

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB660

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 19, 2025
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Andersen
One Liner: Adopt the Secure Drone Purchasing Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Hunt, Lonowski, McKeon, Wordekemper
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:
Senator Bob Andersen
Tom Rawlings

Representing:
Opening Presenter
State Shield

Opponents:
Matt Barrall

Representing:
Nebraska State Fraternal Order of Police

Neutral:
Travis Rozeboom

Representing:
Police Chief's Association of Nebraska, Police Officers Association of Nebraska and Nebraska Sheriff's Association
Omaha Public Power District (OPPD)

Seth Voyles

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Section 1 contains the title section.

Section 2 contains legislative findings relating to the security of the State of Nebraska and espionage, surveillance, and theft of intellectual property by the People's Republic of China. These findings further elaborate on the relationship between these topics and unmanned aircraft systems.

Section 3 contains definitions for terms used in the Act.

Section 4 would prohibit state agencies from purchasing or acquiring drones or unmanned aerial systems unless they



are cleared by the Division of Aeronautics of the Department of Transportation, effective January 1, 2027. It would also provide a similar prohibition, “to the extent practicable,” for political subdivisions of the state. After January 1, 2027, it would prohibit the expenditure of state funds to purchase or acquire drones prohibited under the Act. This section would also void any contracts to the contrary.

Section 5 would direct the Division of Aeronautics to consult with the Department of Administrative Services to create and maintain a “List of Secure Drones for Authorized Purchase” with the names of devices and vendors of drones approved by the United States Department of Defense, compliant with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024, determined by the Division to be incapable under normal operating conditions of transmitting data to unauthorized persons or entities, or otherwise determined by the Division to present no threat to state security. The Division would be authorized to consult with recognized cybersecurity experts, Nebraska State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies, the Nebraska National Guard, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the office of the Chief Information Officer, or other pertinent entities. The list would then be published on the Division’s website and updated every six months. There would be a contract preference for approved drones in all state and local procurement actions.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 1008 proposes substantial revisions to LB 660 and also incorporates provisions from four other bills, including LB 445 (von Gillern), LB 664 (Storer), LB 29 (Conrad), and LB 662 (Andersen).

Section 1 includes the title section from LB 445.

Section 2 contains section 2 from LB 445.

Section 3 contains section 3 from LB 445.

Section 4 contains new language relating to the process for utilizing a design-build contract or manager-general contractor contract provided for under the provisions from LB 445.

Sections 5 through 19 contain the identically numbered sections from LB 445.

Section 20 contains section 1 from LB 660.

Section 21 contains section 2 from LB 660.

Section 22 contains section 3 from LB 660.

Section 23 contains section 4 from LB 660 with the addition of language providing an exception for electric suppliers, producers, and distributors.

Section 24 contains section 5 from LB 660 and provides for the Division of Aeronautics, in the development and maintenance of an authorized drones list, to consult with Nebraska State Patrol, the Department of Administrative Services, the Committee on Pacific Conflict, and the Law Enforcement Drone Association or another similar organization.

Section 25 contains section 1 from LB 662 with revised language providing greater clarity on terminology relating to the revenue and expenditures to be inventoried.

Section 26 contains section 20 from LB 445.



Section 27 contains section 21 from LB 445.

Section 28 contains section 22 from LB 445.

Section 29 contains section 23 from LB 445.

Section 30 contains section 24 from LB 445.

Section 31 contains a harmonizing change relating to LB 445.

Section 32 would modify the definition of "public building" for purposes of LB 445.

Section 33 would modify a statute relating to public works of art, relating to LB 445. It would authorize an exception to the "one-percent" art requirement for projects relating to mechanical system improvements and provides a cap of three hundred thousand dollars for art per project.

Section 34 contains proposed language providing circumstances under which a waiver could be sought for purposes of LB 445.

Section 35 contains section 1 from LB 664.

Section 36 contains section 2 from LB 664.

Section 37 contains section 1 from LB 29.

Section 38 contains section 2 from LB 29.

Section 39 contains split operative dates for the provisions of the bill.

Sections 40 and 41 contain the repealers.

Section 42 contains the emergency clause.

