

UNICAMERAL UPDATE

2005 Session Review

A glance at issues considered:

*Agriculture and Environment
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
Budget
Business and Labor
Courts and Corrections
Criminal Justice
Economic Development
Education
Elections
Health and Human Services
Local Government
Miscellaneous
Retirement
State Government
Taxes
Telecommunications
Transportation*

99th Legislature
First Session

**UNICAMERAL
UPDATE**



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Agriculture and Environment

Animal control was at the forefront of agriculture policy debate this session.

LB 673, sponsored by Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon, would allow counties to develop prairie dog management plans and give county officials authority to inspect land to determine the location of prairie dog towns. If the county found a colony that had expanded to a neighboring property, it would, upon request, notify the landowner and suggest control methods. The county would have to give landowners 48 hours notice before entering the property.

A motion to invoke cloture, or cease debate, on the bill failed, and LB 673 remains on select file.

The Legislature voted 42-0 to pass a bill sponsored by Sen. Bob Kremer of Aurora that allows the Game and Parks Commission to destroy and dispose of feral swine and gives the commission authority to grant landowners that privilege.

Feral swine have reverted to a wild state, are freely roaming and have no clear markings or other indications that they escaped from a managed swine herd.

LB 20 also includes provisions of **LB 29**, introduced by Elm Creek Sen. Ed Schrock. LB 20 makes the release of feral swine for the purpose of sport, pleasure, amusement or production of a trophy a Class II misdemeanor. The penalty for a Class II misdemeanor is six months imprisonment, a \$1,000 fine or both.

A lawsuit against the federal beef checkoff program prompted lawmakers to consider allowing Nebraska to implement a state beef checkoff program if a federal checkoff program were found unconstitutional.

LB 150, sponsored by Kremer, would allow the state Department of Agriculture to contract with a qualified agency to collect the \$1 per head fee beginning 30 days after the federal program ends. Checkoff fees pay for the promotion, research and development of the beef industry.

The Nebraska Beef Council currently collects checkoff funds for the federal program. Funds are collected when a producer sells an animal.

Lawmakers delayed debate on LB 150 to give the U.S. Supreme Court time to rule on a lawsuit brought by the Livestock Marketing Association and a group of beef producers. They sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the grounds that the federal beef checkoff program was unconstitutional.

Late in the session, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal beef checkoff is legal. LB 150 remains on select file.

The Legislature considered changes to several environmental regulations, including livestock waste permit laws.

The Environmental Quality Council grew from 16 to 17 members under a bill introduced by Bellevue Sen. Don Preister.

LB 351 replaced one of the council's at-large members with a representative of a minority group and added a biologist to the council. The bill passed 42-0.

LB 120, sponsored by Loudon, would allow existing livestock feedlots located within two miles of Class A cold water streams to expand their operations. Class A cold water streams are those with conditions favorable for trout.

Feedlot operators applying for expansion permits would submit scientific data to the Department of Environmental Quality that shows how an expansion would affect water quality in the nearby stream. If DEQ determines the expansion would not pose a threat to the stream, it could grant a permit to that feedlot, which is prohibited under current law. The committee voted 7-1 to advance LB 120 to general file.

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Sen. Don Preister

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Gering Sen. Adrian Smith offered a similar proposal in **LB 390**, which the Natural Resources Committee indefinitely postponed.

Preister offered two proposals that would have tightened guidelines for livestock feeding operations.

LB 191 would have allowed cities and counties to impose stricter guidelines for livestock feeding operators' financial obligations than what DEQ requires.

DEQ requires operators applying for livestock waste permits to prove they will be financially responsible if they abandon the operation or cannot meet the conditions of the permit.

The Natural Resources Committee voted 7-0 to kill LB 191.

LB 658 would have limited the issuance of general permits for medium-size livestock feeding operations. Under state law enacted in 2004, livestock feeding operations must obtain a waste control permit from DEQ. These permits ensure the operation has a plan to prevent animal waste from polluting ground and surface water.

The department grants two types of permits – general and individual. General permits are given to operations that are located within the same geographic area and use similar waste control practices. Individual permits are granted to operations that use other waste management practices, usually because of the operation's size or location.

The committee voted 7-0 to kill LB 658.

Schrock introduced a bill that provides an exemption under the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act.

LB 335 clarifies that the act does not apply to public water suppliers that provide groundwater for industrial purposes. Those who use groundwater for industrial purposes also are exempt.

The bill, passed 47-0, also makes changes to the Dam and Reservoirs Act.

Farmers will be able to store grain at local elevators until it is sold to a third party, such as a feedlot or ethanol plant, under another Kremer bill.

LB 439 establishes standards for warehouses to engage in substitution transactions. The bill clarifies that all direct delivered grain is covered by a warehouse's dealer bond until the substitution is consummated and creates new avenues by which a producer who obtains grain via substitution may substantiate his or her status as a valid owner of grain in the warehouse.

The bill passed 48-0.

Kremer also introduced a bill to increase participation in a tax credit program available to new farmers.

LB 346 would help beginning farmers rent land by enhancing the tax incentives to landowners that make agricultural assets available to new farmers or rent to beginning farmers through shared rental agreements. The bill also would increase the maximum amount of net worth that a beginning qualifying farmer may have from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

The bill advanced 7-0 from the Agriculture Committee and awaits general file consideration.

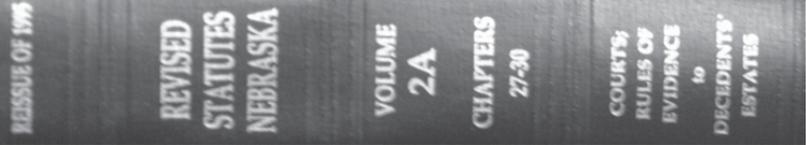
Lawmakers approved a bill to clarify that certain food establishments are exempt from licensing and inspection requirements.

LB 131, sponsored by Wausa Sen. Doug Cunningham, clarifies that these locations are exempt from the Nebraska Pure Food Act:

- private home kitchens where food is prepared for charitable functions;
- vending machines or establishments that carry canned or bottled fruit and vegetable juices; and



Sen. Bob Kremer



- events lasting less than 11 days, such as county fairs and craft shows, that sell commercially packaged foods.

LB 131 requires organizations to display a placard at their events stating that food was prepared in a kitchen not subject to regulation.

The bill passed 41-0.

An exemption to Nebraska's pasteurized milk law awaits consideration from the full Legislature.

LB 132, sponsored by Cunningham, would allow certified Grade A dairies to obtain a permit to advertise the sale of raw milk and deliver the milk to consumers.

Under current law, producers may not solicit raw milk customers and consumers must purchase raw milk products at the producer's operation.

LB 132 also would require producers to place a warning label and directions for pasteurizing milk on containers of raw milk. Producers also would be required to keep a sales record for one year and keep raw products separate from pasteurized products.

The bill advanced 7-0 from the Agriculture Committee. ❖

Banking, Commerce and Insurance



Sen. Mick Mines

Masures relating to banking, commerce and insurance adopted in 2005 included bills designed to ensure prompt payment of healthcare claims by insurance companies, provide minimal asset protections in bankruptcy cases and update the Uniform Commercial Code.

LB 389, sponsored by Sen. Mick Mines of Blair, requires health insurers to pay claims submitted by healthcare providers on a timely basis.

Insurers are now required to pay each "clean claim" – those claims that have been correctly submitted and need no further information to determine eligibility – or identify the additional information that is necessary to determine whether the claim will be reimbursed. If an insurer fails to pay an electronic clean claim within 30 days of receipt or a paper clean claim within 45 calendar days, it will be required to pay 12 percent interest on the amount ultimately allowed on the claim.

Insurers filing a prompt payment compliance statement with the state Department of Insurance are exempt from the new interest requirements. The prompt payment compliance statement is a certification that the company has paid, denied or settled more than 90 percent of its clean claims on a timely basis.

Prompt payment requirements will still be enforced if an insurer delegates its claims processing functions to a third party. Consumers, their representatives and healthcare providers can notify the department of any unfair payment patterns. The department can hold an enforcement hearing if it appears that an insurer is not in compliance. The bill does not apply to policies that cover hospital indemnity, disability income, Medicare supplement, long-term care, specific diseases, accident only coverage or other limited benefits.

LB 389 was passed by a 42-0 vote.

LB 465, sponsored by Sen. Pam Redfield of Omaha, allows individuals filing for bankruptcy to protect up to \$100,000 in cash value from a life insurance policy or annuity and up to \$25,000 in a medical or healthcare savings account. The exemption does not apply to policies and annuities that are established or increased within three years of a bankruptcy filing.

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Sen. David Landis

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LB 465 was passed 48-0.

LB 570, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, amends Article 1 and Article 7 of the Uniform Commercial Code. The changes are based on recommendations made in 2001 and 2003 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Article 1 of the UCC contains default rules covering transactions and matters covered elsewhere in the UCC. Article 7 contains provisions relating to documents of title.

Specifically, the changes in Article 1 include provisions relating to the article's scope, the applicability of supplemental principles of law, the standard of good faith and evidence of course of performance.

The bill also changed Article 1 to conform to other UCC articles and carry over nonuniform provisions from Nebraska's current Article 1.

LB 570 was passed 48-0.

LB 533, introduced by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, made numerous technical changes recommended by the state Department of Banking and Finance intended to make Nebraska law consistent with federal revenue code and uniform state laws.

The changes made by LB 533 relate to banks, trust companies, building and loan associations, assessments on financial institutions, state-federal cooperation acts, the sale of checks and funds transmissions, credit card banks, names of financial institutions, credit unions, installment sales, mortgage bankers and installment loans.

LB 533 was passed by a 48-0 vote.

LB 545, sponsored by Mines, would recognize the right of a health insurance or workers' compensation insurance carrier to recover under its right of subrogation. The recovery would be in the same proportion that the amount received by a claimant or injured employee from all sources other than the health insurance or workers' compensation insurance coverage payments bears to the total loss suffered by the claimant. The bill also would provide that any settlement or judgment received by the claimant or injured employee that is less than the applicable liability insurance coverage policy limits shall be conclusively presumed to be complete recovery of total loss.

LB 545 awaits general file consideration. ❖

Budget

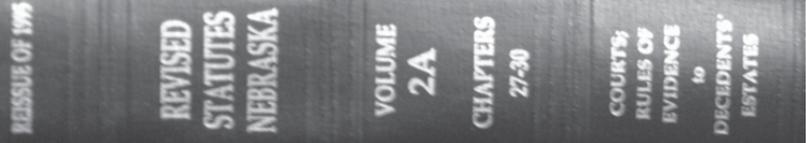
In enacting the 2005-07 biennial budget, lawmakers balanced the upcoming two-year cycle, paid for Nebraska's low-level radioactive waste lawsuit and restored funding for some items that were cut during the recent budget crisis.

LB 425 contained the mainline budget, and **LB 427** transfers money from the state's cash reserve fund. The budget will provide \$6.1 billion for state government operations and aid during the two-year period – \$2.97 billion in fiscal year 2005-06 and \$3.16 billion in FY2006-07 – an average annual spending growth of 7.2 percent.

Most of the proposed budget increases are occurring in areas over which the Legislature has limited flexibility and control. These areas include public assistance programs, Medicaid, state aid to schools, negotiated salary and benefit contracts and basic inflationary increases. Excluding those areas, the proposed budget increases spending by approximately 0.5 percent.

Significant elements of the budget include average annual increases of:

- 9 percent in state aid to K-12 education;



Sen. Don Pederson

- 8 percent in Medicaid spending;
- 10.2 percent in funding for other public assistance programs;
- 4 percent for special education programs; and
- 6.8 percent for postsecondary education.

The budget also will spend \$145.8 million from the state's cash reserve fund to pay off the state's settlement of a low-level radioactive waste lawsuit and use \$38.6 million in cash reserve funding to cover projected shortfalls in the state's defined benefit retirement plans. In addition, \$15 million will be transferred from the cash reserve fund for a job training program. That will leave the reserve fund with \$207.9 million at the end of the upcoming biennium.

The budget will leave the state with \$8.3 million more than the required 3 percent reserve for the upcoming biennium. For the 2007-09 biennium, the projected outlook is short by \$233 million.

During legislative consideration of the budget package, several items were added or adjusted:

\$500,000 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds will be directed to a pilot program through the state Health and Human Services System for services to pregnant women.

Employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is prohibited at four Nebraska educational institutions that receive funding from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund – the University of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University and Boys Town National Research Hospital.

\$410,000 in annual funding was added for reimbursement to counties for costs associated with incarceration of state prisoners. However, the governor vetoed that appropriation.

Spending on aid to schools for special education services was increased by 5 percent for FY2005-06 and 3 percent in FY2006-07.

\$1.7 million will be available in each of the next two fiscal years for early childhood education grants.

\$15 million will be transferred from the state's cash reserve fund to pay for a state job training program through the state Department of Economic Development.

\$33,000 was appropriated in FY2005-06 to publish and distribute the 2004-05 Nebraska Blue Book.

\$200,000 was added in each of the next two fiscal years to restore the state Commission on the Status of Women.

LB 425 passed 34-10, and LB 427 passed on a 35-8 vote.

Budget vetoes other than the county jail reimbursement funding include:

- a reduction of \$195,238 in the Supreme Court's budget increase in FY2005-06 for court studies;
- a reduction of \$738,364 in FY2005-06 and \$369,182 in FY2006-07 from the State Probation Administration's budget increase for additional staffing;
- a reduction of \$63,312 in FY2005-06 and \$72,657 in FY2006-07 in increased funding for salary equalization in the attorney general's office;
- a reduction of \$88,850 in each fiscal year for the administration of an early childhood education grant program;
- a veto of \$22,000 in FY2006-07 to support the Volunteer Service Commission;
- a reduction of \$375,000 in FY2005-06 and \$187,500 in FY2006-07 to the HHS budget increase for child advocacy centers;

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- a reduction of \$437,500 in FY2005-06 and \$218,750 in FY2006-07 to the state Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support's budget increase for aid to community health centers.
- a veto of \$1.5 million in increased cash funds in each fiscal year for local transit systems;
- a reduction of \$12,000 in FY2006-07 in the Game and Parks Commission's budget increase for repair and maintenance of the Ferguson House;
- a reduction of \$1.2 million in FY2006-07 for increased funding in the Nebraska Scholarship Program; and
- a veto of \$150,000 in FY2005-06 to the state Department of Economic Development for a Nebraska Treasures Study.

