving permits. Previously, minors who violated the provisions of their permits were subject only to revocation.

Bill sponsor Sen. Floyd Vrtiska of Table Rock said **LB 353** gives the courts more flexibility in assessing the severity of a minor's driving infraction.

LB 353 passed 47-0.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee considered two other measures that would have affected young drivers but did not advance the bills.

LB 1147, introduced by Wahoo Sen. Curt Bromm, would have changed requirements for obtaining a school permit. Under his proposal, applicants for school permits would have been required to complete a driver safety course or present a certificate signed by a parent or guardian verifying that the applicant had practiced driving for at least 50 hours.

The bill also would have allowed students to use school permits to drive to extracurricular activities within their respective school districts between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

LB 1111, introduced by Thompson, would have restricted the number of passengers in vehicles driven by 16- and 17-year-olds with provisional operator's permits.

These drivers would not have been allowed to transport more than one passenger in a vehicle unless a parent, guardian or another adult 21 or older was in the vehicle. Drivers would have been allowed to transport siblings.

Senators voted 47-0 to reorganize the state's DUI-related laws.

LB 208, introduced by Omaha Sen. Lowen Kruse, recodified the state's DUI statutes in order to place them in the same section of state law.

The Legislature debated enhanced DUI penalties in **LB 871**, another bill offered by Kruse. LB 871 would have:

- increased the maximum incarceration period for second DUI offenses from 90 days to six months;
- prohibited individuals convicted of motor vehicle homicide, a Class III-A felony, from driving or having an operator's license for at least one year, an increase from 60 days under current law;
- required that a vehicle be seized and impounded upon the driver's arrest, for a minimum of 10 days;
- required the DMV to wait until at least one year after license revocation or impound-

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Sen. Nancy Thompson



Sen. Ray Aguilar



Sen. Lowen Kruse



Motor Vehicles

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ment before issuing a new license to a repeat offender;

- created an aggravated DUI law, which would be a Class IV felony;
- allowed repeat offenders found to have a blood alcohol content of .16 or higher or fleeing to avoid an alcohol-related arrest to be convicted of aggravated DUI; and
- clarified that individuals whose licenses are revoked or impounded are not eligible for a vehicle interlock system until at least one year after the revocation or impoundment.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee advanced LB 871, but the bill was not considered on general file before session ended.

Other motor vehicles bills this session included:

LB 560, introduced by Baker, makes changes to statutes relating to motorboats, salvage title registration and abandoned motorboats.

The bill passed 43-0.

LB 863, introduced by Baker, would have changed rules for obtaining and renewing commercial drivers' licenses to correspond with the U.S. Patriot Act.

The bill advanced 7-0 from the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee but did not receive a vote from the full Legislature.

LB 878, introduced by Baker, adopted the federal motor carrier safety regulations and hazardous material regulations that went into effect in January.

The bill passed 42-0.

LB 1082, introduced by South Sioux City Sen. Pat Engel, would have allowed males ages 18 to 26 to complete their selective service registrations when applying for a motor vehicle operator's license. The state Department of Motor Vehicles would have forwarded the information to the U.S. Selective Service System.

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee voted 8-0 to advance the bill, but LB 1082 did not receive general file consideration before the Legislature adjourned for the year.



Sen. Pat Engel

Retirement

The Legislature passed one retirement measure in 2004 that encompassed a number of issues affecting the system.

Sponsored by the Retirement Systems Committee, **LB 1097**:

- clarifies definitions of eligibility and vesting credit for participation in the county and state plans;
- clarifies that the state and counties have a 60-day period to enroll qualified employees in their respective plans;
- clarifies that re-employed county and state plan members who elect to repay termination benefits must repay the actual earnings on the value of those benefits;
- clarifies provisions relating to joint and survivor benefits;
- clarifies procedures used by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System (NPERS) in calculating cost-of-living adjustments for members of the judicial, school employee and State Patrol plans;
- requires school employee plan members who repay withdrawn contributions more

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Retirement

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than three years after a withdrawal to repay the assumed rate of return rather than the current actual rate;

- transfers funds from the Retired Teachers Supplemental Benefits Fund to the School Retirement Fund as required by existing law;
- permits a waiver, in the school employee plan, for a doctor's examination in certain situations where there is a medical disability involving hospice treatment and a terminal illness;
- changes leave provisions for state and county plan members who are under 50 and attend a retirement seminar provided by NPERs;
- permits retirement seminars to be held on a partial-day basis, spread over a number of days, rather than only during a full workday;
- expands the number of voting members on the Public Employees Retirement Board from seven to eight;
- changes certified mailing requirements for retirement statements sent to school employee plan members;
- permits firefighters who are employed by first-class cities and are members of defined contribution plans to make investment decisions on the employer contributions to their plans;
- establishes additional investment options for employer contributions to the county and state employee plans for non-cash balance participants;
- changes provisions relating to death benefits for State Patrol plan members; and
- establishes a service annuity fund for the Omaha Public Schools retirement system.

LB 1097 also includes provisions from **LB 679**, a bill introduced by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr that makes changes in the retirement plan for judges. Under that portion of the bill, a judge's spouse is eligible for a death benefit from the judges' retirement plan of up to 50 percent upon the judge's death. Current judges have the option of making additional contributions to receive the additional benefit. New judges are automatically subject to the new contribution rates and benefits.

Those judges receiving the additional benefits contribute 8 percent of their monthly salary until the maximum benefit has been earned, at which time the monthly contribution rate drops to 4 percent. Judges choosing not to receive the additional benefits contribute 6 percent of their monthly salary until the maximum benefit is earned.

LB 1097 was passed by a 45-0 vote.



State Government

Senators will allow voters to decide whether to provide funding for the Nebraska State Fair and adjust the duties of the state's lieutenant governor. The Legislature passed bills to assist National Guard personnel in active duty and shift responsibility for administration of the State Capitol building.

LR 209CA, introduced by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, proposes an amendment to the Nebraska Constitution aimed at directing about \$2 million of lottery proceeds annually to the Nebraska State Fair Board.

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Sen. Elaine Stuhr



State Government

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If passed, the proposal would divide lottery money, after payment of prizes and operating expenses, as follows:

- \$500,000 initially to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund, as well as 1 percent of the remaining proceeds;
- 10 percent to the Nebraska State Fair Board;
- 44.5 percent to education as directed by the Legislature; and
- 44.5 percent to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund.

Additionally, LR 209CA would require the most populous city in the county where the State Fair is located – in this case, Lincoln – to pitch in matching funds of 10 percent of the state's contribution. No portion of the local funds could be provided by the state.

Legislators approved LR 209CA on a 32-15 vote. The measure will appear on the November general election ballot.

LR 211CA, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, proposes a constitutional amendment that would relieve the lieutenant governor of the duty of presiding over the Legislature.

Lawmakers voted 42-0 in favor of LR 211CA. The measure will be presented to voters at the November general election.

LB 963, sponsored by Sen. Floyd Vrtiska of Table Rock, includes provisions of two other bills.

Under the provisions from **LB 834**, an officer or enlisted person of the National Guard who is called to active service by the federal or state government or other agency in excess of 30 days is entitled to reimbursement of his or her privately purchased or employer-provided health insurance.

Under the provisions from **LB 858**, the list of those eligible to serve as adjutant general of the Nebraska National Guard is expanded. The adjutant general is allowed to appoint a deputy adjutant general, chief of staff or deputy director. The adjutant general is not required to take leave to perform his or her federal duties.

LB 963 was passed 48-0.

LB 439, as originally introduced by Sen. Carol Hudkins of Malcolm, related to security at state facilities, including the State Capitol and the governor's residence. However, as amended by a proposal offered by Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler, the bill transfers responsibilities for administration of the State Capitol building and grounds to a Nebraska Capitol Commission. The commission's office will be overseen by a capitol administrator appointed by the governor.

Additionally, the State Patrol was given responsibility for security for most state government buildings and grounds. Exceptions include the university system, state colleges and state parks.

LB 439 was passed 47-0.

LB 692, as originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Don Preister, related to the state's Biopower Steering Committee. However, as amended under a proposal offered by Sen. Curt Bromm of Wahoo, the bill changes the rate of interest owed to those with legal judgments against the state.

When a legal judgment is entered against the state, the state pays the judgment plus any accrued interest. Under previous law, if the state determined that paying the judgment at that time would create a hardship for the state – for example, if the state did not have the funds to satisfy the judgment – interest would begin accruing at a rate of 10 percent.

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Sen. Floyd Vrtiska



Sen. Chris Beutler



State Government

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LB 692 made the interest rate variable and tied it to the prevailing rate on U.S. Treasury notes plus 2 percent. The bill passed on a 46-1 vote.

LB 913, introduced by Riverdale Sen. Jim Cudaback, would have exempted state electrical inspectors from the state personnel system. The bill died in the Government, Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee when the session ended.

LB 762, offered by Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha, would have eliminated the state's campaign finance limitation law, known as the CFLA. The CFLA provides for a system of voluntary limitations on campaign spending and provides public funding for qualified campaigns from a voluntary checkoff on state income tax returns and state accountability fines.

LB 762 was debated on general file but died when the session ended.

LB 1087, introduced by the Performance Audit Committee, would have entitled that committee to access agency records, including confidential ones, for the purpose of conducting a performance audit. Exceptions included information that is confidential according to federal or state law.

If an agency and the committee did not agree whether information should be confidential, the speaker of the Legislature would have determined whether the information was necessary for the accuracy of the audit.

LB 1087 died in the Government, Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee with the end of the session.

LB 470, introduced by Chambers, would have given the Legislature authority to assign space in the State Capitol to meet its needs. The bill was on general file but died with the end of the session.

LB 1202, sponsored by Brashear, would have permitted public bodies to withhold from the public job application materials submitted by applicants for employment. Currently, materials submitted by applicants who become finalists are open to the public. LB 1202 was on general file but died with the end of the session.

LB 1203, offered by Brashear, would have created a Special Commission on Public Assets to study the potential of privatizing the state's assets. The commission would have been responsible for:

- compiling a list of public assets that are capable of being owned or operated by private enterprises;
- prioritizing the types of public assets most amenable to privatization; and
- undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of the assets determined to have the greatest potential for privatization.

LB 1203 was indefinitely postponed by the Natural Resources Committee on a 8-0 vote.

LR 222CA, introduced by Omaha Sen. Mark Quandahl, proposed a constitutional amendment that would have included political party affiliations on the ballot alongside the names of candidates for the Legislature. Currently, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan ballot.

LR 222CA died in the Legislature's Executive Board with the end of the session.

LR 221CA, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pam Brown, proposed a constitutional amendment that would have allowed state agencies to offer extra compensation to employees whose jobs are eliminated as part of downsizing. Employees who take jobs with other state agencies would not have been eligible for compensation.

LR 221CA was on general file but died with the end of the session.



Sen. Jim Cudaback





Taxes

Tax bills passed in 2004 were mostly corrective in nature, including clarifications in the sales tax paid by contractors and certain care facilities, the creation of a one-time tax amnesty program and an adjustment to the state's homestead exemption program.

In 2003, the Legislature expanded the state's sales tax base to include a variety of services, including some construction labor.

Under **LB 1017**, introduced by Sen. David Landis of Lincoln, sales taxes on construction materials are to be collected at the time of purchase. Construction contractors are responsible for remitting sales tax on labor to the state equal to 60 percent of the total project cost minus an allowance for the sales tax charged on materials. For the purposes of taxation, labor costs charged by subcontractors are to be rolled into the project's final cost.

