

2025  
LEGISLATIVE BILL SUMMARY  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee Members

Senator Tom Brandt, Chair, District 32  
Senator Barry DeKay, Vice Chair, District 40  
Senator Mike Moser, District 22  
Senator Jana Hughes, District 24  
Senator Danielle Conrad, Dist. 46  
Senator Stan Clouse, District 37  
Senator Jane Raybould, District 28  
Senator Margo Juarez, District 5

Committee Staff

Cyndi Lamm, Legal Counsel  
Sally Schultz, Committee Clerk

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**Summary:** There were 33 Legislative Bills referenced to the Natural Resources Committee by the Executive Board during the first session of the 109th Legislature. Sixteen (16) were related primarily to energy, six (6) to water, four (4) to recycling/waste management, four (4) Game and Parks, three (3) weather or climate related, and one bill which also concerned regulatory occupational requirements. One bill initially referenced to the committee was re-referenced to another committee prior to any hearings.

The Committee passed two priority committee bills, (LB 36 and LB 317) including the merger of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Energy and Environment (NDEE), which was renamed under the bill to be the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. Together, the two committee priority bills contained eight (8) bills total.

The Committee advanced nineteen (19) onto the floor that passed and were signed by the Governor, ten (10) of which passed separate from committee priority bills. At the end of session, the Committee held ten (10) bills and one (1) Legislative Resolution in Committee that were not advanced to the floor nor otherwise included in other bills and had seven (7) bills that were indefinitely postponed because of full or partial inclusion in other bills.

# Natural Resources Committee 2025

109<sup>th</sup> Legislature

## BILL INDEX

### BILLS INTRODUCED IN FIRST SESSION

IC = In Committee  
CP-Committee Priority  
IPP = Indefinitely Postpones

	<b>LB</b>	<b>INTRODUCER</b>	<b>ONELINER</b>	<b>HRG DATE</b>	<b>AM #</b>	<b>Cmte Action</b>
	20 CHAP 70	J. Cavanaugh Jan. 9, 2025  Energy	Require interconnection for electricity distribution between local distribution system and agricultural self-generation facilities	Wed. 1/22/25		PASSED
	35 CHAP 70	T. Brandt Jan. 9, 2025  Energy	Change provisions to add military compliance with NERC for privately developed renewable energy generation facilities.	Wed. 1/22/25		Passed as part of LB43 <b>IPP</b>
	36 CHAP 46	T. Brandt Jan. 9, 2025  Water	Provide for notification of certain regulations and permits to controlling entities by counties, cities, and villages under the Wellhead Protection Area Act. <b>Replaced by AM 635; adds LB 309 as amended by AM 595, LB 459 as amended by AM 631, LB 562, LB 590 as amended by AM289, LB 480, and LB 344. Prokopf AM940 added LB695 added on the floor</b>	Wed. 1/29/25	AM 635	CP Amended as carrier for Committee Priority PASSED
	38 CHAP 81	Jacobson Jan. 9, 2025  Regs NDEE	Change provisions of the Geologists Regulation Act. 33Three changes: 1) Education currently req. licensed, now education/experience counts; 2) reduce license exp. from 5 to 3 years to align with national standards; new licensing - education & experience	Thurs 1/23/25	AM17	PASSED
	43 CHAP 70	DeKay Jan. 9, 2025  ENERGY	Change provisions relating to notice and certification requirements for electric generation facilities, transmission lines, and privately developed renewable energy generation facilities located near <b>military installations. LB Included language from original LB 36 re: military facility security.</b>	Wed. 1/22/25	AM43	PASSED