Senators also passed five other bills in the budget package.

LB 421, which provides deficit appropriations and transfers, was passed 44-0.

LB 422, which appropriates funds for constitutional officers' salaries, was passed 43-1.

LB 423, which appropriates funds for legislators' salaries, was passed 44-0.

LB 424, which appropriates \$75.7 million for capital construction projects in FY2005-06 and \$62.6 million in FY2006-07, was passed 45-0.

LB 426, which creates and transfers funds, was passed 39-4.

Senators delayed until next year further consideration of **LB 614**. Sponsored by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, the bill would authorize salary adjustments for State Electrical Division employees.

LB 737, introduced by the Business and Labor Committee, pays approximately \$646,692 for miscellaneous claims, \$498,724 for state agency write-off claims, \$179,890 for workers' compensation claims and \$241,000 to a Seward school bus driver who was injured when his bus crashed near Omaha.

Senators voted 44-0 to pass LB 737. ❖



Sen. Rich Pahls

Business and Labor

The 2005 Legislature overhauled the state's unemployment benefits system and found a way to raise money for the unemployment trust fund, which was facing insolvency.

Under **LB 739**, sponsored by Wausa Sen. Doug Cunningham, the state will use an array system to calculate how much employers pay into the UTF beginning in 2006. Employers pay unemployment insurance taxes, which collect in the unemployment trust fund for the payment of unemployment benefits.

The array system uses a formula that bases the state's average tax rate on the amount of unemployment benefits that Nebraska pays annually, the amount of money in the UTF and the amount of taxes the state needs to generate for the following year.

After calculating the state's average tax rate, each employer will be grouped into one of 20 categories according to their reserve ratio, which is the amount of benefits paid in relation to the amount the employer contributed to the UTF. Companies in the middle of the curve, which includes new non-construction employers, will pay the state average tax rate, while those in categories above or below the middle will pay a percentage of the state tax rate.

LB 739 also will temporarily cap worker benefits for two years to increase the UTF, but benefits will gradually return to current levels.



Sen. Doug Cunningham

The maximum weekly benefit will be:

- through Dec. 31, no more than the state's average weekly wage;
- from Jan. 1, 2006, through Dec. 31, 2007, one-half of the worker's average weekly wage rounded down to the nearest whole dollar amount, not to exceed \$288;
- from Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2010, one-half of the worker's average weekly wage rounded down to the nearest whole dollar amount, not to exceed the lesser of one-half of the state average weekly wage or the previous year's maximum weekly benefit amount plus \$10; and
- from Jan. 1, 2011, and thereafter, one-half of the worker's average weekly wage rounded down to the nearest whole dollar amount, not to exceed one-half of the state's average weekly wage.

When employees quit their jobs without good cause, they will be required to wait 11 weeks to receive benefits. Currently, those employees wait seven to 10 weeks, depending on the severity of the situation.

The bill also defines what constitutes a good-cause quit. Among other things, employees will be able to do the following without penalty:

- quit a job because of a spouse's employment in another city or military station;
- leave a construction job if certain criteria are met, including if the worksite is located 50 miles or more from the employee's home; or
- leave the workplace to escape abuse at home or at work.

LB 739 passed 43-1.

LB 484, introduced by the Business and Labor Committee, updates Nebraska's unemployment laws to conform to federal mandates, add a child labor law provision and allow Social Security recipients to receive full unemployment benefits.

The measure:

- prevents businesses from reducing their unemployment tax rate by transferring documents between related business entities;
- requires employers with payrolls exceeding \$500,000 to electronically transfer unemployment benefit funds;
- exempts Nebraska National Guard and reserve duty pay from the definition of wages when calculating unemployment benefit eligibility;
- deems individuals who fraudulently claim benefits twice in five years ineligible to receive unemployment benefits until they repay the fraudulently obtained benefits;
- allows the state Department of Labor to set the tax rate for the State Unemployment Insurance Tax Fund between 0 percent and 20 percent;
- provides that if an employer fraudulently provides unemployment benefits to an employee, overpayments cannot be credited to the business; and
- prevents employers from hiring children under 16 to serve as door-to-door solicitors.

LB 484 passed 47-1.

Wage discrimination was another key topic this session.

LB 10, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, would lower the minimum number of employees a business must have in order to be subject to laws prohibiting wage discrimination based on gender. Currently, the law covers only those businesses with 25 or more employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding year. LB 10 would lower that threshold to 15 or more employees.

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LB 10 remains on select file.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers introduced a bill that would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, but the Judiciary Committee has not acted on **LB 759**.



Sen. Ernie Chambers

Chambers also introduced an amendment to **LB 425**, the main budget bill, that would have prohibited state agencies from discriminating based on sexual orientation when making hiring decisions. The amendment failed 19-10, falling six votes short of adoption.

However, senators adopted another Chambers amendment to LB 425 that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation at educational institutions that receive funds from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. Those institutions are the University of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University and Boys Town National Research Hospital.

A Landis amendment to **LB 427**, another budget bill, would have stated that sexual orientation is irrelevant in state government personnel matters, including those covered by employment contracts. The amendment failed 24-15, falling one vote short.

The Legislature also examined workers' compensation laws.

LB 13, sponsored by Landis, will:

- define the Workers' Compensation Court administrator's duties;
- allow the Nebraska Supreme Court to approve the presiding judge of the Workers' Compensation Court;
- let the Workers' Compensation Court administrator determine the average weekly wage to establish the maximum weekly income benefit allowed under the Workers' Compensation Act;
- allow the state risk manager to issue payments up to \$100,000 without legislative approval on final judgments reached by the Workers' Compensation Court;
- incorporate a provision from LB 435 that provides generic drugs shall be used for workers' compensation patients when appropriate and possible; and
- establish enforcement mechanisms for administrative and regulatory provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The bill passed 46-0.

Three bills aimed at reducing the cost of workers' compensation claims remain in the Business and Labor Committee.

LB 433, sponsored by Cunningham, would allow employers to select which physicians may offer treatment to their employees. If the employee is not satisfied with the company-designated physician, the employer and employee could work together to select a different physician.

LB 434, sponsored by Cunningham, would require the Workers' Compensation Court to set a revised schedule of maximum fees for medical services and establish prompt payment provisions.

Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln is asking the Legislature to raise the state's minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.26 per hour over a three-year period, an increase of 37 cents per year. The change would apply to employees 18 and older.

LB 554 also would raise the minimum tipping wage for employees age 18 and older and raise the training wage for employees between ages 17 and 20.

The bill would allow the state Department of Labor to adjust the minimum wage every three years, beginning in 2008, based on the Consumer Price Index.

The Business and Labor Committee voted 4-3 to advance LB 554 to general file.

Omaha Sen. Pam Redfield introduced **LB 230**, which would require nonunion

employees who ask their labor organization to represent them in court cases to reimburse the organization for legal fees and court costs. This is current law for employees of state and local governments and public utilities.

The Business and Labor Committee voted 5-1 to advance LB 230 to general file. ❖

Courts and Corrections



Sen. Kermit Brashear

Community corrections programs and services will be enhanced by a bill passed 48-0.

The bill makes a number of statutory changes recommended by the Community Corrections Council to programs initiated by the passage of LB 46 in 2003.

Sponsored by Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear, **LB 538**:

- amends the crime of assault on an officer to include assault on probation and parole officers;
- authorizes the Nebraska Supreme Court to assign probation officers to participate in drug court programs and other specialized programs pursuant to an interlocal agreement;
- authorizes the probation administrator to join interlocal agreements with political subdivisions to provide probation resources or personnel to assist with the operation of drug courts, problem-solving courts or other nonprobation-based programs or services;
- allows an intensive residential substance abuse treatment program within the Work Ethic Camp;
- clarifies the law regarding eligibility for participation in the Work Ethic Camp;
- requires a political subdivision belonging to an interlocal agreement with probation administration to cover the costs associated with the use of probation resources or personnel other than costs paid for by the probation program cash fund or with substance abuse treatment funds;
- requires participants in nonprobation-based programs and services that use probation resources or personnel and that receive funding from the council or the probation program cash fund to pay a \$30 administrative enrollment fee and the \$35 monthly programming fee assessed to persons placed on intensive probation; and
- adds a representative from the state Department of Health and Human Services to the Community Corrections Council.

The bill includes provisions of **LB 703**, a bill originally introduced by St. Paul Sen. Vickie McDonald, which will allow medical parole for committed offenders who are terminally ill or incapacitated if they are not serving a sentence of death or life imprisonment.

A procedure for court-ordered custody and treatment of a developmentally disabled person when that person poses a threat to others also was approved this session. **LB 206**, sponsored by Sen. Dennis Byars of Beatrice, allows the attorney general or a county attorney to file a petition in district court to recommend that the developmentally disabled person needs custody and treatment. If the court deems the disabled person to be a threat to others, it can give HHS custody of the person and hold annual hearings to review the person's disposition.

Under the bill, being a threat to others includes having inflicted or attempted to inflict serious bodily injury on another; having committed or attempted a sexual as-

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sault; having committed lewd and lascivious conduct toward a child; or having deliberately set a fire.

LB 206 passed on a vote of 48-0.

A bill intended to increase the successful payment of child support also passed. **LB 116**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend, authorizes a court to sanction an employer for failing to withhold an employee's income if he or she is obligated to pay child support. The sanction will be \$25 per day, with a maximum fine of \$500 per incident.



Sen. Mike Friend

Provisions of **LB 444**, originally sponsored by Omaha Sen. Jim Jensen, were adopted into LB 116. The amendment deals with state tracking of returned checks for child support payments and allows the state to charge fees for unsuccessful payments.

LB 218, a bill originally brought by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman, also was amended into LB 116 and provides a definition for child abuse and neglect.

LB 116 passed on a 48-0 vote.

State judges' salaries, retirement funds and court fees will increase under a bill passed 44-3. **LB 348**, introduced by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, authorizes the Nebraska Supreme Court to change the bill of exceptions fee without amending statute. Current law lists specific fees to be charged for copies of the bill of exceptions.

The bill includes provisions from **LBs 540, 643 and 758**.

LB 540, originally introduced by Brashear, increases salaries for the chief justice and judges of the Nebraska Supreme Court by 3 percent, effective July 1, 2005, and again by 3.25 percent on July 1, 2006. The bill increases judges' salaries from \$119,276 to \$122,854 in 2005 and to \$126,846 in 2006.

LB 643, also sponsored by Brashear, increases court fees and adds a new \$5 fee for separate juvenile court actions, filing judgments or awards from Workers' Compensation Court in district court, appellate proceedings and original actions in the Supreme Court. The proceeds go to the state judges' retirement fund.

LB 758, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, removes the ability of a notary public to commit witnesses to the county jail for contempt for neglecting or refusing to obey a summons or for refusing to testify when present.

LB 754, sponsored by Chambers, requires the Commission on Judicial Qualifications to produce an annual report publicizing information on complaints about judges' conduct. The bill passed 44-0.

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony on a bill that would increase court fees to support court automation and law enforcement training. **LB 429**, introduced by Brashear, would increase the court automation fee from \$6 to \$6.50 and indefinitely extend the collection of a \$2 court fee earmarked to support the operation of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. The committee took no action on the measure.

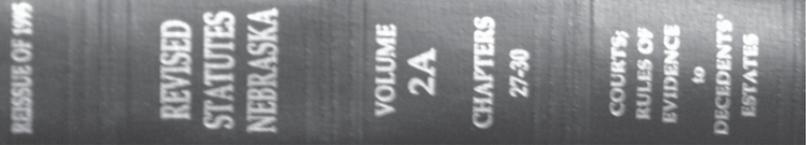
Under **LB 529**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler, clerks in the state's juvenile courts and district courts in judicial districts eight, 10, 11 and 12 would become state employees on Jan. 1, 2007. Those employees in districts one, three, five, six, seven and nine would become state employees on Jan. 1, 2008; and employees in districts two and four would become state employees on Jan. 1, 2009.



Sen. Chris Beutler

To offset the costs of the bill, filing fees for county courts and district courts would increase \$5. The bill remains on general file.

LB 537, introduced by Omaha Sen. John Synowiecki, would require the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services to collect a maximum of \$10 for co-payments



from inmates who receive routine healthcare services. The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee.



Sen. Arnie Stuthman

Sponsored by Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen, **LB 572** would form a task force to assess the structure and mission of the state Department of Correctional Services, review the growth and viability of the department's work capacity, review inmate programming and treatment services and examine the cost per offender and how it compares to other states. The bill remains on general file.

Under **LB 726**, sponsored by Stuthman, law enforcement would transport a mentally ill person who poses a threat to others to the nearest crisis response team for evaluation. A crisis team would be appointed in each of the state's six behavioral health regions. The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee.

LB 747, introduced by Synowiecki, would merge the administrative offices of probation and parole into a new executive branch agency. The Nebraska Supreme Court currently administers the state's parole functions. The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee.



Sen. John Synowiecki

LB 677, sponsored by Pedersen, would establish guidelines and procedures for placing inmates in the custody of the Department of Correctional Services into administrative segregation. Administrative segregation is defined in the bill as the placement of an inmate into solitary confinement or otherwise isolating an inmate from the general population of an institution. The bill remains on general file.

LB 505, sponsored by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, would change the legal age of majority under some circumstances. The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee. ❖

Criminal Justice

Lawmakers passed bills in 2005 to curb methamphetamine production and regulate DNA collection and will continue to debate next session on the death penalty, fetal rights and concealed handguns.

Sponsored by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, **LB 117** regulates the purchase of medications containing pseudoephedrine because they provide a key ingredient for the production of meth. The bill applies to products such as Sudafed, Claritin-D, Advil Cold & Sinus and Children's Benadryl.