LB 1017 also included provisions from **LB 1019**, also introduced by Landis. LB 1019 establishes a one-time tax amnesty period between Aug. 1 and Oct. 31 of this year during which an individual or entity that should have filed, but did not file, a tax return in a given year could pay any taxes owed and apply for amnesty from any penalties and interest.

LB 1017 was passed 40-0.

LB 841, introduced by Beatrice Sen. Dennis Byars, exempts nonprofit, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF-MRs) from paying sales tax on purchases. The move was prompted by the discovery that the exemption for ICF-MRs was inadvertently omitted from previous legislation.

The bill also allows ICF-MRs to access additional Medicaid funding. Finally, LB 841 removes a requirement that purchasers of farm machinery fill out a sales tax exemption form. That provision was originally part of **LB 1095**, a bill introduced by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman.

LB 841 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 986, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne at the governor's request, extends the state's homestead exemption program to a larger number of multiple amputee veterans. Previously, only those multiple amputee veterans who had lost two lower extremities were considered disabled for the purpose of qualifying for a homestead exemption. The exemption is based on the entire value of the home regardless of value or household income provided that the home was purchased for the veteran by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Under LB 986, the definition of multiple amputee is expanded to include the loss of any two extremities. The exemption also covers homes that have been purchased, built, remodeled or specifically adapted by the federal government for veterans. The bill took effect retroactively on Jan. 1 of this tax year.

LB 986 was passed by a 47-0 vote.

LB 1034, introduced by Landis, adjusts estate tax brackets. Currently, the rate on the first \$100,000 of taxable estate is 41 percent. The tax bracket from \$100,000 to \$500,000 is then taxed at 6.4 percent and the rates increase by 0.8 percent for each bracket thereafter.

Under LB 1034, the tax rate on the first \$100,000 of taxable estate is reduced to 5.6 percent. The actual tax is either the larger of the state death tax credit allowed or the tax at the 5.6 percent rate. The bill creates a new rate bracket for \$3.5 million of taxable estate to make up for revenue lost because of the initial rate reduction.

LB 1034 was passed 46-0.

LB 355, sponsored by Landis, aligns Nebraska's income tax laws and the federal tax code with respect to standard deductions for minors with unearned income, people older than 65 and the blind.

Legislation passed last year aligning Nebraska's income tax code with federal law did not include the changes in the standard deduction for those three groups. Without LB 355, the

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Sen. Dennis Byars



Taxes

(Cont. from Page 29)

state would have inadvertently collected revenue for the 2003 tax year that it did not intend to collect.

LB 355 was passed 42-0.

LB 644, introduced by Sen. Paul Hartnett of Bellevue, requires county assessors to create a report listing taxable government property in that county along with each property's legal description. The report is to be submitted to the county board and the state property tax administrator.

LB 644 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 973, introduced by Landis, makes numerous changes to tax equalization laws, including making most appeal timelines and procedures uniform throughout state law and adopting more general language covering appeals. LB 973 was passed 46-0.

LB 983, sponsored by the Revenue Committee, cleaned up motor fuel tax laws by:

- combining motor vehicle fuel and diesel fuel statutes;
- creating a new category of producer for ethanol and biodiesel production;
- eliminating various motor fuel licensing fees;
- changing the point of taxation of ethanol and a petroleum release remedial action fee;
- replacing the non-highway use fuel tax credit claimed on income tax returns with a direct refund system; and
- repealing the law that provides for an adjustment in the fuel tax if money in the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash fund is insufficient to reimburse the Highway Trust Fund for ethanol production incentive credits.

LB 983 was passed 40-0.

LB 879, introduced by Sen. Matt Connealy of Decatur, would have allowed for an income tax credit for planned gifts from 2005 to 2010. The tax credit would have been \$10,000 with certain limitations. LB 879 was on general file but died with the end of the session.

LB 1181, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler, would have increased the state's fixed gas tax rate by 2 cents per gallon to 26.5 cents. The additional funding would have been used to support city and county road programs. LB 1181 was on general file but died with the end of the session.

LB 873, introduced by Sen. Jeanne Combs of Friend, would have increased the amount of value that could be exempted under the state's homestead exemption program. The bill also would have increased the maximum value of homes that qualify for homestead exemptions. Rather than basing homestead exemption eligibility on fixed amounts in the law, as is current practice, LB 873 would have relied on statewide averages of assessed value of single-family residences.

LB 873 died in the Revenue Committee at the end of the session.



Sen. David Landis



The following tables contain the final status of all substantive legislation before the Legislature during the 2004 session.

The “STATUS” column indicates a bill’s last stage of consideration. All legislation not otherwise disposed of before the end of the 2004 session is considered indefinitely postponed and must be re-introduced in 2005 to be considered again. A “+” indicates bills from which language was taken and a “-” indicates bills into which language was amended.

The “ISSUE #s” column indicates which issues of the *Unicameral Update* contain articles about individual legislative bills.

BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
13	Schimek	Change provisions for succession to the office of Governor	General File	
16	Brashear	Change filing requirements for professional services businesses	Signed	
18	Brashear	Change provisions relating to burglary	Committee	
20	Brashear	Change county court jurisdictional provisions	Select File	
21	Brashear	Change felony complaint procedures	Select File	
22	Brashear	Change penalty provisions for criminal attempt	Select File	
24	Brashear	Change state tort claim procedures	Committee	
25	Brashear	Limit access to inheritance tax records	Committee	
26	Preister	Change membership and classification duties of the Environmental Quality Council	IPP	
27	Preister	Change provisions relating to retail electricity suppliers and the Nebraska Power Review Board	IPP	
28	Preister	Provide for net metering with respect to electric utilities	IPP	
32	Schrock	Authorize storm water management programs for certain political subdivisions as prescribed	General File	4, 5
36	Schrock	Create the offense of introducing contraband into a detention facility	Committee	
37	Price	Adopt the Wage Replacement Savings Plan Act which allows eligible employees to put away money into a trust to withdraw for future otherwise unpaid leaves of absence	IPP	2, 6, 15
37A	Price	Appropriation Bill	Final Reading	
38	Price	Prohibit unauthorized access to a firearm by a minor	Committee	
47	Brashear	Change impeachment procedures	Select File	
49	Brashear	Correct a grammatical error in criminal law	Select File	
50	Brashear	Correct an internal reference in criminal procedure law	Select File	
58	Byars	Allow government employees to bring discrimination actions under the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	Committee	
63	Preister	Adopt the School Pesticide Notification Act	Committee	
64	Preister	Adopt the School Integrated Pest Management Act	Committee	
75	Hudkins	Change eligibility requirements for county sheriff	Signed	2, 9, 10
78	Hartnett	Change provisions for issuance of citations for code violations in cities of the second class and villages	General File	
81	Schimek	Permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages in vehicles operated as charter, limousine, or special party services	Committee	
86	Dw. Pedersen	Permit municipalities to allow solicitation of contributions on roadways	General File	
87	Dw. Pedersen	Provide for closing the Secure Youth Confinement Facility	Committee	
99	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Visitors Development Act	General File	
100	Baker	Provide for specialty license plates	General File	
100A	Baker	Appropriation Bill	General File	
104	Hudkins	Change tort claim provisions relating to innocent third parties and vehicular pursuits	Committee	
110	Cunningham	Eliminate recognition of holiday proclamations by the President	General File	
113	Redfield	Change requirements for a consumer authorization of payment to a telemarketer	Committee	
117	Brown	Provide duties for the State Treasurer relating to receipt of funds and provide funding	General File	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
120	Brown	Provide for deferred compensation payment and health insurance coverage for certain state employees	IPP	
129	Schimek	Provide a penalty for leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle	Committee	
132	Thompson	Adopt the Interstate Compact for Juveniles	Committee	
139	Johnson	Change provisions relating to DNA sampling and testing	Vetoed (+662)	4, 12, 15
139A	Johnson	Appropriation Bill	Vetoed	
147	D. Pederson	Change cancellation and ownership provisions for the Nebraska educational savings plan trust	Committee	
151	Cunningham	Change portion of appropriations to be used for acquisition of art work	Committee	
152	Schimek	Change residency provisions relating to postsecondary education	Committee	
154	Schimek	Change the Secretary of State's authority to accept or refuse filing of initiative and referendum petitions	IPP	
155	Quandahl	Change provisions relating to title insurance, title insurers, instruments affecting real estate, and agricultural leases	Signed (+747)	2, 12, 14
159	Kremer	Change livestock pseudorabies control and eradication provisions	Committee	
172	Foley	Eliminate a requirement for school districts to provide abortion information	Signed	2, 4, 5, 12
173	Foley	Provide continued medical assistance for children adopted by persons seventy years of age and older	Committee	
174	Byars	Require an eye examination prior to school entrance as prescribed	General File	
183	Natural Resources	Provide for a water transfer fee	IPP	
184	Baker	Require parents to attend juvenile court hearings for their child and change who can file a petition for termination of parental rights	Committee	
188	Bourne	Increase motor vehicle registration fees for enforcement of drug offenses and violent crimes	Committee	
189	Bourne	Change provisions relating to gift enterprises	General File (-999)	
190	Redfield	Change provisions relating to operating a motor vehicle to avoid arrest	Committee	
196	Business and Labor	Provide requirements for workers' compensation coverage by employee services entities	Committee	
198	Business and Labor	Change administration provisions for the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court	General File	
202	Cunningham	Require the Dept. of Health and Human Services to conduct a prescription drug survey	Committee	
203	Bourne	Establish the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse	General File	2
203A	Bourne	Appropriation Bill	General File	
204	Bourne	Provide double fines for speeding in a residential district	Committee	
206	Kruse	Change provisions relating to theft	Committee	
208	Kruse	Change and transfer provisions relating to driving under the influence and implied consent	Signed	2, 8
211	Stuhr	Prohibit body piercing, tattooing, and branding of minors	Committee	
212	Kremer	Change and eliminate provisions relating to testing, review, and sale of current tractor models	General File	
215	Quandahl	Authorize certain installment sales and loan fees	General File	
223	Wehrbein	Change tax protest procedures	IPP	
225	Synowiecki	Provide additional conditions of probation for sex offenders	Committee	
226	Redfield	Require a nonunion employee to reimburse a union for legal services requested by such employee	General File	
227	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to occupant protection systems	Signed	2, 5, 6, 8
230	Smith	Change tractor test requirements	Committee	
231	Smith	Change membership provisions of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council	Committee	
232	Smith	Authorize a county records improvement filing fee	General File	
236	Maxwell	Change provisions for withholding personal information on students in public records	Signed	2