Testifiers on LB445:

Proponents:

Senator R. Brad von Gillern , Opening Presenter

Lee Will, Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Brent Flachsbart, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) - State Building Division

Opponents:

Mike Markey, Arts Council

Suzanne Wise, Self

Meagan Dion, Nebraska Arts Council

Lee Emma Running, Self

Richard Harrison, Self

Lauren Simpson, Amplify Arts

Michael Giron, Self



Lance Nielsen, Nebraska for the Arts
Matt Mason, Self
Jon Nebel, Nebraska State Council of Electrical Workers
Turner McGehee, Self

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB445:

Yes: 8 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Hunt, Lonowski, McKeon, Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 0;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Summary of LB445:

This bill proposes adoption of a new State Building Construction Alternatives Act and amend or remove existing provisions relating to state building projects.

Sections 1 through 19 contain the provisions of the new proposed act and would allow for Construction Manager-General Contractor and Design-Build procedures as an alternative to the current Design-Bid-Build requirements.

Section 20 raises from fifty thousand dollars to seventy thousand dollars the threshold at which the hiring of a consultant is required, and provides for this threshold to be adjusted by the Department of Administrative Services every four years according to "inflationary and market changes."

Sections 21 and 22 add harmonizing references.

Section 23 makes harmonizing changes and changes reporting requirements for the State Building Division.

Section 24 adds harmonizing references.

Section 25 through 27 would eliminate the requirement that one percent of all appropriations for new construction of public-facing state buildings be designated for works of art.

Sections 28 and 29 contain the repealers.

Testifiers on LB664:

Proponents:

Senator Tanya Storer , Opening Presenter

Laura Ebke, Platte Institute

Jonathan Wolfson, Cicero Action

Kileen Lindgren, Pacific Legal Foundation

Opponents: None

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB664:

Yes: 8 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Hunt, Lonowski, McKeon, Wordekemper;



No: 0;
Absent: 0;
Present Not Voting: 0;

Summary of LB 664:

LB 664 proposes changes to the Administrative Procedures Act.

First, it would require that agencies considering a new rule or regulation under the act accept comments or written materials from any person via electronic or mail submission rather than requiring a person to travel to a particular meeting location.

Second, it changes the venue rules for instances where someone files a challenge to the validity of a rule or regulation. In addition to the District Court for Lancaster County, venue would also be proper in the petitioner's county of residence, in the county where their principal place of business, or in the county where the agency headquarters are located.

This bill contains the emergency clause.

Testifiers on LB29:

Proponents:

Senator Danielle Conrad , Opening Presenter

Laura Ebke, Platte Institute

Kileen Lindgren, Pacific Legal Foundation

Michael Dwyer, Self

Jonathan Wolfson, Cicero Action

Jennifer Creager, Greater Omaha Chamber, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Opponents: None

Neutral:

Kenny Zoeller, Governor's Policy Research Office

Jaime Hegr, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Committee vote to attach LB29:

Yes: 8 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Hunt, Lonowski, McKeon, Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 0;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Summary of LB29:

LB29 proposes changes to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). It would require that agencies conduct a regular review of all existing and pending rules and regulations every three years. Each agency head would have to designate an individual responsible for the review, and would have to create and submit a report to the Clerk of the Legislature detailing a number of factors. These include the necessity of the rule or regulation, its costs and benefits, processes within the agency to measure its effectiveness, that a less restrictive alternative has been considered, and whether the new rule or regulation was necessitated by state statute, federal mandate, or court decision. These reports upon submission to the Legislature would then be referenced to the committee of appropriate jurisdiction. The committees would review the reports and then submit a report to the Clerk of the Legislature including



recommendations for legislation or clarification of the rule or regulation. Rulemaking would be suspended during the pendency of the review process unless time sensitive, necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the public, or subject to state or federal statutory deadlines.

Testifiers on LB662:

Proponents:

Senator Bob Andersen , Opening Presenter
Nicole Fox, Platte Institute
Steve Johnson, Center for Practical Federalism
Allie Bush, Nebraskans Against Government Overreach Grassroots
Kathy Wilmot, Self

Opponents:

Matt Blomstedt, University of Nebraska

Neutral:

Katie Thurber, Nebraska Department of Labor

Committee vote to attach LB662:

Yes: 8 Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Hunt, Lonowski, McKeon, Wordekemper;

No: 0;

Absent: 0;

Present Not Voting: 0;

Summary of LB662:

LB 662 would create a new section of statute relating to the state's receipt of federal funds. It defines "federal receipts." It would prohibit state agencies, employees, and other agents of the state from entering into any agreement that obligates Nebraska to any maintenance of effort requirements without prior Legislative consent. The bill would further require state agencies receiving appropriations from the Legislature to biennially prepare federal funding inventories and submit them to the director of the Department of Administrative Services.

Rita Sanders, Chairperson