Sen. Patrick Bourne

The bill also changes the penalty structure for the manufacture, distribution or possession with intent to distribute both methamphetamine and heroin by lowering the amount of drug needed to qualify for each penalty level. The new levels are equivalent to the current penalties for dealing cocaine. More than 140 grams is classified as a Class I-B felony, 28 to 139 grams is a Class I-C felony and 10 to 27 grams is a Class I-D felony.

The bill:

- raises the felony classification of carrying a firearm while in possession of methamphetamine;
- requires purchasers of products containing pseudoephedrine to be 18 or older and show a driver's license or a state identification card;
- requires that retail employees selling products containing pseudoephedrine be 18 or older;
- requires retailers to store medication containing pseudoephedrine behind the

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counter or in a locked case, except liquid pediatric formulations containing less than 15 milligrams; and

- limits retailers to selling no more than 1,440 milligrams of pseudoephedrine to a customer within a 24-hour period. This amount, for example, allows the purchase of two 20-tablet boxes of Children's Benadryl each day or two 295-milliliter bottles of Vicks DayQuil Liquid. Customers are allowed to purchase more if they have a doctor's permission.

LB 117 passed on a 44-2 vote.

A bill introduced by Milligan Sen. Jeanne Combs would allow people to obtain a permit to carry concealed handguns. Under a proposed Judiciary Committee amendment, **LB 454** would require an applicant for a concealed carry permit to complete a handgun safety training course. Gun owners would remit an application to the Nebraska State Patrol, present identification, submit two sets of fingerprints for a criminal history background check and pay an application fee of \$100 to receive the permit. The bill remains on general file.



Sen. Jeanne Combs

Two opposing bills about the method and necessity of the state's death penalty remain in the Judiciary Committee.

LB 506, introduced by Bayard Sen. Phillip Erdman, would change the method of inflicting capital punishment from electrocution to lethal injection. Erdman said a Nebraska court may find the electrocution method to be unusual, and therefore unconstitutional, because Nebraska is the only state to use the procedure.

LB 760, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, would abolish the death penalty in Nebraska and substitute a sentence of life without possibility of parole.

La Vista Sen. Nancy Thompson sponsored two bills related to state services for juveniles.

LB 193 transfers the oversight of the County Juvenile Service Aid program from the state Department of Health and Human Services to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. Under the bill, counties will develop and adopt comprehensive juvenile service plans in order to be eligible for participation in either the commission's grant program or the aid program. The bill passed on a 41-0 vote.

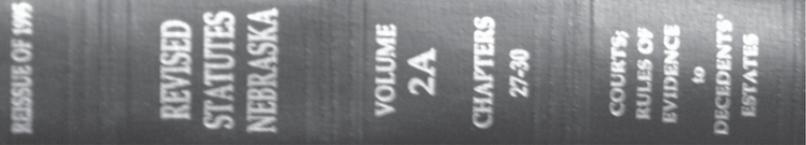
LB 4 would update the Interstate Juvenile Compact, an agreement that tracks and supervises juveniles across state borders who are under juvenile court jurisdiction, including runaways, delinquents, status offenders and adjudicated juveniles. The compact would become effective upon approval by at least 35 states. The bill remains on general file.

A bill sponsored by Bourne that establishes a central repository for information on missing persons passed on a 47-0 vote. **LB 111** requires the Nebraska State Patrol to administer a state Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse to be used by law enforcement agencies. Under the bill, the State Patrol will collect, process, maintain and disseminate information about missing people; maintain a website and a statewide, toll-free telephone hotline 24 hours a day; and distribute monthly missing persons bulletins.



Sen. Nancy Thompson

LB 713, introduced by Thompson, standardizes the sexual assault evidence collection kit statewide and eliminates Nebraska's statute of limitations for crimes of first- and second-degree sexual assault. Under the bill, the State Patrol will distribute lists of Level I and Level II sex offenders to schools, childcare facilities and healthcare facilities serving children or vulnerable adults. The State Patrol also is required to provide information about sex offenders to requesting organizations that hire employees to serve vulnerable adults or accept volunteers. The bill includes provisions proposed



by Omaha Sen. Mike Friend that allow courts to consider previous convictions of sex offenders to determine their risk of recidivism. LB 713 was passed on a 48-0 vote.

A bill introduced by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr would create a task force to study human trafficking in Nebraska. **LB 260** defines trafficking as acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception. The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee.

A bill containing provisions of several Judiciary Committee bills passed 44-0.

LB 361, introduced by Bourne, contains provisions of the following bills:

LB 755, sponsored by Chambers, prohibits law enforcement from collecting DNA samples from a person while investigating a crime without either having probable cause or receiving voluntary consent from the person. Under the bill, any DNA sample obtained in violation of these requirements is inadmissible in court.

LB 756, also sponsored by Chambers, requires police who seek a court order to obtain a person's identifying physical characteristics in order to establish probable cause that they committed a crime being investigated.

LB 446, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Jim Jensen, creates the Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety. The coalition will review health information reported to its members and collaborate on the improvement of patient safety. The coalition will publish educational information from the summary reports that providers can use to improve patient care.

LB 110, sponsored by Bourne, extends existing law providing immunity from civil liability for school nurses, medication aides or nonmedical staff who respond to a student's life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction.

LB 130, introduced by Omaha Sen. Pam Brown, brings the Nebraska Fair Housing Act into compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines.

LB 410, sponsored by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, eliminates the requirement of a signature on a quit claim deed in the relinquishing of ownership in divorce settlements.

Sen. Mike Foley of Lincoln sponsored two bills addressing fetal assault and pain.

LB 57 would make assaulting a fetus a criminal offense and would cover fetuses in statutes concerning motor vehicle injuries resulting from driving under the influence. The bill would not apply to action taken by the mother of the fetus, by a healthcare provider conducting a medical procedure performed with the mother's consent or by a person lawfully dispensing medication. The bill remains on general file.

LB 752 would require doctors to inform patients receiving an abortion that fetuses 20 weeks and older are able to feel pain. Doctors would be required to inform patients receiving abortions that they can request anesthesia or drugs to be administered directly to fetuses 20 weeks and older before an abortion. LB 752 remains in the Judiciary Committee.

Three bills that would ban human cloning and propose different regulations for stem cell research also remain in the Judiciary Committee.

LB 437, introduced by Sen. Adrian Smith of Gering, would ban the cloning of humans in Nebraska and outlaw the delivery and receipt of an embryo or fetus produced by human cloning for the purpose of research.

LB 750, sponsored by Foley, would prohibit the use of state funds to perform or assist in nontherapeutic research that destroys a human embryo. The bill would define nontherapeutic research as research that is not intended to preserve the life and

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Sen. Ernie Chambers



Sen. Mike Foley

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health of the particular embryo subjected to risk.

LB 580, sponsored by Sen. Joel Johnson of Kearney, would ban human reproductive cloning in Nebraska but permit regulated medical research using therapeutic cloning.

Combs introduced **LB 455**, which would prohibit civil liability for any claim arising out of weight gain or obesity. The bill remains on general file.

A bill sponsored by Bourne would remove the element of “breaking” from the offense of “breaking and entering.” **LB 360** would change burglary law to only require that the defendant know he or she does not have permission to be on the property in question. The bill remains on select file.

Introduced by Omaha Sen. Lowen Kruse, **LB 594** increases penalties for repeat DUI offenders and makes technical changes to the DUI laws regarding drivers license suspension, revocation and impoundment. Lawmakers voted 46-0 to pass the bill. ❖



Sen. Lowen Kruse

Economic Development

Lawmakers enacted the most comprehensive revision of the state’s economic development incentive programs since 1987, including replacing the state’s largest tax incentive program and funding ethanol credits, rural development and job training.

Under the Employment and Investment Growth Act program, enacted in 1987 as LB 775, tax credits are awarded to qualified companies that produce specific levels of financial investment and job growth. **LB 312**, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, replaces the LB 775 program with the Advantage Nebraska program and modifies another incentive program enacted in 2003 under LB 608.

No new applications for LB 775 tax credits will be allowed after Jan. 1, 2006. Under the Advantage Nebraska program, companies can qualify for tax incentives based on tiers:

Tier 1 – Create \$1 million of new investment and 10 new jobs. This tier is available only to manufacturers, research and development or testing businesses, and listed technology-related service providers who sell at least 75 percent of their goods out-of-state or to the federal government. Qualifying businesses under this tier are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the sales tax paid on purchases for the project, a full sliding-scale jobs credit and a 3 percent investment credit. Applications under this tier cannot be accepted after Jan. 1, 2011.

Tier 2 – Create \$3 million of new investment and 30 new jobs. This tier permits qualifying businesses to receive a 100% sales tax refund on purchases for the project, the jobs credit and a 10 percent investment credit.

Tier 3 – Create no new investment and 30 jobs. This tier allows qualifying companies to receive only the sliding-scale wage credit. It expires in 2011.

Tier 4 – Create \$10 million in investment and 100 new jobs. In addition to the 100% sales tax refund, jobs credit and the investment credit, qualifying businesses under this tier will receive a personal property tax exemption for turbine-powered aircraft, mainframe computers, agricultural processing machinery and personal property used in a distribution business.

Tier 5 – Create \$30 million of new investment with no requirement of new jobs.



Sen. David Landis

Qualifying companies receive only the refund of sales taxes paid on investment for the project. Tax credits will be reduced in proportion to any decrease in jobs at the project by qualifying companies.

The bill shortened the timeframe for attaining the required levels of investment and employment and the length of time benefits can be received. Application fees for the tax credit program were increased.

The jobs credit is a percentage multiplied by the average wage of new jobs created multiplied by the number of new jobs created. The jobs credits is available on a sliding scale as follows:

Jobs that pay between 60 and 75 percent of the state's average weekly wage generate a 3 percent credit.

Jobs that pay between 75 and 100 percent of the state's average weekly wage generate a 4 percent credit.

Jobs that pay between 100 and 125 percent of the state's average weekly wage generate a 5 percent credit.

Jobs that pay more than 125 percent of the state's average weekly wage generate a 6 percent credit.

The jobs credits can be taken against withholding of new employees. Jobs must pay at least 60 percent of the states average weekly wage to count as a new job.

Finally, the bill requires biennial reporting of aggregated, project-specific credits used and information on refunds obtained. The reporting requirements are extended to project-specific information about credits earned and used and sales tax refunds received during the previous year.

Under the LB 608 program, tax credits will be available for companies that create at least two jobs and at least \$125,000 of investment in counties with populations less than 15,000. Teleworkers can be counted as new employees under the bill.

The bill also included provisions of three other bills:

LB 672, originally introduced by Landis, created a tax credit for research and development.

LB 309, originally introduced by Sen. Matt Connealy of Decatur, provided for investment in microenterprises.

LB 695, originally introduced by Sen. Tom Baker of Trenton, exempted manufacturing machinery and equipment from sales tax.

The Legislative Fiscal Office estimated that LB 312 would result in general fund revenue reductions of \$7.6 million in fiscal year 2005-06, \$24.3 million in FY2006-07, \$28.5 million in FY2007-08 and \$33.3 million in FY2008-09.

LB 312 was passed by a 45-3 vote.

LB 90, sponsored by Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth, contains provisions dealing with ethanol production credits, value-added partnership grants, eligibility for a first-time farmer loan program and local entrepreneurship project grants.

LB 90 provides additional funding to the Ethanol Production Incentive Credit program, also known as EPIC, by increasing the state's corn checkoff fee per bushel from three-fourths of a cent to seven-eighths of a cent. The checkoff fee will expire Oct. 1, 2010, and raise an additional \$6.25 million for the credit program.

The state will annually provide \$2.5 million of general funds to the EPIC fund from FY2005-06 through FY2011-12. The state's contribution during that time will total \$17.5 million.

LB 90 also includes three programs from other legislation.

LB 71, originally introduced by Sen. Elaine Stuhr of Bradshaw, appropriates \$1

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Sen. Tom Baker



Sen. Roger Wehrbein

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million annually for the Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships program.

New agricultural enterprises can apply for \$75,000 grants to offset the costs of research, education, training and market development. The grants are available for producers who sell agricultural products in a nontraditional way, often through direct marketing to consumers. The program will expire on Oct. 1, 2010.

LB 688, originally introduced by Blair Sen. Mick Mines, increased the maximum loan the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority can offer under its beginning farmer program from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and increased the maximum net worth of borrowers from \$300,000 to \$500,000. The program provides low-interest loans for business expenses to qualifying new farmers.

LB 273, originally introduced by Sen. Doug Cunningham of Wausa, allows partnerships of two or more local political subdivisions to apply for grants of up to \$75,000 for collaborative projects addressing chronic economic distress, unemployment, lower-than-average per capita income and historically severe population loss. Applicants are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

The goal of the grant program is to build, generate and retain wealth in communities. The program will receive \$250,000 in funding annually and will expire Oct. 1, 2010.

LB 90 was passed by a 46-2 vote.

LB 500, introduced by Landis, would allow municipalities and counties to create entertainment and tourism development districts for up to two years after the bill becomes law. Qualifying projects undertaken in the new districts would be eligible for certain economic development incentives.

In order to be eligible for assistance, projects in areas designated as entertainment and tourism development districts would have to produce at least \$20 million of new investment and 150 new jobs.

Debate on the measure focused on the potential development of a large Cabela's outlet, amusement park and ballpark in eastern Nebraska.

Debate on LB 500 stalled, and the measure remains on general file.

LB 478, sponsored by Sen. Abbie Cornett of Bellevue, would exclude a portion of retired military personnel's pension benefits from their federal adjusted gross income when calculating their state income tax liability. The exclusion would apply beginning in tax year 2005. A person could exclude \$1 of pension income for every \$2 of income in excess of \$40,000 earned annually from a security-qualified defense contractor.

The bill is intended to attract trained military retirees to fill defense contractor jobs in the area surrounding Offutt Air Force Base.

LB 478 remains on select file.