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
237	Schrock	Require notice of installation of gas systems and provide immunity	General File	
239	Jensen	Provide means testing for certain benefits under the medical assistance program	Committee	
240	Jensen	Provide for notice of personal representative appointment and for a lien relating to the medical assistance program	Committee	
248	Redfield	Provide for investment of state funds using Internet competitive bidding	General File	
251	Cunningham	Change eligibility requirements for unemployment compensation	IPP	
253	Quandahl	Change method of selection and obligations of presidential electors	General File	
264	Raikes	Change and eliminate provisions relating to educators' certificates and permits	Committee	
265	Tyson	Adopt the Concealed Handgun Permit Act	Select File	
265A	Tyson	Appropriation Bill	Select File	
268	Tyson	Require payment of county and district court security costs by the Supreme Court	Committee	
269	Tyson	Adopt an educational loan forgiveness program for lawyers who provide public legal services	General File	
270	Brashear	Change criminal indictment or information requirements and victims rights' provisions	Signed (+271)	2, 4, 6, 8
271	Brashear	Change victim's rights provisions	General File (-270)	
275	Chambers	Require a bittering agent be included in engine coolant or antifreeze	Committee	
278	Synowiecki	Change elevator safety and inspection provisions	General File	
279	Jones	Change provisions for the issuance of license plates and motor vehicle recordkeeping	Signed	2, 5, 6, 10
279A	Jones	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
287	Landis	Provide for sales tax on certain repair services	Select File	
296	Baker	Change railroad crossing safety provisions	General File	
297	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to the Developmental Disabilities Services Act	Signed	10, 11, 13, 14
301	Preister	Adopt the Electronic Equipment Recycling Act	General File	
303	Smith	Adopt the Motorcycle Safety and Training Act	Select File	
303A	Smith	Appropriation Bill	General File	
304	Synowiecki	Adopt the Peace Officer Employer-Employee Relations Act	General File	3
308	Connealy	Combine non-English-speaking workers labor protection provisions	IPP	
309	Bourne	Change gambling provisions and authorize electronic pickle card devices and lottery equipment	General File	
312	Chambers	Prohibit lobbying activities by former state officers	IPP	
314	Brashear	Change limitation of action provisions relating to certain political subdivisions	Committee	
315	Brashear	Change provisions relating to notaries public	Signed	
316	Brashear	Change child custody determination provisions	General File	
317	Chambers	Provide for nonpartisan election of the Attorney General	IPP	
322	Wehrbein	Authorize the resumption of property tax assessment duties in certain counties and restrict such duties to certain counties	IPP	
323	Stuthman	Change county board meeting provisions and candidate filing fee provisions	Signed (+1074)	4, 6, 10
334	Kremer	Provide for prompt payment by health and accident insurers	IPP	
335	Kremer	Change annexation provisions relating to certain Class III school districts	Committee	
336	Thompson	Require juvenile court approval for out-of-state treatment placements for juveniles	Committee	
339	Bourne	Prohibit payments for the right to install natural gas distribution facilities	IPP	
340	Bourne	Provide for extended contract days and change certain programs and funding related to teaching	Committee	
341	Bourne	Adopt the Teacher Tuition Reimbursement Program Act	Committee	
346	Quandahl	Provide additional grounds for termination of parental rights	Committee	
347	Quandahl	Increase the statute of limitations under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act	Committee	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
348	Erdman	Change funding, registration, and operation provisions under the State Boat Act	General File	
350	Schimek	Provide for revocation of a legal separation decree	Committee	
351	Price	Adopt the Nursing Faculty Student Loan Act	Committee	
352	Vrtiska	Change and eliminate provisions relating to political parties and filing for office	General File	
353	Vrtiska	Provide for impoundment of motor vehicle learner's permits	Signed	2, 8
355	Revenue	Change standard deduction amounts for income tax purposes	Signed	2, 4
356	Stuhr	Change provisions relating to freeholder petitions	Committee	
361	Mossey	Provide conditions under which a probationer, inmate, or parolee can act as an undercover agent or employee	Committee	
363	Smith	Authorize counties to eradicate destructive rodents	IPP	
366	Mines	Change provisions and penalties relating to theft	Committee	
368	Baker	Eliminate the sales tax exemption for food	IPP	
369	Baker	Redefine terms relating to estate taxes and generation-skipping transfer taxes	IPP	
374	Connealy	Eliminate labeling and disclosure requirements for motor fuel	General File	
375	Kremer	Change provisions relating to ethanol production credits	IPP	
376	Kremer	Change provisions relating to ethanol production credits	IPP	
377	Thompson	Change provisions relating to payment of county jail inmates' medical costs	Committee	
378	Bromm	Provide immunity in actions against a person who provides a job reference	Committee	
379	Hartnett	Change income tax rates	Select File	
380	Jensen	Provide emergency service requirements for certain health care facilities	Committee	
382	Synowiecki	Change lunch hour requirements for employees	Signed	2
384	Synowiecki	Eliminate motor vehicle and aircraft guest statutes	Committee	
386	Hudkins	Change risk management pool provisions	IPP	
389	Johnson	Create the Nebraska Higher Education Board of Regents	Committee	
391	Erdman	Prohibit minors from disaffirming certain contracts	Select File	10, 14, 15
391A	Erdman	Appropriation Bill	General File	
392	Erdman	Provide for judicial emancipation of a minor	General File	
395	Brown	Exclude political subdivisions as owners of recreational land for liability purposes	Committee	
397	Redfield	Change the sales tax rate and tax certain services	IPP	
400	Connealy	Change tax credit gasoline provisions	IPP	
401	Jones	Reduce the interstate speed limit as prescribed	Committee	
409	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Create funds and authorize assessments by the Dept. of Administrative Services	Committee	
420	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to tobacco taxes and tax stamps	IPP	
421	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Transfer the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court to the Supreme Court for administrative and budgetary purposes	Committee	
422	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to presentence investigations	Committee	
423	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Provide probation programming fees and create a fund	Committee	
426	Preister	Prohibit sales of alcoholic liquor near land held by or in trust for an Indian tribe	Committee	
428	Quandahl	Change Nebraska Probate Code provisions on renunciation and rights of retainer	Committee	
432	Stuhr	Change abatement of nuisances provisions for first and second class cities and villages	IPP	
435	Beutler	Increase the minimum wage	Select File	
437	Beutler	Change lobbyist registration fees	General File	
439	Hudkins	Change powers and duties relating to state buildings and grounds	Signed	15
439A	Hudkins	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
441	Chambers	Rename the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act and prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation	Committee	
442	Erdman	Change death benefit provisions under the School Employees Retirement Act	IPP	
447	Raikes	Change provisions relating to exemptions from sales and use tax	General File	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
448	Raikes	Change the protest filing date with the county board of equalization	IPP	
449	Schrock	Change provisions relating to air pollution fees, remedial action plans, and private onsite wastewater treatment systems	Signed (+923, 1163)	4, 6, 10
449A	Schrock	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
450	Byars	Adopt the Medicaid Patients Open Access for Mental Health Treatments Act	Committee	
452	Smith	Change penalties and provide late fees for failure to register a motor vehicle	General File	
452A	Smith	Appropriation Bill	General File	
453	Aguilar	Impose sales tax on engineering, architectural, legal, and accounting services	IPP	
454	Aguilar	Provide for Supreme Court rules for the implementation of drug court programs	Signed	4, 12
456	Dw. Pedersen	Change provisions relating to the Landlord and Tenant Act	Committee	
457	Dw. Pedersen	Provide guidelines for juvenile support orders	Committee	
458	Dw. Pedersen	Require the Dept. of Correctional Services to establish an electronic surveillance device program	Committee	
459	Synowiecki	Authorize a licensee under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act to detain a minor trying to violate the act	Committee	
460	Synowiecki	Require the Dept. of Correctional Services to collect health care service copayments	Committee	
465	Wehrbein	Change provisions relating to sheriff's fees	Committee	
466	D. Pederson	Change provisions relating to educational savings plans	Committee	
468	Jensen	Provide appropriations from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund	Committee	
469	Jensen	Change and eliminate provisions relating to health care funding	Committee	
470	Chambers	Change provisions relating to allocation of space in state buildings	General File	
473	Jensen	Provide for fluoridation of drinking water in certain cities and villages as prescribed	General File	
474	Kruse	Provide a penalty for driving under the influence with a child passenger	Committee	
475	Connealy	Exclude certain materials used in the manufacture of steel or cement from sales tax	IPP	
477	Connealy	Provide duties for contractors transporting individuals on behalf of certain governmental entities	IPP	
479	Baker	Change and eliminate provisions relating to tax credits for ethanol production	Signed	3, 9, 12, 14, 15
482	Redfield	Adopt the In the Line of Duty Dependent Education Act	Committee	
483	D. Pederson	Require patient's waiver for medical records in workers' compensation cases	General File	
484	Program Evaluation	Rename and change the Legislative Program Evaluation Act	General File	
485	General Affairs	Change and eliminate licenses and change payment of license fees and taxes under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	Signed (+1196)	12, 15
485A	Janssen	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
491	Tyson	Provide for firearm range and owner liability and immunity as prescribed	Committee	
492	Tyson	Provide for community colleges and state colleges under the Nebraska Schools Construction Alternatives Act	IPP	
493	Tyson	Redefine recreational purposes relating to recreational liability	Committee	
496	Raikes, req. of Gov.	Change provisions for property tax assessment	General File	
497	Raikes	Change provisions relating to the issuance of size, weight, and load permits	Committee	
499	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to high-volume natural gas ratepayers under the State Natural Gas Regulation Act	Signed	14, 15
501	Cudaback	Restrict the use of a mobile telephone by motor vehicle operators	Committee	
502	Schrock	Provide double fines for speeding on the interstate	Committee	
503	Schimek	Provide for restoration of voting rights upon completion of felony sentence	General File	
505	Raikes	Change the income tax rates	IPP	
506	Raikes	Change income tax rates and provide a long-term care insurance credit	IPP	
507	Raikes	Change inheritance tax distribution	IPP	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
511	Bromm	Change provisions of the Political Subdivisions Self-Funding Benefits Act	Select File	4
512	Dw. Pedersen	Restrict or prohibit the use of human fetal tissue as prescribed	General File	
514	Stuhr	Change contribution provisions under the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act	Signed	11, 13, 14
515	Synowiecki	Change enforcement of victim restitution orders	Committee	
516	Synowiecki	Provide a homestead exemption for disabled veterans	IPP	
518	Synowiecki	Adopt the Citizen Oversight Committee Act relating to wastewater treatment plants in cities of the metropolitan class	IPP	
523	Connealy	Change and eliminate provisions of the State-Tribal Cooperative Agreements Act	General File	
525	Kruse	Provide and change penalties for liquor licensees' and minors' violations	General File	
526	Erdman, req. of Gov.	Change the mode of inflicting the death penalty	General File	6
527	Louden	Provide for a water transfer fee	IPP	
528	Baker, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to postconviction proceedings	Committee	
529	Baker	Change residency requirements for county commissioners and filing requirements	General File	
532	Baker	Require passenger carrier licenses for motor vehicle operators transporting passengers	General File	
535	Thompson	Change pretrial diversion driver's safety training program requirements	Committee	
538	Schimek	Change provisions for tribal-state gaming compacts	IPP	
539	Raikes	Change the assessment definition of agricultural and horticultural land	General File	
542	Dw. Pedersen	Change inmate disciplinary provisions relating to community custody	General File	
544	Stuhr	Change the employee contribution rate under the School Employees Retirement Act	Committee	
546	Thompson	Prohibit smoking in indoor restaurants	General File	
547	Wehrbein	Change enforcement of restitution orders and sanctions for disobedience	Committee	
549	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to actions to contest annexation	General File	
557	Beutler	Authorize transfers of earned interest from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Building Renewal Allocation Fund	Committee (-1090)	
558	Beutler	Provide coordination of workers' compensation claims and benefits under laws of different jurisdictions	General File	
559	Baker	Provide for the Donor Registry of Nebraska	Signed (+1036)	4, 6, 15
559A	Baker	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
560	Baker	Change miscellaneous provisions regulated by the Dept. of Motor Vehicles	Signed (+860, 861)	2
560A	Baker	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
565	Brown	Authorize interlocal agreements relating to duties of county and municipal officials	General File	
566	Foley	Create the offense of destructive research on a human embryo	General File	
568	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to the state veteran cemetery system	IPP	
569	Schrock	Appropriate funds for the Research and Extension Center at Clay Center	Committee	
570	Schrock	State legislative intent to maintain the General Fund allocation for the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Committee	
579	Landis	Impose a surcharge on depreciation	IPP	
581	Bourne	Change sales tax provisions relating to services and exemptions	IPP	
583	Bourne	Change provisions relating to notice and objections to proposed rules and regulations	IPP	
587	Bourne	Change sales tax provisions relating to services	IPP	
589	Landis	Authorize costs and attorney's fees for certain residential real property actions	Committee	
591	Quandahl	Provide an attorney's fee in contract actions	Committee	
593	Jensen	Provide medical liens for chiropractors and to except certain liens	General File	
594	Jensen	Change provisions relating to health care facilities	General File (-1005)	10
595	Janssen	Authorize a county income tax	IPP	
598	Tyson	Constitutional amendment to repeal term limits for state legislators	Final Reading	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
599	Tyson	Change and eliminate requirements for use of engineers and architects	Signed (+1069)	10, 14, 15
599A	Tyson	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
602	Smith	Adopt the Human Cloning Prohibition Act	General File	3
604	Friend	Change provisions relating to possession of alcohol by a minor	Committee	
606	Friend	Change provisions relating to retail liquor license suspensions for second violation	Committee	
609	Transportation and Telecommunications	Authorize undercover license plates and operator's licenses to federal law enforcement agencies	General File	
612	Bourne	Change factors considered in developing the state road plan	Committee	
613	Bourne	Provide confidentiality for certain communications, create the offense of domestic assault, and change arrest and sentencing procedures	Signed (+850)	12, 14, 15
614	Bourne	Require electronic recording of custodial interrogations	Committee	
616	Redfield	Change provisions relating to claims of creditors with respect to insurance	General File	
617	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to appearance bonds and restitution	Committee	
618	Jones	Provide for net metering systems	General File	
624	Brown	Establish requirements relating to free disposal of general household solid waste	IPP	
625	Brown	Change complaint procedure and information for housing discrimination claims	Signed	8
627	Thompson	Change allocations of building renewal funds	Committee	
630	Brown	Change provisions relating to uninsured access policies and contracts	IPP	
631	Maxwell	Adopt the Professional Employer Organization Registration Act	IPP	
633	Schrock	Change livestock waste management fees	IPP	
638	Schrock	State intent relating to funding for studies of ground water and surface water	IPP	
639	Schrock	Transfer funds from the Highway Trust Fund to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund	Committee	
640	Schrock	Transfer funds from the Highway Trust Fund to the Nebraska Resources Development Fund	Committee	
644	Hartnett	Require reports by county assessors relating to property tax	Signed	2, 15
644A	Hartnett	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
650	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to the Municipal Natural Gas Regulation Revolving Loan Fund	General File	
651	Hartnett	Disallow certain sales and use tax refunds under the Employment and Investment Growth Act	IPP	
652	Combs	Require insurance coverage of colorectal cancer screenings	IPP	
654	Connealy	Authorize village incorporation within tribal reservation boundaries	IPP	
656	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to contracts by county boards of corrections	General File	4
657	Beutler	Provide for an electricity surcharge	Committee	
658	Beutler	Adopt the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act	Committee	
660	Maxwell	Prohibit unfunded mandates relating to elementary and secondary education	Committee	
662	Beutler	Authorize fingerprints and DNA samples of convicted felons	General File (-139)	
664	Beutler	Change and provide limits on tort claims against the state and political subdivisions	Committee	
670	Thompson	Prohibit criminal use of a computer as prescribed	General File (-943)	12, 14, 15
671	Thompson	Provide powers for domestic partners relating to anatomical gifts and disposition of human remains	Committee	
674	Erdman	Create the offense of child endangerment	Committee	
675	Erdman	Change provisions relating to eminent domain by railroads	Committee	
678	Beutler	Create the Office of Homeland Security	General File	
679	Stuhr	Change retirement provisions for judges relating to age and benefits	General File (-1097)	
679A	Stuhr	Appropriation Bill	General File	
680	Wehrbein	Create and provide duties for the Nebraska Commission for Quality Education	Committee	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
681	Aguilar	Adopt the Security Services Act	Committee	
686	Raikes	Change provisions relating to disbursement of administrative fines	Committee	
687	Beutler	Provide requirements for certain escrow arrangements	IPP	
689	Redfield	Require valuation of tax-exempt property by tax-exempt organizations	General File	
691	Preister	Provide for law enforcement, state-tribal agreements, and sales tax distribution	IPP	
692	Preister	Change provisions relating to payment of judgments against the state	Signed	14, 15
694	Preister	Change provisions relating to dispensing cigarettes and tobacco	Committee	
695	Preister	Prohibit sales of tobacco by vending machine or self-service merchandising	Committee	
696	Thompson	Change the collection commission for motor fuel taxes	IPP	
697	Beutler	Provide for an excise tax and change funding provisions for the Public Service Commission	IPP	
698	Education	Change calculation of state aid pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	General File	2
709	Maxwell	Provide duties relating to health care mandates	Committee	
710	Jensen	Revise the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act	General File (-1083)	
711	Thompson	Change provisions relating to medical liens	Committee	
714	Bromm	Provide for refusal of infant metabolic disease screening testing	General File	
716	Urban Affairs	Change provisions relating to sanitary and improvement district ownership interests	IPP	
717	Urban Affairs	Provide procedures for villages relating to population decreases	IPP	
718	Urban Affairs	Change provisions relating to the incorporation of villages	IPP	
719	Urban Affairs	Change handicapped parking provisions	General File	
722	Landis	Change provisions relating to court fees	Committee	
727	Connealy	Change provisions for absentee voting and registering and voting by overseas citizens	Signed	
732	Connealy	Provide restrictions and requirements on construction contracts	General File	
736	Kremer	Extend Employment and Investment Growth Act benefits to certain cooperatives	IPP	
737	Synowiecki	Require insurance for treatment of inherited metabolic disease	IPP	
738	Baker	Require determination of ownership interests under the Wellhead Protection Area Act	IPP	
740	Baker	Change provisions relating to rental prices on motor vehicles	Signed	
741	Baker	Provide for cancellation of motor vehicle certificates of title and registration certificates	Committee	
743	Smith	Adopt the Telephone Solicitation Regulation Act	Select File	
743A	Smith	Appropriation Bill	Select File	
744	Bromm	Change provisions relating to sales and use tax for the retail sale of property annexed to real estate	IPP	
745	Connealy	Adopt a policy toward newcomers to the state	General File	
746	Landis	Change provisions relating to housing discrimination	Committee	
747	Beutler	Change provisions relating to title insurance and escrow	General File (-155)	
751	Beutler	Change provisions and funding of court clerks and employees and magistrates	Committee	
755	Beutler	Create the position of State Capitol Administrator and office of the Nebraska Capitol Commission	General File	
757	Brown	Redefine telecommunications company under the Nebr. Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act	Committee	
761	Brashear	Change judges' salary provisions	General File	
762	Brashear	Repeal the Campaign Finance Limitation Act	General File	4
763	Brashear	Provide a preference for Nebraska products, businesses, and taxpayers in certain bidding procedures	IPP	
764	Brashear	Provide for confidentiality for prescribing physicians with regard to certain pharmacy information	Committee	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
765	Bourne	Require legislative approval of road projects	Committee	
767	Bourne	Require licensing of home inspectors	Committee	
768	Aguilar	Provide for medical services copayment by county jail inmates	Committee	
771	Synowiecki	Change calculation of state aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	Committee	
772	Quandahl	Authorize recovery of costs and fees as part of a settlement	Committee	
773	Bourne	Require Nebraska-based investment advisers for retirement system asset management	IPP	
776	Connealy	Adopt the Main Street Business Development Law and provide a tax credit	IPP	
780	Beutler	Transfer funds from the Highway Cash Fund to the General Fund	Committee	
781	Kruse	Prohibit application of the death penalty based upon race	Committee	
783	Janssen	Adopt the Master Settlement Agreement Protection Act	IPP	
784	Janssen	Adopt the Public Facilities Construction and Finance Act	General File	
787	Janssen	Change Nebraska Liquor Control Act provisions relating to licenses and hours of sale	IPP	
788	Quandahl	Change provisions relating to execution of judgments	General File (-1207)	12, 15
789	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to probation officers' salaries	Committee	
791	Chambers	Abolish the death penalty	Committee	
792	Landis	Adopt the Nebraska Natural Gas Regulation Act and repeal the Municipal Natural Gas Regulation Act	IPP	
793	Bromm	Authorize political subdivisions to provide telecommunications service	Committee	
794	Appropriations	Change corporation reporting, occupation tax, and fee provisions	IPP	
802	Appropriations	Authorize transfers from the Job Training Cash Fund	Committee	
810	Executive Board	Revisor bill to eliminate obsolete provisions governing the Ethanol Pricing Task Force	Signed	
811	Executive Board	Revisor bill to eliminate obsolete provisions relating to revenue and taxation	Signed	
812	Executive Board	Revisor bill to harmonize minibike provisions with Laws 2003, LB 333	Signed	
813	Executive Board	Revisor bill to change statutory forms so the date reflects the twenty-first century	Signed	
814	Smith	Change public meeting provisions on videoconferencing and telephone conferencing	Committee	
815	Smith	Provide for military recruiting on campuses as prescribed	Committee	
816	Smith	Change the designation period for enterprise zones	General File	
817	Chambers	Change provisions relating to sexual abuse of an inmate or parolee	General File	14, 15
818	Schimek	Change the termination date for the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council	Signed	3
819	Schimek	Change capital construction project documentation requirements	Signed	
820	Schimek	Change and provide notice requirements for recall elections	Signed	3, 8
821	Schimek	Name the Open Meetings Act and provide for applicability	Signed	
822	Preister	Change Environmental Quality Council standards and classification duties	IPP	
823	Stuhr	Provide penalties for obstructing or harassing a police animal	Committee	
824	Erdman	Authorize allocation of funds for promotion of aviation	Signed	
825	Erdman	Require drivers to use caution around parked emergency vehicles	Committee	
826	Erdman	Change provisions relating to state game refuges	Signed	
826A	Erdman	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
827	Erdman	Change term limits for Game and Parks Commission members	IPP	
828	Schrock	Change provisions relating to filing audits by public power and irrigation districts and municipal cooperative financing agencies	General File (-969)	
829	Schrock	Change and provide qualifications for certain personnel of the Department of Natural Resources	General File	
830	Schrock	Change provisions relating to registration and inspection of water wells	General File (-962)	9, 11



