

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2021

HILGERS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the forty-second day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Murman. Please rise.

MURMAN: Good morning, everyone. I'd like to read a prayer by the late Reverend Billy Graham that was spoken in-- at the 1997 inauguration of President Clinton. Lord, remind us today that you have shown us what is good and what you require of us: to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We ask that as a people, we may humble ourselves before you and seek your will for our lives and for this great nation. Help us in our nation to work as never before, to strengthen our families and to give our children hope and a moral foundation for the future. So may our desire be to serve you and in so doing, serve one another. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Murman. Senator Brandt, you're recognized for the Pledge of Allegiance.

BRANDT: Please join me for the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Brandt. I call to order the forty-second day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call.

McKINNEY: Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

McKINNEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

McKINNEY: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: There are, Mr. President. Agency reports electronically filed with the Legislature can be found on the Nebraska Legislature's website. Additionally, receipt of an AG Opinion addressed to Senator Arch (re LB429). Committee reports. Your Committee on Business and Labor, chaired by Senator Ben Hansen,

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reports LB256, LB440, LB260 to General File. Additionally, your Committee on Judiciary, chaired by Senator Lathrop, refers LB301, LB307, LB357, LB500, LB568 to General File, all having committee amendments, and your Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Bostelman, refers LB336 and LB350 [SIC LB650] to General File, both having committee amendments. Your committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB14, LB400, LB389, LB274, LB368, and LB387 as-- reports to Select File, some having E&R amendments. Your Committee on Revenue, chaired by Senator Linehan, refers LB63, LB189, LB254, LB377, LB544, and LB599 to General File. Priority bills. Senator Lathrop has selected LB54 as his personal priority. The Judiciary Committee has selected LB51 and LB568 as their committee priority bills. Senator Clements has selected LB236 as his personal priority. Senator McCollister has selected LB108 as his personal priority. Senator Day has selected LB639 as her personal priority. Senator Briesse has selected LB2 as his personal priority. Senator DeBoer has selected LB485. Senator Wishart, LB474. Senator Bostar, LB630. The Natural Resources Committee has selected LB399 as one of their committee priority bills. Senator Bostelman has selected LB338 as his personal priority. Transportation and Telecommunications Committee has designated LB215 and LB522 as their committee priority bills. Senator Friesen, himself, has selected LB454 as his personal priority. Senator Pansing Brooks has selected LB307 as her personal priority. The Revenue Committee has selected LB432 and LB595 as their committee priority bills. The Executive Board has selected legislative-- LR18CA and LR25 as their priority-- committee priority bills. Senator Vargas has selected LB241 as his personal priority. Senator McKinney has selected LB451 as his personal priority. The Planning Committee has selected LB132 as their committee priority bill. The State-Tribal Relations Committee has designated LB185 as their committee priority bill, and Senator Machaela Cavanaugh has selected LR29 as her personal priority bill. Additionally, LR60, introduced by Senator Brewer, thanking and recognizing the service of the military working dogs. That will be laid over. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

McKINNEY: Speaker Hilgers, for announcements.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. A lot to cover here this morning about both today and next week and as we move forward into our floor debate. Thanks for all the work, by the way, this week. I think we've had really good discussion on the floor so far as we-- as we kick this stage of our process off. So first about this morning. So, you know, we have nothing on the agenda. We're largely going to stay at ease, stand at ease today to allow for people the time to submit their priority bill designations to the Clerk.

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Those have to go to the Clerk and to my office. Please have them hand-delivered to my office. Right now, coming into the day, at least as of 5:00 last night, we still had 25 priority bills for Senators and committees that did-- that were not designated yet. And so right now, I'm intending to adjourn around 10:30 today. And around 10:00, we'll see where we're at and then we'll be following up with individuals and committees to make sure that everyone has time to get it in. So right now, we're looking at about 10:30 adjournment this morning. Our friends in the Judiciary Committee, of course, are going to be in hearings here pretty shortly. As we go into next week-- so as of last night, we had-- of the 58 Senator and committee priority bills that had been designated, 35 were still in committee. And there's a-- there's a good reason for that, in part because we've been in all-day committee hearings. And so in order to accommodate the committee work that needs to happen in Exec Session, I am slightly modifying our schedule next week. As I had announced last week, I was intending to go into full-day debate next week at the beginning of the week. Right now, I intend to not quite do that. Next Monday afternoon, we will not have an afternoon floor debate session, and that is to accommodate Exec Sessions for committees. We'll monitor how many are still in committee over the next few days. I may-- I may introduce another Exec Session afternoon as we proceed. We're just going to have to see what kind of progress we make. So next-- for next Monday, I would ask that the two-day committees to try to have their Exec Sessions between 1:00 and 2:00, so we'll-- we'll adjourn around noon on Monday. So try to-- for the two-day committees, try to have your Exec Sessions done by 2-- 2:00, and then the three-day committees can start around 2:15 for the rest of the afternoon. So that way we can try to accommodate all the Senators who are on different committees. So next afternoon, next-- on Monday afternoon, that will be Exec Session. It will not be committee hearings-- I'm sorry, floor debate. As we go into next week, I-- a couple of thoughts on scheduling philosophy. So when I ran for Speaker and I was on the floor, one of the things I think is really important to help avoid friction and animosity is to try to give as much fair notice as possible to the issues that we're going to debate. I think that that's especially true for very difficult issues. I want proponents and opponents to be in the best position they can to make their arguments on the floor and to try to eliminate surprises as best as possible. At the same time, I'm not going to overengineer our schedule so that we know precisely every 30 minutes what bill is going to come up. I'm not going to do that because there's a certain flow and rhythm to the body and how we debate that I want to respect. With that being said, as we go into next week, and this will probably change on my Friday end-of-the-week announcements as we really get a handle on the work that we're going to accomplish the rest of the year