LB 716, sponsored by Sen. Pat Engel of South Sioux City, was introduced to create a custom job training and education program within the state Department of Economic Development. The bill became unnecessary, however, when senators voted to transfer \$15 million in the upcoming biennium from the state's cash reserve fund to pay for job training programs.

LB 546, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Pam Brown, allows local governments to designate opportunity zones to encourage regional economic development.

The bill created an Eastern Nebraska Innovation Zone spanning Interstate 80 between Omaha and Lincoln. Projects will be coordinated by a commission consisting of representatives from area local and county government, community colleges, natural resources districts and the University of Nebraska.



Sen. Doug Cunningham



Sen. Abbie Cornett



Sen. Pam Brown

LB 546 was passed by a 44-0 vote.

LB 693, sponsored by Landis, would authorize the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority to borrow money and issue bonds to finance “economic impact projects.” Economic impact projects would include land, buildings, other improvements, real or personal property or equipment financed through the use of a federal new markets tax credit. Qualifying projects would need to be located in low-income communities.

LB 693 remains on final reading. ❖

Education



Sen. Ron Raikes

Although much of the focus on education policy surrounded the issue of Class I schools, lawmakers also passed legislation to require eye exams for students, fund early childhood education programs and study the state’s distance education technology needs.

After much debate and weeks of negotiation, lawmakers voted 35-12 to pass **LB 126**, a bill sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Ron Raikes that begins assimilating Class I school districts into K-12 school systems. The Legislature ultimately voted 32-16 to override a governor’s veto of the measure.

The goal of LB 126 is to create a K-12 school governance structure statewide.

Class I school districts are schools with only elementary grades. These districts have their own governing boards and share property tax bases with their affiliated high school districts. The Class I school districts would be assimilated beginning with the 2006-07 school year.

LB 126 also requires Class VI school districts, which are districts that contain only a high school and are associated with Class I districts, to become K-12 districts.

During debate, Raikes said as much as \$12.7 million could be saved annually by letting K-12 school boards decide how best to allocate their districts’ resources. According to the Legislature’s Education Committee, 47 percent of the state’s school districts serve only 3 percent of Nebraska’s students.

Under LB 126, the following factors would govern the assimilation process:

Attendance center protections – Class I school buildings can be kept open as elementary attendance centers if they meet certain criteria under LB 126 or at the discretion of the K-12 district. A school has three ways to qualify for protection as an elementary attendance center.

Attendance centers will be protected through the year in which 2005-06 kindergarten students would complete the highest grade level offered at that school if the school maintains at least 5 students. This means qualifying K-6 schools cannot be closed until 2013 and qualifying K-8 schools cannot be closed until 2015.

Attendance centers will continue to be protected if at least one resident elementary student would have to travel more than 20 miles from home to the next closest school, or the center has at least 10 resident students with more than 10 miles to travel to the next closest school and:

- the center is at least 10 miles from another elementary attendance center within the district; or
- the center is at least 10 miles from the closest elementary attendance center within the district with an average of at least 10 students per elementary grade offered; or

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- the center is the only elementary attendance center located within the boundaries of an incorporated city or village.

Attendance centers not meeting those criteria can be closed upon a majority vote of the K-12 school board after the initial protection expires.

Attendance centers with at least 10 resident students and located more than four miles from the next closest elementary school can be closed only upon a three-fourths vote of the K-12 board.

Operating councils – Elementary attendance centers can be designated as community schools through the formation of operating councils consisting of three to six members. Operating councils act in an advisory capacity to the K-12 governing board and administration on issues including budget and staffing.

Elected representation – For election purposes only, the new assimilation policy will take effect on Jan. 1, 2006. This will allow patrons of Class I districts to vote and run for their respective K-12 school boards.

Transitional costs – Approximately \$650,000 of rural education funds will be distributed in each of fiscal years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 to Class II and Class III school districts with 600 or more students that result from the assimilation of Class VI districts under LB 126.

The requirement for school districts to provide transportation or transportation reimbursement is limited to K-8 students who live more than four miles from school. Otherwise, providing transportation or transportation reimbursement will be optional.

Elementary improvement grants – Class II and Class III school districts will be eligible for elementary improvement grants in FY2007-08, FY2008-09 and FY2009-10 if they pass a school bond issue for at least \$2 million between June 15, 2006, and June 14, 2007, to remodel or build an elementary school. To qualify, schools will have to meet other criteria, such as having certain demographic factors, enrolling at least 390 students for the 2005-06 school year, serving at least 150 square miles in their district and getting State Board of Education approval for the project.

Funding appropriated for grants will be divided equally among qualifying school districts. Districts can receive up to \$100,000 per year.

Other changes – The State Board of Education is authorized to develop rules and regulations for the State Reorganization Committee. All certificated employees from an assimilating Class I district will be reallocated to the receiving district.

Earlier in the session, the Education Committee voted to indefinitely postpone two alternative measures relating to Class I schools introduced by Sen. Carol Hudkins of Malcolm.

LB 124 would have required governing boards of local school systems containing Class I districts to include one nonvoting member to represent Class I districts in the system. **LB 125** would have required elected school board members to complete at least six hours of school board and education-related training during their first year in office.

Both bills were killed in committee by 7-1 votes.

LB 114, introduced by Beatrice Sen. Dennis Byars, requires students to have a full eye examination within six months of entering kindergarten beginning in the 2006-07 school year. The examinations will test for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health.

The eye examination also is required for all students who transfer to a Nebraska school from out of state.

The student's parents or guardians will bear the cost of the exams. A waiver of the



Sen. Dennis Byars

examination requirement may be obtained by submitting an objection in writing. Contact information for services providing free or reduced-cost eye evaluations will be made available to low-income families.

LB 114 was passed by a 46-0 vote.

LB 577, introduced by Raikes, gradually shifts responsibility for funding early childhood education programs from a grant program to the state school aid formula.

Under the bill, early childhood students can be counted in a school system's membership for the purpose of calculating state aid if the system's program has received an early childhood education grant for at least three years. In order to be included in the state aid formula, programs are required to meet the same criteria as previously required under the grants.

Existing early childhood education programs in compliance with grant requirements are included under the bill's state aid provisions. Early childhood education programs are allowed to have instructional hours similar to or fewer than those required for kindergarten.

Early childhood education will be included in the state aid formula in the 2007-08 school year. First priority for funding will be given to continuation grants to education programs already receiving grants. Funding for \$1.7 million in early childhood education program grants was included in each fiscal year of the state's two-year budget.

LB 577 was passed by a 42-0 vote.

LB 689, sponsored by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr, creates a 15-member task force to develop a plan to upgrade distance education technology and coordinate resources throughout the state. The task force expires on Dec. 31.

LB 689 passed 48-0.

LB 129, introduced by the Education Committee, would significantly change the state aid formula for K-12 schools. As introduced, the bill would replace the formula's reliance on cost groupings of schools with comparison groups for the purpose of calculating state aid. The bill also would make various other changes to calculating basic school system funding.

LB 129 is still under consideration by the committee.

LB 96, sponsored by Sen. Ray Janssen of Nickerson, would increase undergraduate college tuition reimbursement for Nebraska National Guard members from 75 percent to a maximum of 100 percent. The bill remains on select file.

LB 47, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, would leverage investments from the state in order to provide incentives to private donors to increase their contributions in support of endowed professorships and endowed chairs at the University of Nebraska and the state colleges. The bill is on general file.

LB 239, sponsored by Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, would allow students to qualify for resident status if they have a petition pending with the federal government to attain lawful status. The bill also would allow students to enroll as resident students if they have lived in Nebraska for at least three years, have graduated from Nebraska high schools and will be applying to become permanent residents.

LB 239 is on general file.

LB 270, introduced by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, would have allowed home-schooled students to participate in public school extracurricular activities. The bill also would have required school districts to provide information to parents of exempt students about the policy allowing home-schooled students to participate.

The Education Committee indefinitely postponed LB 270 on a 5-0 vote.

LB 285, sponsored by Sen. Arnie Stuthman of Platte Center, would ban all sales of

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Sen. Ray Janssen



Sen. Gail Kopplin

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non-nutritious foods and beverages in schools. The bill remains in committee.

LB 561, introduced by Gretna Sen. Gail Kopplin, would provide free school meals to students whose parents are deployed U.S. Army National Guard and Army reservists. The bill remains in committee.

LB 527, sponsored by Decatur Sen. Matt Connealy, and **LB 622**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Pam Redfield, would provide tuition reimbursement for the children of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical service providers killed in the line of duty. Both bills remain in committee.

LR 28CA, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear, proposes a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the Constitution to the Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education. If passed, the resolution would be subject to Nebraska voters' approval.

LR 28CA remains in committee.

Elections

Senators made substantial changes to voting rights and procedures and debated the effectiveness of Nebraska's campaign finance law.

Lawmakers approved a bill that restores voting rights to ex-felons two years after the completion of their sentences, including parole.

LB 53, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, survived Gov. David Heineman's veto. The bill became law on a 36-11 vote. Thirty votes were needed to override the governor's veto.

Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek introduced **LR 98**, which asks University of Nebraska Regent David Hergert to resign after the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission determined that Hergert violated three campaign finance laws.

If Hergert resigns, the governor will appoint someone to fill the vacancy until a special election is held in November 2006. If Hergert fails to resign within 60 days of receiving the adopted resolution, the Legislature's Executive Board will appoint a special committee to investigate further legislative options. The special committee would report its recommendations to the Executive Board by January 2006.

The Legislature voted 31-0 to adopt LR 98.

Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler told the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee that he introduced **LB 188** in response to the Hergert case. The bill would:

- raise the prescribed spending limits for offices covered by the Campaign Finance Limitation Act;
- require candidates to file an affidavit when their campaign expenditures reach 40 percent of their estimated expenses, or when their expenditures exceed the set limitation for the election, whichever occurs first;
- establish a fine of \$25 per day for candidates who file late affidavits;
- allow the Accountability and Disclosure Commission to collect a \$2,000 fine from candidates who knowingly underestimate their expenditures by 5 percent or more;
- prohibit candidates from receiving campaign money from independent committees, political parties or businesses that exceeds 75 percent of the spending amount allowed for an office;



Sen. DiAnna Schimek

- make public funds available to eligible candidates no later than two days before the election; and
- allow any candidate who is eligible for public money to apply for a personal campaign loan up to the amount of public loans the candidate expects to receive. Candidates may use the personal loan money as soon as they file an affidavit stating that they have reached 25 percent of the election's spending limits.

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee voted 7-0 to advance LB 188 to general file.

Schimek offered **LB 242**, which adds reporting requirements for lobbyists, clarifies the penalty provision regarding loans to candidates and makes other technical changes to the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act.

The bill includes provisions of **LB 519**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Pam Brown, that requires elected officials of first- and second-class cities, villages and school boards to submit written statements about any conflicts of interest they face in making board-related decisions that could cause a financial benefit or detriment to themselves, their immediate family members or their workplace.

LB 242 also contains provisions of **LB 74**, sponsored by Beutler, which increases lobbyist registration fees. The bill passed 48-0.

Several voting procedures will change as a result of legislation passed this year.

LB 401, introduced by Valentine Sen. Deb Fischer, allows the secretary of state, upon request of the local county clerk or election commissioner, to designate any precinct in a county having a population of less than 7,000 as a mail only precinct.

Mail only precincts will not have polling places. Every registered voter will receive a ballot via mail 20 days prior to the election and must return it to the county clerk or election commissioner by 8 p.m. on the day of the election.

LB 401 also clarifies who is allowed to vote in sanitary and improvement district elections and requires that satellite polling places be coordinated by local election commissioners.

Four other bills are contained within LB 401.

LB 408, originally introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, allows a U.S. citizen who has not lived in the country to register and vote in the county in which his or her parent is registered to vote.

The bill also allows Nebraskans who are living overseas or are members of the armed forces to receive and return an absentee ballot using any method of transmission authorized by the secretary of state.

LB 233, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls, requires the election commissioner or county clerk to receive authorization from the secretary of state before dividing precincts into two or more parts between the statewide primary and general elections.

LB 290, originally introduced by Blair Sen. Mick Mines, allows the secretary of state to adopt rules and regulations establishing polling places that may be used for voting for 20 days prior to Election Day. The polling places could include grocery stores, shopping malls, hospitals and college campuses.

LB 477, originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, allows a voter whose absentee ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day or obtain a replacement absentee ballot.

LB 401 passed 39-0.

The Legislature considered three other election reform bills that Schimek introduced.



Sen. Deb Fischer



Sen. Mike Flood

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One of her proposals changes provisions for filling a vacancy in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Under **LB 682**, if a U.S. House vacancy occurs between Aug. 1 of an even-numbered year and the general election, the winners of the primary election will appear on the general election ballot as candidates for the general election and the special election. Others could petition to have their names placed on the ballot for the special election. The winner of the general election would fill the remainder of the current term and serve the next term.

If a vacancy occurs on or after the day of the statewide general election and prior to the end of the term, no special election will be held, and the winner of the general election will complete the remainder of the current term and serve the next term.

If a vacancy occurs at any other time, the governor will order a special election to be held within 90 days after the vacancy occurs. Each recognized political party in the district for which the vacancy occurs could select a candidate. Others could petition to have their names placed on the ballot. The winner of the special election would fill the remainder of the current term.

The bill passed 42-0.

LB 556 clarifies that any person waiting in line to vote when the polling site closes will be allowed to vote. Poll workers will follow new procedures for reviewing absentee ballots and accepting absentee ballots after the polls close.

The bill passed 48-0.

LB 98 will allow an election commissioner or county clerk to determine whether a special local election should be conducted by mail. In making the determination, the election commissioner or county clerk will consider the costs and the expected voter turnout of holding the election by mail.

The Legislature voted 44-0 to pass LB 98.

Sen. Lavon Heidemann of Elk Creek introduced a bill to change qualifying requirements for political parties in Nebraska. Current law allows political parties to organize not only as statewide parties, but also based on congressional district, county or municipal boundaries.