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
831	Schrock	Change provisions relating to irrigation reservoir withdrawals	General File (-962)	9, 11
832	Schrock	Change powers, duties, and priorities under the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act	Signed	
833	Natural Resources	Change provisions relating to the Water Policy Task Force	General File (-962)	3, 9, 11
834	Vrtiska	Amend the Military Code to provide for a health insurance reimbursement allowance	Committee (-963)	7, 10, 12
835	Kremer	Change provisions of the Nebraska Apiary Act	Signed	
836	Kremer	Change the Dairy Industry Development Board provisions	Signed	
837	Kremer	Change and eliminate livestock disease and livestock auction provisions	Signed	
838	Louden	Provide for Military license plates and change provisions for specialty license plates	General File	
838A	Louden	Appropriation Bill	General File	
839	Louden	Require a study of insurance issues regarding equine activities	IPP	
840	Louden	Change provisions relating to livestock brands	Committee	
841	Byars	Adopt the ICF/MR Reimbursement Act and change and eliminate sales and use tax exemption provisions	Signed (+1095, 1224)	6, 10, 12, 15
841A	Byars	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
842	Byars	Change provisions for the vacation of streets and alleys in cities of the first class	General File	
843	Byars	Change provisions relating to branding	IPP	
844	Byars	Exempt certain Department of Correctional Services employees from the State Personnel System	General File	
845	Byars	Change provisions relating to time-share instruments and errors and omissions insurance	Signed	
846	Hudkins	Provide for issuance of handicapped license plates to trusts	Signed	
847	Hudkins	Authorize electronic automated clearinghouse transactions for delayed deposit services	IPP	
848	Aguilar	Change civil procedure provisions relating to claims, expenses, and attorney's fees	Committee	
849	Aguilar	Provide requirements relating to insurance for motor vehicle repairs	Committee	
850	Mossey	Create the offense of domestic assault	General File (-613)	7, 14, 15
851	Mossey	Change provisions relating to bail	Committee	7
852	Burling	Change provisions relating to assistance benefits based on county of legal settlement	Committee	
853	Vrtiska	Change provisions relating to civil protective custody	General File	
854	Vrtiska	Change notice relating to assessment of real property	IPP	
855	Hudkins	Create the offense of interference with child visitation	Committee	
856	Vrtiska	Provide for mowing and haying permits for the state highway system	Committee	
857	Vrtiska	Change fees for tax sales	IPP	
858	Vrtiska	Change provisions relating to the Adjutant General	Committee (-963)	7, 10, 12
859	Vrtiska	Provide for Shriner's license plates	General File	
860	Baker	Change provisions relating to certificates of title, vehicle registration, and abandoned vehicles	General File (-560)	
861	Baker	Require return of motor carrier registration certificates and license plates and adopt federal motor carrier safety regulations	General File (-560)	
862	Baker	Increase fines for speeding	Committee	
863	Baker	Change provisions relating to commercial drivers' licenses	General File	
863A	Baker	Appropriation Bill	General File	
864	Mines	Change trustee duties under the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code	General File	
865	Thompson	Provide for child abuse prevention license plates and distribution of fees for child abuse prevention	Committee	6



