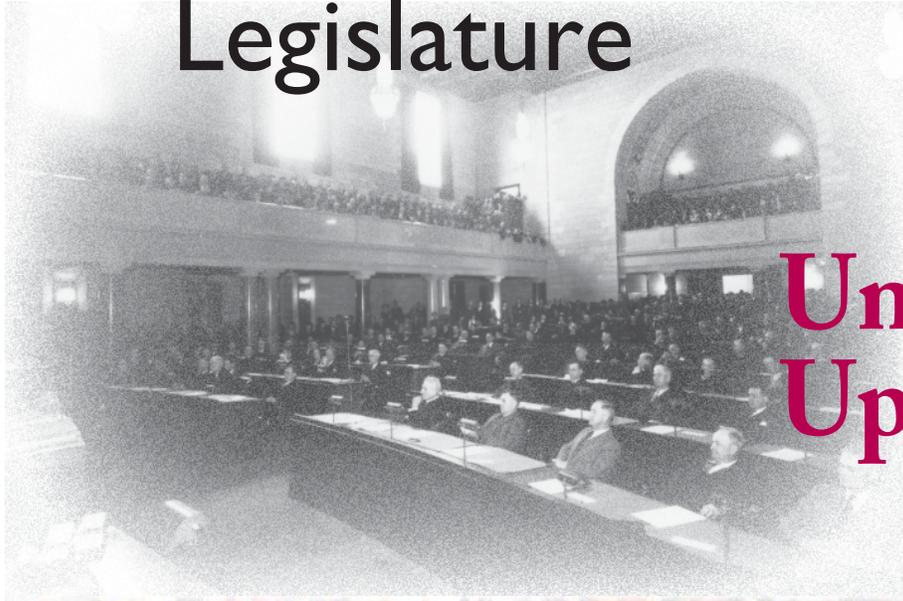


100th Legislature



Unicameral Update

2007
Session
Review



100th Legislature Unicameral Update

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Agriculture

Issues concerning corporate farming and the state fair topped agricultural discussions this session.

In 2006, the 8th Circuit District Court ruled that the state's corporate farming law, known as Initiative 300, was unconstitutional. **LB 516** was introduced by the Agriculture Committee in response to the court's ruling.

LB 516 authorizes the committee and the attorney general's office to contract with various experts in order to study options and create a plan regarding corporate farming in Nebraska.

LB 516 passed on a 45-0 vote.

After the Agriculture Committee heard several proposals regarding the future of the state fair, lawmakers passed a measure that will study state fair programming and facilities.

LB 435, sponsored by Sen. Ron Raikes of Lincoln, authorizes the committee to study programming needed to conduct a state fair, enhance other uses of a state fair campus and examine the costs to achieve such programming needs at State Fair Park or at a new site.

The study will include:

- identification of the capital facilities and infrastructure required at the present state fair site to meet 15-year program needs, maximize off-season utilization and meet cash flow projections; and
- identification of the capital facilities and infrastructure required at an alternative location to meet a comparable 15-year program need and 15-year cash flow projection.

The study will be assisted by analysis and recommendations from an independent consultant commissioned with the assistance of the state Department of Administrative Services. The cost of the study will be underwritten by contributions received by DAS for that purpose.

The independent consultant's report will be submitted by Nov. 15. The committee will report its findings and recommendations by Dec. 15 after a public hearing.

LB 435 was passed by a 47-1 vote.

Senators also passed a bill that updates regulations for retail food establishments.

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

The U.S. Public Health Service updates the food code every four years. LB 74 creates a separate classification for food vendors who provide prepackaged food from temporary locations. The bill also raises the maximum fees paid by food establishments to account for inflation.

LB 74 was passed on a 42-0 vote.

Regulation issues rounded out agricultural concerns this year.

Lawmakers passed a bill that makes changes to the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act.

LB 12, sponsored by Blair Sen. Mick Mines:

- increases inspections performed under the law to include preclicensure inspection of all new license applicant and existing licensees at least once every two years;
- establishes a graduated fee schedule for licensees based on the number of animals housed by a facility and sets a flat fee of \$150 if the facility does not house dogs or cats;



Sen. Philip Erdman

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- provides funding for four additional inspectors and one veterinarian to carry out the increased inspection activity under the program; and
- adds administrative fines as an enforcement option.

LB 12 was passed on a 44-1 vote.

Lawmakers passed a bill that will eventually require hybrid animals to be vaccinated against rabies.

LB 25, introduced by Sen. Chris Langemeier of Schuyler, defines a hybrid animal as a domestic dog bred with a nondomestic canine species and brings such animals within the rabies control provisions of state law. Previous law applied only to “domestic animals” defined as pet breeds of dogs and cats, thereby excluding hybrid animals.

LB 25 imposes restrictions on the ownership of hybrid animals obtained after the effective date of the bill. Currently, there is no proven rabies vaccine for hybrid animals. Under the bill, once a rabies vaccine for hybrid animals exists, owners of hybrid animals will have one year to properly vaccinate them.

LB 25 was passed by a 41-1 vote.

Appropriations



Sen. Lavon Heidemann

Lawmakers passed a \$6.8 billion two-year budget package this session. **LB 321**, the mainline budget bill, passed on a 37-12 vote.

Debate on the budget centered on issues relating to the state Department of Roads, economic development and health care facilities and programs.

The budget’s average annual spending level will increase by 4.6 percent, as opposed to an average annual increase of 7.4 percent in the last biennium. The budget package anticipates revenue growth of 4.2 percent in fiscal year 2007-08 and 4.7 percent in FY2008-09.

Senators made few changes to the Appropriations Committee’s recommendations. Lawmakers amended the budget to appropriate \$290,000 each fiscal year of the biennium to the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging and \$250,000 in FY2007-08 and \$500,000 in FY2008-09 for area health education centers.

Several other bills comprise the budget package.

LB 317 provides for deficit appropriations and passed 48-0.

LB 318 appropriates funds for salaries of members of the Legislature and passed 49-0.

LB 319, passed 49-0, appropriates funds for salaries of constitutional officers.

LB 320 appropriates funds for capital construction and passed on a 49-0 vote.

LB 322, passed 44-1, changes provisions relating to certain funds and provides for transfers of funds and extends an excise tax.

Gov. David Heineman sent back \$23.6 million in vetoes of general fund appropriations for the next two years including a \$19 million reduction in the state Department of Roads Highway Cash Fund.

Several attempts by lawmakers to override the governor’s budget vetoes fell short.

Override attempts focused on funding for increases in state court staff salary and Health and Human Services provider rates. Other override attempts would have restored funding for prostitution diversion, aging and special education services and area health education centers that the governor had vetoed in the budget.



Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Bills relating to banking regulation, limited cooperative associations and economic development were among those issues considered by state lawmakers in 2007.



Sen. Rich Pahls

LB 124, introduced by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, updates statutes for state-chartered banks, building and loan associations and credit unions. The bill also included several other bills originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, the committee's chairperson.

LB 114 updates the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code.

LB 122 changes laws relating to assessments, examination costs and fees collected by the state Department of Banking and Finance.

LB 125 makes changes to the law that authorizes state-chartered banks to make community development investments.

LB 126 makes changes to regulations governing the names of trust companies.

LB 127 updates laws governing loan brokers regarding disclosure statements and loan brokerage agreements.

LB 128 requires sales finance companies to have and maintain a minimum net capital requirement of \$100,000 and provide a surety bond of \$50,000 to cover any losses resulting from violations of the law.

LB 129 makes various changes to banking law, including prohibiting a person with a felony conviction from being employed by a mortgage banker.

LB 130 sets forth requirements for the relocation of a licensed installment office.

LB 346 changes requirements relating to the filing of effective financing statements.

LB 124 also included provisions from three other bills.

LB 149, originally introduced by Papillion Sen. Tim Gay, makes changes to existing banking law governing the names of firms, companies, corporations and associations.

LB 156, originally introduced by Schuyler Sen. Chris Langemeier, changes banking law regarding boards of directors, bank premises, and account bonuses and premiums.

LB 189, originally sponsored by Blair Sen. Mick Mines, makes changes to regulations governing certain investment transactions.

LB 124 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 368, sponsored by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, permits the formation of a business structure known as a limited cooperative association.

Traditional cooperative businesses limit participation to patron members who use the services of the cooperative by buying from or selling to the cooperative. State and federal laws applicable to traditional cooperatives restrict their ability to seek investment capital to fund startup costs, expansion or other activities that require equity capital.

A limited cooperative association combines the elements of traditional cooperatives with the ability to raise investment capital. Investor members can earn a return on their investment without participating in the association as a patron member.

The bill sets forth various requirements and regulations governing the formation and existence of limited cooperative associations.

LB 368 was passed by a 47-0 vote.

LB 425, introduced by Louisville Sen. Dave Pankonin, reestablishes a state Department of Economic Development program that provides operational assistance to potential high-growth businesses in an effort to attract private venture capital equity financing. The program will receive \$250,000 in each of the next two fiscal years.

LB 425 was passed by a 48-0 vote.



Sen. Dave Pankonin

Business and Labor



Sen. Kent Rogert



Sen. Danielle Nantkes

Issues relating to benefits and wages topped business and labor concerns this session. Unions and workers' compensation also were topics of debate.

Lawmakers passed a bill aimed at clarifying the benefits employees are entitled to when their employment ends.

LB 255, sponsored by Tekamah Sen. Kent Rogert, was introduced in response to a recent Nebraska Supreme Court decision, *Roseland v. Strategic Staff Management*. The decision requires payment of unused vacation leave upon termination.

The bill clarifies that all unused paid leave earned by an employee, other than unused vacation leave, will not be payable to the employee upon his or her departure from employment unless otherwise agreed to by the employer and employee.

The bill also contains the provisions of **LB 505**, a bill originally introduced by Blair Sen. Mick Mines that clarifies how commissions will be paid out to an employee who leaves employment.

LB 255 was passed by a 47-0 vote.

Senators approved an increase in the state's minimum wage this session.

Lincoln Sen. Danielle Nantkes offered an amendment to **LB 265** that raises the state minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years.

The bill, introduced by the Business and Labor Committee, also contains provisions relating to employment confidentiality issues.

Earlier this year, Congress approved an increase in the federal minimum wage. Wages will be raised to \$5.85 initially, then to \$6.55 the next year and \$7.25 the following year. LB 265 mirrors the new federal minimum wage and passed 47-0.

Senators passed a bill that will increase pay for judges on the Commission of Industrial Relations.

The CIR hears labor-related disputes, such as those involving wages or union representation.

LB 211, sponsored by the Business and Labor Committee, increases the per diem pay for CIR commissioners from \$250 to \$475. The bill passed 46-0.

A Business and Labor Committee bill that makes changes to the workers' compensation claims reimbursement process also passed this session.

LB 588 makes three major changes to the system. First, the bill establishes a prospective payment system for in-patient hospital services. The proposed fee schedule is based on the payment method used by Medicare. The bill accounts for the differences between individual hospitals by incorporating hospital-specific Medicare rates into the fee schedule and then increasing those amounts by 50 percent.

The bill establishes a "prompt payment" provision with the intent of reimbursing hospitals in a timelier manner. LB 588 incorporates provisions from **LB 77**, originally introduced by Nantkes, providing that certain injured employees can be reimbursed according to their loss of earnings capacity, rather than according to the schedule set in statute.

LB 588 passed on a 43-0 vote.

Finally, senators bracketed a bill that would permit labor organizations and employers to require represented employees to pay for representation.

LB 57, sponsored by Bellevue Sen. Don Preister, would allow labor organizations and employers to require employees who are not paying membership dues to their



labor organization to contribute an amount that could not exceed the amount regularly paid for membership.

The fair share contributions would be required only when such an arrangement has been agreed to by both the employer and the labor organization. Similarly, the bill would not apply to workplaces that are not represented by labor organizations.

LB 57 remains on general file.

Education

Education took center stage during the 2007 legislative session as senators developed a new solution to issues in metro area schools, considered a proposal for the formation of Class I schools, rewrote the rules for student assessment and revised methods of providing state funding to educational service units and community colleges.

Learning communities

In 2006, the Legislature passed LB 1024, which resulted in a learning community comprised of the school districts in Douglas and Sarpy counties. Among the many provisions of LB 1024, the law allowed for the creation of learning communities, required schools in a learning community to have a common property tax levy and set forth the reorganization of Class V school districts into separate districts. The Omaha Public Schools District is currently the state's only Class V school district.

Efforts to find alternative solutions continued since the passage of LB 1024 last year as implementation of the law was put on hold by a court injunction.

By passing **LB 641**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Ron Raikes, the Legislature replaced LB 1024 and addressed issues related to school funding, boundaries and student achievement in the Omaha metropolitan area. Key features of LB 641 include:

- maintaining the current requirements associated with forming a learning community comprised of multiple school districts;
- providing for 18-member coordinating councils to govern learning communities, with 12 members elected by election districts and six selected by the learning community's local school board members;
- electing learning community coordinating councils by limited voting, which allows each voter to vote for one candidate to fill an election district's two elected seats;
- assigning each learning community district's coordinating council members as an achievement subcouncil;
- repealing the law that would have divided OPS into three separate districts;
- prohibiting school districts within the learning community from expanding into territory of another school district without a mutual agreement with the other district;
- allowing learning communities to levy and distribute common tax levies, approve focus schools and magnet pathways, administer open enrollment programs, develop integration and diversity plans, approve poverty plans for member school districts, establish and administer elementary learning centers, develop reorganization plans and receive community input and complaints regarding the learning community;
- providing the learning community with up to \$1 million plus basic allowable growth



Sen. Ron Raikes

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annually for administration, learning centers, teacher supplements, transportation and pilot projects;

- allowing school districts within the learning community to levy up to \$1.05 per \$100 of property valuation, based on a common minimum levy of 93 cents;
- requiring learning communities to provide an open enrollment program for students;
- requiring school districts receiving extra funding for poverty and limited English proficiency services to develop and adopt poverty and LEP plans;
- charging ESUs with developing professional development for staff addressing the achievement of students living in poverty and with diverse backgrounds;
- requiring the development of elementary learning centers in specified areas with programs designed to enhance the academic success of elementary students; and
- requiring the appointment of a student achievement coordinator responsible for evaluating and coordinating resources for programs serving students in poverty, students with limited English proficiency and highly mobile students across the state.

LB 641 was passed by a 33-14 vote.

Class I schools

After passing a bill intended to respond to the voters on the issue of Class I school districts in Nebraska, lawmakers voted against overriding the governor's veto of the measure.

Class I school districts generally served only kindergarten through eighth grade students. Class VI districts, which were eliminated in 2005 by the enactment of **LB 126**, served only high school students.

Along with eliminating Class VI school districts, LB 126 required Class I school districts to assimilate into K-12 school systems beginning in the 2006-07 school year. Some former Class I attendance centers, depending on proximity, size and enrollment, were granted protections from closing under the legislation.

In the November election last year, voters approved Referendum 422, which repealed LB 126. This action, however, came after Class I districts were dissolved under an order issued by the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts. Some former Class I school buildings have remained open as elementary attendance centers for their respective K-12 school districts.

LB 658, introduced by Raikes, would have established a process by which an individual or group could have petitioned for the creation of a Class I school district. Requirements would have been set forth for the filing of reorganization plans, circulation of petitions and election by the voters.

K-12 districts would have been required to maintain ownership of buildings previously used as Class I school buildings for a specified period of time to allow former Class I patrons the opportunity to consider whether they wished to reestablish their former school district.

The bill also would have required that Class I districts be affiliated with a single K-12 district and that their budgets be set by the high school district. Class I districts would have been part of a K-12 district for the purposes of voting and taxation.

All local systems would have been required to have a single collective bargaining agreement covering teachers in the K-12 district. State aid funding allowances would have been established for elementary attendance centers.



Lawmakers had voted 36-12 to pass LB 658, but rejected Raikes' motion to override the governor's veto by a 24-22 vote. Thirty votes are needed to override a veto.

Student assessment

LB 653, sponsored by Raikes, requires the state Department of Education to implement a statewide system for the assessment of student learning and for reporting the performance of school districts and learning communities.

The bill directs the department to identify criteria for rating assessment instruments and contract with assessment experts to review and rate locally developed assessment instruments. A requirement for statewide reading and math assessment instruments in addition to the existing statewide writing assessment was included in the bill. The new statewide assessment instruments will be developed through collaboration among ESUs and approved by a majority of the ESU administrators.

The contracted experts will identify model assessments and select up to four assessments for the five subject areas of reading, math, science, social studies and history for each of the three selected grade levels based on such ratings.

The assessment and reporting plan will include all public schools and students while providing individual students confidentiality. The state board will adopt criteria for the inclusion of students with disabilities, students entering school for the first time and students with limited English proficiency.

Senators passed the bill 30-13.

ESU funding

LB 603, sponsored by Raikes, combines core services and technology infrastructure funding for ESUs beginning in fiscal year 2008-09 and provides a new equalized distribution formula. The new equalized aid formula takes into account factors such as distance education and telecommunications costs, satellite offices, sparsity, the number of students served and a base amount for each ESU.

In addition to changing the formula, the bill provides a \$4.7 million funding increase for ESU core services and technology infrastructure. If future budgets do not allow for an increase of that size, each ESU will receive funding over the next three years of at least 95 percent of its funding level from the previous year.