Under **LB 473**, a political party would have to organize statewide. In order to maintain ballot status, the new party would have to have a candidate or a combination of candidates that encompass the entire state receive at least 5 percent of the vote at one of the two previous elections.

The committee voted 8-0 to send the bill to general file. ❖



Sen. Lavon Heidemann

Health and Human Services

The Legislature began the process of Medicaid reform, changed behavioral health policy and debated state smoking laws last session.

Under **LB 709**, introduced by Bayard Sen. Philip Erdman, the governor and the chairperson of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee will designate one person to be responsible for the development of a state Medicaid reform plan. The plan will be developed in consultation with the governor, the committee, the state Department of Health and Human Services policy cabinet and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The bill establishes a Medicaid advisory council consisting of five members appointed by the governor and five members appointed



Sen. Philip Erdman

by the chairperson of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee. The council will include healthcare providers, consumers, consumer advocates, business representatives, insurers and elected officials.

According to the bill, the Medicaid plan must:

- consider and address the needs of low-income, disabled and elderly persons who use the program;
- consider the availability and affordability of private healthcare and long-term care insurance;
- address the personal responsibility of patients to select and pay for all or a portion of their healthcare services;
- avoid shifting the primary costs of services to healthcare providers;
- identify the appropriate role of county government in providing healthcare services;
- identify alternatives to increasing federal funding for healthcare services; and
- address fiscal sustainability.

The bill requires that a plan be submitted to the governor and the Legislature by Dec. 1 and that the advisory council provide its recommendations by Dec. 14. The bill also requires the HHS system and the state Department of Insurance, in consultation with the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee, to prepare a plan for a long-term care partnership program by Dec. 1. LB 709 passed on a 45-2 vote.

Lawmakers rejected a proposal to ban smoking in Nebraska restaurants. Sponsored by La Vista Sen. Nancy Thompson, **LB 480** would prohibit smoking in enclosed, indoor areas of restaurants. Bars would have been able to allow smoking throughout the establishment. Under the bill, municipalities and counties would be allowed to adopt more stringent tobacco ordinances. For example, LB 480 would not override the ban on smoking in public buildings the city of Lincoln enacted last year. LB 480 failed to advance to select file by a 19-26 vote and remains on general file.

The Judiciary Committee did not advance a competing bill that would amend provisions of the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act. **LB 730**, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, would make the act supersede any existing or future local smoking ordinances. If passed, the bill would effectively repeal Lincoln's smoking ban, which went into effect Jan. 1. The bill would add tobacco shops occupying less than 1,200 square feet to the list of exempted businesses that can allow smoking, which includes bars and restaurants. The bill also would change the penalty for violating the act to be a Class V misdemeanor.

A bill that changes the allocation of money awarded to the state from tobacco settlement revenues became part of the budget package. Introduced by Omaha Sen. Jim Jensen, **LB 548** increases the funds to be annually transferred from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund and the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund to the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund from \$50 million to \$52 million. Institutions receiving the funding include the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Boys Town National Research Hospital. Lawmakers designated the increased funds for biomedical research.



Sen. Jim Jensen

LB 551, sponsored by Jensen, requires that at least two consumers be appointed to the state Behavioral Health Council from each of three state health advisory committees. The bill also increases the maximum number of members that could be appointed to the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission of the Legislature from 20 to 25.

The bill requires that at least three members appointed to the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services be consumers of those services.

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It also clarifies the qualifications of psychologists or psychiatrists to supervise persons seeking to be licensed as drug and alcohol counselors and requires that at least three members appointed to the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services be consumers of substance abuse services.

The bill includes provisions of **LB 618**, a bill originally introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood that requires the HHS Division of Behavioral Health Services to establish and maintain an information system for patients receiving state-funded behavioral health services. LB 551 passed 47-0.

The definition of "critical access hospital" expanded under a bill sponsored by Riverdale Sen. Jim Cudaback. **LB 664** increases the maximum number of acute care inpatient beds permitted in critical access hospitals from 15 to 25. The change provides additional federal funding to qualifying small rural hospitals. The bill passed 48-0.

A bill that affects developmental disability region requirements passed 45-0. Sponsored by Sen. Pat Engel of South Sioux City, **LB 205** ends an obsolete requirement that a developmental disability region's equipment and property be returned to HHS if the region fails to meet statutory requirements relating to certification and accreditation.



Sen. Pat Engel

Sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Marian Price, **LB 256** makes numerous changes relating to advanced practice registered nurses and certified advanced nursing specialties, including clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists and certified nurse midwives. The bill charges the Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with overseeing all advanced practice registered nurses and advanced nursing practice specialties. The bill passed 48-0 and will take effect July 1, 2007.



Sen. Marian Price

Lawmakers passed a bill to provide loans to nurses who pursue master's or doctorate degrees to become nursing instructors. **LB 146**, also introduced by Price, allows nurses to annually receive up to \$5,000 for a maximum of three years for educational expenses. Each \$5,000 loan will be forgiven in exchange for two years of full-time nursing instruction in Nebraska. The bill allows HHS to collect \$1 for each nursing license renewal. The fee will be used to start the loan forgiveness program. LB 146 passed on a 48-0 vote.

A bill that coordinates healthcare benefits between private insurers and the state's Health and Human Services System was passed by lawmakers 45-0. **LB 589**, sponsored by the Performance Audit Committee, requires private insurers to provide HHS, upon request, with health coverage information that can be used to determine a person's eligibility for Medicaid benefits and to coordinate those benefits. Carriers writing limited benefit policies will be required to provide the information only for the purpose of determining eligibility.

Jensen also offered **LB 382**, which allows doctors to fax drug prescriptions to pharmacies. The bill contains provisions of **LB 725**, a bill introduced by Platte Center Sen. Arnie Stuthman that allows pharmacists at the state's five community health centers to redistribute sealed, unused prescriptions to other patients within a facility. The bill exempts dentists from background checks and fingerprinting procedures when applying for temporary practice rights and adds a practitioner of body art to the state Board of Cosmetology. The bill passed on a 47-0 vote.

Sponsored by Sen. Vickie McDonald of St. Paul, **LB 331** requires HHS to establish and maintain a participant registry for a cancer drug repository program and provide a central list of physician's offices, pharmacies, hospitals and health clinics that have

volunteered to accept donated cancer drugs. The program allows cancer patients and their families to donate unused medications for other patients' use. Senators voted 42-0 to pass the bill.



Sen. Gwen Howard

LB 264, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Gwen Howard, allows HHS to establish child abuse and neglect prevention programs such as home visitation, screening and education within the state's child welfare system. The bill also requires HHS to consider national standards in establishing child welfare caseloads and to provide annual reports on caseloads and employee retention. LB 264 passed on a 47-0 vote.

Under **LB 761**, sponsored by Thompson, the membership of the State Foster Care Review Board will change to consist of 11 members appointed by the governor. Those members will include three members of local foster care review boards, a pediatrician, a child psychologist, a social worker, a guardian ad litem, a representative of a state-wide child advocacy group, a child advocacy center director, a director of a court-appointed special advocate program and a member of the public with a background in business or finance. The bill passed 43-1.

Services to treat problem gambling were partially funded by **LB 332**, a bill sponsored by McDonald. The bill appropriates \$500,000 from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to help fund services for compulsive gamblers. The funds will be used in combination with other funds appropriated by law from charitable gaming and the state lottery. LB 332 was passed by a 44-0 vote.



Sen. Vickie McDonald

Sen. Dennis Byars of Beatrice sponsored **LB 101**, a bill that would provide early intervention services for children with autism spectrum disorder. The bill remains on general file.

Out-of-state dentists are authorized to temporarily practice in Nebraska under **LB 89**. Also introduced by Byars, the bill authorizes a temporary practice permit in Nebraska for out-of-state dentists. The period of the temporary permit cannot exceed three months in any 12-month period. The bill passed 40-0. ❖

Local Government

Topics relating to local government in 2005 included disputes between natural gas service providers, storm water management and the construction of community improvement projects and visitor attractions.

Two alternative proposals regarding natural gas regulation went before lawmakers in 2005.

LB 48, introduced by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, would initially set service area boundaries for each natural gas utility to include areas they served as of January 2005. The Public Service Commission would be responsible for creating and maintaining a map of service areas. The PSC also would have the authority to modify service areas and determine who would provide gas in the future to currently unserved areas based on guidelines outlined in the bill.

LB 748, a competing proposal introduced by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, would give municipally owned systems and the Metropolitan Utilities District the authority to function as marketers, or competitive natural gas providers, and would broaden their exemption from state regulation by the PSC.

The bill also would allow the condemnation of a natural gas utility to be handled through the general eminent domain process. If passed, MUD's powers of eminent

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domain would be extended beyond the city limits of Omaha.

Finally, LB 748 would clarify the powers of municipally-owned natural gas providers in annexed territories, provide municipalities with a right of first refusal if the local investor-owned natural gas provider receives an offer to buy or lease the natural gas system, and would allow municipalities to construct new pipelines or infrastructure beyond their boundaries to obtain additional natural gas supplies.

LB 48 remains on general file. Senators voted 30-6 to recommit LB 748 to the Urban Affairs Committee.

Local governments are encouraged to pool their resources for community improvement projects under **LB 217**. Introduced by Norfolk Sen. Mike Flood, the bill allows local government agencies to forego the election process to issue bonds for joint projects, such as buildings, streets, flood control, storm water drainage and information technology for libraries. Agencies are required to hold public hearings prior to adopting bond issues. The bill, passed 47-0, would place a \$5 million limit on jointly issued bonds for public buildings, real estate improvements, street projects and recreational facilities.



Sen. Ray Aguilar

A bill that makes a number of changes to municipal law received final legislative approval. **LB 161**, introduced by Sen. Ray Aguilar of Grand Island, extends the maximum length of time to 20 years that bonds for sewer and water improvements may be repaid in first-class cities and extends the length of time to 20 years that bonds for sewer and water main extensions may be repaid in first- and second-class cities and villages.

LB 161 also includes portions of five other bills.

LB 22, originally introduced by Sen. Philip Erdman of Bayard, expands the authority of second-class cities and villages to require the construction and repair of sidewalks.

LB 92, originally introduced by Sen. Dennis Byars of Beatrice, makes changes related to the disposition of land when streets or alleys are vacated by first- and second-class cities and villages.

LB 474, originally introduced by Omaha Sen. Jim Jensen, allows municipalities and counties to enact zoning changes that are consistent with the jurisdiction's comprehensive development plan upon receiving a majority vote from a local government board. A super-majority vote was previously required.

LB 302, originally introduced by Lincoln Sen. Marian Price, authorizes a primary class city to form special assessment districts to fund the planting and removal of trees in property lying within the city's right-of-way. Lincoln is the state's only primary class city.

LB 558, originally introduced by Sen. Dwite Pedersen of Elkhorn, eliminates a prohibition on the ability of a railroad transportation safety district to issue bonds more than 25 years after the district's creation.

LB 161 was passed by a 40-2 vote.

Lodging tax proceeds may be used for the construction of visitor attractions under **LB 557**, which passed 47-0. Sponsored by Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln, the bill permits bonded indebtedness lasting up to 20 years to finance expansion, improvement or construction of a visitor attraction. The amount that could be pledged for the bonds is limited to the amount raised by a 1 percent lodging tax.

A bill that authorizes cities and villages to set aside funds from service benefit award programs for volunteer emergency responders passed 48-0. Under **LB 268**, an Urban Affairs Committee bill, an emergency response volunteer will not be required to

report or pay taxes on the benefits until the volunteer retires and begins spending the earned benefits. The bill also permits proportional vesting: 50 percent after 5 years, 60 percent after six years, and so on.

A proposed constitutional amendment that would authorize the use of revenue bonds to develop property for use by nonprofit enterprises remains on select file. **LR 2CA**, introduced by Landis, proposes to amend Article XIII, Section 2 of the Nebraska Constitution to authorize counties, cities and villages to acquire, own, develop and lease real and personal property for use by charitable nonprofit enterprises. Those entities also would be allowed to issue revenue bonds to defray the cost of acquiring and developing or financing property by construction, purchase or other means.

Senators passed **LB 261**, a bill sponsored by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr that eliminates agricultural and horticultural land valuation boards. Agricultural and horticultural land valuation boards were created by law in 1994. The boards had the authority to examine an area's intercounty equalization and change the valuation of agricultural land in order to enhance equalization. In 1995, the state Tax Equalization and Review Commission was created. The commission's decisions take precedence over those made by local valuation boards. **LB 261** passed 33-5.

Cities and counties would have another option for raising funds to develop storm water management programs under a bill sponsored by the Natural Resources Committee. **LB 102** would allow municipalities to charge fees to create and implement storm water management plans. The fees would be proportionate to the amount of storm water that drains from a property. The bill remains in committee. ❖

Miscellaneous



Sen. Ed Schrock

Other topics debated this session included hunting rights, veterans' issues, cemetery funding and alcoholic beverages.

LR 8CA, which proposes a state constitutional amendment to protect Nebraskans' hunting, fishing and trapping rights, moved to select file, where the measure remains. If adopted, the proposal would appear on the 2006 general election ballot. Elm Creek Sen. Ed Schrock has said he introduced the proposal because special interest groups, such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, are working to prevent hunting in other states.

LB 54, a bill retaining veterans' eligibility for benefits, passed 40-0. Sponsored by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, the bill negates an attorney general's opinion issued in 2004 that questioned the legality of treating a general discharge under honorable conditions the same as an honorable discharge when determining a veteran's eligibility to receive assistance.

Benefits affected by the bill include homestead exemptions, county and state veterans' aid and admission to state veterans' homes.

The bill also includes provisions of **LB 240**, which clarifies the hiring preference for veterans seeking state employment and eliminates an unused information technology retraining program.

Under a bill passed this session, the Legislature can appropriate general funds to ensure the operation, administration and maintenance of the state's veteran cemetery system.

Ellsworth Sen. LeRoy Loudon, the bill's sponsor, said **LB 227** enables Nebraska to

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obtain federal funds to build state veterans cemeteries. The bill passed on a 48-0 vote.