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
866	Byars	Require all occupants in motor vehicles to wear seatbelts	General File	
867	Byars	Change requirements for Pearl Harbor survivor license plates	General File	
868	Redfield	Change provisions relating to compulsory education and truancy and provide immunity for certain school employees and confidentiality for certain student records	Signed (+934)	10, 13, 15
869	Agriculture	Change noxious weed control provisions	Signed	10, 12, 14
870	Brown	Change a voting requirement for municipal county consolidations	General File	3
871	Kruse	Change penalties and driving restrictions, create an offense, and provide for motor vehicle seizure relating to driving under the influence	General File	2, 6, 8
872	Kruse	Redefine first degree assault to include certain actions by AIDS-infected or HIV-infected persons and needle sharing	Committee	
873	Combs	Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions	Committee	4
874	Mossey	Redefine the term sexual contact for purposes of sexual assault of a child	General File (-943)	12, 14, 15
875	Mossey	Change provisions relating to the Sex Offender Registration Act	General File (-943)	12, 14, 15
876	Brashear	Change the number of district court judges	General File	
877	Brashear	Change the district court judicial districts	General File (-1207)	3, 15
878	Baker	Adopt updated federal safety and hazardous materials regulations for motor carriers	Signed	
879	Connealy	Provide an income tax credit for charitable contributions	General File	
880	Quandahl	Exclude military retirement benefits from income taxation	Committee	
881	Quandahl	Exempt certain members of the armed forces from income tax	Committee	
882	Quandahl	Change service of process for forcible entry and detainer actions	General File (-1207)	12, 15
883	Quandahl	Change provisions relating to subrogation and contribution in vehicular pursuits	Committee	
884	Quandahl	Authorize the purchase of insurance in lieu of bonds for certain state officers and employees	Signed	
885	Quandahl	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code	General File (-999)	
886	Redfield	Change provisions relating to deposits of public funds with certain credit unions	IPP	
887	Quandahl	Change supersedeas appeal bonds from the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court	General File (-1207)	12, 15
888	Friend	Change provisions relating to energy codes	Signed	10, 13, 15
889	Friend	Change provisions relating to dogs owned by law enforcement or governmental military agencies	Committee	3
890	Friend	Provide for regulation of geologist-interns	Signed	
891	Stuthman	Change judgment notice procedures	Committee	
892	Stuthman	Exempt construction labor and services from sales tax	Committee	
893	Vrtiska	Change the employment security law minimum taxable wage base	Committee	
894	Byars	Change provisions relating to enforcement of occupant protection system requirements	Committee	
895	Schrock	Change provisions relating to natural resources district tax levies	General File (-962)	
896	Erdman	Provide for part-time enrollment and for participation in extracurricular activities by exempt students	Committee	
897	Schimek	Create the State-Tribal Relations Committee	General File	
898	Schimek	Change, transfer, and repeal provisions of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	General File	
899	Thompson	Change bidding requirements for bridges	IPP	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
900	Thompson	Change motor vehicle fuel tax provisions	IPP	
901	Brown	Prohibit acts relating to commercial electronic mail messages	Committee	
902	Wehrbein	Change disclosure provisions relating to the Auditor of Public Accounts	Signed	
903	Wehrbein	Change provisions relating to detachment of territory within cities of the second class and villages	IPP	
904	Wehrbein	Change and eliminate education funding provisions relating to allocation of state lottery funds	Committee	
905	Stuhr	Eliminate agricultural and horticultural land valuation boards	Committee	
906	Stuhr	Provide for licensure and regulation of body artists	Signed	3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12
906A	Stuhr	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
907	Baker	Authorize message plates and Cornhusker Spirit plates for trucks	Committee	
908	Baker	Eliminate special speed limits for school buses	General File	
909	Baker	Provide exemptions from Public Service Commission rate setting procedures	Committee	
910	Baker	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Railway Council	Committee	
911	Baker	Allow electronic transmission of proof of financial responsibility requirements	Signed	
912	Baker	Reallocate certain motor vehicle registration fees	Committee	
913	Cudaback	Exempt the State Electrical Division from the State Personnel System	Committee	3
914	Bourne	Change the State Electrical Act provisions relating to journeyman electricians and installations	Signed	
914A	Bourne	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
915	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to a permanent file for rules and regulations	Signed	
916	Schrock	Change livestock waste management provisions	Signed	3, 11, 14, 15
916A	Schrock	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
917	Wehrbein	Acknowledge and provide duties for the Nebraska Forest Service within the University of Nebraska	Signed (-1089)	10, 11, 13, 14
918	Cunningham	Prohibit acts relating to biodiesel fuel	General File	
919	Janssen	Provide exceptions from vehicle size restrictions for authorized emergency vehicles	General File	
920	Combs	Change provisions relating to insurance coverage for mental health conditions	IPP	6
921	Burling	Change access to adoption records on file with the Nebraska Health and Human Services System by certain heirs	General File	3
922	Schrock	Exempt agricultural personal property from tax and change valuation of agricultural land	Committee	
923	Schrock	Change provisions of the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act	General File (-449)	6, 10
924	Quandahl	Change provisions relating to motor vehicle liens	Committee	
925	Quandahl	Change provisions relating to towing of motor vehicles	Committee	
926	Mossey	Provide a rebuttable presumption for certain peace officer and firefighter deaths and disabilities	General File	
927	Schimek	Repeal election laws applicable to certain municipalities	Signed	
928	Friend	Change revocation and suspension procedures for law enforcement certificates	Committee	
929	Cunningham	Change provisions relating to pharmacy	General File (-1005)	10, 12
930	Vrtiska	Change workers' compensation provisions relating to third-party claims and dismissal	General File	
931	Redfield, req. of Gov.	Authorize use of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for rental assistance	General File (-1083)	5, 10, 12
931A	Redfield	Appropriation Bill	General File	
932	Vrtiska	Change workers' compensation court review procedure	General File	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
933	Stuhr	Authorize safe haven providers for newborn infants and provide that leaving a child there is not child abuse	Committee	4
934	Stuhr	Change provisions relating to kindergarten entrance age	General File (-868)	3, 10, 13, 15
935	Schrock	Change tax valuation provisions relating to irrigated cropland	Committee	
936	Landis	Change annual report requirements for library boards	Signed	
937	Landis	Change board of park commissioner voting requirements in cities of the first class	Signed	
938	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	Change provisions of the Address Confidentiality Act	Committee	
939	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	Require certain political subdivisions to report information regarding interlocal and joint public agency agreements	Signed	
940	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	Eliminate certain boards, commissions, committees, task forces, and teams	Signed	
941	Byars	Provide for scope of practice and training for occupational therapists	General File (-1005)	10, 12
942	Byars	Change funding provisions for local public health departments	General File (-1005)	10
943	Thompson	Define and redefine certain crimes, change the Sex Offender Registration Act, and change statutes of limitations	Signed (+670, 874, 875, 987)	7, 12, 14, 15
944	Jensen	Change tobacco settlement requirements for tobacco product manufacturers	Signed	11, 14
945	Chambers	Repeal the Employment and Investment Growth Act	IPP	6, 7
946	Kremer	Change provisions relating to grain dealers, grain warehouses, and agricultural measuring devices	General File	
947	Business and Labor	Change the validity period for amusement ride permits	Signed	
948	Business and Labor	Rename and change provisions of the Boiler Inspection Act	Committee	
949	Business and Labor	Change elevator inspection provisions	Committee	
950	Business and Labor	Change New Hire Reporting Act report requirements	Signed	
951	Business and Labor	Change employment security law availability for work provisions	General File	
952	Business and Labor	Provide for electronic payments and reports regarding employment security law taxes	Committee	
953	Business and Labor	Redefine wages for employment security law purposes	Committee	
954	Business and Labor	Change employment security law benefit disqualification provisions	Committee	
955	Landis	Change provisions relating to income tax deficiency determinations and overpayment	Signed	
956	Landis	Change provisions relating to electronic filings with the Tax Commissioner	IPP	
957	Landis	Change income tax and sales and use tax provisions	General File (-1017)	
958	Foley	Adopt the Assault of an Unborn Child Act	General File	14
959	Foley	Provide for civil damages on behalf of an unborn child	Committee	
960	Retirement Systems	Change Public Employees Retirement Board membership	General File (-1097)	12
961	Retirement Systems	Change the manner of mailing a school employee retirement statement	Signed	12
962	Natural Resources	Change, transfer, and eliminate provisions relating to water resources, natural resources districts' tax levies, and petroleum release remedial actions	Signed (+830, 831, 833, 895, 1146, 1172, 1173)	3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
962A	Schrock	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
963	Vrtiska	Change Military Code provisions relating to the Adjutant General and health insurance	Signed (+834, 858)	7, 10, 12