The bill also:

- requires the State Board of Education to adjust ESU boundaries when the boundaries do not align with the boundaries of member school districts;
- creates the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council on July 1, 2008, and transfers the responsibilities, assets and liabilities of the Distance Education Council to the new coordinating council;
- requires ESU board members to be elected by equally populated districts beginning in 2008;
- permits up to \$200,000 of the School District Reorganization Fund to be used for aggregation routing equipment and network transport costs for Network Nebraska;
- modifies distance education financial incentives; and
- allows nonequalized school districts that have been receiving early childhood education grants to continue receiving that funding for the 2007-08 school year.

LB 603 was passed 42-0.

Community college funding

LB 342, introduced by Raikes, establishes a state aid funding formula for community colleges based on concepts similar to those used in the formula for state aid to K-12 schools.

Community colleges are funded through a combination of state aid, property tax revenues, tuition and other receipts.

The new formula attempts to equalize funding for community colleges statewide. The formula is based on the idea that a community college area's needs minus its resources will result in the amount of state aid it receives.

The bill establishes the manner in which a community college area's formula needs are calculated, taking into account foundation need, reimbursable education units, adjustments based on average spending per full-time equivalent student and a revenue remainder allowance. An area's formula resources will be based on local property tax revenues, tuition receipts, foundation aid and reimbursable education unit aid.

A common local effort property tax rate is set for the purpose of determining total aid and the property tax levy limit. The levy limit is set at 15 percent above the local effort rate used in the aid formula. An area's minimum levy will be 20 percent below the local effort rate.

LB 342 also makes adjustments in state higher education scholarship programs. The mission of a state-supported scholarship program intended for minority students is changed to provide scholarships for students from diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, rather than from specific racial groups. Also, the maximum award under a general state-supported scholarship program is increased from 25 percent to 50 percent of the tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident undergraduate student.

LB 342 was passed by a 41-6 vote.

Other bills

LB 21, introduced by Raikes, removed the number of early childhood education students from a cost growth factor used in calculating state aid to schools. The bill also delayed the 2007 deadline for state aid certification from Feb. 1 to Feb. 15 to allow for calculation changes in time for the 2007-08 school year. LB 21 passed on a 47-0 vote.

LB 73, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill, will provide full reimbursement for school breakfasts based on the use of the program during the school year two years prior. Lawmakers voted 48-0 to pass the bill.

LB 219, sponsored by Sen. Cap Dierks of Ewing, changes the freeholding process by requiring freeholding petitions to be submitted by July 15, 2007, and by June 1 each year thereafter. Petitions also will have to be approved by the school board of the district to which the land would be attached. Approved petitions will become effective the following Jan. 1. County officials will have until Nov. 1 each year to approve or reject freeholding petitions. LB 219 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 316, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, creates a task force to review the manner in which special education services are provided and financed in Nebraska. The task force will make recommendations for legislative and policy changes by the end of 2007. LB 316 passed 48-0.



Sen. Amanda McGill



General Affairs

Lawmakers considered several gaming and liquor laws this session.

The General Affairs Committee introduced a bill that changes laws relating to bingo, lotteries and raffles.

LB 638, in addition to making technical changes to the state's charitable gaming laws and allowing for expanded use of bingo locations, allows state Department of Revenue investigators to enforce laws on illegal gambling devices and authorizes bingo more than twice in one week at a certain location.

The bill includes provisions from **LB 637** and **LB 301**.

LB 637, also offered by the committee, increases the procurement threshold for competitive bidding on lottery contracts from \$15,000 to \$25,000. The \$25,000 amount will put the department in line with most other state agencies.

LB 301, sponsored by Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen, extends the current distribution of lottery proceeds until Jan. 1, 2009.

LB 638 passed 39-8.

With the passage of **LB 64**, lawmakers repealed unenforceable gaming statutes that were adopted by Initiative 419 in 2004.

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

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

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

Initiative 419 created new statutes to establish a tax and fee schedule for casinos. It proposed a state tax of 36 percent of the first \$15 million of gross gaming revenue and 20 percent of the gross gaming revenue exceeding \$15 million. It passed with 51 percent of the vote.

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

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

LB 64 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Liquor tax return changes also were adopted this session.

LB 578, introduced by St. Paul Sen. Vickie McDonald, allows amounts on liquor tax returns or reports to be rounded off to the nearest dollar when the administration of the tax might be more efficiently conducted.

The bill also contains technical changes to the law regarding repeat drunken driving offenders.

LB 578 was passed by a 40-0 vote.

A bill to raise salaries of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's members failed to advance from general file.

LB 404, sponsored by Janssen, would have raised the maximum salary for commissioners from \$12,500 to \$16,000. The bill failed on a 13-25 vote.

Lastly, the General Affairs Committee rejected a proposal to change the state song.



Sen. Vickie McDonald

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LB 345, sponsored by Kenesaw Sen. Carroll Burling, proposed replacing the state song “Beautiful Nebraska” with “I Love Nebraska,” by Ginger ten Bensel.

The current song, written by Jim Fras, was declared the state song in 1967 for Nebraska’s 100th anniversary.

LB 345 was killed on a 6-0 vote.

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

A wide range of topics relating to government, military and veterans affairs came before the Legislature this session. Issues included election procedures, petitions, open meeting laws and military leave.

Election law



Sen. DiAnna Schimek

The Legislature passed a bill to restrict the use of robocalls in political campaigns, but it was vetoed by the governor.

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

LB 198, introduced by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, would have required that robocalls made by an automatic dialer device identify, at the beginning of the message, the person on whose behalf the message is being transmitted.

Under the bill, making robocalls would have been limited to between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. at the location of the person receiving the message. Campaigns would have been limited to making two robocalls per residence per day.

LB 198 initially passed on a 31-7 vote before being vetoed by the governor.

Senators passed a bill intended to allow the counting of some ballots before polls close on Election Day.

LB 646, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John E. Nelson, allows counting boards to begin counting early ballots no earlier than 24 hours prior to the opening of the polls on Election Day.

It passed 48-0.

Senators also passed a bill that removes the responsibility of criminal prosecution from the Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

LB 464, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, grants criminal enforcement of the state’s accountability and disclosure laws to the attorney general with county attorneys having shared jurisdiction.

Under the bill, if the commission believes criminal prosecution is warranted, it will refer the matter to the attorney general. The bill passed on a 46-1 vote.



Sen. John E. Nelson

Petitions

In the area of petition requirements, several proposals were considered, but not all were passed.

Senators passed **LB 311** on a 31-0 vote. Introduced by Sen. Ray Aguilar of Grand



Sen. Ray Aguilar

Island, the bill changes provisions relating to petition signature verification to conform to the Nebraska Supreme Court case *Stenberg v. Moore*.

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

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

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

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

LR 8CA failed to advance on a 20-22 vote. The measure remains on general file.

Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek introduced two bills relating to petition procedures.

LB 39 would require circulators to be eligible to register to vote in Nebraska and would require that circulators be paid per hour rather than per signature.

Lawmakers advanced LB 39 by a vote of 31-11. The bill remains on select file.

LB 40, also sponsored by Schimek, would require the principal circulator of a petition to provide each circulator with an identification badge that would indicate the petition he or she is circulating.

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee voted 7-1 to indefinitely postpone the bill.

Open meetings law

Several bills relating to open meetings and public information were introduced this session.

LB 391, sponsored by Blair Sen. Mick Mines, deals with access to public records and meetings. The bill:

- allows public bodies to request specific subject matter before providing all public records created within a certain time frame;
- allows citizens to request access to public records relating to a specific subject matter;
- allows the public the right to speak at meetings of public bodies on agenda items as permitted by the person presiding; and
- requires that each public body have a form on which citizens may recommend subjects for discussion as possible agenda items at future meetings.

LB 391 remains on general file.

LB 199, introduced by Schimek, allows separate municipal utilities with autonomous control of providing electricity to participate in a municipal cooperative financing agency. Under the bill, these agencies are subject to the same open meetings requirements as other agencies.

LB 199 was passed on a 46-0 vote.

A bill requiring training courses on public records and open meetings for members of a public body, public officers and public employees failed to advance to select file.

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Sen. Pete Pirsch



Sen. Tom White

LB 622, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch, would allow the state attorney general's office to provide and approve the training offered by a governmental agency or other entity.

The bill failed on a 22-16 vote, falling three votes short of the number needed to advance.

Other bills

Families of deployed military personnel will be entitled to unpaid leave from work under a measure given final legislative approval by lawmakers.

LB 497, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Tom White, allows spouses and parents of military personnel deployed for 179 days or more the ability to take unpaid family military leave while the deployment is in effect.

For employers with between 15 and 50 employees, up to 15 days of unpaid family military leave will be allowed. For employers of more than 50 employees, up to 30 days of unpaid family military leave will be allowed.

Any employee who takes family military leave will be entitled to regain the position they held when the leave period began. An employer will not be able to discharge, fine or discriminate against any employee who takes unpaid family military leave. During the leave period, employees will be able to maintain their benefits at their own expense.

LB 497 was passed by a 48-0 vote.

LB 389, introduced by Aguilar, changes the definition of a finalist for a public job. Under the bill, a finalist will include any applicant who:

- is offered and accepts an interview by a public body or its agents and who reaches the final pool of applicants, numbering four or more, from which the applicant is to be selected;
- is an original applicant when the final pool of applicants numbers less than four; or
- is an original applicant when there are four or fewer original applicants.

LB 389 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

Lawmakers passed a bill regulating mixed martial arts, commonly known as ultimate fighting.

LB 471, sponsored by Chambers, authorizes the state athletic commissioner to regulate mixed martial arts. It was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 477, sponsored by Sen. John Wightman of Lexington, would have gradually reduced the percentage of public employee health insurance paid by the state from the current requirement of 79 percent to 75 percent by 2011.

The bill also would have reduced state aid to local political subdivisions – including cities, counties and school districts – that pay for health insurance benefits in excess of the percentage offered under the state employees' plan.

The committee voted 8-0 to indefinitely postpone LB 477.

LB 87, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, would have required that all state contracts for services be awarded to U.S. companies. The committee voted 8-0 to indefinitely postpone the bill.

LB 100, introduced by Sen. Philip Erdman of Bayard, would have allowed the state auditor to report state program performance issues to the Legislature at any time. The bill was indefinitely postponed by the committee on a 6-1 vote.



Health and Human Services

After agreeing that the bill is the first of more changes needed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's Health and Human Services System, lawmakers passed **LB 296**.

The bill reorganizes the current HHS system into a single department under a chief executive officer who oversees six separate divisions. The new department is divided by services for public health, Medicaid and long-term care, children and family services, behavioral health, developmental disabilities and veterans' homes.

Appointees to the CEO and six division director positions are made by the governor and require confirmation by the Legislature.

Kearney Sen. Joel Johnson, the bill's sponsor, called the bill the final step of a 10-year process to reorganize the HHS system. The previous structural change for the agency, made in 1996, merged five existing departments into three: the state Department of Health and Human Services, the state Department of HHS Finance and Support, and the state Department of HHS Regulation and Licensure.



Sen. Joel Johnson

Regulation

A proposal to ban smoking in public places statewide garnered much attention this session but stalled on final reading.

LB 395 would ban smoking in all places of employment and public places in Nebraska while allowing cities and counties to adopt an alternative to the ban.

Johnson asked that the bill be bracketed until 2008. He said he wanted to avoid a "patchwork" of different local ordinances throughout the state to prevent confusion and problems with enforcement.

As amended, LB 395 would allow the governing body of a city, village or county to adopt a less stringent or more stringent ordinance or resolution, but the public would have an opportunity to petition for its repeal. Governing bodies or the voters could place the issue on the ballot for voters' approval. Any ordinance or resolution could not be less stringent than the Clean Indoor Air Act now in force in Nebraska.

The bill would grandfather in the existing smoking ban in Omaha until 2009. Omaha's ban prohibits smoking in restaurants and only those bars that serve food and do not offer keno. Other Omaha bars are currently required to become nonsmoking by 2011, but LB 395 would move that date up to 2009.

The default statewide ban would allow the following exemptions:

- private residences, unless they are being used as child care facilities;
- guestrooms and suites that are rented and designated as smoking;
- retail stores selling only tobacco and related products; and
- areas used for research on the health effects of smoking.

Violators of the law would be charged with a Class V misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class IV misdemeanor for the second and subsequent offenses. A person charged with such a violation could voluntarily enroll, at his or her own expense, in a smoking cessation program approved by HHS. Upon successful completion of the program, the charge would be dismissed.

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With the passage of **LB 610**, the state adopted a new protocol for releasing sex offenders.

The bill, introduced by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, requires HHS to develop written policies or administrative regulations regarding the transfer and discharge of sex offenders. The bill also requires specific types of documentation to be kept in the offenders' medical records.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

LB 463 updates the licensing and credentialing of health care professionals. Introduced by Johnson, the bill recodifies the Uniform Licensing Law and adopts the Uniform Credentialing Act pertaining to all health care professions and occupations credentialled by HHS.

The bill clarifies the requirements necessary to obtain, renew or reinstate a license or voluntarily surrender a license. It also outlines behavior that will constitute grounds for disciplinary action and the processes for filing a complaint for violation of the law, including investigations, confidentiality and the process for imposing disciplinary action.

Lastly, LB 463 defines the types of disciplinary action that can be imposed when a violation is found.

The bill does not change existing requirements for obtaining a license; nor does it change the scope of practice for any regulated profession, occupation or entity. The bill passed 47-1 and will go into effect on Dec. 1, 2008.

A measure intended to set forth requirements for in-home personal care workers and services also passed.

Under **LB 236**, sponsored by Johnson, in-home personal service agencies can provide in-home services that do not entail medical or nursing judgment without being licensed as a home health agency, provided they have the appropriate background checks and training.

In-home personal care agencies also are exempt from medication aide regulations providing that their workers only offer reminders to take medications or assist clients in the delivery of non-therapeutic topical applications.

Provisions of three other bills were amended into LB 236:

LB 398, relating to the credentialing of optometrists;

LB 399, relating to the licensing of perfusionists; and

LB 426, sponsored by Louisville Sen. Dave Pankonin, relating to the registration of pharmacy technicians.

LB 236 passed on a 44-1 vote.

An autism pilot program was established this session by **LB 482**. The bill, introduced by Johnson, creates a program to provide intensive early intervention for autistic children. The bill requires HHS to apply for a Medicaid waiver or an amendment to an existing waiver for provision of autism treatment.

The program will be administered by the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. LB 482 passed by a 44-1 vote.

A bill relating to foster parents and children placed in foster care remains on select file.

LB 461, introduced by Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas, would state legislative intent regarding the role of foster parents within the child welfare system.

As amended, the bill would require HHS to establish and implement policies and procedures consistent with the Legislature's intent and provide each foster care licensee with a copy of those procedures.



Public assistance

Lawmakers also passed several pieces of legislation dealing with public assistance. One bill passed new welfare guidelines that update the Welfare Reform Act and the Aid to Dependent Children program.

Among other provisions, **LB 351**, introduced by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman, provides that cash assistance under the Welfare Reform Act may not exceed 60 months.

The bill also provides for monthly ongoing transitional payments for five months after a family becomes ineligible for ADC payments if the family income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

The payments are intended to meet the recipient family's ongoing basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, utilities, household goods, personal care items and general incidental expenses.

The bill brings Nebraska within the federal guidelines reauthorized by Congress in 2006.

The bill retains postsecondary education as an allowable work activity under the Welfare Reform Act. Postsecondary education was not included in the federal program.

LB 351 contains provisions of **LB 82**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki, which removes the family cap in the state's ADC program. Family cap policies exclude children from the calculation of the family's monthly cash grant if they are conceived while their mothers receive public assistance. The limitation provides that any child born into the recipient family after the first 10 months of participation in the program shall not increase the cash assistance payment.

Senators passed the bill 47-0.

Lawmakers passed a bill that implements Medicaid accounting changes with the intent of increasing federal funding.

LB 292, introduced by Sen. Tom Hansen of North Platte, permits county boards to transfer county public assistance funds to HHS to pay providers who serve Medicaid recipients or low-income uninsured persons and meet federal and state disproportionate share payment requirements.

The bill changes how reimbursements to intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation will be made. State law requires each facility to pay a tax based on its annual net revenue. The bill reduces the tax from 6 percent to 5.5 percent. The change makes the state law conform to a federal law that takes effect on Jan. 1, 2008.

It is estimated that LB 292 will result in an increase of \$4.1 million in federal funding.

The bill passed 48-0.

A bill introduced by Gretna Sen. Gail Kopplin that deals with the federal food stamp program remains on select file.

As amended by a Health and Human Services Committee amendment, **LB 171** would require HHS, within limits established by the Legislature, to apply for and utilize all appropriate food stamp options to maximize the number of Nebraska residents being served under the program.

The bill also would direct HHS to maximize federal funding under the program and to minimize the use of state funding. The department would be required to report annually to the Health and Human Services Committee on its efforts to implement the bill.



Sen. Arnie Stuthman

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The Health and Human Services Committee voted to indefinitely postpone **LBs 326, 518, 666 and 699**.

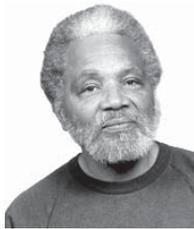
LB 326, introduced by Sen. Mike Flood of Norfolk, would have made some non-citizen residents ineligible for state public assistance programs.

LB 518, introduced by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, would have changed the eligibility provisions relating to the Kids Connection program.