Lawmakers passed another cemetery bill 48-0 that provides a central data bank to record the locations of cemeteries, burial grounds, mausoleums and columbaria in Nebraska.

Under **LB 211**, the Nebraska State Historical Society will establish and maintain a statewide cemetery registry that will be available to the public. The Historical Society will ask cities, villages, townships, counties, churches, fraternal and benevolent societies and cemetery districts and associations that own or maintain a cemetery, Native American burial ground, mausoleum or columbarium to report the site to the state registry every 10 years.

The bill also creates a state archaeology office within the Historical Society and requires those who discover an archeological resource on public lands to alert the office. Under the bill, tampering with an archeological resource on public land without permission from the state archaeology office is a Class III misdemeanor.

Sponsored by Sen. Ray Janssen of Nickerson, LB 211 was passed 48-0.

A bill that would tax flavored malt beverages as beer stalled on select file after Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers introduced an amendment to continue taxing the beverages as liquor.

Janssen introduced **LB 563**, which would redefine beer to include flavored malt beverages, making Nebraska law consistent with the federal standards that changed in December 2004. The federal law takes effect Jan. 3, 2006.

Smirnoff Ice, Mike's Hard Lemonade and Bacardi Silver are examples of flavored malt beverages. To be classified as beer, 51 percent or more of the alcohol in flavored malt beverages would have to be derived from brewing. No more than 49 percent of the alcohol would come from flavorings added during distillation.

A bill that would allow restaurant diners to take home one open bottle of wine after consuming a portion of the bottle with a meal remains on general file.

Under **LB 388**, sponsored by Blair Sen. Mick Mines, restaurants would be required to recork opened bottles and seal them inside clear, plastic bags designed to seal only once. The bags would become legal "sealed containers," and must be accompanied by a restaurant receipt.

Lawmakers passed a bill 45-0 that would increase fees and provide additional sources of revenue for the Nebraska State Racing Commission to supplement its budget and conduct more drug testing on winning horses.

LB 573, sponsored by Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen, would:

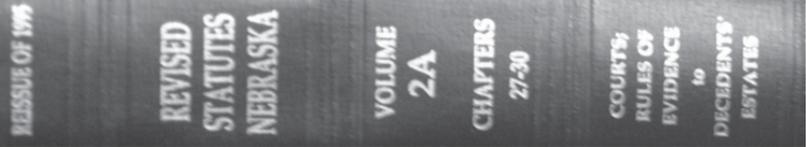
- change the maximum fine that may be imposed upon a racing industry licensee for violating a regulation from \$1,000 to \$5,000;
- allow a board of stewards to impose a fine up to \$1,500 upon finding a violation of a regulation;
- change the amount that a licensee may deduct from the total sum wagered by exotic wagers from 24 to 25 percent;
- eliminate a requirement that each licensed racetrack increase the deduction from the total sum wagered by exotic wagers by 1 percent over the amount deducted by the licensee in 1993;
- change the amount to be paid to the commission for race meetings from 0.4 percent to 0.64 percent of the annual gross sum wagered by the pari-mutuel method at each licensed racetrack;
- require quarter horse racetracks to give preference to racing Nebraska-bred horses; and



Sen. Ray Janssen



Sen. Dwite Pedersen



- set a three-year period in which a licensee has the option of running at least one race on each live racing day, which gives preference to Nebraska-bred quarter horses.

Current law requires every licensee to hold at least one race on each racing day limited to Nebraska-bred horses.

Under **LB 201**, sponsored by Riverdale Sen. Jim Cudaback, the state electrical board would be required to follow the 2005 National Electrical Code in its policies and procedures. National and state electrical codes are updated every three years. LB 201 was passed 47-0.

LB 665, also sponsored by Cudaback, would provide permanent state identification cards for people over age 70. The bill remains in the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. ❖

Retirement

The Legislature passed retirement legislation in 2005 that addresses funding deficiencies in the public school and Nebraska State Patrol plans and gives state and county plan members an additional investment options.

LB 503, introduced by the Retirement Systems Committee, made the following changes to the state's retirement systems:

Employee and employer contribution rates for the school employee retirement system increase temporarily. Currently, the employee and employer contribution rates are 7.25 percent and 7.32 percent, respectively. Beginning Sept. 1, 2005, those rates increase to 7.98 percent and 8.06 percent. Beginning Sept. 1, 2006, the rates drop to 7.83 percent and 7.91 percent. On Sept. 1, 2007, the rates return to their pre-LB 503 levels.

Certain schools, depending on their current spending levels, will be granted additional budget authority equal to the amount of increased employer retirement contributions that result from the bill's passage. The extra spending authority will be in effect for fiscal years 2005-06 and 2006-07. The bill will not affect property tax levy limitations.

School employee compensation increases for the purpose of calculating retirement benefits will be capped at 7 percent during the last five years of employment. The provision addresses the problem of "salary spiking" by school employees in anticipation of retirement. School districts providing a compensation increase of greater than 7 percent to an employee are required to notify the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board of the increase.

The State Patrol employee contribution rate increases from 11 percent to 13 percent until July 1, 2007, when the rate decreases to 12 percent. The employer contribution rate increases from 11 to 15 percent until July 1, 2007, when the rate decreases to 13 percent.

Beginning July 1, 2006, eligible state and county plan members will be allowed to direct their contributions to an investor select account. Funds in the investor select account will be invested under the direction of the Nebraska Investment Council. The strategy for investing the funds will be similar to that used for defined benefit plans. An account category that will permit investment strategy changes based on the age of the plan member also will be created beginning July 2006.



Sen. Elaine Stuhr

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LB 503 was passed by a 43-0 vote.

Also sponsored by the committee, **LB 364**:

- defines a year of service in the Omaha Public Schools retirement plan as a minimum of 1,000 hours;
- measures fractional years of service in the OPS plan in tenths, rather than halves;
- makes technical changes related to qualified transportation fringes, purchased prior years of service and eligibility of designated beneficiaries in the OPS plan;
- includes **LB 365**, which makes changes to the membership of the Public Employees Retirement Board;
- includes **LB 367**, which authorizes and changes provisions relating to retirement late payment fees; and
- includes **LB 691**, which changes provisions related to cash benefit and defined contribution plans.

LB 364 was passed 48-0.

LB 366, sponsored by the committee, would increase the contribution rate for state employees.

Currently, state employees contribute 4.33 percent of their pay for the first \$19,954 of salary and 4.8 percent of pay for the remainder of their salary. Under LB 366, the employee contribution rate would change to 4.8 percent on the employee's entire salary.

Because the state is required to match employee contributions at a rate of 156 percent, the proposed increase in the state employee contribution rate would result in a corresponding increase in the state's financial contribution to the plan.

LB 366 is on general file. ❖

State Government

Issues of interest to state government this year included game land parks proposals, pay raises for senators and constitutional officers, and state agency oversight.

Under **LB 162**, sponsored by Bradshaw Sen. Elaine Stuhr, the state Game and Parks Commission will be able to annually issue up to five lottery hunting permits for antelope and elk and up to 25 permits for deer and wild turkey. The commission also can establish a nonresident two-day hunting permit for the period between the fourth Wednesday in November to the end of December each year.

LB 162 also allows the commission to raise daily park entry fees in 2007, increase the nonresident permit fee to hunt wild turkey and set the fee for senior and veteran permits at \$5, but lower the qualification age by one year.

The bill passed 38-2.

Sen. LeRoy Loudon of Ellsworth offered a bill that gives deployed military personnel a one-time discount on hunting, fishing and big game permits.

Under **LB 121**, those who receive discounted permits must be Nebraska residents, purchase a hunting or fishing permit prior to deployment and prove they were deployed outside Nebraska for more than half of the period covered by the original permit. The permit fee would be \$5.

LB 121 passed 40-0.



Sen. LeRoy Loudon



Sen. DiAnna Schimek

Lawmakers agreed to ask voters to consider increasing legislative salaries and considered raises for constitutional officers.

LR 12CA, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. DiAnna Schimek, would raise legislators' salaries from \$12,000 to \$21,000 if voters approve the measure. Lawmakers have not received a pay increase since 1988.

If voters approve LR 12CA, the increase would take effect in 2007. After that, senators would receive annual increases equal to changes in the Consumer Price Index, not to exceed 4 percent.

The proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the 2006 primary election ballot.

The measure passed 44-0.

Lawmakers initially voted 38-5 to pass **LB 683**, Schimek's proposal to raise constitutional officers' salaries. However, Gov. David Heineman vetoed the measure, noting that the Legislature raised salaries two years ago.

The Legislature voted 25-21 on the motion to override the veto, falling five votes short of adoption.

Nebraska's Hall of Fame selection process will change under another Schimek bill.

LB 37 requires the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission to hold public hearings in each of the state's three congressional districts before selecting a finalist for induction.

The bill also requires the governor to consider gender and ethnic diversity and appreciation for Nebraska history and culture when appointing Hall of Fame commissioners.

The bill passed 40-1.

The Legislature considered several bills to give the Legislature greater supervision over state agency functions.

LB 373, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, gives the Legislature oversight on the regulations that state agencies adopt, amend or repeal.

State agencies will have to provide the Legislature's Executive Board with a description of proposed rule changes, proof that the changes are consistent with legislative intent, estimates of how much the rules would cost those affected by the change and information relating to federal and state mandates.

The Executive Board will forward the information to the chairperson of the legislative committee that has jurisdiction over the subject involved and the sponsor of the bill or amendment that granted the agency rulemaking authority. Senators could file a complaint about the proposed change and ask the agency to provide more information about the intent and effect of the rule.

The bill passed 47-1.

The Performance Audit Committee introduced **LB 588**, which would provide the Legislature's Performance Audit Section with access to the same confidential information and records that are provided to the state auditor of public accounts.

The bill would allow the section to share confidential information with the speaker of the Legislature in cases in which a state agency disputes the fairness of the section's audit.

LB 588 remains on final reading.

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee considered **LR 11CA**, a measure sponsored by the Executive Board that would allow the Legislature to prescribe personnel policies for constitutional officers, including the manner of appointment and removal of subordinate employees.



Sen. Patrick Bourne

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The committee has not acted on the proposed constitutional amendment.

Under **LR 26CA**, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler, civil officers who commit misdemeanors related to the election in which they were elected to office could be subject to impeachment.

Current law states that civil officers may face impeachment for any misdemeanor committed while in office. ❖

Taxes



Sen. Matt Connealy

Tax bills passed in 2005 included tax credits for contributions to community endowments and improvement, a tax break for historic property and clarification of the sales tax on construction labor.

LB 28, sponsored by Sen. Matt Connealy of Decatur, provides a state income tax credit for planned or future charitable contributions to Nebraska-based permanent endowments with 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax status.

The bill creates a 30 percent state income tax credit, up to \$10,000, for the present value of planned gifts by individuals. A 20 percent credit, up to \$10,000, is available for outright gifts by corporations. The credit is applicable only to contributions used for Nebraska charitable purposes.

The new credits will be in effect from 2006 until 2010. The Legislative Fiscal Office estimates that the bill will reduce revenue by approximately \$4.6 million annually.

LB 28 was passed by a 39-4 vote.

State law allows businesses to receive a tax credit for contributing to a community improvement organization. The tax credit cannot exceed 40 percent of the contribution, and the total amount of credits awarded by the state cannot exceed \$250,000 annually.

LB 334, sponsored by Sen. Ray Janssen of Nickerson, modified the credit program to allow individuals, as well as businesses, to receive the credit. The cap on annual credits also was increased to \$350,000.

LB 334 was passed by a 45-0 vote.

LB 66, sponsored by North Platte Sen. Don Pederson, authorizes property tax breaks for certain historic property.

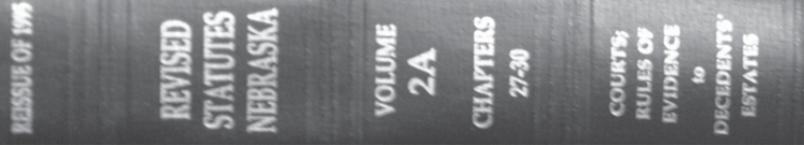
In 2004, voters amended the Nebraska Constitution to state that “the increased value of real property resulting from improvements designed primarily for the purpose of renovating, rehabilitating, or preserving historically significant real property may be, in whole or in part, exempt from taxation.”

Under LB 66, historically significant property includes real property listed on the National Register of Historic Places or buildings within a district listed on the National Register that the state historic preservation officer determines to be of historic significance. Also, the state historic preservation officer may designate property as historically significant if the property is eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. To be eligible for the exemption, any proposed rehabilitation must improve the property’s value by at least 25 percent.

Beginning in 2006, the value of rehabilitated historically significant property cannot exceed its base year value for eight years following completion of the rehabilitation. After that time, the property’s value will increase proportionately each year for the next four years until the property reaches its full value.



Sen. Don Pederson



Property is ineligible for a historic designation if a final certificate of rehabilitation has been issued within the previous 12 years. Property owners are required to provide information to the preservation officer upon completion of the property's rehabilitation.

LB 66 was passed on a 47-0 vote.

LB 753, introduced by Omaha Sen. Patrick Bourne, clarifies how sales taxes are applied to certain portions of construction projects, specifically the installation of telephone and cable television lines.

The bill clarifies that changes made in the law last year regarding the taxation of these services are effective retroactively to Oct. 1, 2003, when the sales tax was broadened to include these services.

LB 753 makes the taxability of installing telephone or cable lines dependent upon whether an entire building project is taxable.

The bill also provides that the sales tax on utility installations does not apply to contractors who choose to be the final consumers of building materials for tax purposes.

LB 753 was passed by a 47-0 vote.

LB 38, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Ron Raikes, extends extra property tax levy authority for community colleges through the end of fiscal year 2006-07. The extra levy authority, which is set to expire July 1, allows community colleges to make up for reductions in state aid.

The bill also allows community college areas whose valuation per aid-equivalent student is equal to or less than 82 percent of the statewide average to levy an additional half-cent per \$100 of valuation. The only community college area that qualifies under the provision is Northeast Community College.