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
964	Smith	Provide limitations on campaign contributions and repeal the Campaign Finance Limitation Act	Committee	
965	Price	Adopt the Successful Schools Foundation Act	Committee	
966	Baker	Redefine the term equipment under the Equipment Business Regulation Act	IPP	
967	Baker	Change provisions for recovery expenses relative to oil and gas wells	IPP	
968	Baker	Change clerk magistrate provisions	Committee	
969	Natural Resources	Authorize public entity purchase agreements for power and electrical facilities and change powers and duties of public entities	Signed (+828)	6, 10, 12
970	Landis	Change provisions relating to valuation of agricultural land	IPP (-973)	11, 12
971	Landis	Change property tax valuation protest procedures	IPP (-973)	11, 12
972	Landis	Change provisions relating to property assessment abstracts and property assessments	IPP (-973)	11, 12
973	Landis	Change property tax and zoning provisions	Signed (+970, 971, 972, 984, 1008)	11, 12
974	Landis	Update references to the Internal Revenue Code	IPP (-1017)	
975	Landis	Change income and sales tax rates	Committee	
976	Combs	Provide for confidentiality of workers' compensation records as prescribed	Committee	
977	Combs	Change workers' compensation disfigurement and scarring compensation	Committee	
978	Quandahl	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Installment Loan Act	IPP	
979	Quandahl	Change finance related provisions governing foreclosure, transfer on death, the bank match system, trust deeds, and public fund deposits	General File (-999)	7
980	Quandahl	Change ownership requirements for life insurance and annuities	Signed	
981	Mines	Change workers' compensation lump sum settlement provisions	Committee	
982	Preister	Change workers' compensation medical benefit provisions	Committee	
983	Revenue	Change provisions relating to motor fuel taxes	Signed	12, 14
984	Revenue	Change revenue provisions	General File (-973)	
985	Preister	Change workers' compensation disability provisions	Committee	
986	Bourne, req. of Gov.	Change provisions for veteran homestead exemptions	Signed	4, 6, 15
986A	Bourne	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
987	Bourne	Create the offense of strangulation	General File (-943)	12, 14, 15
988	Bourne	Change local option sales tax distribution	IPP	
989	Landis	Provide for use of an insurance data base and other means to verify proof of financial responsibility	IPP	
990	Landis	Prohibit actions relating to repair and replacement of personal property by insurers	IPP	
991	Landis	Change definition of employer for sections governing the elimination of discriminatory wage practices based on sex	Committee	
992	Agriculture	Change Grain Warehouse Act provisions	Committee	
993	Building Maintenance	Change provisions relating to property leased by the state	Committee (-1092)	11
994	Mines	Provide for one license plate and ten-year issuance of such plate	IPP	
995	Preister	Prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquor in unincorporated villages	Committee	6
996	Jensen	Change provisions relating to automated external defibrillators	General File	
997	Baker	Change abatement and removal of nuisance provisions for cities of the first and second classes and villages	Signed	
998	D. Pederson	Change provisions of the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act	Signed	9, 12, 15
998A	D. Pederson	Appropriation Bill	Signed	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
999	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change provisions relating to banking, finance, and trusts	Signed (+189, 885, 979, 1120)	7, 10, 15
1000	Chambers	Adopt the Nebraska Correctional Health Care Services Act	Committee	4
1001	Chambers	Prohibit recording certain inmate telephone calls as prescribed	Committee	
1002	Chambers	Change pet shop provisions in the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act	Signed	
1003	Chambers	Change the salaries of state constitutional officers	Committee	
1004	Baker	Provide powers for the Public Service Commission and rename the Nebraska Lifeline Service Program	Signed	
1005	Health and Human Services	Change health and human services provisions	Signed (+594, 929, 941, 942, 1054, 1139, 1155, 1159, 1198, 1240)	10, 12, 15
1005A	Jensen	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
1006	Byars	Provide for a tuition waiver for dependents of deceased public safety officers	Committee	
1007	Erdman	Change provisions relating to sidewalk repair and liability for cities of the second class and villages	General File	
1008	Landis	Change zoning provisions relating to conditional uses and special exceptions	General File (-973)	12
1009	Mines	Provide for certificates of dissolution of marriage to be filed with the register of deeds	Committee	
1010	Raikes	Exempt railroad transportation safety districts from sales tax	Committee	
1011	Raikes	Change and eliminate provisions relating to sales tax and contractors	IPP	5
1012	Vrtiska	Provide immunity from liability for owners of anhydrous ammonia	General File (-1207)	5, 15
1013	Stuhr	Change firefighter retirement account provisions for cities of the first class	General File (-1097)	12
1014	Cudaback	Provide for nonexpiring state identification cards for persons seventy years or older	Committee	
1015	Redfield	Change provisions relating to collection of income taxes and contractors	IPP	
1016	Landis	Change sales tax provisions	IPP (-1017)	
1017	Landis	Change provisions relating to the Internal Revenue Code, sales tax, nonresident contractor registration, and adopt a tax amnesty program	Signed (+957, 974, 1016, 1019, 1094, 1211)	5, 14, 15
1018	Landis	Eliminate the Greenbelt Advisory Committee	General File	
1019	Landis	Create a tax amnesty program	General File (-1017)	3
1019A	Landis	Appropriation Bill	General File	
1020	Landis	Impose a minimum corporate tax	IPP	
1021	Janssen	Change provisions relating to university and state college building renewal projects	Committee (-1092)	11
1022	Jones	Prohibit mobile telephone use for holders of provisional operator's, LPD-learner's, and school permits	Committee	
1023	Jones	Change provisions relating to jurors	Committee	
1024	Jones	Change provisions relating to motor vehicle lighting equipment requirements	Committee	
1025	Raikes	Change the sales tax rate, tax services, and eliminate exemptions	IPP	
1026	Cunningham	Change hunting and fishing permit provisions for veterans and persons over the age of seventy	IPP	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
1027	Price	Adopt the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act and change and eliminate provisions relating to advanced nursing practice	Committee	3
1028	Price	Require a child support enforcement report	General File	
1029	Baker	Change sales and use tax provisions with respect to animal identification devices	Committee	
1030	Retirement Systems	Change investment options for certain state and county employee retirement plans	General File (-1097)	12
1031	Bourne	Change the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act	Committee	
1032	Bourne	Adopt the Home Improvement Practices Act	Committee	
1033	Hartnett	Change athletic advisory committee membership provisions	Signed	
1034	Landis	Change the estate tax rate	Signed	12, 15
1035	Brashear	Change in forma pauperis court procedure provisions	General File (-1207)	12, 15
1036	Thompson	Provide for a Nebraska Organ and Tissue Donor Registry and an advisory board and change notation provisions for operator's licenses	General File (-559)	4, 6, 15
1037	Cunningham	Provide funding to schools using biodiesel	Committee	4
1038	McDonald	Provide for state identification cards identifying persons with disabilities	IPP	
1039	Cudaback	Change registration provisions for historical vehicles	IPP	
1040	Bromm	Change distribution of sales tax	IPP	
1041	Bourne	Change provisions relating to sales and use tax exemption for cleaning or washing of motor vehicles	Committee	
1042	Jones	Provide duties for cities of the second class and villages relating to water supply protection	IPP	
1043	Baker	Require sheriffs to provide police protection in villages	IPP	
1044	Beutler	Provide for notice and duties relating to condemnation	Committee	
1045	Smith	Provide for single event food vendors under the Nebraska Pure Food Act	Signed	12, 14, 15
1046	Combs	Provide a limitation of liability for certain food claims	General File	5
1047	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change insurance provisions	Signed	11, 13, 14
1048	Raikes	Change school district reorganization provisions	General File	5, 8, 12
1049	Cunningham	Change employment security law benefit disqualification provisions	Select File	6, 8, 12
1050	Dw. Pedersen	Change provisions relating to assault and related crimes	Committee	
1051	Wehrbein	State intent to fund a statewide livestock market and pricing data service	Committee (-1089)	
1052	Price	Change provisions relating to annexed fire protection district responsibilities and outstanding obligations	General File	
1053	Quandahl	Adopt the State Natural Gas Service Territory Act	Committee	
1054	Cunningham	Provide for student loans for mental health students to practice in rural areas	General File (-1005)	10
1055	Brown	Require chemical analysis fees from persons convicted under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	Committee	
1056	Hartnett	Provide for Legion of Merit license plates	IPP	
1057	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to municipal assessments and bonds	General File	
1058	Dw. Pedersen	Change liability and lien provisions for towing motor vehicles	General File	
1059	Price	Change intervention provisions in certain support enforcement proceedings	General File	
1060	Cudaback	Prohibit distribution, possession, or use of a theft detection shielding, deactivating, or removing device	Committee	
1061	Cudaback	Provide liability for costs of recovering shoplifted merchandise	Committee	
1062	Hartnett	Change workers' compensation statute of limitations and discharge of liability provisions	Committee	
1063	Stuhr	Adopt the Security Personnel Licensing Act	Committee	6



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
1064	Raikes	Change motor vehicle provisions relating to the issuance of special, continuing, or continuous permits	Committee	
1065	Baker	Change and eliminate provisions relating to motor fuel taxes and ethanol incentive funding	Signed	4, 12, 14, 15
1066	Baker	Change provisions relating to the Ethanol Development Act	IPP	
1067	Synowiecki	Change applicability and penalties of the Contractor Registration Act	Committee	
1068	Chambers	Authorize disclosure of presentence reports or psychiatric examinations to the Nebraska Supreme Court or its agent	General File (-1207)	15
1069	Jensen	Change provisions relating to engineers	Signed (-599)	10, 14, 15
1070	Jensen	Change provisions relating to the Welfare Reform Act	Committee	
1071	Wehrbein	Provide for review by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education of certain capital construction projects proposed by nonprofit corporations	Signed	10, 11, 14
1072	Stuhr	Change educational service unit board vacancy provisions	Committee	
1073	Cudaback	Authorize a joint alphanumeric system and county number system for license plates	IPP	
1074	Hudkins	Change candidate for elective office filing fee payment provisions	General File (-323)	6
1075	Stuthman, req. of Gov.	Provide the Attorney General the power to file juvenile court petitions under certain circumstances	General File	6, 7, 10, 11
1075A	Stuthman	Appropriation Bill	General File	
1076	Redfield	Change provisions relating to birth expense liability of the father of a child	Committee	8
1077	Wehrbein	Change certain inspection and application fees charged by law enforcement	General File	
1078	Johnson	Authorize issuance of county employee identification cards	Committee	
1079	Schrock	Change provisions relating to state aid to schools	IPP	4
1080	Stuhr	Prohibit schools from offering employees certain annuity plans	IPP	
1081	Retirement Systems	Change provisions relating to false or fraudulent actions under the School Employees Retirement Act	Committee	5
1082	Engel	Provide for Selective Service registration with applications for drivers' licenses and identification cards	General File	
1083	Jensen	Change and eliminate provisions relating to behavioral health services, mental health commitments, affordable housing, and alcohol and drug abuse counselors	Signed (+710, 931, 1145)	2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15
1083A	Jensen	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
1084	Erdman	Change and expand the False Medicaid Claims Act	Signed	11, 13, 15
1084A	Erdman	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
1085	Chambers	Change provisions relating to motions for new trial and the DNA Testing Act	General File	8, 15
1086	Kremer	Create the Nebraska Agricultural Opportunities Task Force	General File	7, 8
1086A	Kremer	Appropriation Bill	General File	
1087	Performance Audit	Change provisions relating to legislative performance audits and confidential records	Committee	5
1088	Byars	Change provisions relating to the control of weeds and vegetation along public roads	IPP	
1089	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Provide for deficit appropriations	Line-Item Veto (+917, 1051, 1144, 1150)	5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15
1090	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to the Building Renewal Allocation Fund and the Cash Reserve Fund	Signed (+557)	5, 10, 11, 13, 14
1091	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to funding	Signed (+1105, 1140)	5, 10, 11, 13, 14
1092	Bromm, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to state buildings and the Deferred Building Renewal Act	Signed (+993, 1021, 1150)	5, 10, 11, 13, 14