LB 666, introduced by Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen, would have expedited and maximized medical assistance and other public assistance benefits for individuals with psychiatric disabilities who are released from incarceration.

LB 699, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, would have created the Nebraska Rx ACCESS Card Program, which would have extended savings gained under a preferred prescription drug list to uninsured Nebraskans who earn less than 300 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines.

Judiciary



Sen. Ernie Chambers



Sen. Brad Ashford

Several changes to civil, criminal and child welfare laws were approved this session.

Two attempts to modify the state's death penalty law were rejected by the Legislature. The first attempt, made by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers with **LB 476**, failed by one vote; the second attempt by a Judiciary Committee amendment to **LB 377** later failed by two votes.

LB 476, which would replace the death penalty with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, failed to advance 24-25. The bill remains on general file.

The committee amendment to LB 377 would have deemed the death penalty appropriate only when necessary to protect society against a person who is found to pose a present and substantial risk to the lives of others who could not be controlled reasonably and effectively by institutional security measures.

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

The committee amendment to LB 377 failed on a 23-25 vote.

LB 377, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford to increase the salaries of supreme court judges and other judges, passed 42-2.

Senators passed a bill dealing with political subdivisions' liability for accidents on public property.

LB 564, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, was introduced in response to a 2006 Nebraska Supreme Court decision, *Bronsen v. Dawes County*. In that case, the court overruled more than 25 years of precedent declaring that state law does not provide governmental entities with the same limited immunity afforded to private landowners who make their land available free of charge to the public for recreational purposes.

The bill specifically creates three exemptions to the liability of state or local government for claims relating to recreational activities for which no fee is charged:

- claims resulting from the inherent risk of the activity;
- claims arising out of a spot or localized defect of the premises unless the defect is



not corrected by the state or political subdivision within a reasonable time after actual or constructive notice of the defect; and

- claims arising out of the design of a skate park or bicycle motocross park that was constructed using generally recognized standards in existence at the time the facility was constructed.

The bill passed 48-0.

A bill requiring mediation to help divorcing parents negotiate child custody issues also passed.

LB 554, introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, directs parents to develop a parenting plan either on their own or through mediation. If the parents are unable to do so in a particular case, the court will create a parenting plan that is in the best interests of the child.

Parents involved in custody and parenting time cases are required to attend at least one session with a mediator. Cases involving allegations of domestic abuse or unresolved parental conflict will be referred to a specialized alternative dispute resolution process with mediators trained to deal with high-conflict cases.

LB 554 requires judges, attorneys and mediators involved in parenting cases to participate in training focused on recognizing abuse and unresolved parental conflict. Under the bill, mediation centers are required to provide services to those who can't afford them. The filing fee for a divorce is increased \$50 to cover the cost of the program. Those who cannot afford the fee can apply for a waiver.

The mandatory mediation law will go into effect July 1, 2010. The bill also makes changes to child support liens and makes the father of a child liable for the reasonable and necessary medical expenses associated with the pregnancy and birth of the child.

The bill includes amended provisions of **LB 682**, originally introduced by Lexington Sen. John Wightman, which will stop the accrual of child support payments for parents who are incarcerated for one year or more and who are up to date on their child support payments. Parents who are imprisoned for failure to pay child support will continue to accrue child support due while incarcerated.

LB 554 passed 46-0.

Lawmakers gave final approval to a measure that restricts employers' use of employees' Social Security numbers.

LB 674, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop, prohibits employers from:

- posting more than the last four digits of a Social Security number;
- requiring an employee to transmit more than the last four digits of his or her Social Security number over the Internet unless encrypted or over a secure connection;
- requiring the use of more than the last four digits of a Social Security number to access an Internet site; and
- using more than the last four digits of a Social Security number as an employee number.

Violations will be Class V misdemeanors, punishable by a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine.

The bill also allows a consumer, including a minor at the request of a parent, to place a security freeze on his or her file at a consumer reporting agency. The freeze will prevent the reporting agency from releasing a consumer's credit report to a third party without prior authorization from the consumer.

LB 674 was passed by a 44-0 vote.

Apologies from medical personnel may no longer be used as an admission of liability in court with the passage of **LB 373**.



Sen. Mike Flood



Sen. John Wightman



Sen. Steve Lathrop

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Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, the bill's sponsor, said doctors and nurses are discouraged from talking to patients and their families if something goes wrong with a medical treatment or surgery because their statements can be used against them in future litigation.

The bill passed 46-2.

Senators indefinitely postponed a bill that would have prohibited employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Under current law, employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status or national origin is prohibited. **LB 475**, sponsored by Chambers, would have added sexual orientation to the list.

The bill was indefinitely postponed on a 24-15 vote.

A bill dealing with child custody jurisdiction was one of several bills addressing child welfare this session.

Introduced by Schimek, **LB 341** allows a Nebraska court to assume child custody jurisdiction in an international custody dispute under certain conditions. The bill also adopts the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act, which provides mechanisms to help courts deter domestic and international abductions during custody disputes and divorce proceedings.

LB 341 passed on a 48-0 vote.

Lawmakers also passed a bill that deals with the participation of foster parents, preadoptive parents or relatives providing care for a child in a foster care court review hearing.

Under **LB 457**, sponsored by North Platte Sen. Tom Hansen, the Nebraska Supreme Court is required to design a caregiver information form to be sent to the foster parent, preadoptive parent, guardian or relative providing care for the child when they are given notice of a court review.

The form will allow the caregiver to report about the child's background, health, educational progress and needs. The judge will review the form and decide whether to interview the caregiver in the foster care review hearing.

Current law merely allows the court to ask questions of caregivers. LB 457 was passed by a 39-0 vote.

Lawmakers continued debate this session on a bill that would provide procedures for safely leaving a newborn in the permanent care of others.

LB 157, offered by Sen. Arnie Stuthman of Platte Center, would allow parents to abandon an infant child less than 72 hours old at a fire station or hospital.

The bill remains on general file.

Corrections bills this session dealt with work camps and the merging of parole and probation departments.

The role and mission of the work ethic camp in McCook is changed by **LB 83**, introduced by Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki. The bill allows the Parole Board to use the work ethic camp as a transitional program for incarcerated offenders prior to being released on parole.

LB 83 was passed by a 42-0 vote.

A study of a proposed merger of the functions of probation and parole also was approved. Currently, parole functions are administered by the state Department of Corrections, in the state's executive branch, while probation is administered by the judicial branch. Voters approved a measure on the November 2006 ballot that permits the Legislature to merge the offices responsible for probation and parole.

Introduced by Synowiecki, **LB 540** directs the Community Corrections Council to



Sen. Tom Hansen



Sen. John Synowiecki



Sen. Lowen Kruse

study the possibility of the merger and report to the speaker of the Legislature, the governor and the state Supreme Court by Dec. 31. The bill passed 49-0.

Several criminal justice bills introduced this session were intended to address drinking and driving.

LB 573, intended to curb minors' access to alcohol by increasing civil liability for those adults who provide it, passed 44-0.

Sponsored by Omaha Sen. Lowen Kruse, the bill provides that social hosts who allow minors to drink on their property, adults who procure alcohol for a minor and retailers who sell alcohol to a minor will be liable for injuries or other damages caused by the negligence of the intoxicated minor.

Retailers who act in good faith and rely on false identification that a reasonable and prudent person would believe is a valid ID will be protected from liability and will not be held liable for damages if the minor's intoxication did not contribute to their negligent conduct.

The bill establishes a two-year statute of limitations for claims and provides that defendants in an action are jointly and severably liable.

The bill also clarifies that minors may drink in the company of their parents and with their supervision.

Lawmakers voted 46-0 to pass **LB 424**, a bill introduced by York Sen. Greg Adams that changes statutes relating to intoxication.

Under current law, the offense of inhaling, breathing or drinking intoxicating substances similar to ethyl and methyl alcohol only applies to a person who would induce another to use such substances.

The bill allows county attorneys to prosecute the person who actually uses one of these substances in addition to the person who entices another to do so.

Senators passed a bill prohibiting certain types of communication via computer or an electronic communication device.

LB 142, sponsored by Friend, creates the new criminal offense of enticement by electronic communications device. The bill prohibits any individual 19 years of age or older from using an electronic communication device to transmit certain content to a child under 16 years of age or a law enforcement officer believed to be a child under 16 years of age. Prohibited content includes indecent, lewd, lascivious or obscene language, writing or sounds; visual depictions of sexually explicit activity; or offering or soliciting any indecent, lewd or lascivious act.

LB 142 passed on a 46-0 vote.

Polygraphing alleged rape victims before proceeding with an investigation is now prohibited by **LB 143**, introduced by St. Paul Sen. Vickie McDonald. The bill passed 45-0.

Lawmakers approved a measure to provide greater protections for homes from certain financial judgments.

LB 274, also introduced by McDonald, requires that liquefied petroleum gas vapor service systems be checked for leaks by a service technician following an interruption of service.

The bill passed 45-0.

LB 237, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, increases to \$60,000 the amount of exemption for a homestead from judgment liens and from execution or forced sale. The current exemption level is \$12,500.

The provision applies primarily when an individual has had a judgment against him



Sen. Mike Friend

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or her for certain unsecured debt, such as credit card debt or large hospital bills.

LB 237 passed 38-5.

A bill designed to increase the availability of organs for transplant remains on select file.

LB 246, sponsored by Kearney Sen. Joel Johnson, would provide regulations for county coroners in issues related to organ donation. As amended, the bill would specify procedures for cases under a coroner's jurisdiction in which a decedent's organs may contain evidence relating to their cause of death.

The bill would require coroners to complete a timely investigation to determine if organs contain such evidence, allowing the organs to be released for harvesting if they do not.

A bill that would prohibit the cloning of humans by somatic cell nuclear transfer throughout Nebraska remains in committee.

LB 700, sponsored by Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen, would additionally prohibit the delivering or receiving of any embryo or fetus produced via human cloning for the purpose of research. The bill would not prohibit the cloning of plants and animals, or cells other than human embryos.

Violation of the law would be a Class IV felony.

The Judiciary Committee indefinitely postponed a bill that would have changed the law passed last year that allows the carrying of concealed handguns. Because the law does not specifically restrict cities from independently prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns, some cities have taken action to restrict concealed carry locally.

LB 695, also introduced by Christensen, would have removed the ability of cities to make their own ordinances prohibiting concealed handguns and nullified any existing local ordinances, permits or regulations regarding the ownership, possession or transportation of firearms. The bill would not have affected the rights of private businesses to post signs prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons in their establishments.

LB 695 was indefinitely postponed on a 5-2 vote.

A proposal introduced as **LB 491** by Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms was amended into **LB 97** and passed by the Legislature 42-1. The bill adds colleges, universities and hospitals as additional locations where the carrying of concealed handguns is prohibited.

Nebraska's existing restrictions on the purchase of products containing pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine were updated by **LB 218**, sponsored by Kenesaw Sen. Carroll Burling.

Consumers were previously limited to purchasing no more than 1.44 grams per day of these specific drugs, which are common ingredients in cold remedies, because they are often used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, an illegal substance.

The bill allows individuals to purchase up to 3.6 grams of these products per day and up to 9 grams per month, consistent with federal regulations.

LB 218 passed by a 47-0 vote.



Sen. Carroll Burling



Legislature



Sen. Don Preister

Two proposed constitutional amendments regarding the Legislature – one forwarded to voters and one not – were considered by lawmakers in 2007.

Senators are sending voters a proposed constitutional amendment in three years relating to legislative salaries.

LR 1CA, introduced by Sen. Don Preister of Bellevue, asks voters to consider a constitutional amendment that would increase the annual salary for state senators from \$12,000 to \$22,000. The measure will go before the voters during the 2010 statewide primary election.

LR 1CA was referred to the voters by lawmakers on a 42-0 vote.

Senators rejected a proposal to revert to a two-house bicameral legislative system.

LR 3CA, introduced by Sen. Mike Friend of Omaha, would have amended several sections of the Nebraska Constitution to create a 31-member Senate and a 62-member House of Representatives to replace the existing 49-member unicameral body. LR 3CA was indefinitely postponed by the Executive Board on a 7-2 vote.

Natural Resources



Sen. Mark Christensen

Water issues topped legislators' natural resources concerns this session. However, issues relating to energy and public power, the environment and game and parks also were considered.

The Legislature passed a major water policy proposal intended to address water compact issues.

The proposal is outlined in **LB 701**, originally introduced by Imperial Sen. Mark Christensen.

Nebraska must comply with an interstate compact with Kansas and Colorado that allocates the water that flows through the Republican River basin. According to Christensen, Nebraska is approximately 136,000 acre feet of water short of compliance.

LB 701 attempts to address the issue in four ways: local funding, state funding, regulation and vegetation management.

The bill includes provisions that will:

- create a \$2 million vegetation removal program implemented by a task force along fully or over appropriated rivers, basins and sub basins to conserve water supplies;
- authorize natural resources districts in the Republican River basin to impose an additional 10-cent levy and a \$10 per acre occupation tax on irrigated lands;
- extend an existing additional levy authority of three cents per \$100 valuation in fully or over appropriated river basins through 2012;
- appropriate \$3 million to the state Department of Natural Resources to negotiate surface water rights in the Bostwick Irrigation District;
- create a Water Resources Cash Fund administered by the department to comply with interstate water compacts and conserve water in NRDs with over or fully appropriated river basins;
- transfer \$2.7 million annually from the state's general fund to the Water Resources

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Sen. Tom Carlson

Cash Fund through fiscal year 2018-19 with access granted to NRDs with a 40 percent match requirement;

- appropriate \$3 million in each of FY2007-08 and FY2008-09 to allow the department to expend the general fund transfers;
- require a transfer of unexpended funds from the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund to the water fund at the end of 2012;
- impose a three-fifths cent per bushel or hundredweight excise tax on corn or grain sorghum sold between 2012 and 2019 that would be deposited into the Water Resources Cash Fund;
- allow NRDs to impose an immediate temporary stay on the construction of any new water wells or the addition of irrigated acres for 180 days without prior notice or a public hearing; and
- expand the definition of a water well to include any excavation made for any initial purpose that is used for irrigation.

The bill includes provisions from **LB 458**, originally introduced by Sen. Tom Carlson of Holdrege, and **LB 295**, originally introduced by the Natural Resources Committee.

LB 701 was passed by a 43-0 vote.

Urban water concerns were also a priority for the Legislature this session.

Lawmakers passed a bill that expands a drinking water grant program to include communities of 10,000 or fewer.

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

LB 80 was passed on a 42-0 vote.

Senators also passed a bill that clarifies the distribution of Storm Water Management Plan Program funding.

LB 530, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Danielle Nantkes, clarifies that each county's share of the funding is to be based on its population after the subtraction of its city applicants.

LB 530 passed 48-0.

Lawmakers also considered several renewable energy proposals passing **LB 629**, sponsored by Sen. Cap Dierks of Ewing, intended to create new economic development opportunities through rural community-based energy development, also known as C-BED. The bill:

- allows a C-BED project developer to negotiate a power purchase agreement with an electric utility;
- allows a C-BED project to have an equity partner as long as no more than 67 percent of the power purchase payments flow to the non-qualified owner;
- prohibits the transfer of a C-BED project, except for an inherited interest, from a qualified owner to a non-qualified owner for the 10-year term of the power purchase agreement;
- prohibits the granting of net energy billing for a C-BED project that is operating under a power purchase agreement; and
- requires project approval by the state Power Review Board.

Electric utilities will be responsible for encouraging the aggregation of C-BED projects located in the same general geographical area and requiring owners to provide sufficient security to assure performance under the power purchase agreement.



Sen. Cap Dierks



Electric utilities that determine the need to construct new renewable generation facilities will be required to examine the feasibility of using C-BED projects to meet that need. C-BED developers will be required to provide property owners on whose property a wind turbine is located an opportunity to invest in projects.

Electric utilities will not be required to enter into a power purchase agreement with a C-BED project. Also, the bill limits a utility's power of eminent domain to acquire a C-BED project if the utility has a contract to purchase power from such a facility for a period of at least 10 years.

LB 629 was passed by a 49-0 vote.

Lawmakers passed a bill that exempts certain public power district contracts from sealed bidding requirements.

LB 636, sponsored by the Natural Resources Committee, adds exceptions to the current bidding requirements in an attempt to give public power districts, municipal cooperative finance entities or agencies involved in interlocal agreements additional options for acquiring equipment and supplemental labor.

The bill provides an exception for purchases from sheltered workshops and for contracts to procure equipment or supplemental labor from an electric utility or electric utility alliance when an engineer certifies that a sealed bid process is impractical or not in the public interest. An engineer's cost estimate will be required before a district can enter into a contract for certain materials, equipment and services.

As with other exceptions to the sealed bid requirements, a two-thirds vote of approval will be needed from the public power district board. The contract should be advertised in designated publications if the cost estimate exceeds \$100,000 so that prospective vendors can respond.

LB 636 passed on a 42-1 vote.

In the area of environmental concerns, lawmakers considered issues relating to ranch operations and Environmental Trust Board appointments.

Certain ranch operations will be given an extension to request an inspection of their animal feeding operations under a measure passed by lawmakers.

Legislation enacted in 1998 required livestock feeding operations to request inspections as part of the development of waste plans. Ranch operations were generally exempt.

In 2004, Nebraska adopted federal regulations that removed the exemption for ranching operations.