59		Re-referenced to Government			
91 CHAP 70	DeKay Jan. 10, 2025  Energy	Change provisions relating to the conveyance of electric distribution systems by public power districts or public power and irrigation districts to cities or villages.	Thurs 1/23/25		PASSED
121 CHAP 13-309	Hardin Jan. 10, 2025  Energy	Prohibit land disposal of solar panels and wind turbine blades and the component parts of solar panels and wind turbines.	Thurs 1/30/25		IC
129 CHAP 13-407	McKeon Jan. 10, 2025  Energy	Prohibit restrictions on the provision of certain energy services.	Wed. 1/29/25		IC
163 new	Spivey Jan. 13, 2025  Climate	Create the Office of Climate Action	Thur. 1/30/25		IC
167e CHAP 81	Clouse Jan. 13, 2025  Waste Management	Change the sunset date for the <b>Nebraska Liter Reduction and Recycling Act</b>	Thurs 1/23/25		PASSED
247 CHAP 13-2042	DeKay Jan. 14, 2025  Waste Management	Change provisions relating to fees and distribution of proceeds under the <b>Integrated Solid Waste Management Act</b> and uses of and transfer from the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund	Thurs 2/6/25		PASSED
309	Hughes Jan. 15, 2025  ENERGY; recycling	Adopt the Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Act. <b>Amended into LB 36 Committee Priority Bill in COMMM AM635.</b>	Wed 2/12/25	AM 595	Part of LB 36 <b>IPP</b>
317	Brandt Jan. 16, 2025 At request of the Governor  WATER	Merge the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy and change the name to the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and provide change, and eliminate powers and duties.	Thurs 2/13/25	AM 711	CP2 PASSED
344 CHAP 46-740	Brandt Jan. 16, 2025 Req of Gov  WATER	Change provisions relating to ground water allocation.	Thurs 2/13/25		Amended into LB 36 by AM 635  IPP
349 CHAP 70	Prokop Jan. 15, 2025	Change provisions relating to applications, notices, filings, exemptions, and violations regarding the construction or acquisition of	Wed. 3/5/25	AM 412	IC

		ENERGY	certain electric energy storage resources by electric suppliers/.			
377 CHAP 37	CMTE Jan. 16, 2025	GAME & PARKS	Change term limits for the Game and Parks Commissioners from 2 to 3 four year terms.	Wed. 1/29/25		PASSED
396 CHAP 36	DeKay Jan. 17, 2025 70-623	ENERGY	Change provisions relating to the forms and filing of public power district budgets and audits with the Nebraska Power Review Board.	Thurs 2/6/25		PASSED
409 CHAP 70-1003	J. Cavanaugh Jan. 17, 2025 70-1003	ENERGY	Change provisions relating to the membership of the Nebraska Power Review Board. To require one member be a licensed journeyman electrician affiliated with a nonprofit labor org.	Wed. 2/20/25		IC
413 CHAP 70-655	Clouse Jan. 17, 2025 70-655	ENERGY	Change provisions by providing authority and criteria relating to the setting of rates by allowing certain power districts to establish differential rates.	Wed. 2/5/25		IC
459 NEW	Conrad Jan. 21, 2025	New Weather	Establish the Home Weatherization Clearinghouse within the Department of Environment and Energy <b>Portion amended into LB 36 by COMM AM635</b>	Thurs. 2/6/25	AM 691	Amended into LB 36 IC
471 NEW  CHAP 13	McKeon Jan. 21, 2025 30-101	ENERGY	Prohibit certain restrictions by state agencies, state entities, counties, cities, and villages relating to the energy source of motor vehicles and prohibit certain actions of the Department of Environment and Energy	Thurs. 2/19/25	AM 456	IC
480 CHAP 37-1802 37-1803	DeKay Jan. 21, 2025 37-1802	WATER	Change provisions relating to the Water Recreation Enhancement Act to provide flexibility in project spending. <b>Amend into LB 36 by COMM 635; Passed</b>	Wed. 2/19/25		Amended into LB 36 Passed IPP
489 CHAP 70-1012	Brandt Jan. 21, 2025 70-1012	ENERGY	Prohibit certain entities from operating maintaining, constructing, acquiring transmission lines and related facilities	Wed. 2/5/25		IC
548	Lippincott Jan. 22, 2025		Provide for political subdivisions that own or operate natural gas systems to contract with	Wed. 2/19/25	AM 527	GF