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
1093	Raikes, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to state aid to schools	Signed	4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
1094	Landis, req. of Gov.	Change income tax withholding and provisions relating to contractors	General File (-1017)	5
1095	Erdman	Change a sales tax exemption for agricultural machinery	General File (-841)	12, 15
1096	Schimek	Change a report provision under the Employment and Investment Growth Act	Committee	6
1097	Retirement Systems	Change provisions relating to retirement and judges' contributions and death benefits	Signed (+679, 960, 1013, 1030, 1098, 1132)	12, 15
1097A	Stuhr	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
1098	Retirement Systems	Change provisions relating to disability and death benefits under the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act	General File (-1097)	12
1099	Johnson	Change provisions relating to security interest filing fees	Signed	
1100	Wehrbein	Change provisions relating to developmental disabilities services	IPP	4
1101	Chambers	Limit the establishment of law enforcement reserve forces	General File (-1162)	12, 14, 15
1102	Dw. Pedersen	Change provisions for disqualification from special valuation for agricultural and horticultural lands	Committee	
1103	Kremer	Adopt the Nebraska Beef Industry Development Act	General File	
1103A	Kremer	Appropriation Bill	General File	
1104	Raikes	Change provisions relating to unified systems of schools	General File	4
1105	Raikes	Provide incentives for school district consolidation	Committee (-1091)	4
1106	Raikes	Change miscellaneous provisions relating to schools	Committee	
1107	Raikes	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Scholarship Act	Signed (+1126)	
1108	Raikes	Change and eliminate provisions relating to school district reorganization	Committee	
1109	Stuhr	Change provisions relating to the purchase and development of certain cemetery property	General File	
1110	Connealy	Provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the federal food stamp program	Committee	
1111	Thompson	Prohibit certain mobile telephone use by provisional operator's permit holders	Committee	6
1112	Thompson	Authorize the state and political subdivisions to charge a fee for dishonored checks and drafts	General File	
1113	Landis	Change provisions relating to witness fees for government employees	Committee	
1114	Landis	Adopt the Uniform Securities Act	General File	
1115	Bourne	Change Public Employees Retirement Board membership	IPP	
1116	Dw. Pedersen	Adopt the Correctional and Rehabilitative Services Act	Committee	
1117	Dw. Pedersen	Provide for community furloughs for certain inmates	Committee	
1118	Performance Audit	Change government audit provisions	Signed (+1194)	
1119	McDonald	Change provisions relating to approval of Class I school district reorganization plans	Committee	5
1120	Quandahl	Eliminate currency transaction reporting provisions for financial institutions	General File (-999)	
1121	Burling	Provide for titling, registration, and taxation of continuation motor vehicles	Committee	
1122	Landis	Adopt the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act	IPP	
1123	Stuhr	Adopt the New Nebraskan Nonresident Scholars Program Act	Committee	
1124	Price	Change provisions relating to tuition for wards of the state or a court	Committee	
1125	Bourne	Redefine eligible institutions for purposes of the Nebraska Scholarship Act	Committee	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
1126	Bourne	Redefine award for purposes of the Nebraska Scholarship Act	Committee (-1107)	
1127	Bourne	Redefine terms to include cumulative repeated work-related trauma for purposes of workers' compensation	Committee	
1128	Bourne	Adopt the Nursing Facility Quality Assurance Tax Act	Committee	
1129	Bourne	Change State Electrical Act provisions relating to journeyman electricians and installations	WD	
1130	Schimek	Provide notification to employees of rights and responsibilities under the State Government Effectiveness Act	General File	
1131	Performance Audit	Change provisions relating to parole	Committee	
1132	Retirement Systems	Change school employee retirement provisions	General File (-1097)	12
1133	Hudkins	Provide for payment of delinquent taxes and assessments on exempt property	IPP	
1134	Schrock	Create and provide for funding and use of the Water Resources Trust Fund	IPP	
1135	Schrock	Create and provide for funding and allocation of the Water Resources Trust Fund	IPP	
1136	Janssen	Change levy and budget limits	Committee	
1137	Tyson	Provide duties relating to low-income housing grants in cities of the first class	IPP	
1138	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to off-road vehicles	Committee	
1139	Jensen	Change regulation of assistants in nursing homes	General File (-1005)	10
1140	Jensen	Provide for an annual distribution from the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund	General File (-1091)	
1141	Jensen	Change appropriation provisions relating to public health services for minority populations	Committee	
1142	Schimek	Remove before-and-after-school program costs from budget and levy limitations	IPP	
1143	Mines	Provide for priorities of insurance coverage for rental cars	IPP	
1144	Kruse	Change funding for public transportation assistance	Signed (-1089)	10, 11, 13, 14, 15
1145	Jensen	Provide for licensure of alcohol and drug abuse counselors	General File (-1083)	14
1146	Bromm	Change reimbursement deadlines for petroleum release remedial action	General File (-962)	5
1147	Bromm	Change provisions for school permits	Committee	6
1148	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to business improvement districts	IPP	
1149	Baker	Change provisions relating to turkey permits and wildlife killed on highways and eliminate a provision relating to hunting weaponry	Signed	
1150	Beutler	Prohibit the sale of the Ferguson House	Committee (-1089, 1092)	11
1151	Kremer	Change provisions relating to grain dealers and grain warehouses	Committee	
1152	Kremer	Adopt the Feedlot Statutory Trust Act	Committee	
1153	Byars	Change Education Innovation Fund allocations to provide for teacher mentoring	Committee	
1154	Hudkins	Provide a fee for failure to relocate utility lines, poles, or anchors	Committee	
1155	Foley	Provide blind vendors priority status for vending facilities on governmental property	General File (-1005)	10
1156	Cunningham	Change property tax levy and lid provisions relating to community colleges	Committee	
1157	Landis	Provide an exemption from execution for bankruptcy and collection of a money judgment	General File (-1207)	12, 15
1158	Landis	Prohibit certain ingredients in immunizations and provide for insurance coverage	General File	
1159	Synowiecki	Prohibit certain acts relating to dentistry practice as prescribed	General File (-1005)	12



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
1160	Raikes	Change provisions relating to property equalization timeframes	General File	
1161	Raikes	Provide for adjustment of state aid to reflect property transfers	General File	
1162	Mines	Change racial profiling reporting and law enforcement duties, certification training costs, and limit establishment of reserve forces	Signed (+1101, 1213)	6, 12, 14, 15
1163	Preister	Change provisions relating to private onsite wastewater treatment systems	General File (-449)	5, 10
1164	Redfield	Change an insurance provision relating to preferred providers	General File	
1165	Price	Adopt the Education Facilities Review Commission Act and provide for school bond state aid	Committee	
1166	Janssen	Change levy limits for cities of the second class and villages	Committee	
1167	Combs	Require a train crew of at least two railroad employees	Committee	
1168	Combs	Change provisions relating to election recounts	Committee	
1169	Wehrbein	Adopt the Nebraska Land Information Systems Program Act	Committee	
1170	Wehrbein	Provide requirements for government contracts and goods and services	Committee	
1171	Hartnett	Provide duties for certain cities and villages relating to services for annexed territory	IPP	
1172	Schrock	Change provisions relating to withdrawal and transport of ground water	General File (-962)	9, 11
1173	Schrock	Provide for notice of intent to consider wellfields	General File (-962)	9, 11
1174	Tyson	Prohibit the sale of certain alcoholic beverages at locations where motor fuels are sold	IPP	
1175	Tyson	Permit cities of the first class to annex property by petition of owners	General File	
1176	Mines	Establish the Statewide Communications Authority of Nebraska and authorize a charge on electricity bills	Committee	
1177	Schimek	Change provisions relating to registration of voters and the conduct of elections	General File	
1178	Erdman	Change provisions relating to ethanol production credits	IPP	
1179	Smith	Change provisions relating to electronic communications for public meeting laws	Signed	
1180	Smith	Change conflict of interest provisions for political subdivisions	General File	
1181	Beutler	Increase fuel taxes	General File	5
1182	Beutler	Provide for relocating judges within their judicial district	General File (-1207)	15
1183	Beutler	Change political accountability and disclosure provisions	IPP	
1184	Preister	Change definitions and provisions relating to veterans	Committee	
1185	Louden	Change provisions relating to workers' compensation insurance	General File	
1186	Louden	Change the workers' compensation assigned risk system	IPP	
1187	McDonald	Change workers' compensation coverage for members of county fair boards and county agricultural societies	Committee	
1188	Beutler	Change requirements to qualify for incentives under the Employment and Investment Growth Act	Committee	6
1189	Beutler	Change requirements to qualify for incentives under the Employment Expansion and Investment Incentive Act	IPP	6
1190	Bromm	Adopt the Hometown Entrepreneur Scholarship Act to encourage start-up businesses in cities of the second class and villages	General File	5
1191	Bromm	Change provisions relating to coverage of the Workers' Compensation Act and notice requirements	Committee	
1192	Bromm	Allow cities and villages to regulate planned unit developments	IPP	
1193	Hartnett	Provide tax incentives for job creation and adopt the Nebraska High Hopes Scholars Program Act	Committee	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
1194	Smith	Change powers and duties of the Auditor of Public Accounts	Committee (-1118)	
1195	Landis	Change provisions relating to subdivision plats and county zoning	General File	
1196	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to the payment of liquor license fees and occupation taxes	General File (-485)	15
1197	Synowiecki	Create a fund for tourism development and fund it with certain sales tax revenue	IPP	
1198	Byars	Change the definition of critical access hospital	General File (-1005)	
1199	Redfield	Adopt the Market Conduct Surveillance Act and provide duties for the Director of Insurance	General File	
1200	Redfield	Adopt the Residential Construction Defects Act	Committee	
1201	Janssen	Create the Statewide Cemetery Registry	General File	
1202	Brashear	Change provisions relating to when public records relating to job application materials can be withheld	General File	
1203	Brashear	Create the Special Commission on Public Assets and provide powers and duties	IPP	7
1204	Brashear	Change budget reserve provisions and provisions relating to sales and income tax	Committee	
1205	Brashear	Provide for issuance of highway construction bonds and change fund distribution	IPP	
1206	Brashear	Change provisions relating to funding for all-day kindergarten programs	Committee	
1207	Brashear	Change judicial procedure provisions and provide immunity for certain lawful activities relating to anhydrous ammonia	Signed (+788, 877, 882, 887, 1012, 1035, 1068, 1157, 1182, 1210)	12, 15
1208	Brashear	Change benefit contributions and a fee under the Judges Retirement Act	IPP	
1209	Brashear	Change members of the Nebraska Capitol Commission	Committee	
1210	Brashear	Change references to the Counsel for Discipline	General File (-1207)	15
1211	Brashear	Change provisions relating to sales taxation of construction labor	IPP (-1017)	5
1212	Brashear	Change provisions relating to insurance reimbursement for prescription drugs	IPP	
1213	Brashear	Extend racial profiling reporting duties as prescribed	General File (-1162)	12, 14, 15
1214	Brashear	Authorize policies regarding private personal computers and networking for members of the Legislature	Committee	
1215	Baker	Change sales tax distribution for leased motor vehicles	IPP	
1216	Landis	Provide for assessment of costs under the Employment and Investment Growth Act	General File	6
1217	Connealy	Appropriate funds for child welfare services	Committee	6
1218	Beutler	Change the number of district court judicial districts and the number of judges as prescribed	Committee	
1219	Connealy	Change income tax withholding relating to certain nonresidents	General File	
1220	Raikes	Change provisions relating to wards' educational expenses and provide for interim program schools	Committee	
1221	Raikes	Change allocation of the Education Innovation Fund	Committee	
1222	Hudkins	Change provisions relating to gift certificates	Committee	
1223	Thompson	Provide restrictions on state contracts for services	Committee	
1224	Byars	Adopt the ICF/MR Reimbursement Protection Act and provide for a tax on gross revenue	General File (-841)	
1225	Landis	Provide for a purchaser action against a seller relating to the design, construction, condition, or sale of real property	Committee	
1226	Redfield	Change provisions relating to returned drugs and devices	IPP	