LB 677, introduced by Fullerton Sen. Annette Dubas, reauthorizes the exemption for previously exempt livestock operations. Those operations will have until Jan. 1, 2009, to request an inspection without incurring late fees. Late fees will apply for operations that fail to request an inspection by the deadline. The amount of the late fees is not changed by the bill.

LB 677 passed on a 43-0 vote.

A proposal that would change geographic areas from which members of the Environmental Trust Board are appointed remained on select file at the end of session.

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



Sen. Annette Dubas

100th Legislature Unicameral Update



Sen. Carol Hudkins

Agriculture departments and the secretary of the Game and Parks Commission.

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

Issues relating to game and parks also were debated by lawmakers this session.

LB 299, sponsored by Sen. Carol Hudkins of Malcolm, was introduced as a cleanup bill for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, but was amended to prohibit the trapping of wildlife in county road rights-of-way.

LB 299 passed 41-4.

Retirement Systems

Senators voted to make several adjustments in the retirement plans that serve state, county, State Patrol and school employees.

LB 328, introduced by the Retirement Systems Committee, provides for the immediate reenrollment of state and county employees who return to employment in the system within five years of terminating their employment. Previously, a 60-day waiting period was required before such an employee could reenroll in the plan. The bill also creates separate administrative expense funds for the various retirement plans.

LB 328 included provisions from two other bills.

LB 370, originally introduced by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, calls for a survey of retirement plans currently in place for law enforcement officers. A report will be issued to the Legislature's Retirement Systems Committee by Oct. 1.

LB 665, originally introduced by Sen. Russ Karpisek of Wilber, gives state and county employees who participate in the defined contribution retirement plan a second opportunity to choose a cash balance benefit option. Initially, the option was given to state and county plan members in 2002, at which time they were required to make a permanent choice of retirement plan options. The cash balance benefit option is designed to provide a more stable rate of return on contributions. Under the bill, employees will have from Nov. 1, 2007, to Jan. 1, 2008, to make their choice.

LB 328 was passed by a 48-0 vote.

LB 324, introduced by Speaker Mike Flood at the request of the governor, makes changes to the State Patrol retirement plan. The bill maintains both the existing employer contribution rate of 15 percent of pay and the current employee contribution rate of 13 percent of pay. Those contribution rates were scheduled for a reduction to 13 percent and 12 percent respectively.

The bill also establishes a deferred retirement option plan for members of the State Patrol plan. The deferred retirement option was originally offered as part of **LB 303**, a bill introduced by Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki.

LB 324 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 596, sponsored by Gretna Sen. Gail Kopplin, increases the monthly benefit for retired school personnel in the School Employees Retirement System to 85 percent of the purchasing power of the original annuity benefit.

The employee contribution rate will increase from 7.25 percent to 7.28 percent.



Sen. Russ Karpisek



Sen. Gail Kopplin



Because the employer contribution rate is set at 101 percent of the employee contribution rate, employer contributions will increase as well. In the Omaha Public Schools retirement system, the employee contribution rate will increase to 7.3 percent.

LB 596 was passed by a 48-0 vote.

Revenue

Tax cuts were among the items atop the Legislature's agenda in 2007. Lawmakers also made a number of other changes to various tax laws and programs.

Tax cuts



Sen. Ray Janssen

Senators passed a package of tax cuts totaling approximately \$425 million over the next two years.

LB 367, introduced by Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen, will result in a net tax cut of \$208.3 million in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$216.4 million in FY2008-09.

The bill includes changes to taxes on property, sales, estates and income.

LB 367 provides state funding for a property tax credit for all real property owners. The credits will flow to taxpayers based on valuation and will appear on each taxpayer's property tax statement. The property tax credits will equal \$105 million of property tax relief in FY2007-08 and \$115 million in FY2008-09.

The bill repeals the sales tax on construction labor. A new sales tax exemption for community-based wind energy projects is granted, the current tax credit for renewable energy projects increased and an existing one megawatt capacity requirement eliminated in order to make the credit available for more projects. The sales tax changes will result in reduced revenues of approximately \$6 million in FY2007-08 and \$9.1 million in FY2008-09.

The bill also terminates the state's estate tax, which will reduce revenues by approximately \$13.2 million in FY2007-08 and \$25 million in FY2008-09.

The bill addresses the "marriage penalty" by adjusting the brackets for married taxpayers filing jointly so they will be twice the amounts for single filers. Standard deductions for joint filers also are increased.

The earned income tax credit is increased to 10 percent of the federal credit. Finally, the bill eliminates a tax credit for businesses that provide employees with subsidized child care. The income tax changes will result in a net reduction of \$84 million in FY2007-08 and \$67.3 million in FY2008-09.

LB 367 was passed by a 46-2 vote.

Omaha convention center funding

Lawmakers passed a bill that addresses shortfalls in funding to pay back the cost of constructing Omaha's convention center.

In 1999, lawmakers passed a bill allowing local governments that construct convention center facilities to apply to the state for a return of sales tax proceeds generated by the presence of the convention center, also known as attributable revenue.

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According to Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, the sponsor of **LB 551**, the funding program has produced less than 35 percent of the anticipated “turnback” revenue being returned to the city of Omaha and other communities that built facilities through a similarly funded program. Omaha issued general obligation bonds for the construction of the Qwest Center through the turnback program.

LB 551 replaces the present formula with a simple division of those sales tax proceeds generated by the facility. Sales taxes collected by retailers doing business at the convention center, arena or hotel facility serving the complex will be certified to the state treasurer. Sixty percent of the funding will be used to help retire Omaha’s original convention center bond, 10 percent for showcasing historical aspects of areas within Omaha with high concentrations of poverty and 30 percent for use by cities other than Omaha.

When determining whether to provide state assistance, the state will consider the fiscal and economic capacity of the applicant to finance the local share of the project. The level of financial assistance any one project can receive is limited to \$75 million.

Under the bill, authorization for new projects will end in 2010.

LB 551 was passed by a 38-9 vote.

Other tax policy changes enacted

LB 304, sponsored by Papillion Sen. Tim Gay, reduces the age from 62 to 50 at which taxpayers may make tax deferred payments out of a long-term care savings account to pay the premiums of a long-term care insurance policy.

The bill also:

- allows qualified withdrawals at any age for long term care expenses that have been incurred; and
- allows taxpayers to have long-term care accounts for the benefit of any person for whom the owner of the account has an insurable interest.

LB 304 was passed by a 48-0 vote.

LB 305, sponsored by Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer, directs the sales tax from the leasing of motor vehicles to the Highway Trust Fund and Highway Allocation Fund in the same manner as sales taxes collected from the sale of motor vehicles. Previous law directed the sales tax revenues from leased vehicles to the state’s general fund. The bill applies to motor vehicle leases that are for a period of more than 31 days.

LB 305 was passed 40-1.

LB 334, sponsored by Sen. Cap Dierks of Ewing, merges the state Department of Property Assessment and Taxation into the state Department of Revenue. Under the bill, the position of Property Tax Administrator will be maintained as the administrative head of the Property Assessment Division within the Revenue Department.

The bill also contains provisions from three other bills.

LB 627, originally introduced by Dierks, defines trade fixtures as personal property, not real property, as is currently the case. Trade fixtures include machinery and equipment used directly in commercial, manufacturing or processing activities.

LB 484, originally introduced by Sen. Vickie McDonald of St. Paul, requires county treasurers collecting tax funds on behalf of fire districts and county agricultural societies to remit the tax proceeds to these local governments in the same manner as they provide tax proceeds to other types of local government.



Sen. Tim Gay



Sen. Gwen Howard

LB 519, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, requires each county assessor to conduct a systematic inspection and review of property in the county. The assessor is required to review and inspect all property in the county every six years. The purpose of the review is to establish uniform and proportionate valuations and to make sure that the property record accurately reflects the property.

LB 334 was passed 38-4.

LB 338, sponsored by Gay, increases the state income tax deduction for contributions to a Nebraska educational savings plan trust account, also commonly known as a "529 plan."

A 529 plan allows people to place money in an investment account for the purpose of generating interest and providing funding for their children's future college education.

The maximum deduction for those married taxpayers filing separately is increased from \$500 to \$2,500. The maximum deduction for all other participating taxpayers is increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The changes are effective beginning with the 2007 tax year.

LB 338 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 343, introduced by Sen. Chris Langemeier of Schuyler, provides an income tax credit equal to 30 percent of investment in a biodiesel fuel facility. The maximum credit allowed is \$250,000. The credit is limited to no more than half of the taxpayer's liability.

If the investment is withdrawn, the credit can be recaptured by the state. The entire investment must be expended at the facility for the plant, equipment, research and development, marketing or working capital.

To qualify, a facility must produce a type of biodiesel fuel known as B100. All processing must take place within the state and Nebraska individuals or organizations must own at least 51 percent of the investment.

The credit is available beginning with tax year 2007 and only for investments made prior to 2015. Eligible companies can claim the credit over a four-year period. No more than 10 percent of the credit can be claimed during the first two years, with the remainder divided between the last two years of the eligibility period. To qualify, facilities must be operating at 70 percent of their rated capacity during the first two years of eligibility.

The bill also allows individuals to exclude from taxable income those extraordinary dividends generated by stock of the taxpayer's employer. Extraordinary dividends are those that are greater than 20 percent of the stock's value at the time the dividend is taken.

LB 343 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 456, sponsored by Sen. Tom White of Omaha, will allow each shareholder of a financial institution organized as a subchapter S corporation to take an individual income tax credit equal to his or her share of the deposit tax paid by the corporation. The credit will be distributed among the shareholders as income of the corporation is distributed. Before taking the credit, the amount of the credit must be added back to adjusted gross income to avoid double counting the amount of premium tax paid.

A subchapter S corporation is legally organized as a corporation but taxed as a partnership.

The tax credit also will apply to partnerships, limited liability companies and estates



Sen. Chris Langemeier

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or trusts. The credit will be phased in. The credit is 50 percent of the deposit tax paid to be taken as a credit against income taxes for the 2007 tax year and 100 percent for 2009 and beyond.

LB 456 takes effect beginning with the 2007 tax year. The bill was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 502, sponsored by Blair Sen. Mick Mines, adjusts inheritance tax rates and exemptions.

Immediate family members who inherit will be taxed 1 percent of the inheritance, with the first \$40,000 being exempt. Remote family members who inherit will be taxed 13 percent of the inheritance with the first \$15,000 being exempt. All other inheritances will be taxed at 18 percent with the first \$10,000 being exempt.

Currently, delinquent taxpayers are assessed a 14 percent interest penalty for late payment. The bill adds an additional late penalty for delinquent inheritance tax payers of 5 percent monthly with a maximum additional penalty of 25 percent.

LB 502 takes effect beginning with the 2008 tax year. The bill was passed by a 42-1 vote.



Sen. Mick Mines

Other bills

LB 177, sponsored by Janssen, would make adjustments to a microenterprise tax credit program. As amended by a Revenue Committee amendment, the bill would:

- make the program available to farmers or ranchers only if the operator has a net worth of \$200,000 or less, or the farmer or rancher is involved in the processing or marketing of agricultural products or alternative crop production;
- include the employer's cost of health insurance as compensation for purposes of employment increases qualifying for benefits;
- exclude from qualifying compensation any amounts paid to an employee that is in excess of 150 percent of the state average weekly wage; and
- include increased expenditures for advertising, legal and professional services as investment for purposes of qualifying for benefits.

LB 177 is awaiting select file consideration.

LB 488, introduced by Cortland Sen. Norm Wallman, would offer tax credits for conservation easements. The bill remains on general file.

LB 106, sponsored by Sen. Pat Engel of South Sioux City, would have taxed chewing tobacco at a rate of \$1.05 per ounce. The bill was passed by a 30-12 vote. However, the bill was vetoed by the governor.

LB 32, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Danielle Nantkes, would have exempted college textbooks from sales tax. The bill was indefinitely postponed by the Revenue Committee on a 5-2 vote.

LB 3, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, and **LB 60**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, both would have created a "sales tax holiday" for certain purchases at the beginning of the school year. Both bills were indefinitely postponed by the Revenue Committee on 6-1 votes.

LB 514, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Tony Fulton, would have allowed a nonrefundable income tax credit for employers making contributions to their employees' long term care insurance plans. The credit would have been for 20 percent of the net contributions made by an employer during a taxable year. The credit could have been carried forward for three years. The Revenue Committee indefinitely postponed LB 514 on a 7-0 vote.



Sen. Norm Wallman



Sen. Pat Engel



Sen. Tony Fulton



Transportation and Telecommunications

Several transportation bills regarding licensing, regulation and traffic laws were considered this year.

Lawmakers voted to override the governor's veto of a bill placing additional restrictions on teenage drivers.



Sen. John Harms

Introduced by Scottsbluff Sen. John Harms, **LB 415** prohibits those with a provisional learner's permit or school permit from using interactive wireless communication devices when driving. The bill's provisions will be enforced as secondary offenses.

Examples of interactive wireless communication devices include cell phones, text messaging devices, digital assistants, audio or video players that send or receive messages and laptop computers.

The bill limits provisional permit drivers to having only one passenger under age 19 in the car who is not an immediate family member for the first six months of use.

LB 415 also extends the school permit's validity for three months to cover the gap between a person's 16th birthday and the time when a provisional license is issued. Currently, a school permit expires on an individual's 16th birthday.

Under the bill, a person must have a learner's permit for at least six months and have no moving traffic violations within the previous six months before they can obtain a provisional operator's license.

The bill initially passed on a 32-5 vote and the motion to override the veto passed 33-7.

A bill to create Gold Star specialty license plates also passed.

LB 570, sponsored by Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon, authorizes the state Department of Motor Vehicles to design the plates in consultation with the state Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Nebraska Military Department.

The plates will be available to applicants who are surviving relatives of a person who died while serving on active duty.

LB 570 passed 47-1.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee heard testimony this session on a bill dealing with the REAL ID Act.

Passed by Congress in 2005, the act requires certain state standards and procedures for issuing driver's licenses and identification cards in order for them to be accepted by the federal government as official identity documents.

LB 285, introduced by the committee, would authorize the state motor vehicles director to do whatever is necessary to comply with the section of the federal law relating to improved security for driver's licenses and personal identification cards.

The REAL ID Act is scheduled to go into effect on May 11, 2008.

The bill remains in committee.

Lawmakers addressed the act again when adopting **LR 28**, a resolution calling on Congress to repeal the REAL ID Act.

Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer, who introduced the resolution, said the REAL ID Act will require changes to the nation's 240 million existing driver's licenses and IDs and would alter the business practices of state motor vehicle agencies. The Nebraska DMV has estimated that implementing the REAL ID Act will cost the state \$26 million.

The resolution was adopted 37-0.



Sen. Deb Fischer

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A bill remains in committee that would create an alternative operator's license called a driving privilege card for residents who do not have a Social Security number.

Sponsored by Sen. Ray Aguilar of Grand Island, **LB 266** would allow residents without a Social Security number to legally operate a motor vehicle if they meet the same application and renewal criteria as other licenses such as the learner's permit and the provisional operator's permit.

The speed limit was increased to 65 miles per hour on all freeways that are part of the state highway system but not part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

LB 35, introduced by Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen, also clarifies that the 75 mph speed limit may only apply to the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

A bill that would remove helmet requirements for some motorcycle riders was advanced by the committee and remains on general file.

LB 253, introduced by Tekamah Sen. Kent Rogert, would no longer require certain motorcycle or moped operators who are 21 or older to wear a protective helmet if they have successfully completed a motorcycle safety course.

Currently, all motorcycle and moped operators are required to wear protective helmets on state highways.

A bill regulating the harvesting of hay along the sides of highways passed.

Introduced by Sen. Lavon Heidemann of Elk Creek, **LB 43** allows the state Department of Roads to issue permits to authorize and regulate the mowing and harvesting of hay on the right-of-way of state highways.

Under the bill, the owner or the owner's assignee of land abutting the right-of-way has priority to receive a permit to harvest until July 30 of each year. Applicants who are not owners of abutting land are permitted to harvest five miles of right-of-way per year.

Mowing and hay harvesting will be allowed on or after July 15 of every other year unless haying was completed the year prior due to drought or other declaration.

The bill passed on a 49-0 vote.

Senators voted 47-0 to pass a bill relating to interstate motor carriers.

LB 358, sponsored by Malcolm Sen. Carol Hudkins, authorizes the DMV to set a date for Nebraska to begin participation in the Unified Carrier Registration plan. Under federal law, the UCR will replace the Single State Insurance Registration System.

LB 358 passed 47-0.

A bill increasing motor vehicle dealer licensing fees also passed.

LB 681, introduced by Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen, increases the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board's discretionary license fee authority for all types of licenses it issues. The change affects dealers of motor vehicles, motorcycles, trailers, auto auctions and wrecker and salvage dealers.

LB 681 passed 43-2.

A proposal to redirect funding for local road projects was set aside this session and remains on general file.

LB 663, sponsored by Hudkins, would reallocate commercial motor vehicle registration fees to the Highway Allocation Fund. Those fees currently go to the Motor Vehicle Tax Fund, which is distributed to local government subdivisions.

New telecommunications laws received final approval this session.

The committee introduced **LB 661**, which makes a number of changes regarding



Sen. Dwite Pedersen



telecommunications.

Under the bill, providers of voice over Internet protocol services (VoIP) are required to collect and remit surcharges for landline 911 and telecommunications relay services.

A cap on the amount of money available from a fund to provide telecommunications relay equipment to the deaf is eliminated.