	NEW CHAP 75	ENERGY	industrial consumers of a certain volume of natural gas.		AM 664	
	562 CHAP 37	Brandt Jan. 22, 2025  G&Parks	Change provisions relating to permits and stamps issued by the Game and Parks Commission.  <b>Amended into LB 36 in COMM AM635; Passed</b>	Wed. 2/20/25		CP Amended into LB 36 <b>IPP</b>
	590 CHAP 37	Moser Jan. 22, 2025 37-335  G&Parks	Provide for a mitigation bank or an in-lieu fee program relating to the incidental taking of threatened or endangered species habitat.	Wed. 2/12/25	AM 289	CP Amended into LB 36 Passed IPP
	593 CHAP 66	Moser Jan. 22, 2025 66-1225 Energy	Update references relating to automotive spark ignition engine fuels.  <b>Passed without Amendment.</b>	Wed. 2/5/25		Passed
	607 CHAP 13 -2001, 2003, 2010, 2034, 2042, 81-1502, 81-15,160	Bostar Jan. 22, 2025  RECYCLING	Adopt the Environmental Stewardship of Batteries Act, the Extended Producer Responsibility Data Collection Act, and the Minimum Recycled Content Act, and change provisions relating to the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Act. (Advanced recycling)	Wed. 2/27/25		IC
	695  2-3203- 3230	Dover Jan. 22, 2025  WATER	Require the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District to construct a dam and provide for flood control measures.	Wed. 3/5/25		IC
	105 CHAP 70	Hughes Jan. 10, 2025 ENERGY ELECTION	Change procedures for voting or election precincts for public power districts.	Wed. 2/12/25		PASSED
	LR22CA  CONST	Dungan  Jan. 21, 2025 WATER, AIR	Constitutional amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the state and political subdivisions serve as trustees of the natural resources of Nebraska.	Thurs 2/20/25		IC
	LB595 NEW	Prokop	Create the Research Excellence Cash Fund Mesonet, <b>Amended into LB 36 by AM 940 on the floor.</b>	Wed 3/8/25	AM 619	Amended into LB 36 Passed

		Weather/ water				<b>IPP</b>
	LR17 CHAP 37	Quick Game & Parks	Approve the indication of intent by the Game and Parks Commission to incorporate Camp Augustine into the state park system.  Adopted 36-0-20; Signed by speaker	Thurs. 2/27/25		ADOPTED

## SUMMARY OF ENACTED BILLS (19)

- LB 20 (J. Cavanaugh)*** Require interconnection for electricity distribution between local distribution system and agricultural self-generation facilities
- LB 36 (Brandt)*** Committee Priority Bill. Original changes to Wellhead Protection Area Act replaced by AM 635; *adds LB 309 as amended by AM 595, LB 459 as amended by AM 631, LB 562, LB 590 as amended by AM289, LB 480, and LB 344. Prokopf AM940 added LB695 added .on the floor*
- LB 43 (DeKay)*** Changes provisions relating to notice and certification requirements for electric generation facilities, transmission lines, and privately developed renewable energy generation facilities located within 10 miles of a military installation.
- LB 91 (DeKay)*** Change provisions relating to the conveyance of electric distribution systems by public power districts or public power and irrigation districts to cities or villages.
- LB 105 (Hughes)*** Change procedures for voting or election precincts for public power districts.
- LB 167e (Clouse)*** Change the sunset date for the Nebraska Liter Reduction and
- LB 247 (DeKay)*** Change provisions relating to fees and distribution of proceeds under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act and uses of and transfer of funds from the Petroleum Release Remediation Action Cash Fund.
- LB 309 (Hughes)*** Adopt the Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Act. Amended into LB 36 Committee Priority Bill in COMMM AM635.
- LB 317 (Brandt)*** At the request of the Governor. Merge the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy and change the name to the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and provide change, and eliminate powers and duties
- LB 344 (Brandt)*** At the request of the Governor. Change provisions relating to ground water allocation.



- LB 377 (Brandt)** On behalf of the Natural Resources Committee). Change term limits for members of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission from two four year terms to three four year terms.
- LB 396 (DeKay)** Change provisions, eliminating outdated requirements relating to the form and filing of public power district budgets and audits with the Nebraska Power Review Board, said reports currently made available online and provided upon request.
- LB 459 (Conrad)** Establish the Home Weatherization Clearinghouse within the Department of Environment and Energy. *Portion amended into LB 36 by COMM AM63.5*
- LB 480 (DeKay)** Change provisions to provide flexibility in projects under the Water Recreation Enhancement Act. *Amended into LB 36 Committee Priority Bill in COMMM AM635.*
- LB 562 (Brandt)** Change provisions relating to permits and stamps issued by the Game and Parks Commission. *Amended into LB 36 in COMM AM635.*
- LB 590 (Moser)** Provide for a mitigation bank or an in-lieu fee program relating to the incidental taking of threatened or endangered species habitat.
- LB 593 (Moser)** Update references relating to automotive spark ignition engine fuels to align with recently modernized gasoline specifications for ASTM D4814.
- LB 595 (Prokopf)** Create the Research Excellence Cash Fund Mesonet, *Amended into LB 36 by AM 940 on the floor.*
- LR 17 (Quick)** Approve the indication of intent by the Game and Parks Commission to incorporate Camp Augustine into the state park system. Adopted 36-0-20.