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1227	Landis	Adopt the Nebraska Worker Productivity Investment Act and provide tax incentives	Committee	7
1228	Quandahl	Change provisions of the Property and Casualty Insurance Rate and Form Act	General File	
1229	Quandahl	Change record medium requirements under the Records Management Act	General File	
1230	Quandahl	Impose a filing fee for tax valuation protests	IPP	
1231	Hartnett	Change provisions relating to the state veteran cemetery system	Signed	12, 14, 15
1231A	Hartnett	Appropriation Bill	Signed	
1232	Hartnett	Authorize natural resources districts to require certain agreements as prescribed	IPP	
1233	Hartnett	Change provisions for cities and villages relating to community redevelopment projects	General File	
1234	Hartnett	Adopt the Regulatory Flexibility Act	IPP	
1235	Hartnett	Provide for fee increases and adjustments for certificates of title and vehicle inspections	Committee	
1236	Landis	Prohibit acts relating to computer fraud and unsolicited electronic mail	Committee	
1237	Connealy	Adopt the Behavioral Health Rate Reimbursement Determination Act	Committee	
1238	Landis	Create investigation and prosecution centers for child abuse and neglect cases and change reporting and investigation duties	Committee	7
1239	Vrtiska	Conduct a study of insuring against state liability under the State Tort Claims Act	Committee	
1240	Foley	Change provisions relating to smoking at in-home day care sites	General File (-1005)	5, 10
1241	Vrtiska	Appropriate funds for payment of certain claims against the state	Signed	
1242	Vrtiska	Disapprove certain claims against the state	IPP	
1243	Preister	Change definitions and provisions relating to commercial fertilizers and soil conditioners	Committee	
1244	Redfield	Provide requirements relating to motor vehicle repair parts	IPP	
1245	Dw. Pedersen	Provide county sheriffs shall release unclaimed or abandoned property to the finder as prescribed	IPP	
1246	Dw. Pedersen	Prohibit cities and villages from levying occupation and business taxes relating to motor fuel	IPP	7
1247	Maxwell	Change requirements for statements of financial interest	IPP	
1248	Maxwell	Provide for a system of funding elementary and secondary education as prescribed	Committee	7
1249	Brashear	Change estate tax provisions	Committee	
1250	Bourne	Prohibit the licensure of certain substance abuse treatment centers	Committee	
1251	Aguilar	Provide powers and duties for the State Foster Care Review Board regarding reports of child abuse or neglect	Committee	7
1252	Johnson	Redefine terms relating to budget limits	Committee	
1253	Synowiecki	Adopt the Department of Community Corrections Act	General File	7
1254	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to purchase of goods and services from the Department of Correctional Services	Committee	
1255	Redfield	Provide for an electronic lien and paperless certificate of title system and change sales tax payment requirements	Committee	
3CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to create a Compensation Review Commission and change and eliminate compensation provisions for members and employees of the Legislature	Select File	2
4CA	Schrock	Constitutional amendment to preserve the right to fish, trap, and hunt	General File	2
8CA	Schimek	Constitutional amendment to change legislator's salaries to twenty thousand dollars	Committee	
10CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to restrict pardon powers for sentences of life imprisonment without parole	Committee	
11CA	Janssen	Constitutional amendment to authorize gaming	P	10, 12, 14, 15
14CA	Schimek	Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to authorize casino gaming at casino locations	Select File	5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15
16CA	McDonald	Constitutional amendment to exclude certain political subdivision employees from being considered executive officers	General File	



BILL	SPONSOR	ONE-LINE DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ISSUE #s
17CA	Schrock	Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to annually appropriate ten percent of the principal of the permanent school fund	Committee	
18CA	Redfield	Authorize an exemption from part of a levy on a homestead	General File	
20CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to eliminate the requirement that there be a county court in and for each county	Committee	
21CA	Stuhr	Constitutional amendment to define and classify persons pertaining to future retirement benefits	IPP	
24CA	Smith	Constitutional amendment to authorize municipalities and counties to exercise greater powers and eliminate home rule charters	IPP	
208CA	Schimek	Constitutional amendment to eliminate constitutional authorization for township organization of counties	Committee	4
209CA	Landis	Constitutional amendment to require appropriation of state lottery proceeds for specified uses	Referred to Voters	4, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15
211CA	Chambers	Remove the Lieutenant Governor and designate the Speaker as the Legislature's presiding officer	Referred to Voters	5, 8, 10
219CA	Beutler	Provide for recall of state legislators and eliminate term limits	General File	6
221CA	Brown	Constitutional amendment to permit state employee buyout programs	General File	7
222CA	Quandahl	Constitutional amendment to require the election of members of the Legislature in a partisan manner	Committee	6
224CA	Landis	Constitutional amendment to authorize tax abatement programs and prohibit new applications under existing tax incentive programs	Committee	7
225CA	Brashear	Constitutional amendment providing for two-year and four-year state colleges	Committee	
227CA	Maxwell	Constitutional amendment to change compensation for members of the Legislature	Committee	
228CA	Maxwell	Constitutional amendment to authorize a state property tax for school funding and to restrict local property taxes for such purpose	Committee	7
LR 52	Cunningham	Endorse observer status for Taiwan to join the World Health Organization	Pending	
LR 202	Smith	Encourage Congress to allocate federal fuel tax to states	Pending	
LR 226	Quandahl	Memorialize Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prevent federal courts from taking actions which result in levying or increasing taxes	Committee	



Sen. Ray Aguilar
District 35
471-2617 (Capitol)
706 Grand Ave.
Grand Island, NE 68801

Sen. Tom Baker
District 44
471-2805 (Capitol)
HC 2 Box 140
Trenton, NE 69044

Sen. Chris Beutler
District 28
471-2633 (Capitol)
3315 M St.
Lincoln, NE 68510

Sen. Patrick Bourne
District 8
471-2722 (Capitol)
5121 Erskine St.
Omaha, NE 68104

Sen. Kermit Brashear
District 4
471-2621 (Capitol)
216 N. 117th St.
Omaha, NE 68154

Sen. Curt Bromm
District 23
471-2719 (Capitol)
1448 N. Pine St.
Wahoo, NE 68066

Sen. Pam Brown
District 6
471-2714 (Capitol)
525 N. 72nd Ave.
Omaha, NE 68114

Sen. Carroll Burling
District 33
471-2712 (Capitol)
4120 S. Shiloh Ave.
Kenesaw, NE 68956

Sen. Dennis Byars
District 30
471-2620 (Capitol)
823 N. Eighth St.
Beatrice, NE 68310

Sen. Ernie Chambers
District 11
471-2612 (Capitol)
3116 N. 24th St.
Omaha, NE 68110

Sen. Jeanne Combs
District 32
471-2711 (Capitol)
679 County Road 600
Friend, NE 68359

Sen. Matt Connealy
District 16
471-2728 (Capitol)
2999 Old Hwy. 118
Decatur, NE 68020

Sen. Jim Cudaback
District 36
471-2642 (Capitol)
P.O. Box 22
Riverdale, NE 68870

Sen. Doug Cunningham
District 40
471-2801 (Capitol)
P.O. Box 160
Wausa, NE 68786

Sen. Pat Engel
District 17
471-2716 (Capitol)
401 E. 31st St.
So. Sioux City, NE 68776

Sen. Philip Erdman
District 47
471-2616 (Capitol)
511 Second Ave.
Bayard, NE 69334

Sen. Mike Foley
District 29
471-2734 (Capitol)
6410 S. 41st St. Court
Lincoln, NE 68516

Sen. Mike Friend
District 10
471-2718 (Capitol)
4722 N. 81st St.
Omaha, NE 68134

Sen. Paul Hartnett
District 45
471-2615 (Capitol)
407 Greenbriar Court
Bellevue, NE 68005

Sen. Carol Hudkins
District 21
471-2673 (Capitol)
8600 N.W. 112th St.
Malcolm, NE 68402

Sen. Ray Janssen
District 15
471-2625 (Capitol)
P.O. Box 159
Nickerson, NE 68044

Sen. Jim Jensen
District 20
471-2622 (Capitol)
10525 Mullen Road
Omaha, NE 68124

Sen. Joel Johnson
District 37
471-2726 (Capitol)
3216 19th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845

Sen. Jim Jones
District 43
471-2628 (Capitol)
HC 2 Box 79
Eddyville, NE 68834

Sen. Bob Kremer
District 34
471-2630 (Capitol)
186 Donegal Road
Aurora, NE 68818

Sen. Lowen Kruse
District 13
471-2727 (Capitol)
5404 N. 50th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68104

Sen. David Landis
District 46
471-2720 (Capitol)
4328 Touzalin Ave.
Lincoln, NE 68507

Sen. Leroy J. Loudon
District 49
471-2725 (Capitol)
P.O. Box 25
Ellsworth, NE 69340

Sen. Chip Maxwell
District 9
471-2723 (Capitol)
3835 California St.
Omaha, NE 68131

Sen. Vickie McDonald
District 41
471-2631 (Capitol)
Route 1 Box 12A
Rockville, NE 68871

Sen. Mick Mines
District 18
471-2618 (Capitol)
636 Hillcrest Drive
Blair, NE 68008

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471-2627 (Capitol)
Sarpy County, NE 68123

Sen. Dwite Pedersen
District 39
471-2885 (Capitol)
21440 Shamrock Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022

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District 42
471-2729 (Capitol)
411 Sandpiper Way
North Platte, NE 69101

Sen. Don Preister
District 5
471-2710 (Capitol)
3937 W St.
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District 26
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6735 Lexington Circle
Lincoln, NE 68505

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District 31
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16729 Leavenworth Circle
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District 25
471-2731 (Capitol)
3221 S. 76th St.
Lincoln, NE 68506

Sen. Pam Redfield
District 12
471-2623 (Capitol)
5036 S. 94th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68127

Sen. DiAnna Schimek
District 27
471-2632 (Capitol)
2321 Camelot Court
Lincoln, NE 68512

Sen. Ed Schrock
District 38
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74274 K Road
Elm Creek, NE 68836

Sen. Adrian Smith
District 48
471-2802 (Capitol)
3321 Avenue I, Suite 6
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Sen. Elaine Stuhr
District 24
471-2756 (Capitol)
208 Road 18
Bradshaw, NE 68319

Sen. Arnie Stuthman
District 22
471-2715 (Capitol)
24160 310th St.
Platte Center, NE 68653

Sen. John Synowiecki
District 7
471-2721 (Capitol)
2451 S. 27th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68105

Sen. Nancy Thompson
District 14
471-2730 (Capitol)
1302 Western Hills Drive
Papillion, NE 68046

Sen. Gene Tyson
District 19
471-2929 (Capitol)
2406 Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701

Sen. Floyd Vrtiska
District 1
471-2733 (Capitol)
706 Wyoming St.
Table Rock, NE 68447

Sen. Roger Wehrhein
District 2
471-2613 (Capitol)
5812 Hwy. 66
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Contact Information

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UNICAMERAL UPDATE

■
Clerk of the Legislature
Patrick J. O'Donnell

■
Editor
Mitchell S. McCartney

■
Contributors
Laura Brown
Connie Pritchard
Ashley Washburn

■
Assistance provided by
Brad Boesen
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
Legislative Bill Room
Legislative committee clerks
Legislative committee legal counsels
Legislative journal clerks
Legislative Mail Room
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Nebraska State Legislature
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