LB 38 was passed by a 33-12 vote.

LB 40, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Pam Redfield, transfers the responsibility of providing housing assistance for individuals with severe mental illness from the state Department of Economic Development to the state Health and Human Services System and the state's behavioral health regions. Accordingly, the state treasurer will transfer \$2 million from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to the Behavioral Health Services Fund.

At least 25 percent of the state's affordable housing funds will be made available to applicants in each congressional district, with the remaining 25 percent prioritized for Native American reservations and other projects.

The documentary stamp tax is a tax on the grantor executing a deed to real estate for which the legal title is being transferred. LB 40 increases the documentary stamp tax from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per \$1,000 of property value. The proceeds will be allocated as follows:

- \$1.20 to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund;
- 50 cents to the county's general fund;
- 25 cents to the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund; and
- 30 cents to the Behavioral Health Services Fund.

LB 40 also provides a one-time \$300,000 transfer from a fund for cleaning up spills from leaky underground storage tanks to help pay for a lead cleanup program in Omaha.

The bill was passed 40-7.

LB 499, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, would change the state estate tax so Nebraskans' estate tax liability would be reduced in proportion to the percent-

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Sen. Pam Redfield

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age of their estate located in another state. For nonresident taxpayers, estate tax liability would be the percentage of the taxpayer's property that is in Nebraska.

LB 499 was passed by a 45-0 vote.

LB 399, introduced by Sen. Tom Baker of Trenton, would eliminate Nebraska inheritance, estate and generation-skipping taxes. The bill is still under consideration by the Revenue Committee.

LB 299, sponsored by Landis, would prohibit county boards from holding property valuation protest hearings before a single county commissioner. The bill was passed 42-0.

LB 291, introduced by Baker, would allow a county to request every two years that the state take over its property tax assessment duties. The bill was passed 38-0.

LB 542, sponsored by Kenesaw Sen. Carroll Burling, would create the Nebraska Tax Policy Reform Commission. The commission would be responsible for identifying and reviewing Nebraska's tax structure and making recommendations to the Legislature by Nov. 15, 2006. The commission would expire on Dec. 31, 2006.

The commission would consist of members representing the Legislature, education, production agriculture, industry, manufacturing, finance, telecommunications and city and county government.

The study would include a review of previous tax policy studies, such as the one conducted by Syracuse University between 1986 and 1988.

LB 542 remains on general file.

LB 44, sponsored by Redfield, would provide each property owner an \$8,250 homestead exemption on his or her primary residence. The exemption would be funded through the elimination of the mortgage interest deduction on Nebraska income taxes.

The bill would not affect the existing homestead exemption program, which provides exemptions to qualifying property tax payers who are disabled veterans or elderly.

LB 44 failed to advance on a 7-30 vote. The bill remains on general file.

LB 523, sponsored by Beatrice Sen. Dennis Byars, would enable persons whose homesteads are damaged in natural disasters to file a miscellaneous claim with the State Claims Board to receive property tax relief from the state. Only events declared as natural disasters by the governor would enable a person to qualify to file a claim.

LB 523 remains in committee.

The Revenue Committee indefinitely postponed several measures relating to the state's gas tax.

The state collects a tax on motor vehicle fuel that is distributed to state and local government through various formulas. Ultimately the funding is used by the state, counties and cities for road construction and maintenance.

LB 555, introduced by Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln, would have increased the state gas tax by 2 cents. The increase would have been distributed evenly between city governments and county governments. Cities and counties that receive less than 35 percent of their contribution to the overall highway funding system would have received priority in the distribution of the new funds until they reached the 35 percent level.

LB 555 was indefinitely postponed on a 7-0 vote.

LB 155, sponsored by Baker, would have returned the disbursement of certain sales tax proceeds from the state's general fund to the state's highway trust fund beginning Oct. 1. Current law provides that any sales taxes in excess of 5 percent collected on the sales of motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers go to the highway trust fund.



Sen. Carroll Burling

LB 155 was indefinitely postponed 7-0.

Baker also sponsored **LB 252** and **LB 253**, which would have prohibited municipalities from levying an occupation or business tax on motor vehicle fuel. The bills also would have eliminated the authority to use local roads funds for non-infrastructure purposes such as offstreet public parking owned by the municipality.

LB 252 would increase fuel taxes by 2 cents beginning Oct. 1, with the new funding to be distributed under a portion of the highway funding formula that sends 53 1/3 percent to the state Department of Roads, 23 1/3 percent to cities and 23 1/3 percent to counties. LB 253 would have increased the fuel tax distribution to cities and counties by 2 cents beginning Oct. 1, with the new funding split evenly between counties and cities.

LB 252 and LB 253 were both killed 7-0.

LB 456, introduced by Malcolm Sen. Carol Hudkins, would have increased the fuel tax by 2 cents and distributed the proceeds evenly between counties and cities on a per capita basis beginning Oct. 1. The bill also would have restricted the use of the new funding to road construction purposes.

LB 456 was indefinitely postponed 7-0. ❖



Sen. Carol Hudkins

Telecommunications

The Legislature decided to halt public power districts' and political subdivisions' attempts to offer wireless telecommunications services.

LB 645, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear, permanently prohibits political subdivisions from offering new wholesale and retail broadband, Internet, telecommunications and video services. The ban on public power suppliers providing wholesale telecommunications services terminates on Dec. 31, 2007.

The bill does not affect existing communications services or prohibit political subdivisions or public power suppliers from developing communications services for their own uses.

LB 645 also creates an 18-member task force to study the implications of allowing public power systems and political subdivisions to provide communications services, evaluate the need for wholesale communications services in Nebraska, discuss the regulation and taxation of wholesale services and assess the availability of public power infrastructure to provide services. The task force will submit its recommendations to the Legislature and the governor by Dec. 1, 2006.

LB 645 passed 37-8.

Sen. Tom Baker of Trenton offered **LB 343**, which eliminates the Public Safety Wireless Communications Board and alliances formed in 2002 to develop a statewide communications plan.

The board was responsible for creating a statewide wireless communications system and entering interoperability agreements as needed.

LB 343 also creates a new Regional Interoperability Advisory Board, which will adopt policies to annually update the state's communications plans, create a clearinghouse to share new technology developments, identify potential problems in using new technology and determine Nebraska's long-term plan for developing and funding new communications infrastructure. The new board will dissolve on Jan. 1, 2009.

Senators voted 45-3 to pass LB 343.



Sen. Kermit Brashear

(Continued on Page 38)



Sen. Jim Cudaback

(Continued from Page 37)

LB 213, offered by Riverdale Sen. Jim Cudaback, would prohibit drivers from using handheld cellular telephones while operating a motor vehicle, except during medical emergencies.

However, the bill would allow drivers to use hands-free headsets for their phones. Police officers, firefighters and emergency vehicle operators also would be exempt from the prohibition while they are on duty.

The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee.

LB 458, introduced by Baker, would allow the state Public Service Commission to raise the Enhanced Wireless 911 surcharge from 50 cents to \$1.50. The extra fee would be used for technology that would allow 911 dispatchers to trace a cell phone number and the caller's location. That technology is used on landline phones in 47 counties.

The bill remains in the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

LB 344, sponsored by Baker, would have allowed the Public Service Commission to resolve disputes between customers and wireless carriers that involved billing problems or service agreements.

Along with changing the PSC's role in handling customer complaints, the bill would have:

- required carriers to provide billing statements that distinguished between carrier taxes and fees and government-imposed taxes;
- allowed the PSC to regulate mobile radio services, paging services and wireless telecommunications services;
- required carriers to provide customers a copy of the service agreement within 14 days after a customer signed up for wireless service or changed a service plan; and
- required carriers to allow customers to cancel their service agreement within 14 days of signing a contract.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee indefinitely postponed LB 344. ❖

Transportation

After hours of debate on a proposal to change Nebraska's mandatory helmet law, a motion to cease debate failed, stalling **LB 70** on select file three days before the legislative session ended.

The bill's sponsor, Gering Sen. Adrian Smith, introduced an amendment to replace what he described as a compromise amendment that lawmakers adopted in earlier debate. The Smith amendment retains many provisions contained in the original bill.

If LB 70 passed with the Smith amendment, it would allow motorcycle and moped riders who are age 21 or older to choose whether or not to wear a helmet under certain conditions.

Riders who are 21 or older after Jan. 1, 2007, would be exempt from the helmet requirement if they wear eye protection and successfully complete an approved motorcycle safety course. Proof of successful completion of a safety course must be presented on demand by a peace officer.

Motorcycle and moped riders who were born before Jan. 1, 1986, also would be exempt from the bill if they wear eye protection and obtained a Class M motorcycle license before 2005. Exempted individuals would not be required to carry proof of successful completion of a safety course.



Sen. Adrian Smith

The amendment also would raise the minimum fine for operating a motorcycle without a Class M license or endorsement from \$10 to \$75 and would require funding equal to eight times the number of motorcycles registered during the each month to be placed in a Motorcycle Safety and Training Fund.

High school students will be able to use their school permits to drive to and from extracurricular activities at the school they attend.

LB 675, sponsored by Schuyler Sen. Chris Langemeier, also requires applicants for school permits to present proof of successful completion of a driver safety course and:

- proof of successful completion of a written examination and driving test conducted by a driver safety course instructor; or
- a certificate signed by a parent, guardian, or licensed driver age 21 or older verifying that an applicant has completed 50 hours of lawful motor vehicle operation.

A school permit can be issued to a student between the age of 14 years, two months and age 16.

LB 675 passed 46-0.

The Legislature voted 43-0 to pass a bill that will exempt police and fire vehicles from size and weight restrictions.

LB 82, sponsored by Trenton Sen. Tom Baker, allows manufacturers and sellers of emergency vehicles to obtain permits to operate those vehicles for demonstration or delivery purposes.

The bill also changes towing laws and the Uniform Commercial Code.

Sen. Joel Johnson of Kearney introduced a bill that would allocate \$6 million from the Highway Trust Fund to road projects for which economic development is the primary factor.

Under **LB 470**, counties and cities could request funds for qualifying projects.

The bill remains in the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

LB 156, introduced by Baker, would have increased fines and points assessed for speeding violations. The committee indefinitely postponed the bill. ❖

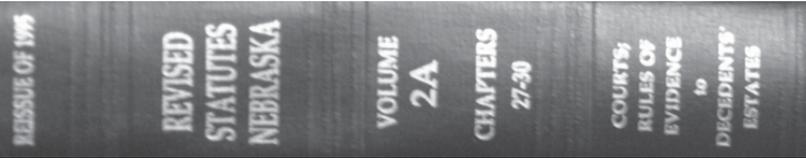


Sen. Chris Langemeier



Sen. Joel Johnson

UNICAMERAL UPDATE



Bill Status

These tables contain the status of all substantive legislation before the Legislature during the 2005 session.

The "STATUS" column indicates a bill's last stage of consideration. All legislation not otherwise disposed of before the end of the 2005 session will be carried over to the 2006 session.

The "INDEX" column indicates which issues of the *Unicameral Update* contain articles about individual legislative bills.

KEY: A=Adopted; C=Held in Committee; GF = General File; SF= Select File; FR=Final Reading; IPP=Indefinitely Postponed; S=Signed by the Governor; V=Vetoed; LV=Line-Item Vetoed; VO=Veto Overridden; WD=Withdrawn; "+ "=Bills from which language was taken; "> "=Bills into which language was amended

LB	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	INDEX
1	Executive Board	Revisor bill to eliminate obsolete provisions relating to motor vehicles	S	
2	Executive Board	Revisor bill to correct an internal reference in a health care facilities statute	S	
3	Executive Board	Revisor bill to eliminate unconstitutional language relating to recreational lands	S	
4	Thompson	Adopt the Interstate Compact for Juveniles	GF	13
4A	Thompson	Appropriation Bill	GF	
5	Thompson	Change qualifications for membership on the State Board of Education	C	
6	Thompson	Change certain designated smoking areas under the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act	GF	5
7	Dw. Pedersen	Permit municipalities to allow pedestrians to solicit on roadways as prescribed	SF	
8	Landis	Adopt the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act	IPP >298	
9	Landis	Change county zoning subdivision plats	S	
10	Landis	Change the definition of employer for purposes of discriminatory wage practices based on sex	S	9
11	Landis	Authorize the use of electronic postmarks by state agencies	S	
12	Landis	Change enforcement provisions of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	IPP >13	
12A	Landis	Appropriation Bill	IPP	
13	Landis	Change provisions relating to workers' compensation	S +12, 219, 237, 395, 435, 532	21, 22
13A	Landis	Appropriation Bill	S	
14	Landis	Change provisions relating to the State Natural Gas Regulation Act and the Public Service Commission	GF	
15	Landis	Change property tax appeal procedures and provisions relating to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission	S	
16	Landis	Change provisions relating to the streamlined sales and use tax agreement	S	
17	Landis	Change homestead exemption application procedures	S	
18	Landis	Change a provision relating to collection of delinquent property taxes	S	
19	Landis	Change corporate income tax calculations	GF	
20	Kremer	Prohibit acts relating to and authorize destruction of swine	S +29	4, 7, 9
21	Erdman	Eliminate a restriction on and provide requirements for operation of leased watercrafts	S	
22	Erdman	Modify the authority of cities of the second class and villages to construct and repair sidewalks	IPP >161	13, 15, 19
23	Erdman	Change eligibility and terms of members of the Game and Parks Commission	C	
24	Erdman	Require drivers to use caution near parked emergency vehicles	C	
25	Stuhr	Change membership of the Board of Cosmetology Examiners	IPP >382	
26	Stuhr	Prohibit the performance of body art on minors as prescribed	IPP	
27	Stuhr	Provide for special body art events	IPP	
28	Connealy	Provide an income tax credit for certain charitable contributions	S	6, 21, 22
28A	Connealy	Appropriation Bill	S	
29	Schrock	Provide for disposition of feral swine by Games and Parks employees	IPP >20	4, 7
30	Natural Resources	Require notice to liquefied petroleum gas customers and provide immunity	C	
31	Schrock	Change well restriction provisions in ground water management areas	IPP	
32	Schrock	Change per diem maximums for natural resources district board members	GF	
33	Schrock	Extend the termination date of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act	S	
34	Schrock	Provide for hunting, trapping, and target practice in designated public areas	C	
35	Schimek	Change absentee voting to early voting	IPP >98	3
36	Schimek	Provide for voter registration on election day	IPP	3
37	Schimek	Change procedures for the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission and the naming of inductees	S	3, 6, 9
38	Raikes	Change tax levy authority of community colleges	S +113	14, 18
39	Raikes	Change Board of Regents limitations governing employment of professional foresters	S	
40	Redfield	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund, the Behavioral Health Services Fund, and the documentary stamp tax	S	17, 21, 22
40A	Redfield	Appropriation Bill	S	
41	Redfield	Change provisions relating to deposits of public funds with credit unions	IPP	
42	Redfield	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Construction Lien Act	C	