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as all the priority bills come in, I do want to give everyone an update going into next week how I-- what-- what will be coming on to the agenda, at least what I anticipate. So on Monday, we are going to start at 10:00. We'll start at 10:00, not 9:00, 10:00. And we will pick up where we left off yesterday. So we have some priority bills still on the agenda from yesterday on General File. We will pick those up. In addition, we're going to add a couple more to the agenda. Those are LB371, that's Senator Aguilar's priority bill relating to the Nebraska Racetrack Gaming Act. In addition, we've got LB324, Senator Brandt's bill. It's been prioritized by the Ag Committee, and that relates-- relates to meat and poultry inspection laws. So those will be added to the agenda on Monday. On Tuesday, I intend to add Senator Morfeld's priority bill, LB88, relating to free speech rights of student journalists. That'll come on on Tuesday. On Wednesday, I intend at the beginning of the day to schedule LB561. So LB561, you may know, that's the General Affairs Committee priority bill and it relates to implementing the initiative petition that passed, the two that passed at the end of last year for gambling. So this is the-- this is the package of statutory changes that help-- that it's designed to help implement the gambling petition, so that I intend to take up in the morning on Wednesday. On Thursday, I have two committee-- I'm sorry, I have two Christmas tree bills that have been prioritized that are reported out to-- to the floor. That is LB320. It's Senator Cavanaugh's bill that relates to-- priority bill that relates to landlord-tenant. There's one bill-- and in addition, there's, I believe, six other bills that are amended into it. In addition, I've got LB507. That's the Natural Resources Committee bill, priority bill. And there are-- there's underlying bill relating to prohibition on the use of treated seed corn. There are four bills that are amended into that. One thing with Christmas tree bills, I'm going to try to give the body as much advance notice as possible so you know when they're coming, so everyone has the opportunity to look through the bills that have been amended in. So those will come up on Thursday. I believe that's all of my announcements for today. That's all I've got. Thanks for all the work. It's really been-- I know-- I know a lot of people's heads are sort of on a swivel and everyone's been running pretty fast the last couple of weeks, and I really appreciate all the work. If there's anything we can do better in my office or anything we can accommodate any issue that we're unaware of, please let me know. And everyone have a great weekend. We'll see you all on Monday. Thank you, Mr. President.

McKINNEY: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Mr. Clerk, for announcements.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. The Exec Board will hold an Exec Session under the north balcony now-- Exec Board, Exec Session under the north balcony right now. Additionally, the Education Committee will have an Exec-- Executive Session at 10:30 this morning in [Room] 1525-- Education, 10:30, [Room] 1525. Senator Brandt has designated LB306 as his personal priority, and Senator McDonnell has selected LB298 as his personal priority. Additionally, Mr. President, your Committee on Education, chaired by Senator Walz, has referred LB5, LB154, LB200, LB396 and LB641 to General File. That's all I have this time, Mr. President.

McKINNEY: We will now stand at ease to allow additional documents to be taken to the Clerk's office.

[EASE]

HILGERS: Mr. Clerk, for items.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Committee Report. Your Committee on Revenue, chaired by Senator Linehan, first legislative bill, LB40, to General File with committee amendments. Health and Human Services Committee has designated LB428 and LB376 as their committee priority bills. Announcement. Senator Albrecht announces that the Executive Session of the State-Tribal Relations Committee will be at 10:30, Monday, March 15, 2021-- State-Tribal Relations, 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 15, 2021. Name adds. Senator Clements added to LB188. Senator Albrecht to LB236. Senator Hunt to LB322. Senator Flood to LB392. Finally, Mr. President, a priority motion. Senator Matt Hansen would move to adjourn the body until Monday, March 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.