

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB287**

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**Hearing Date:** Friday March 24, 2023  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** Brewer  
**One Liner:** Prohibit creation of joint public agencies under the Joint Public Agency Act

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Aguilar, Brewer, Conrad, Halloran, Hunt, Lowe, Raybould, Sanders

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Tony Baker, LA for Senator Tom Brewer

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter

**Opponents:**

Jon Cannon

**Representing:**

Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

This bill would amend the Joint Public Agency Act to prohibit creation of any new joint public agency after October 1, 2023.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment, AM 2060, removes all original sections from LB 287 and inserts provisions from six other bills.

LB 47 (Dorn): This bill would amend the Open Meetings Act to authorize rural fire districts to prominently post notice of their meetings in three conspicuous places instead of the current requirement in Section 84-1411 to publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the public body's jurisdiction.

LB 269 (Halloran): This bill removes obsolete language governing the redistricting process in 2020.

LB 269

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Proponents:

Senator Steve Halloran, Introducer

Wayne Bena, Nebraska Secretary of State

Opponents:

None

Neutral:

None

LB 302 (Linehan): This bill amends the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act. It removes a number of references to "city or village" and "city, village, or school district" and replaces them with the broader, more inclusive term "political subdivisions." The bill also provides that certain public employees must prepare and submit a written statement disclosing certain conflicts of interest or potential conflicts. AM 2060 strikes all instances of "person holding an elective office" and changes them to "public official." The amendment also clarifies that a reference to "salary" refers to an "annual" sum.

LB 313 (Lowe): This bill would amend the Election Act to change the process for filling vacancies in Nebraska's delegations to the United States Senate and House of Representatives. It inserts a reference to a new exception to the usual rules for conduct of special elections. It makes changes to the process for filling a vacant congressional seat. Current law requires that the special election occur within 90 days of the vacancy. This bill would mandate that the special election occur within 90 days of the vacancy but no earlier than 75 days after the vacancy. It also adjusts the filing deadline from 65 days prior to the special election to 67 days prior. Section 3 modifies the process for filling a vacant senate seat. Under current law, an appointee would complete their predecessor's term if the vacancy occurred within 60 days of the regular general election. This bill would change that cut-off date to August 1, or about a month earlier than under the current law.

LB 313

Proponents:

Senator John Lowe, Introducer

Wayne Bena, Nebraska Secretary of State

Opponent:

None

Neutral:

None

LB 513 (Brewer): This bill contains two elements. First, it provides for alternative means of public notice under the Open Meetings Act where timely newspaper publication is unavailable. Second, it adds two categories of public bodies that may expand their utilization of videoconferencing for their public meetings.

LB 514 (Brewer): This bill is the annual omnibus elections cleanup and update bill containing changes recommended by the Nebraska Secretary of State. It includes suggested revisions to the Election Act including procedures for petitions, updates to electioneering, transmission options for certain voter registration documents, requirements for third party return envelopes for voter registrations and early voting ballot requests, voter lists for jury selection, maps furnished by political subdivisions, deadlines for name removal affidavits, addition or removal of sponsors of a petition, provides a penalty for false swearing, notices of election, procedures for persons who became a naturalized citizen after the voter registration deadline, early voting ballot delivery, payment of recall election costs, and filing officers for recall petitions. Provisions from the original LB 514 relating to electioneering were not included in AM 2060.

The committee voted to adopt AM 2060 on an 8-0 vote



Voting Aye: Senators Aguilar, Brewer, Conrad, Halloran, Hunt, Lowe, Raybould, Sanders  
Voting Nay: None

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Tom Brewer, Chairperson