## **SUMMARIES OF BILLS HELD IN COMMITTEE (10 +1 LR)**

- LB 121 (Hardin) Prohibit land disposal of solar panels and wind turbine blades and the component parts of solar panels and wind turbines.
- LB 129 (McKeon) Prohibit restrictions on the provision of certain energy services.
- LB 163 (Spivey) Create the Office of Climate Action.
- LB 349 (Prokop) Change provisions relating to applications, notices, filings, exemptions, and violations regarding the construction or acquisition of certain electric energy storage resources by electric suppliers
- LB 409 (J. Cavanaugh) Change provisions relating to the membership of the Nebraska Power Review Board. To require one member be a licensed journeyman electrician affiliated with a nonprofit labor org,
- LB 413 (Clouse) Change provisions by providing authority and criteria relating to the setting of rates by allowing certain power districts to establish differential rates.
- LB 471 (McKeon) Prohibit certain restrictions by state agencies, state entities, counties, cities, and villages relating to the energy source of motor vehicles and prohibit certain actions of the Department of Environment and Energy.
- LB 489 (Brandt) Prohibit certain entities from operating, maintaining, constructing, acquiring transmission lines and related facilities.
- LB 607 (Bostar) Adopt the Environmental Stewardship of Batteries Act, the Extended Producer Responsibility Data Collection Act, and the Minimum Recycled Content Act, and change provisions relating to the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Act. (Advanced recycling).
- LB 695 (Dover) Require the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District to construct a dam and provide for flood control measures.
- LR 22CA (Dungan) Constitutional amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the state and political subdivisions serve as trustees of the natural resources of Nebraska.

## **BILLS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED (7)**

**Bills that were out of committee but were then included in other bills were Indefinitely Postponed by motion on the last day of session.**

LB 35 (Brandt)	Change provisions to add military compliance with NERC for privately developed renewable energy generation facilities. Provision requiring compliance included, which provision passed as part of LB 43.
LB 309 (Hughes)	Adopt the Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Act. Amended into LB 36 Committee Priority Bill as part of COMM AM635.
LB 344 (Brandt)	Change provisions relating to ground water allocation. Amended into LB 36 Committee Priority Bill as part of COMM AM635.
LB 480 (DeKay)	Change provisions relating to the Water Recreation Enhancement Act to provide flexibility in project spending. Amended into LB 36 by COMM AM635.
LB 562 (Brandt)	Change provisions relating to permits and stamps issued by the Game and Parks Commission. Amended into LB 36 in COMM AM635.
LB 590 (Moser)	Provide for a mitigation bank or an in-lieu fee program relating to the incidental taking of threatened or endangered species habitat. Amended into LB36 by COMM AM635
LB 595 (Prokop)	Create the Research Excellence Cash Fund Mesonet, Amended into LB 36 by AM 940 on the floor.

## **BILLS WITHDRAWN**

No bills referred to the Natural Resources Committee were withdrawn; however, LB 59 was re-referenced to the Government Committee prior to hearing.

### ***INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS***

<b>Natural Resources Committee</b>		
<b>Interim Studies 2025 (6); Hearings scheduled (5)</b>		
	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Description</b>
LR158 Hearing set for 9/19/25	Storer	Interim study to examine the feasibility of the State of Nebraska assuming the administration of the seventy-six mile stretch of the Niobrara River that has been designated as a national scenic river
LR159 Hearing set for 9/5/25	Brandt	Interim study to examine how the nameplate capacity tax affects the development, operation, and long-term viability of privately developed renewable energy generation facilities located in Nebraska
LR223 No hearing set	Brandt	Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee
LR225 Hearing set for 9/19/25	Dungan	Interim study to examine the need for and implementation of a Green Amendment and the implications of adopting LR22CA, 2025
LR234 Hearing set for 9/5/25	Storm	Interim study to examine the impact of the net-zero plans and goals of public power utilities
LR235 Hearing set for 9/12/25	Wordekemper	Interim study to examine the approval process, personnel involved, and costs associated with controlled burn permits

Hearing dates for Interim Studies have been scheduled for September 5, 12, and 19, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.