Whenever possible, wireless E-911 surcharges will be collected from the users of prepaid wireless services. The Public Service Commission will establish surcharges comparable to the surcharge assessed to other users of wireless services and will develop the methods for collection and remittance. The duty to remit the surcharge is the wireless carrier's responsibility.

Wireless carriers are required to pay audit costs and to take legal action to collect the enhanced wireless 911 and relay surcharges.

The membership of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board is changed by replacing one representative from the telecommunications industry with a member of the public.

LB 661 also includes provisions originally introduced by Fischer as **LB 560**.

All telecommunications providers who are not certified by the PSC are required to file limited contact information with the PSC and pay a one-time \$50 registration fee. New providers offering services after Aug. 1 will have to register before they can offer services. Existing providers will have to register by Jan. 1, 2008.

Telecommunications providers are required to provide the PSC with contact persons regarding the Nebraska Universal Service Fund, the telecommunications relay system, wireless E-911 and consumer complaints. Providers offering broadband services, other than landline telephone companies, are required to provide a contact person with managerial responsibility for Nebraska operations.

Finally, LB 661 includes provisions from **LB 660**, a bill introduced by the committee. Under the bill, VoIP providers are required to contribute to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund.

LB 661 was passed by a 48-0 vote.

Urban Affairs



Sen. Bill Avery

The Legislature considered several proposals relating to municipal finance this session.

A resolution was passed that proposes a constitutional amendment to allow investment flexibility for public endowments.

LR 6CA, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Bill Avery, asks voters to amend Article XI, Section 1 of the Nebraska Constitution, which currently limits the types of investments that can be made by city, village or school district endowments.

The proposal, if passed by the voters, would allow the Legislature to authorize the investment of public endowment funds by any city that can establish a city charter. Only cities having a population of 5,000 or greater are authorized by the state constitution to establish a charter.

LR 6CA passed 42-2.

A bill providing a new tool for cities and towns to use for economic development

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Sen. Greg Adams

and redevelopment also was approved by the Legislature.

Introduced by York Sen. Greg Adams, **LB 562** allows a developer to enter into an agreement with a city to develop property within an enhanced employment area defined by the city. An occupation tax may be imposed only on those businesses within the enhanced employment area.

Revenues generated by the occupation tax would be pledged to payments on revenue bonds issued by the city. The tax ends when the bonds are paid.

To qualify, the proposed development must meet employment and investment guidelines as follows:

- two new employees and \$125,000 of new investment in counties with a population of less than 15,000 inhabitants;
- five new employees and new investment of \$250,000 in counties with a population between 15,000 and 25,000;
- 10 new employees and new investment of \$500,000 in counties with a population between 25,000 and 50,000;
- 15 new employees and new investment of \$1 million in counties with a population between 50,000 and 100,000;
- 20 new employees and new investment of \$1.5 million in counties with a population between 100,000 and 200,000;
- 25 new employees and new investment of \$2 million in counties with a population between 200,000 and 400,000; or
- 30 new employees and new investment of \$3 million in counties with more than 400,000 inhabitants.

Additionally, any business occupying 130,000 sq. ft. or more of space and with annual gross sales of \$10 million or more will be required to offer an annual employer-provided health benefit of at least \$3,000 to all new employees working an average of at least 30 hours a week and who have been employed for at least six months.

LB 562 was passed 43-0.

Senators bracketed a measure proposing an amendment to the Nebraska Constitution regarding tax increment financing.

Introduced by Sen. Kent Rogert of Tekamah, **LR 2CA** would remove a requirement that property be considered substandard and blighted in order to be eligible for rehabilitation, acquisition or redevelopment using tax increment financing.

The proposal was passed by the Legislature last session and appeared as Amendment 6 on the November 2006 ballot, but was defeated by the voters.

The proposal was bracketed until the 2008 legislative session.

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

LR 5CA, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, would authorize the use of revenue bonds by any county, city or village to acquire, own, develop and lease property for use by nonprofit enterprises. The amendment would allow the issuing of revenue bonds to defray the cost of acquiring and developing or financing such property by construction, purchase or otherwise.

No taxes could be levied to pay for these bonds.

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



LR 5CA remains on general file.

Senators also bracketed a bill that would add two members to the Omaha City Council. The delay on **LB 405**, introduced by Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen, will allow for an interim study on the issue to be conducted.

The bill would require election commissioners in counties housing a city of the metropolitan class to divide the city into nine city council districts of compact and contiguous territory. Omaha is the state's only city of the metropolitan class.

Current law provides for seven city council members. If passed, the eighth and ninth council members would be appointed by a majority vote of the current council members within 90 days of the bill's effective date. Those two members would serve until their successors are elected in the general city election in May 2009.

The proposal was offered in response to the annexation of Elkhorn by Omaha. LB 405 remains on select file.

Finally, reuse of firefighting equipment is now allowed as a result of the passage of **LB 160**. The bill, introduced by Bellevue Sen. Abbie Cornett, allows smaller fire departments to use donated equipment from larger departments by providing an exemption from liability for donors of equipment.

LB 160 passed on a 45-0 vote.



Sen. Abbie Cornett

Project Citizen Training for Teachers

Project Citizen is an educational curriculum for students in fifth grade through high school that empowers young people to participate in their local and state government. Administered by the Nebraska Legislature, Project Citizen enables students to monitor and influence public policy while teaching them how to be responsible and active citizens.

The program is part of the Legislature's Warner Institute for Education in Democracy. A free training for teachers is being offered at the State Capitol Building Aug. 6. A grant through the Center for Civic Education provides a \$100 travel reimbursement for participating teachers and free textbooks and a teacher's guide will be provided.

Teachers will learn to help their students identify a public policy problem in their own community. Students can then research the problem, develop alternatives and propose a public policy solution. With this goal in mind, students will lobby their local or state authorities to adopt their proposed policy.

Students then present their projects at the state Project Citizen showcase at the Capitol Building in Lincoln. Travel reimbursements are provided to participating schools. The state champion team will submit its work to be judged among the top projects in the country at the national showcase.

The program was first used in 1995 and is now used by schools in every state. More than 8,300 teachers and 500,000 students have participated in Project Citizen.

To learn more about the Legislature's Project Citizen program, visit www.nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/pc. To register for the Aug. 6 training or participate in this fall's state showcase, contact Heidi Uhing at the Nebraska Legislature at (402) 471-2420 or huhing@leg.ne.gov.

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BILL STATUS TABLES: S = Signed by the Governor, P = Passed by the Legislature, V = Vetoed, VO = Veto Overridden, LV = Line-Item Vetoed, FR = Final Reading, SF = Select File, GF = General File, C = Held in Committee, IPP = Indefinitely Postponed, W = Withdrawn, R = Reported to Legislature, > = Amended into Bill #, + = Includes Bill #

BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB1	Executive Board	Revisor bill to delete unconstitutional language relating to picketing	S
LB2	Executive Board	Revisor bill to delete obsolete statutes relating to appropriations	S
LB3	Pahls	Provide a sales tax holiday for school-related purchases	IPP
LB4	Pahls	Provide income tax credits and adjustments relating to long-term care insurance	IPP
LB5	Pahls	Change provisions relating to the state's employee suggestion system	S
LB6	Pahls	Adopt the Nebraska Safe Haven Act	C
LB7	Preister	Change the rights of the public regarding agenda items under the Open Meetings Act	IPP
LB8	Preister	Increase penalty for accumulation of junk	S
LB9	Preister	Provide an income tax credit for energy conservation and renewable energy generation	C
LB10	Mines	Terminate estate and generation-skipping taxes	IPP (>367)
LB11	Mines	Change provisions relating to annexation by cities of the first class	S
LB12	Mines	Change the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act	S
LB12A	Mines	Appropriations bill	S
LB13	Mines	Provide for the creation and certification of joint entities under the Interlocal Cooperation Act	C
LB14	Mines	Provide for one license plate and one In Transit decal per vehicle	C
LB15	Mines	Include parks as a prohibited area for controlled substances	C
LB16	Mines	Change provisions related to airport hazards and airport zoning regulations	C
LB17	Mines	Change provisions relating to multiple office holding	GF
LB18	Mines	Change recall provisions	C
LB19	Mines	Authorize disposition of an abandoned mobile home as personal property	IPP
LB20	Mines	Change provisions related to public recreational access to water projects	C
LB21	Raikes	Change school finance provisions relating to the cost growth factor	S
LB22	Wightman	Change inheritance tax calculations	IPP
LB23	Wightman	Exclude a portion of capital gains from income tax	IPP
LB24	Pahls	Change provisions relating to a reciprocal certificate as a certified public accountant	S
LB25	Langemeier	Change rabies control provisions to include hybrid animals	S
LB26	Langemeier	Redefine real estate broker under the Nebraska Real Estate License Act	S
LB27	Adams	Authorize the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct certain audits	GF
LB28	Adams	Change provisions relating to conveyance of personal property by cities of the second class and villages	S
LB29	Friend	Provide for court orders to direct financially able parents to pay for costs of care for wards of the state	C
LB30	Hudkins	Provide for reorganization of certain Class I and Class VI school districts	IPP
LB31	Nantkes	Change minimum wage and training wage provisions	IPP (>265)
LB31A	Nantkes	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB32	Nantkes	Exempt college textbooks from sales tax	IPP
LB33	Fischer	Appropriate funds to fund the County Property Tax Relief Program	IPP (>321)
LB34	Schimek	Create the State-Tribal Relations Committee	S
LB35	Janssen	Set maximum speed limit for non-Interstate freeways	S
LB36	Hudkins	Change the number of county court judges	C
LB37	Hudkins	Change the number of district court judges	C
LB38	Hudkins	Change the number of separate juvenile court judges	C
LB39	Schimek	Provide restrictions relating to petition circulation and change campaign reporting provisions	SF
LB40	Schimek	Require an initiative and referendum petition circulator to wear an identification badge	IPP
LB41	Hudkins	Change motor fuel tax rates and allocation of the revenue	IPP
LB42	Hudkins	Change distribution of the cigarette tax	C
LB43	Heidemann	Provide for mowing and hay-harvesting permits for right-of-ways of highways	S
LB44	Gay	Change provisions relating to precinct lists of registered voters and sign-in registers	S
LB45	Gay	Change provisions relating to district court fees	C
LB46	Hudkins	Require payments by grape producers	IPP (>441)
LB47	Hudkins	Create the offense of interference with child visitation	C
LB48	Dierks	Exempt certified registered nurse anesthetists from certain radiation-use qualifications	C
LB49	Hudkins	Adopt the Mercury Vaccine and Drug Act	IPP
LB50	Hudkins	Prohibit the state from seeking reimbursement from employees for use of vacation leave	IPP
LB51	Hudkins	Include all cities and villages under the Nebraska Industrial Development Corporation Act	C
LB52	Howard	Create a task force to examine the prescription and administration of certain drugs to children who are wards of the state	IPP
LB53	Howard	Prohibit smoking in certain foster care homes	GF
LB54	Howard	Provide qualifications for certain child protection and safety workers	IPP
LB55	Howard	Change provisions governing funding of home visitation, child, and parenting programs	C (>321)
LB56	Howard	Appropriate funds for alcohol-related birth defects prevention programs	C
LB57	Preister	Provide for fair share representation contributions for certain labor representation by labor organizations	GF
LB58	Harms	Increase the probationary period of community college staff	C
LB59	Engel	Require education of motor vehicle dealers, agents, and salespersons as prescribed	C
LB60	Avery	Provide a sales tax holiday for school-related purchases	IPP



BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB61	Avery	Prohibit certain gifts and contributions to candidates for or members of the Public Service Commission	IPP
LB62	Langemeier	Authorize insurance producers to charge incidental fees	C
LB63	Schimek	Change insurance coverage provisions relating to childhood immunizations	S
LB64	Schimek	Eliminate a gaming fee and tax adopted by initiative	S
LB65	Stuthman	Change the statute of repose for the Nebraska Hospital - Medical Liability Act	C
LB66	Stuthman	Require school districts to develop driver safety courses	IPP
LB67	Stuthman	Permit service of summons of proposed jurors by first-class mail	S
LB68	Hudkins	Create the Office of Guardian ad Litem Services	C
LB69	Hudkins	Change the Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act	S
LB70	Fischer	Permit operation of ATV's within municipalities by municipal employees	IPP
LB71	Fischer	Appropriate funds for a child advocacy center	C (>321)
LB72	Fischer	Prohibit beginning a school year before Labor Day	IPP
LB73	McGill	Change school breakfast reimbursement provisions	S
LB73A	McGill	Appropriations bill	S
LB74	Erdman	Change the Nebraska Pure Food Act	S
LB75	Hudkins	Provide powers and duties to the juvenile court regarding the placement and custody of juveniles	C
LB76	Hudkins	Change provisions governing physical and legal custody arrangements of a minor child	C
LB77	Nantkes	Change workers' compensation disability compensation provisions	C (>588)
LB78	Nantkes	Change amounts recoverable under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act	C
LB79	Natural Resources	Change duties of the Department of Environmental Quality	S
LB80	Natural Resources	Authorize additional assistance for projects under the Safe Drinking Water Act	S
LB80A	Louden	Appropriations bill	S
LB81	Schimek	Create the offense of school trespass and prohibit certain activities of registered sex offenders	IPP
LB82	Synowiecki	Change Welfare Reform Act provisions relating to family size	GF (>351)
LB82A	Synowiecki	Appropriations bill	GF
LB83	Synowiecki	Provide for Board of Parole recommendations relating to incarceration work camps	S
LB84	Howard	Regulate traffic approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle	IPP
LB85	Howard	Create the Nebraska Health Insurance Policy Coalition	IPP
LB86	Howard	Change provisions of the Health Care Facility Licensure Act covering applicants for licensure	IPP
LB87	Howard	Require that all state service contracts be awarded and performed in the United States	IPP
LB88	Business and Labor	Provide for payment of claims against the state	S
LB89	Business and Labor	Disapprove certain claims against the state	C
LB90	Howard	Change the earned income disregard in the Welfare Reform Act	IPP
LB91	Cornett	Change boundary provisions relating to learning communities	IPP
LB92	Cornett	Change provisions relating to foreign national minors	GF
LB93	Cornett	Authorize a new firefighter license plate and fund emergency training	C
LB94	Cornett	Authorize municipalities to receive certain sales and use tax information	S
LB95	Flood	Clarify reference to expense reimbursement for the Professional Practices Commission	SF
LB96	Flood	Redefine a term under the Nebraska Probation Administration Act	C
LB97	Flood	Change provisions relating to the Concealed Handgun Permit Act	S (+491)
LB98	Flood	Eliminate references to a fund that terminated	SF
LB99	Wightman	Change provisions relating to the appointment of receivers by the district court	S
LB100	Erdman	Provide duties to the Auditor of Public Accounts	IPP
LB101	Erdman	Clarify that only one parent need sign the statement regarding private schools that elect not to meet accreditation or approval	IPP
LB102	Erdman	Provide for notice of appointment of a personal representative under the Nebraska Probate Code	IPP
LB103	Erdman	Authorize release of patient information and change provisions relating to regional trauma advisory boards	IPP (>185)
LB104	Erdman	Change age of majority from nineteen to eighteen	C
LB105	Louden	Appropriate funds for the Nebraska Forest Service	C (>321)
LB106	Engel	Change the tax on certain tobacco products	V
LB107	Pedersen	Create a deputy public counsel for institutions and facilities operated by the Department of Health and Human Services	GF
LB107A	Pedersen	Appropriations bill	GF
LB108	Agriculture	Change provisions relating to fence disputes	S
LB109	Agriculture	Appropriate funds to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska with respect to crop insurance	C (>321)
LB110	Erdman	Adopt the Bovine Tuberculosis Act	S
LB111	Erdman	Change provisions relating to milk	S
LB112	Erdman	Provide for the judicial emancipation of minors	GF

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BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB113	Pahls	Prohibit branch banking by industrial loan companies	GF
LB114	Pahls	Change the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code	IPP (>124)
LB115	Pahls	Redefine automobile liability policy	S
LB116	Pahls	Change provisions relating to priority of purchase-money security interests	GF
LB117	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change provisions relating to insurance	S (+119, 120, 121)
LB118	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act	C
LB119	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change the Insurers Investment Act	IPP (>117)
LB120	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Rename and change the applicability of the Nebraska Senior Protection in Annuity Transactions Act	IPP (>117)
LB121	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Adopt the Captive Insurers Act	IPP (>117)
LB122	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change provisions relating to banking and finance	IPP (>124)
LB123	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Adopt the Nebraska Foreclosure Protection Act and change provisions relating to deceptive trade practices	GF
LB124	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change provisions relating to banking and finance	S (+114, 122, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 149, 156, 189, 346)
LB125	Pahls	Change provisions relating to community development investments	IPP (>124)
LB126	Pahls	Provide for regulation of trust company names	IPP (>124)
LB127	Pahls	Change provisions relating to loan brokerage agreements	IPP (>124)
LB128	Pahls	Change the Nebraska Installment Sales Act	IPP (>124)
LB129	Pahls	Change the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act	IPP (>124)
LB130	Pahls	Provide for a licensee relocation fee under the Nebraska Installment Loan Act	IPP (>124)
LB131	Raikes	Provides for the University Research and Development Corridor Master Plan	C
LB132	Nantkes	Provide for setting aside a legal separation decree	S
LB133	Schimek	Provide for the transfer of development rights as prescribed	C
LB134	Schimek	Require insurance coverage of colorectal cancer screenings	IPP (>247)
LB135	Fulton	Provide for confidentiality of certain public entity records	IPP
LB136	Flood	Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act	S
LB137	Flood	Change provisions relating to inheritance tax liens	C
LB138	Flood	Provide penalties and change other provisions relating to sex offenders	C
LB139	Flood	Change reimbursement provisions under the Special Education Act	IPP
LB140	Flood	Provide copies of complaints filed with the Department of Environmental Quality	C
LB141	Flood	Change provisions relating to burglary	C
LB142	Friend	Create the offense of enticement by electronic communication device	S
LB143	McDonald	Prohibit government officials from requiring a polygraph examination of a victim of a sex offense	S
LB144	McDonald	Adopt the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act	S
LB145	McDonald	Require annual notices to property tax homestead exemption claimants	S
LB146	McDonald	Change the administrative fee for income withholding for child support	W
LB147	McDonald	Change penalty provisions for vehicle loads	S
LB148	Heidemann	Provide an exception to weight and load limits for trucks	S
LB149	Gay	Change provisions relating to the unauthorized use of the word bank	IPP (>124)
LB150	Adams	Change provisions relating to certificate fees paid to the State Department of Education	S
LB151	Gay	Provide a statute of limitations for certificate of deposit obligations as prescribed	GF
LB152	Pankonin	Change insurer reporting requirements regarding professional liability claims	S
LB153	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to legal actions over school districts in annexed territory	IPP
LB154	Burling	Eliminate certain exemptions from jury service	IPP
LB155	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to tax liens on personal property and collection of certain taxes	IPP
LB156	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to bank boards, investments, and premiums	IPP (>124)
LB157	Stuthman	Provide for leaving an infant with a firefighter or hospital staff member	GF
LB158	Heidemann	Exempt depreciable repair or replacement parts for agricultural equipment from sales tax	W



BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB159	Heidemann	Exempt repair or replacement parts for agricultural equipment from sales tax	C
LB160	Cornett	Change fire and rescue department provisions relating to clothing, equipment, and donations	S
LB161	Natural Resources	Raise the range for permissible application fees for certification as wastewater treatment operators	S
LB162	Fischer	Provide for an electronic lien system for certificates of title	SF
LB162A	Fischer	Appropriations bill	SF
LB163	Fischer	Require certification of payment of sales tax to obtain a certificate of title for an all-terrain vehicle	C
LB164	Fischer	Change provisions of the Relocation Assistance Act	C
LB165	Fischer	Eliminate authorization to participate in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact	IPP
LB166	Revenue	Change provisions relating to property taxation and assessment	S
LB167	Revenue	Change property tax provisions relating to appeals, equalization, and assessor certification	S
LB168	Revenue	Change property and motor vehicle tax protest and appeal procedures	IPP
LB169	Cornett	Exclude military retirement benefits from income taxation	C
LB170	Kopplin	Change the tax levy authority of educational service units	IPP
LB171	Kopplin	Require Department of Health and Human Services to apply for food stamp options and waivers	SF
LB171A	Kopplin	Appropriations bill	SF
LB172	Kopplin	Provide for the adoption of ordinances and resolutions by counties	IPP
LB173	Engel	Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions	IPP
LB174	Janssen	Provide duties for and prohibit certain actions by issuers of credit and debit cards	C
LB175	Cornett	Require employer to provide employee a reason for termination	C
LB176	Cornett	Redefine police animal for certain crimes	C
LB177	Janssen	Change the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act	SF
LB178	Janssen	Create the Nebraska Women, Infants, and Children Program Advisory Board	IPP
LB179	Lathrop	Require electronic recording of custodial interrogations	GF
LB180	Kruse	Provide a penalty with respect to keg identification numbers	C (>573)
LB181	Kruse	Eliminate a fee and tax on gaming activity adopted by initiative	IPP
LB182	Kruse	Change grant provisions under the public transportation assistance program	C
LB183	Carlson	Exclude military retirement benefits from income taxation	IPP
LB184	Carlson	Change hunting and fishing permit provisions for military personnel and veterans	C
LB185	Health and Human Services	Change provisions relating to health and human services	S (+103, 385)
LB186	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to the credentialing of real property appraisers	S
LB187	Mines	Prohibit certain interlocal agreements	C
LB188	Mines	Eliminate a notice requirement relating to motor vehicle service contracts	S
LB189	Mines	Change the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code	IPP (>124)
LB190	Mines	Provide for consumers to put a security freeze on their credit reports	IPP (>674)
LB191	Mines	Change provisions relating to directors of certain corporations	S
LB192	Harms	Adopt the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act and eliminate the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act	S
LB193	Howard	Provide for a special authorization for teachers not addressed by an existing endorsement	C
LB194	Pahls	Change disciplinary provisions of the Uniform Licensing Law	C
LB195	Preister	Repeal the authorization for the Nebraska State Quarter	FR
LB196	Schimek	Permit the Adjutant General to designate certain vehicles as military emergency vehicles	GF
LB197	Schimek	Change the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act	C
LB198	Schimek	Change requirements for campaign messages	V
LB199	Schimek	Changes municipal cooperative financing and open meetings provisions	S
LB200	Burling	Change the definition of tractor for purposes of tractor testing	C
LB201	Fischer	Change the penalty for false information relating to motor vehicle registration	C
LB202	Louden	Change the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act	GF
LB203	Gay	Provide an informal conference process for disciplinary action regarding health care facilities	S
LB204	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to the Contractor Registration Act	SF
LB204A	Synowiecki	Appropriations bill	SF
LB205	Howard	Require schools to adopt a bullying policy	GF
LB206	Friend	Change provisions regarding the city treasurer and the county treasurer serving as ex officio city treasurer in cities of the metropolitan class	S
LB207	Friend	Provide a power for the board of directors of a metropolitan utilities district	S
LB208	Aguilar	Change bond requirements for certain public building projects	S
LB209	Business and Labor	Create and eliminate safety inspection funds relating to elevators and conveyances	GF (>265)
LB210	Business and Labor	Change membership of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board	GF
LB211	Business and Labor	Change payment provisions for members of the Commission of Industrial Relations	S
LB211A	Cornett	Appropriations bill	S

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BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB212	Rogert	Authorize counties to enact ordinances as prescribed	IPP
LB213	Ashford	Change provisions relating to preserving testimony	S
LB214	Ashford	Change acting county attorney compensation, provide for county judge interchange, and eliminate an obsolete procedure	S
LB215	Ashford	Change provisions relating to life imprisonment	C
LB216	Ashford	Change provisions relating to violence on a service dog	C
LB217	Ashford	Change provisions relating to unlawful acts involving drug substances	C
LB218	Burling	Change provisions relating to the acquisition of certain drug products	S
LB219	Dierks	Change requirements for freeholder petitions	S
LB220	Dierks	Provide for medical liens for chiropractors	C
LB221	Lathrop	Change legal procedure complaint and petition provisions	S
LB222	McGill	Provide workers' compensation benefits for permanent disfigurement or scarring	C
LB223	Revenue	Change tax laws	S
LB224	Kopplin	Impose a moratorium on new water wells as prescribed	W
LB225	Friend	Provide for acknowledgment of satisfaction of judgment and unsworn certification	C
LB226	Cornett	Change provisions relating to boiler inspections	S
LB227	Cornett	Change provisions governing certain offenses relating to animals	S
LB228	Synowiecki	Repeals statutes limiting liability of owners or operators of motor vehicles and aircraft for damages to guests or invitees	C
LB229	Wallman	Appropriate funds for developmental disability aid	C
LB230	Raikes	Change provisions relating to resident students for purposes of certain reorganizations	IPP
LB231	Raikes	Change provisions relating to the Early Childhood Training Center	S
LB232	Dubas	Change the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act	S
LB233	Pirsch	Provide a residency requirement for certain members of public building commissions	S
LB234	Dierks	Provide for reorganization of certain school districts as prescribed	IPP
LB235	Nantkes	Provide business incentives for film and music production	GF
LB235A	Nantkes	Appropriations bill	GF
LB236	Johnson	Provide for and change regulation of perfusionists, optometrists, pharmacy technicians, and in-home personal service providers	S (+398, 399, 426)
LB236A	Johnson	Appropriations bill	S
LB237	Pahls	Change the homestead exemption amount for judgments and execution	S
LB238	Fischer	Create the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska Community Colleges	IPP
LB239	Fischer	Update references to federal law in certain state motor vehicle statutes	S
LB240	Langemeier	Provide an income tax credit for certain capital gains	IPP
LB241	Hudkins	Require the state to pay teachers' salaries as prescribed	IPP
LB242	Flood	Change provisions relating to assault by a confined person and create an offense of assault on an officer using bodily fluids	C
LB243	Flood	Change provisions relating to jurors	C
LB244	Flood	Change provisions relating to transportation of patients in ambulances	C
LB245	Johnson	Change provisions relating to fluoridation of drinking water	GF
LB245A	Johnson	Appropriations bill	GF
LB246	Johnson	Provide requirements for coroners relating to the procurement of anatomical gifts and provide for criminal immunity	SF
LB247	Johnson	Change provisions relating to drugs, adoption, certain credentialed health professionals, child care, and health benefit coverage	S (+134, 369, 417, 427, 478, 479)
LB247A	Johnson	Appropriations bill	S
LB248	Nantkes	Provide for road improvement district elections to be conducted by mail	S
LB249	Heidemann	Change Cash Reserve Fund provisions	C (>323)
LB250	Synowiecki	Create a religious exemption from mandatory infant screening tests	IPP
LB251	Synowiecki	Eliminate a restriction on adding alcohol to beer	C
LB252	Avery	Change land surveyor application and registration fees	S
LB253	Rogert	Adopt the Motorcycle Safety and Training Act and change motorcycle helmet provisions	GF
LB253A	Rogert	Appropriations bill	GF
LB254	Aguilar	Change child passenger restraint system and occupant protection system provisions	C
LB255	Rogert	Change the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act	S (+255)
LB256	Aguilar	Change administrative provisions relating to state government	S
LB257	Lathrop	Adopt the Public Guardianship Act	C
LB258	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to minors' violations under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act	C
LB259	Friend	Change provisions relating to service of process for garnishment	C
LB260	Kruse	Change provisions relating to implied consent violations	IPP (>578)
LB261	Kruse	Eliminate provisions relating to religious uses of alcoholic liquor and minors' activities at permanent place of residence	C
LB262	Kruse	Change automobile insurance requirements	C
LB263	Hudkins	Change permit provisions under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act	S



BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB264	Hudkins	Adopt the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act and provide for an income tax credit	IPP
LB265	Business and Labor	Change labor laws	S (+31, 209, 432, 543)
LB266	Aguilar	Provide for driving privilege cards	C
LB267	McGill	Authorize participation in the child care subsidy program and the provision of certain subsidies	IPP
LB268	McGill	Change election provisions for county board members	C
LB269	Burling	Change provisions relating to county and museum board organization	GF
LB270	Johnson	Exclude certain rural health loan repayments from income for income tax purposes	IPP
LB271	Friend	Change fringe benefit provisions under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act	IPP
LB272	Kopplin	Provide for issuance of bonds by certain natural resources districts and a levy on taxable property	IPP
LB273	Kopplin	Change the definition of tractor for purposes of tractor testing	C
LB274	McDonald	Require a warning label on liquefied petroleum gas tanks and provide a limitation on liability	S
LB275	Kruse	Change a fund transfer and appropriate funds for biomedical research	C (>321, 322)
LB276	Schimek	Rename the Department of Roads	C
LB277	Mines	Change provisions relating to a metropolitan transportation improvement program in lieu of a Department of Roads plan	S
LB278	Stuthman	Change permitted uses of county sales tax revenue	IPP
LB279	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to driver training schools	C
LB280	Stuthman	Provide for jurisdiction over custody proceedings of juveniles as prescribed	GF
LB280A	Stuthman	Appropriations bill	GF
LB281	Stuthman	Appropriate funds for federally qualified community health centers	C
LB282	Stuthman	Terminate estate and generation-skipping taxes	IPP (>367)
LB283	Stuthman	Provide for biennial renewal of medication aide registrations	S
LB283A	Stuthman	Appropriations bill	S
LB284	Karpisek	Require election recounts to be done manually	IPP
LB285	Transportation and Telecom.	Authorize compliance with the driver's license provisions of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005	C
LB286	Transportation and Telecom.	Change the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act and the Motor Vehicle Registration Act	S (+287, 421)
LB287	Transportation and Telecom.	Change vehicle titling and registration provisions	C (>286)
LB288	Louden	Provide for operation of all-terrain vehicles on highways as prescribed	C
LB289	Louden	Change procedure relating to elections to exceed the tax levy limit	S
LB290	Pirsch	Change judicial nominating commission provisions	S
LB291	Hansen	Change the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board membership	SF
LB292	Hansen	Authorize transfers of funds for medical assistance payments and change a tax rate for intermediate care facilities	S
LB292A	Hansen	Appropriations bill	S
LB293	Pedersen	Redefine public safety official with respect to infectious disease exposure	C
LB294	Mines	Change a standard of review for appeals to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission	IPP
LB295	Natural Resources	Change provisions relating to irrigation and regulation of water and water wells	SF (+314, 701)
LB296	Johnson	Reorganize the Health and Human Services System	S
LB297	Pedersen	Eliminate a requirement relating to a telecommunications surcharge	IPP
LB298	Burling	Change the number of signatures required on nominating petitions	S
LB299	Hudkins	Change provisions relating to the Game Law	S
LB300	Howard	Create the State Work Incentive Program	C
LB301	Janssen	Extend the current distribution of state lottery proceeds until 2013	IPP (>638)
LB302	Friend	Change provisions relating to buildings, structures, and outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices	C
LB303	Synowiecki	Adopt a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) retirement program for the Nebraska State Patrol	IPP (>324)
LB303A	Synowiecki	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB304	Gay	Change qualifications for tax credits relating to long-term care insurance	S
LB305	Fischer	Change distribution of certain sales tax revenue	S
LB305A	Fischer	Appropriations bill	S
LB306	Stuthman	Provide for the protection of social security numbers in support orders	C
LB307	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to operation of all-terrain vehicles	S
LB308	Stuthman	Adopt the Automated Medication System Act	C
LB309	Heidemann	Change provisions relating to handicapped or disabled parking permits	IPP
LB310	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to early voting	C
LB311	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to petition signature verification	S
LB312	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to resignations, vacancy appointments, and recall elections	GF
LB313	Natural Resources	Amend the Livestock Waste Management Act with respect to certain engineering requirements	S

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BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB314	Louden	Redefine water well for purposes of registration	IPP (>295)
LB315	Janssen	Update references to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986	S
LB316	Friend	Create the Special Education Services Task Force	S
LB316A	Friend	Appropriations bill	S
LB317	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Provide for deficit appropriations	S
LB318	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for salaries of members of the Legislature	S
LB319	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for salaries of constitutional officers	S
LB320	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for capital construction	S
LB321	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for state government expenses	LV (+33, 55, 71, 105, 109, 275)
LB322	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to certain funds and provide for transfers of funds and extend an excise tax	S (>701, +275)
LB323	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Provide for transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund	S (+249)
LB324	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to state patrol retirement system contributions	S (+303)
LB324A	Synowiecki	Appropriations bill	S
LB325	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Repeal business child care income tax credits	IPP (>367)
LB326	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Change eligibility provisions for certain types of public assistance	IPP
LB327	Speaker Flood, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to child care reimbursement rates	C
LB328	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Change state and county retirement provisions and adopt the Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Survey Act	S (+370, 665)
LB328A	Synowiecki	Appropriations bill	S
LB329	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Change qualifications of the director of the Public Employees Retirement Board	C
LB330	Schimek	Change the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act	C
LB331	Janssen	Eliminate the estate tax and sales tax on construction services and change income tax calculations	IPP (>367)
LB332	Janssen	Change procedures for appeals to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission	IPP
LB333	Johnson	Change the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act	S
LB334	Dierks	Provide for merger of Department of Property Assessment and Taxation and Department of Revenue and change property tax provisions	S (+484, 519, 627)
LB335	Kruse	Change provisions relating to civil protective custody	GF
LB336	Kruse	Change penalties for violation of certain liquor laws relating to minors	C
LB337	Kruse	Provide for confiscation of identification of minors attempting to purchase alcohol	C
LB338	Gay	Change income tax deductions for the Nebraska educational savings plan trust	S
LB339	Business and Labor	Change provisions relating to claims against the state	S
LB340	Wightman	Authorize a local option income tax for school capital construction purposes	IPP
LB341	Schimek	Change Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act provisions and adopt the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act	S
LB342	Raikes	Adopt the Community College Foundation and Equalization Aid Act and change postsecondary education scholarship provisions	S (+375)
LB342A	Raikes	Appropriations bill	S
LB343	Langemeier	Provide an income tax credit for investments in biodiesel facilities	S (+496)
LB343A	Langemeier	Appropriations bill	S
LB344	Burling	Change the termination date of the Tax Policy Reform Commission	GF
LB345	Burling	Change the state song	IPP
LB346	Pahls	Change provisions relating to farm product security interests	IPP (>124)
LB347	Mines	Change provisions relating to the giving of bonds by city or village officials	S
LB348	Burling	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the discontinuance of township organization	C
LB349	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to motor vehicles and trailers	S
LB350	Stuthman	Authorize a city or village to adopt an ordinance covering use of certain insurance proceeds	IPP



BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB351	Stuthman	Change and provide for transitional public assistance payments	S (+82)
LB351A	Stuthman	Appropriations bill	S
LB352	Langemeier	Adopt the Nebraska Shooting Range Protection Act	GF
LB353	Legislative Performance Audit	Change the Quality Education Accountability Act	IPP
LB354	Cornett	Exclude military retirement benefits from income tax	IPP
LB355	Cornett	Change provisions relating to taxation of air carriers	IPP
LB356	Cornett	Change provisions relating to greenbelted agricultural land	IPP
LB357	Flood	Provide for community schools, operating councils, elementary grants, and attendance centers	IPP
LB358	Hudkins	Change and eliminate provisions relating to motor carriers	S
LB359	Pankonin	Change use of certain sales tax proceeds	IPP
LB360	Pedersen	Change limitations on the issuance of Purple Heart license plates	C
LB361	Raikes	Prohibit public funds' use for dues or membership fees as prescribed	C
LB362	Raikes	Change budget limitations and require audits of joint entities	IPP
LB363	Ashford	Adopt the Legal Education for Public Service Loan Repayment Act	C
LB364	Flood	Change apportionment of inheritance tax revenue	S
LB365	Synowiecki	Change Judges Retirement Act provisions relating to early retirement	C
LB366	Janssen	Provide state funding for community colleges, change valuation of agricultural land, and create a homestead exemption	IPP
LB367	Janssen	Change and eliminate estate tax, property tax, sales and use tax, and income tax provisions	S (+10, 282, 325, 331, 444, 648, 683)
LB367A	Janssen	Appropriations bill	S
LB368	Erdman	Adopt the Nebraska Limited Cooperative Association Act	S
LB368A	Erdman	Appropriations bill	S
LB369	Erdman	Redefine mental health practice for licensure of mental health practitioners	IPP (>247)
LB370	Erdman	Adopt the Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Survey Act	IPP (>328)
LB370A	Erdman	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB371	Erdman	Adopt the Nebraska Peace Officer Retirement Act	C
LB372	Erdman	Adopt the Law Enforcement Officer Retirement Act	C
LB373	Schimek	Provide for inadmissibility of apologies regarding medical care as evidence	S
LB374	Johnson	Change repayment provisions for rural health education loans	S
LB375	Raikes	Rename and change the Minority Scholarship Program Act	IPP (>342)
LB376	Ashford	Change felony complaint procedures	C
LB377	Ashford	Reallocate county, district, and separate juvenile court judgeships and change salary provisions of judges	S (+659)
LB377A	Ashford	Appropriations bill	S
LB378	Pahls	Change the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act	C
LB379	Pahls	Change certain corporate reporting, notice, and filing provisions and eliminate references to professional limited liability companies	GF
LB380	Pahls	Change a license application requirement under the Mortgage Bankers Registration and Licensing Act	GF
LB381	Pahls	Eliminate oral requests for information regarding farm product liens	IPP
LB382	Pahls	Change provisions relating to notaries public	S
LB383	Pahls	Change filing requirements involving the address of a partnership's agent	GF
LB384	Wightman	Prohibit certain actions by judgment creditors	C
LB385	Johnson	Change provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	IPP (>185)
LB386	Langemeier	Adopt the Nebraska Security Instrument Satisfaction Act	GF
LB387	Langemeier	Require separate plumbing and water metering for new construction as prescribed	C
LB388	Aguilar	Change duties and membership of the Economic Development Commission and the Department of Economic Development	S
LB389	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to public records	S
LB390	Aguilar	Require certain rules and regulations related to underground storage tanks and tank operators	S
LB391	Mines	Change provisions relating to public records and meetings	GF
LB392	Mines	Change provisions relating to municipal counties	C
LB393	Mines	Redefine award and eligible student for purposes of the Nebraska Scholarship Act	IPP
LB394	Burling	Change provisions relating to nomination for office	C
LB395	Johnson	Adopt a new Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act	FR
LB395A	Johnson	Appropriations bill	FR
LB396	Johnson	Increase the range of fees imposed by the State Board of Landscape Architects	S
LB396A	Johnson	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB397	Johnson	Adopt the In-home Personal Care Services Act	IPP
LB398	Johnson	Change provisions relating to credentialing optometrists	IPP (>236)
LB399	Johnson	Adopt the Perfusion Practice Act	IPP (>236)
LB400	Johnson	Require an audit of medicaid drug rebate payments	GF

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BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB400A	Johnson	Appropriations bill	GF
LB401	Schimek	Provide for notations on drivers' licenses and state identification cards regarding advance medical directives	C
LB402	Schimek	Adopt the Redistricting Act	GF
LB403	Schimek	Change distribution and allocation of certain sales tax revenue and road funds	IPP
LB404	Janssen	Change Nebraska Liquor Control Commission members' salaries	GF
LB404A	Janssen	Appropriations bill	GF
LB405	Pedersen	Provide for additional city council members for cities of the metropolitan class	SF
LB406	Pedersen	Provide for presumptive parole release dates	C
LB407	Pedersen	Change driving under the influence penalty provisions with respect to ignition interlock devices	C
LB408	Preister	Change provisions relating to certain public contracts for services	C
LB409	Preister	Change tax levy authority of community colleges	IPP
LB410	Howard	Change child welfare caseload provisions	IPP
LB411	Howard	Require standards for training for certain new health and human services employees	IPP
LB412	McGill	Provide duties for the Nebraska Power Review Board relating to renewable energy	IPP
LB413	Flood	Change provisions governing children born out of wedlock and the offense of violation of custody	C
LB414	Flood	Provide for transfer of funds for substance abuse services	W
LB415	Harms	Change provisions relating to provisional operator's permits and other operator's licenses and permits	VO
LB415A	Harms	Appropriations bill	VO
LB416	Karpisek	Exempt government retirement benefits from income tax	IPP
LB417	Nantkes	Include invasive pneumococcal disease as a childhood immunization requirement	IPP (>247)
LB417A	Nantkes	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB418	Erdman	Change Game and Parks Commission membership provisions	IPP
LB419	Erdman	Authorize issuance of Nebraska Agriculture specialty and personalized message license plates	C
LB420	Erdman	Change cigarette tax distribution and create funds	GF
LB421	Erdman	Permit issuance of multiple Purple Heart specialty plates	C (>286)
LB422	Erdman	Change membership of the Nebraska Brand Committee	S
LB423	Burling	Change sales and use tax collection fees	IPP
LB424	Adams	Prohibit the breathing, inhaling, or drinking of certain compounds	S
LB425	Pankonin	Create the Nebraska Operational Assistance Act	S
LB425A	Pankonin	Appropriations bill	S
LB426	Pankonin	Adopt the Pharmacy Technician Act	IPP (>236)
LB426A	Pankonin	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB427	Johnson	Change authorized procedures for dental hygienists	IPP (>247)
LB428	Synowiecki	Adopt the Peace Officer Employer - Employee Relations Act	GF
LB429	Synowiecki	Exempt certain purchases by museums from sales and use tax	IPP
LB430	Langemeier	Change property tax levies	IPP
LB431	Friend	Provide an income tax credit for certain educational expenses	IPP
LB432	Friend	Change the Act Prohibiting Unjust Discrimination in Employment Because of Age	GF (>265)
LB433	Friend	Change provisions relating to selection and obligations of presidential electors	C
LB434	Avery	Change late filing fees under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	S
LB435	Raikes	Provide for a study relating to the Nebraska State Fairgrounds	S
LB436	Raikes	Change income tax calculations, rates, and schedules and eliminate certain itemized deductions and taxes	IPP
LB437	Cornett	Change provisions relating to issuance of specialty and personalized license plates	C
LB438	McDonald	Appropriate funds to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska	C
LB439	Raikes	Create the Highway Finance Task Force	C
LB440	Preister	Change and eliminate provisions relating to learning communities	IPP
LB441	McDonald	Change liquor shipping license fee distribution and provide an excise tax on grapes	S (+46)
LB441A	McDonald	Appropriations bill	S
LB442	Stuthman	Redefine animal life for sales tax purposes	IPP
LB443	Stuthman	Authorize transportation development districts and authorize a local sales tax	IPP
LB444	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to the renewable energy tax credit	IPP (>367)
LB445	Stuthman	Provide qualifications and certification requirements for certain persons under the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Act	S
LB446	Stuthman	Require Department of Roads to let contracts for the construction of a Platte River bridge and for highway improvements	C
LB447	Stuthman	Require the Department of Roads to conduct a feasibility study for a Platte River bridge	C
LB448	Ashford	Change limitation of action provisions under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act	C
LB449	Ashford	Change provisions on how judicial records are proved	S
LB450	Ashford	Provide immunity for employer disclosure of certain employee information	C
LB451	Nantkes	Change provisions relating to release of patient information by a pharmacist	IPP
LB452	Burling	Appropriate funds for drug abuse prevention and education programs	C
LB453	White	Provide an income tax credit for property taxes	IPP



BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB454	White	Change homestead exemption provisions	C
LB455	White	Allow school districts to exceed applicable allowable growth rate for increased energy or insurance costs	IPP
LB456	White	Provide an income tax credit for franchise taxes paid by certain financial institutions	S
LB457	Hansen	Require a caregiver information form for foster care proceedings	S
LB458	Carlson	Require vegetation management in certain streams	IPP (>701)
LB459	Gay	Allow an income tax deduction for interest on education loans	IPP
LB460	Lathrop	Change provisions relating to presidential primary elections and political parties	C
LB461	Dubas	Provide for policies and procedures relating to foster care	SF
LB462	Dubas	Change workers' compensation provisions covering disability payments during vocational rehabilitation	IPP
LB463	Johnson	Adopt the Uniform Credentialing Act	S
LB464	Chambers	Change enforcement provisions relating to the Campaign Finance Limitation Act and Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act	S
LB465	Chambers	Change provisions relating to jailhouse informants	GF
LB466	Chambers	Provide for private party In Transit stickers	IPP
LB467	Chambers	Grant the Ombudsman authority with respect to county jails	GF
LB467A	Chambers	Appropriations bill	GF
LB468	Chambers	Provide duties to the Nebraska Investment Council regarding Sudan-related investments	W
LB469	Chambers	Change funding restrictions under the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act	SF
LB470	Chambers	Change provisions relating to dissemination of records of arrest	S
LB470A	Chambers	Appropriations bill	S
LB471	Chambers	Authorize regulation of mixed martial arts by the State Athletic Commissioner	S
LB472	Chambers	Change statutory references to members of the Commission of Industrial Relations	S
LB473	Chambers	Change provisions relating to learning communities and Class V school district elections	IPP
LB474	Chambers	Provide for certain misconduct by school teachers, school nurses, and police officers to be a public record	GF
LB475	Chambers	Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation or marital status	IPP
LB475A	Chambers	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB476	Chambers	Change penalty from death to life imprisonment without possibility of parole and provide for restitution	GF
LB477	Wightman	Change contribution levels for state and political subdivision employee health plans	IPP
LB478	Johnson	Change provisions relating to adoption procedures	IPP (>247)
LB479	Johnson	Change provisions relating to audiologists and speech-language pathologists	IPP (>247)
LB480	Johnson	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act	GF
LB481	Johnson	Change criminal background check and examination requirements under the Uniform Licensing Law	S
LB482	Johnson	Adopt the Autism Treatment Program Act	S (+483)
LB482A	Johnson	Appropriations bill	S
LB483	Johnson	Appropriate funds from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for biomedical and autism research	C (>482)
LB484	McDonald	Change provisions relating to payment of tax proceeds to certain political subdivisions	IPP (>334)
LB485	Louden	Change tax levy provisions relating to fire protection districts	W
LB486	McGill	Adopt the Local Community Rail Security and Employee Education Act	IPP
LB487	Wallman	Authorize an income tax for support of schools	IPP
LB488	Wallman	Authorize an income tax credit for perpetual conservation easement donations	GF
LB489	Harms	Change provisions relating to and require buses to have occupant protection systems	IPP
LB490	Harms	Repeal the Seamless Delivery System Pilot Project	C
LB491	Harms	Change provisions relating to concealed handguns	IPP (>97)
LB492	Harms	Adopt the Education Facilities State Aid Act and create the Education Facilities Review Board	C
LB493	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to the Water Policy Task Force	C
LB494	White	Change the sales and use tax exemption on manufacturing machinery and equipment	C
LB495	White	Prohibit employers from requiring use of compensated leave as prescribed	GF
LB496	White	Provide an income tax adjustment for extraordinary dividends	IPP (>343)
LB497	White	Adopt the Family Military Leave Act	S
LB498	White	Adopt the Business Partnership in Rural Education Program Act	C
LB499	White	Change contributions for school retirement	GF
LB500	White	Change provisions relating to disqualifications for unemployment benefits	GF
LB501	Mines	Provide for cigarette tax collection by direct sellers	C
LB502	Mines	Change inheritance tax provisions	S
LB503	Mines	Change and provide requirements for vacancies on natural resource district boards of directors	IPP
LB504	Mines	Prohibit hunting through the Internet	S
LB505	Mines	Change provisions of the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act	IPP (>255)
LB506	Friend	Provide an alternative method of reimbursement for special education and related services	IPP
LB507	Burling	Change provisions relating to ethanol production incentive tax credits	IPP
LB508	Pahls	Change provisions of the Judges Retirement Act and the School Employees Retirement Act	S
LB509	Avery	Create the Scholarship Trust Fund	IPP
LB510	Avery	Create a homestead exemption and the Scholarship Trust Fund	IPP
LB511	Avery	Change valuation of agricultural land and create a homestead exemption	IPP

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BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB512	Fulton	Provide income tax credits	IPP
LB513	Fulton	Provide billing requirements for anatomic pathology services	C
LB514	Fulton	Provide an income tax credit for employer contributions to employee long-term care insurance	IPP
LB515	Stuthman	Change county planning commission provisions relating to livestock operations	IPP
LB516	Agriculture	Authorize a study with respect to corporate farming and agricultural production in Nebraska	S
LB516A	Erdman	Appropriations bill	S
LB517	Erdman	Provide for the consolidation of one or more cities of the first class	IPP
LB518	Howard	Change provisions relating to the eligibility of children under the Medical Assistance Act	IPP
LB519	Howard	Require a review of property valuations	IPP (>334)
LB520	Howard	Create the Early Childhood Education Legislative Study Group	IPP
LB521	Howard	Add classifications of students to be reported in the fall school district membership reports	C
LB522	Aguilar	Change civil procedure costs and attorney's fees	C
LB523	Aguilar	Adopt the Quality Home Care Act	IPP
LB524	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to school districts in annexed territory	IPP
LB525	Aguilar	Modify provisions relating to liability involved in vehicular pursuits	C
LB526	Aguilar	Change civil procedure plaintiff's costs	C
LB527	Aguilar	Provide registration fees for political committees and allow waiver of interest on late filing fees and penalties	S
LB528	Aguilar	Change provisions relating to elections	C (>646)
LB529	Nantkes	Create a mentor teacher supplemental compensation pilot project	IPP
LB530	Nantkes	Change Storm Water Management Plan Program provisions	S
LB531	Nantkes	Provide tax credits for employers providing health insurance	IPP
LB532	Nantkes	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Police Standards Council	C
LB533	Heidemann	Remove a requirement of consent and waiver of physical appearance for audiovisual court appearances	C
LB534	Schimek	Change provisions relating to urban storm water drainage	C
LB535	Schimek	Create the juvenile legal services division of the Commission on Public Advocacy and eliminate a council	C
LB536	Schimek	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support	C
LB537	Schimek	Authorize the collection and dissemination of motor fuel tax on land held in trust for Indian tribes	S
LB538	Schimek	Change authorized functions for dental hygienists	IPP
LB539	Rogert	Change ballot status provisions for presidential and vice-presidential candidates	C
LB540	Synowiecki	Adopt the Probation and Parole Services Study Act	S
LB540A	Synowiecki	Appropriations bill	S
LB541	Synowiecki	Provide a duty for the Community Corrections Council	C
LB542	Synowiecki	Create the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force	S
LB543	Synowiecki	Change and eliminate conveyance safety provisions	GF (>265)
LB544	Synowiecki	Eliminate prohibition on retail beer licensees accepting credit from a beer manufacturer or wholesaler	C
LB545	Synowiecki	Appropriate funds to carry out the Nebraska Prostitution Intervention and Treatment Act	C
LB546	Synowiecki	Provide for parimutuel wagering on historic horseraces	C
LB547	Kopplin	Adopt the Nebraska Student Advantage Act	IPP
LB548	Synowiecki	Appropriate funds relating to behavioral health services	C
LB549	Synowiecki	Provide for microdistilleries	S
LB549A	Synowiecki	Appropriations bill	S
LB550	Johnson	Provide for sale of prescription drugs to animal owners	C
LB551	Flood	Change provisions relating to financing for convention center, sports arena, and hotel facilities	S
LB551A	Flood	Appropriations bill	S
LB552	Flood	Increase the salaries of Supreme Court judges	C
LB553	Flood	Impound an operator's license as prescribed with respect to bail and eliminate certain administrative license revocation procedures	C
LB554	Flood	Adopt a new Parenting Act	S (+682)
LB554A	Flood	Appropriations bill	S
LB555	Ashford	Change provisions relating to home- and community-based services	IPP
LB556	Ashford	Change Juvenile Code provisions relating to counsel and guardian ad litem	C
LB557	Ashford	Create the Tutoring and Summer School Fund and provide an income tax credit	W
LB558	Ashford	Add housing pattern information to the integration plan for a learning community	IPP
LB559	Ashford	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support	C
LB560	Fischer	Provide for regulation of communications providers	IPP (>661)
LB561	Fischer	Change provisions relating to removal of disabled or immobilized vehicles	S
LB562	Adams	Change provisions relating to the Community Development Law	S
LB563	Adams	Change provisions relating to learners with high ability	IPP
LB564	Friend	Change provisions relating to tort claims with respect to recreational liability	S
LB565	Avery	Adopt the Entertainment and Tourism Development Act	IPP
LB566	Louden	Adopt the Public Recreational Liability Act	C
LB567	Louden	Change the Recreational Liability Act	C



BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB568	Natural Resources	Extend a scrap tire grant program and provide for followup surveys for litter reduction and recycling	S
LB569	Louden	Change tax levy authority relating to hospital districts	IPP
LB570	Louden	Provide for Gold Star Family license plates	S
LB570A	Louden	Appropriations bill	IPP
LB571	Kruse	Provide for adoption by two adult persons jointly	C
LB572	Kruse	Provide for the inclusion of certain library employees under the Nebraska State Insurance Program	C
LB573	Kruse	Adopt the Minor Alcoholic Liquor Liability Act and change provisions relating to keg identification numbers and minors in possession of alcoholic liquor	S (+180)
LB574	Kruse	Appropriate funds for capitol parking	C
LB575	Kruse	Exempt assisted-living facilities from sales and use taxes	GF
LB576	Kruse	Provide for rate increases for behavioral health services providers	C
LB577	Kruse	Provide for reimbursement for generic prescriptions	IPP
LB578	McDonald	Change alcohol excise tax provisions, prohibited interests in alcoholic liquor wholesalers and business premises, and penalties for driving under the influence	S (+260)
LB579	Louden	Allow alternative energy production through customer-generators	C
LB580	Preister	Change provisions relating to tobacco product manufacturers	S
LB581	Preister	Adopt the Energy Conservation and Self-Reliance Act	C
LB582	Preister	Create the Nebraska Educational Trust and change the distribution of certain sales tax proceeds	IPP
LB583	Preister	Adopt the Electronic Recycling System Act	C
LB584	Preister	Adopt the Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity Act	C
LB585	Preister	Change provisions relating to the dispensing of cigarettes or other tobacco products	C
LB586	Cornett	Change medical lien provisions	GF
LB587	Cornett	Eliminate limitations on appropriations for county jail reimbursement assistance	C
LB588	Business and Labor	Change provisions relating to the workers' compensation hospital fee schedule, payment of providers, and disability compensation	S (+77)
LB588A	Cornett	Appropriations bill	S
LB589	Cornett	Change provisions relating to motorcycle operator's licenses	C
LB590	Cornett	Change provisions relating to educational service unit reorganization	IPP
LB591	Cornett	Provide for a change in zoning regulations for cities of the first class	IPP
LB592	Cornett	Change provisions relating to sanitary and improvement districts	IPP
LB593	Louden	Amend the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act to eliminate an insurance provision	C
LB594	Kopplin	Limit the granting of water well permits as prescribed	IPP
LB595	Kopplin	Create the Task Force on School Funding for Economic Growth	C
LB596	Kopplin	Change benefit and contribution provisions for school retirement systems	S
LB597	Kopplin	Change provisions relating to zoning and jurisdiction designations for cities of the first class	GF
LB598	Karpisek	Provide for Shriners license plates	C
LB599	Aguilar	Permit the filing of voluntary acknowledgement of parentage in cases of gestational surrogacy	C
LB600	Raikes	Provide for educational service unit boundary changes	IPP (>603)
LB601	Raikes	Create the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council	IPP (>603)
LB602	Raikes	Establish election districts for educational service unit boards	IPP (>603)
LB603	Raikes	Change provisions relating to educational service units and early childhood education grants	S (+600, 601, 602, 656, 657)
LB603A	Education	Appropriations bill	S
LB604	Raikes	Change educational service units' taxing authority	IPP
LB605	Raikes	Change tax levy and distribution provisions relating to educational service units	C
LB606	Ashford	Provide for court referral to mediation or other alternative dispute resolution	C
LB607	Ashford	Provide a requirement for full-time fire personnel in certain cities of the first class	IPP
LB608	Raikes	Change the sales tax rate	IPP
LB609	Carlson	Adopt the Nebraska Recruitment Promotion Act	GF
LB609A	Carlson	Appropriations bill	GF
LB610	Legislative Performance Audit	Provide documentation and recordkeeping requirements for the Department of Health and Human Services regarding sex offenders	S
LB611	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Change Nebraska State Patrol retirement contribution and payment provisions	C
LB612	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Redefine compensation for school employees retirement systems	C
LB613	Nebraska Retirement Systems	Change deposit provisions of school employees retirement systems	C
LB614	Raikes	Change adjusted valuation provisions under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	C

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BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB615	Raikes	Provide for a system of tracking student achievement	IPP
LB616	Pedersen	Eliminate a provision relating to regional behavioral health authorities	IPP
LB617	Pedersen	Change provisions relating to children's behavioral health	IPP
LB618	Pirsch	Authorize State Treasurer to collect certain bad debt fees electronically	C
LB619	Pirsch	Change provisions relating to bad debt charges by the State Treasurer	GF
LB620	Pirsch	Change provisions relating to child support collection, bad debts, and the State Disbursement Unit	GF
LB621	Pirsch	Change provisions relating to points and fines for speeding	GF
LB622	Pirsch	Require training courses in public records and the Open Meetings Act for all members of a public body, public officers, and public employees	GF
LB623	Pirsch	Change provisions relating to speedy trial	GF
LB624	Pirsch	Change provisions relating to operating a motor vehicle to avoid arrest	C
LB625	Engel	Prohibit civil actions based upon weight gain	C
LB626	Dierks	Create a production incentive for biodiesel fuel	C
LB627	Dierks	Redefine real property and tangible personal property for purposes of taxation	IPP (>334)
LB628	Dierks	Change budget provisions and levy limitations for cities, villages, and counties	IPP
LB629	Dierks	Adopt the Rural Community-Based Energy Development Act	S
LB629A	Dierks	Appropriations bill	S
LB630	Dierks	Change provisions relating to freeholder petitions	IPP
LB631	Dierks	Prohibit interchange of anti-epileptic drugs	IPP
LB632	Dierks	Change provisions relating to the national uniform system of animal identification	GF
LB633	Dierks	Change the Competitive Livestock Markets Act	C
LB634	Dierks	Adopt the Feedlot Statutory Trust Act	C
LB635	Dierks	Provide for financial compensation for caregiving family members under the Disabled Persons and Family Support Act	W
LB636	Natural Resources	Exempt certain entities from sealed bidding requirements	S
LB637	General Affairs	Change procurement provisions under the State Lottery Act	IPP (>638)
LB638	General Affairs	Change and eliminate provisions relating to bingo, lotteries, and raffles	S (+301, 637)
LB639	Raikes	Change powers and duties of county attorneys	GF
LB640	Raikes	Authorize a learning community levy for certain approved capital projects	IPP
LB641	Raikes	Change provisions relating to schools, learning communities, school governance, and school finance	S
LB641A	Raikes	Appropriations bill	S
LB642	Raikes	Change educational service units' role and mission provisions	IPP
LB643	Raikes	Change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act to eliminate certain income tax provisions	IPP
LB644	Raikes	Provide for summer school student units in the state aid formula	IPP
LB645	Heidemann	Change Nebraska Liquor Control Act provisions to exempt a bed and breakfast establishment from an occupation tax	C
LB646	Nelson	Change provisions relating to elections	S (+528)
LB647	Johnson	Change provisions relating to insurance coverage of mental health and physical health conditions	C
LB648	Preister	Provide tax credits relating to wind energy projects	IPP (>367)
LB649	Raikes	Modify the state aid formula under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	C
LB650	Raikes	Change provisions relating to early childhood education and the Special Education Act	C
LB651	Raikes	Change and eliminate education provisions	C
LB652	White	Require the state and political subdivisions to do energy audits	C
LB653	Raikes	Require implementation of a statewide school assessment and reporting system and other standards and tracking methods	S
LB653A	Raikes	Appropriations bill	S
LB654	Raikes	Transfer veterans education and training duties to the State Department of Education	C
LB655	Raikes	Change state aid to school provisions relating to adjustments on budget statements	C
LB656	Raikes	Provide for temporary funding related to distance education	IPP (>603)
LB657	Raikes	Change provisions relating to distance education	IPP (>603)
LB658	Raikes	Change provisions relating to Class I and Class VI school districts	V
LB659	Pedersen	Increase the salaries of Supreme Court judges	IPP (>377)
LB660	Transportation and Telecom.	Change the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Services Fund Act	C (>661)
LB661	Transportation and Telecom.	Change provisions relating to telecommunications	S (+560, 660)
LB662	Hudkins	Change distribution of certain sales tax revenue	IPP
LB663	Hudkins	Change distribution and allocation of motor vehicle registration fees	GF
LB663A	Hudkins	Appropriations bill	GF
LB664	Hudkins	Eliminate an exemption from licensure as a geologist	S
LB665	Karpisek	Provide for the election of cash balance benefits for state and county employees	IPP (>328)
LB666	Pedersen	Provide for eligibility for certain federal programs upon release from incarceration as prescribed	IPP



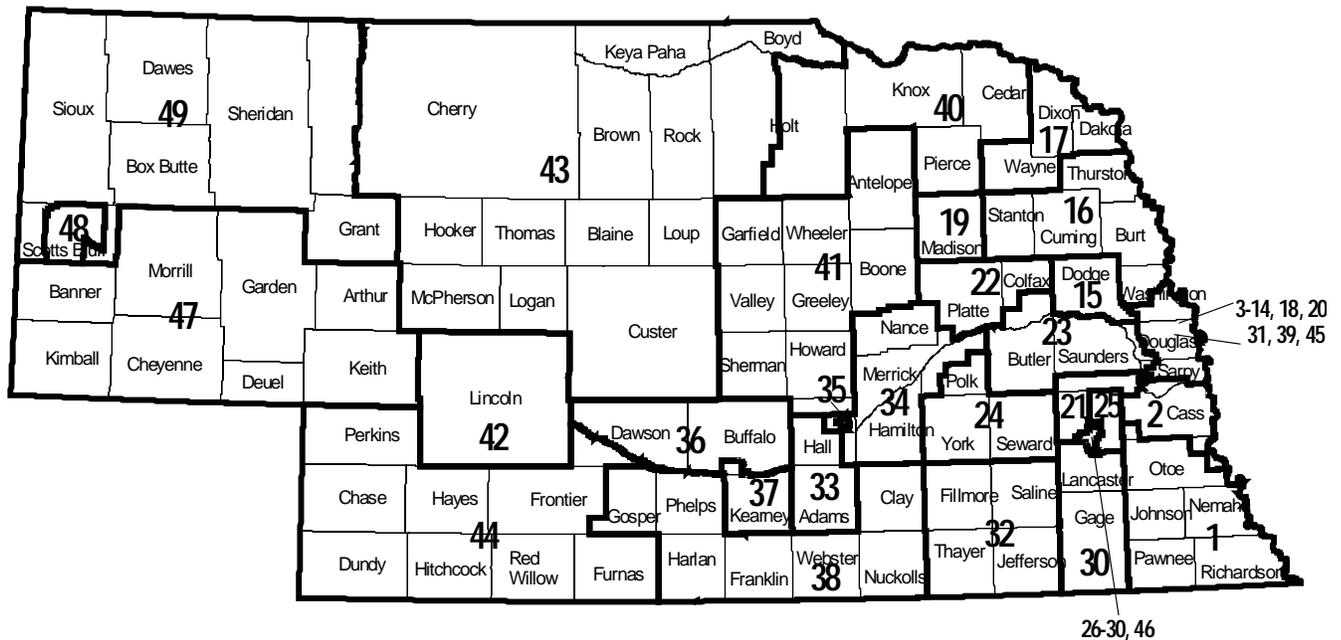
BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LB667	Pedersen	Permit municipalities to allow pedestrians to solicit contributions on roadways	GF
LB668	Hudkins	Eliminate provisions relating to gift cards and gift certificates	GF
LB669	Hudkins	Adopt the Nebraska Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Planning and Coordination Advisory Council Act	C
LB670	Hudkins	Create the Council on the Management and Treatment of Sex Offenders	IPP
LB671	Pedersen	Adopt the Office of Probation and Parole Administration	C
LB672	Lathrop	Change eminent domain provisions relating to municipal utilities	GF
LB673	Lathrop	Modify the definition of malpractice or professional neglect to include sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation	C
LB674	Lathrop	Adopt the Credit Report Protection Act and prohibit certain uses of social security numbers	S (+190)
LB675	Lathrop	Require disclosures by pharmaceutical manufacturing companies	IPP
LB676	Dubas	Prohibit the blocking of railroad crossings for more than a specified time and to provide penalties	C
LB677	Dubas	Change inspection requirements and late fees under the Livestock Waste Management Act	S
LB678	Dubas	Change school district boundary provisions relating to annexed territory	IPP
LB679	Avery	Eliminate the cap on retirement contributions for University of Nebraska employees	C
LB680	Pedersen	Authorize contracts for keeping prisoners for cities of the metropolitan class	C
LB681	Pedersen	Increase motor vehicle dealer licensing fees and a bond	S
LB682	Wightman	Change provisions relating to use of the Supreme Court child support guidelines	IPP (>554)
LB683	Dubas	Increase the earned income tax credit	IPP (>367)
LB684	Dubas	Provide for an income tax credit based upon certain property taxes	IPP
LB685	Karpisek	Change provisions relating to the possession of alcohol by minors	C
LB686	Karpisek	Provide for partisan ballots for unaffiliated voters at primary elections	C
LB687	Karpisek	Redefine household income for homestead exemption purposes	IPP
LB688	Karpisek	Provide for development of an income-based method of valuing agricultural land	IPP
LB689	Karpisek	Provide for a limited winery license	C
LB690	Fischer	Provide for apprentice hunter education exemptions under the Game Law	GF
LB691	Synowiecki	Change Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act provisions with respect to full-day kindergarten	C
LB692	Hudkins	Prohibit intentional discharge of firearm within two hundred yards of a dwelling	GF
LB693	Hudkins	Require use of driver's license numbers for preparation of juror lists	C
LB694	Christensen	Authorize planning for a parking facility near the capitol	C
LB695	Christensen	Limit the power of cities to regulate the carrying of concealed handguns	IPP
LB696	Christensen	Provide a fee increase and a waiting period for marriage licenses if marriage education requirements are not met	C
LB697	Nelson	Adopt the Entertainment and Tourism Development Act	IPP
LB698	Fulton	Require local tax rate reports by Department of Revenue	IPP
LB699	Lathrop	Adopt the Healthy Nebraska Rx Card Program Act	IPP
LB700	Christensen	Adopt the Human Cloning Prohibition Act	C
LB701	Christensen	Create a task force and fund and provide for bonds, taxes, and other funding for water and vegetation management projects	S (+295, 322, 458)
LB701A	Louden	Appropriations bill	S
LB702	White	Change reimbursement provisions under the Special Education Act	IPP
LB703	Friend	Change use of the income-approach calculation in determining the assessed valuation for rent-restricted housing projects	IPP
LB704	Preister	Adopt the Fishable and Swimmable Waters Act	IPP
LB705	Dierks	Change provisions governing power district special generation applications	GF
LR1CA	Preister	Constitutional amendment to change legislative salaries	P
LR2CA	Rogert	Constitutional amendment changing provisions related to substandard and blighted property	GF
LR3CA	Friend	Constitutional amendment to change from a unicameral legislature to a bicameral legislature	IPP
LR4CA	Avery	Constitutional amendment to provide grounds for impeachment	C
LR5CA	Friend	Constitutional amendment to authorize use of revenue bonds to develop property for use by nonprofit enterprises	GF
LR6CA	Avery	Constitutional amendment to allow investment of public endowment funds by certain cities	P
LR7CA	Kruse	Constitutional amendment to change legislative salaries based on inflation as determined by the Legislature	C
LR8CA	Avery	Constitutional amendment to change signature requirements for initiative petitions	GF
LR10	Johnson	Urge Nebraska's congressional delegation to ensure that Congress timely reauthorizes the State Children Health Insurance Program	P
LR11CA	Flood	Constitutional amendment to change the distribution of lottery proceeds	IPP
LR12CA	Fischer	Constitutional amendment relating to educational lands and investment of the school trust permanent portfolio	IPP
LR13	White	Provide the Legislature encourages public fire departments to implement national fire safety guidelines	P
LR14	Engel	Provide the Legislature supports the negotiation of a Taiwan-United States Free Trade Agreement	R

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BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
LR28	Fischer	Provide the Legislature opposes enactment or enforcement in the State of Nebraska of the REAL ID Act	P
LR37	Hudkins	Provide the Legislature supports an immediate review of ISTEA restrictions	P
LR39	Johnson	Urge the members of Nebraska's congressional delegation to ensure that Congress fully fund mental health and substance abuse treatment	P
LR73	Chambers	Encourage Congress to enact the "Lyme and Tick-borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2007"	P
LR214	Chambers	Express support of all efforts to learn from DNA exonerations	P

Legislative districts

Nebraska



CAPITOL SNAPSHOT



The door to the Warner Chamber features Native American images.

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

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