LB	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	INDEX
43	Redfield	Provide immunity for employers for disclosure of certain employment information	C	
44	Redfield	Change income tax deductions and create a homestead exemption	GF	3, 9, 10
45	Redfield	Change income tax deductions and create a homestead exemption	IPP	3
46	Redfield	Change income tax deductions and create a homestead exemption	IPP	3
47	Landis	Adopt the Distinguished Professorship Act	GF	
48	Landis	Change provisions relating to the State Natural Gas Regulation Act	GF	6, 19, 20
49	Landis	Adopt the Nebraska Uniform Securities Act	C	
50	Landis	Prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation	C	
51	Kremer	Authorize Department of Agriculture laboratory testing services	S	
52	Kremer	Change provisions relating to grain dealers, grain warehouses, and measuring devices	S +222	
53	Schimek	Provide for restoration of voting rights upon completion of a felony sentence	VO	3, 6, 9, 10
54	Schimek	Clarify and eliminate provisions relating to veterans and government employment	S +240	3, 5, 8, 9
55	Foley	Change provisions relating to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Act	S	
56	Foley	Provide for counties to adopt ordinances	IPP	
57	Foley	Adopt provisions relating to assault of or serious bodily injury to an unborn child	GF	9
58	Mines	Eliminate recognition of holiday proclamations by the President	C	
59	Mines	Change loan provisions in the Microenterprise Development Act	S	
60	Mines	Provide priorities relating to rental car insurance	IPP	
61	Burling	Change adoption information access provisions	S	
62	Beutler	Provide for liens for chiropractors	GF	
63	Mines	Provide for one license plate and In Transit decal per vehicle	IPP	
64	Synowiecki	Adopt the Peace Officer Employer-Employee Relations Act	C	
65	Foley	Provide for Military License Plates	GF	
65A	Foley	Appropriation Bill	GF	
66	D. Pederson	Provide for special valuation of historically significant real property	S	3, 8, 10, 21
66A	D. Pederson	Appropriation Bill	S	
67	Smith	Change provisions for fines for speeding in a construction zone	IPP	
68	Smith	Provide for veterans' spouses to receive specialty license plates as prescribed	GF	
69	Smith	Eliminate motorcycle helmet provisions	IPP	4
70	Smith	Change and eliminate provisions relating to motorcycle safety and helmets	SF	4, 16, 17, 20, 22
70A	Smith	Appropriation Bill	SF	
71	Stuhr	Reenact the Agricultural Opportunities and Value-Added Partnerships Act and change funding provisions for agricultural projects	FR >90, +688	4, 8, 10, 19, 20, 21
71A	Brashear	Appropriation Bill	S +645	22
72	Stuhr	Adopt the Security Personnel Licensing Act	GF	
72A	Stuhr	Appropriation Bill	GF	
73	Aguilar	Provide requirements and duties relating to motor vehicle repairs and insurers	IPP	
74	Beutler	Change lobbyist registration fees	IPP >242	11, 13
75	Beutler	Authorize certain cities to make public improvements and assess the cost	GF	
76	Baker	Change provisions relating to commercial driver's licenses	S +597	
77	Baker	Change motor vehicle registration fee distribution	GF	
77A	Baker	Appropriation Bill	GF	
78	Baker	Provide for payment of certain per diems and expenses by the Department of Roads	S	
79	Baker	Change provisions relating to railroad crossings	GF	
80	Baker	Eliminate a school bus speed restriction and change provisions relating to lights on motor-driven cycles	S	
81	Baker	Authorize issuance of undercover plates and driver's licenses to federal agencies	C	
82	Janssen	Change provisions relating to liens, towing, emergency vehicles, and purchase-money security interests	S +251	14, 15, 18, 19
83	Baker	Adopt federal motor carrier safety and hazardous materials regulations	S	
84	Byars	Require disclosure of cancer screening coverage	IPP	
85	Byars	Change Burial Pre-Need Sale Act provisions relating to designation of irrevocable funds	GF	
85A	Byars	Appropriation Bill	GF	
86	Byars	Change requirements for Pearl Harbor license plates	GF	
87	Byars	Change provisions relating to deaf and hard of hearing persons	GF	
88	Byars	Change provisions relating to real estate brokerage agreements	S	
89	Byars	Provide an exemption from licensure requirements for dentists	S	5, 9
90	Wehrbein	Change provisions relating to ethanol funding and provide for economic development	S +71, 250, 273, 688	5, 8, 19, 20, 21
90A	Wehrbein	Appropriation Bill	S	19, 20
91	Aguilar	Change civil procedure provisions relating to claims, expenses, and attorney's fees	C	
92	Byars	Change provisions relating to vacation of streets and alleys	IPP >161	13, 15, 19
93	Byars	Provide funding of crime victims and witness assistance with a defendant surcharge	C	
94	Janssen	Change provisions governing payment of emission fees by certain electric generation facilities	S	
95	Janssen	Change school reorganization provisions	C	
96	Janssen	Change National Guard member tuition credit	SF	5, 7
97	Beutler	Change provisions relating to deeds of trust, mortgages, and real estate contracts	S	
98	Schimek	Change provisions for special elections by mail and absentee voting terminology	S +35	3
99	Synowiecki	Adopt the Conveyance Safety Act relating to elevator safety	GF	
100	Stuhr	Change the definition of police animals under the Nebraska Criminal Code	GF	
101	Byars	Provide for early intervention services for children with autism spectrum disorder	GF	
102	Natural Resources	Authorize natural resources districts, counties, and certain cities to establish and fund storm water management areas	C	3
103	Synowiecki	Change eligibility provisions for veterans' home admissions	C	
104	Thompson	Allow breast-feeding in any public or private location as prescribed	C	3
105	Chambers	Change provisions relating to juror qualification forms	S	

LB	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	INDEX
106	Byars	Require all occupants in motor vehicles to wear occupant protection systems	GF	
107	Friend	Change provisions relating to retail liquor license suspensions for second and subsequent violations	GF	9
108	Friend	Change provisions relating to possession of alcohol by a minor	IPP	9
109	Connealy	Change property tax levy and budget restrictions	IPP	
110	Bourne	Change a liability limitation for certain educational employees as prescribed	IPP >361	12, 15, 16
111	Bourne	Establish the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse	S	12, 21
111A	Bourne	Appropriation Bill	S	
112	Bourne	Require electronic recording of custodial interrogations	C	
113	Cunningham	Change tax levy authority of community colleges	IPP >38	
114	Byars	Change eye examination provisions for kindergarten enrollment	S	17, 21, 22
115	Friend	Change revocation and suspension procedures for law enforcement certificates	S	
116	Friend	Change child abuse and neglect and child support provisions	S +218, 444	22
117	Bourne, req. of Gov.	Change penalties for certain drug offenses and provisions relating to ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine	S	5, 17, 18, 20, 21
118	Cunningham	Change provisions regulating equipment business	S	
119	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change provisions relating to insurance	S	
120	Louden	Change Livestock Waste Management Act permit conditions	GF	7
121	Louden	Create a discounted hunting and fishing license for military deployed out of state	S	12, 13
122	Cunningham	Provide an exemption under the Boiler Inspection Act	S	
123	Friend	Change provisions relating to convictions set aside and sex offender registration	IPP >713	20, 21
124	Hudkins	Provide for nonvoting representation of Class I school districts on the school boards of their primary high school districts	IPP	3
125	Hudkins	Require training and instruction for school board members	IPP	3
126	Raikes	Change provisions relating to school district reorganization	VO	3, 6, 7, 20, 22
126A	Raikes	Appropriation Bill	VO	
127	Cunningham	Authorize the reporting of school bus safety violations as prescribed	C	
128	Hudkins	Create the offense of interference with child visitation	C	
129	Education	Change provisions relating to the formula for state aid to schools	C	
130	Brown	Change discriminatory housing practice complaint procedure and information	IPP >361	6, 13, 15, 16
131	Cunningham	Redefine food establishment under the Nebraska Pure Food Act	S	9
132	Cunningham	Provide for a waiver under the Nebraska Pasteurized Milk Law	GF	5
133	Connealy	Provide a renewable energy tax credit	IPP	
134	Synowiecki	Change workers' compensation disability compensation provisions	C	
135	Thompson	Limit the jurisdiction of certain utilities districts and authorize natural gas franchises	IPP	6
136	Natural Resources	Adopt the Public Power Infrastructure Protection Act	IPP	
137	Schrock	Change allocation provisions relating to the Water Well Decommissioning Fund	IPP	
138	Schrock	Change benefits payable under the educational savings plan	C	
139	Schrock	Authorize hydrogen production, storage, and use by public power districts	S	
140	Schrock	Change membership on the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Board	GF	
141	Price	Eliminate school budget restrictions relating to allowable reserves	C	
142	Price	Provide for a tax levy for school safety and security measures	IPP	
143	Price	Authorize fingerprints and DNA samples of convicted felons	C	
144	Price	Change requirements for modifying information statements under the School Employees Retirement Act	S	
145	Price	Provide for school bond state aid	C	
146	Price	Adopt the Nursing Faculty Student Loan Act	S	20, 21, 22
146A	Price	Appropriation Bill	S	
147	Schrock	Exempt agricultural personal property from property taxation	IPP	
148	Aguilar	Redefine child abuse to include placing children near methamphetamine production activities	GF	20
149	Aguilar	Require disclosure of methamphetamine production to buyers and renters of real property	IPP	
150	Kremer	Adopt the Nebraska Beef Industry Development Act	SF	4, 7, 13
150A	Kremer	Appropriation Bill	SF	
151	Mines	Provide for medical savings accounts exemption from execution	IPP >465	
152	Hudkins	Define innocent third party for purposes of vehicular pursuit	C	
153	Baker	Change expense recovery provisions relating to oil and gas wells	C	
154	Baker	Change restrictions on water well construction and repair	IPP	
155	Baker	Change distribution of certain sales tax proceeds	IPP	4
156	Baker	Increase points and fines assessed for speeding violations	IPP	5
157	Baker	Reenact telecommunication provisions relating to provision of services by political subdivisions	GF	
158	Jensen	Change provisions relating to fluoridation of drinking water	C	
159	Jensen	Provide income tax credits and deductions relating to long-term care insurance premiums	IPP	
160	Jensen	Direct the Executive Board of the Legislative Council to create a task force to study county government	GF	
161	Aguilar	Change powers of political subdivisions relating to zoning, streets, alleys, sidewalks, water and sewer improvements, trees, and bond issuance	S +22, 92, 302, 474, 558	13, 15, 18, 19
162	Stuhr	Change Game Law provisions relating to permits, stamps, and fees	S	6, 8, 9
163	Bourne	Change the Mutual Finance Assistance Act which provides for funding fire protection, emergency response, and training	C	
164	Bourne	Provide notification requirements relating to health care facility license applications	IPP	
165	Synowiecki	Change membership of the Public Employees Retirement Board	IPP	
166	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to contractor registration	GF	
167	Landis	Adopt the Nebraska Archaeological Resources Preservation Act	IPP >211	18
168	Landis	Change witness fees provisions for public employees	C	
169	Landis	Change revenue bonds for cities and villages	S	

LB	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	INDEX
170	Landis	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code	IPP >533	
171	Landis	Adopt Uniform Commercial Code provisions relating to documents of title	IPP >570	
172	Cunningham	Exempt certain clothing and footwear from sales tax	IPP	
173	Huddkins	Change provisions relating to gift certificates	C	
174	Jensen	Change health care facility license fees	IPP >246	
175	Jensen	Change provisions relating to physician assistants	S	
176	Jensen	Change provisions relating to automated external defibrillator use	S	
177	Jensen	Change provisions relating to alcohol and drug counselors	IPP >551	
178	Kruse	Change penalties for minors' liquor law violations	C	
179	Kruse	Redefine child abuse to include driving under the influence with a minor child passenger	C	
180	Schimek	Create the State-Tribal Relations Committee	GF	
181	Schimek	Change penalties for leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle	C	
182	Schimek	Change provisions relating to dental hygienist practice	C	
183	D. Pederson	Delete obsolete Cash Reserve Fund transfer provisions	C	
184	D. Pederson	Create a fund to implement the low-level radioactive waste settlement	C >426	
185	Brown	Require motor vehicle dealerships to close one day per week	IPP	7
186	Beutler	Change provisions relating to investment of city funds	IPP	
187	Beutler	Change the prohibition on the use of public resources in a campaign involving a ballot question	IPP >242	11
188	Beutler	Change provisions relating to campaign finance and political accountability and disclosure	GF	4
189	Preister	Change provisions relating to electricity and the Nebraska Power Review Board	IPP	
190	Preister	Adopt the Electronic Equipment Recycling Act	C	
191	Preister	Permit local requirements for environmental protection and financial assurance	IPP	8
192	Preister	Change workers' compensation disability payments during vocational rehabilitation	C	
193	Thompson	Transfer oversight of the County Juvenile Services Aid Program	S	13, 16
194	Thompson	Change medical lien provisions	C	
195	Cornett	Provide for appropriation of funds to counties for administrative license revocation expense reimbursement	C	
196	Raikes	Change quorum and project review requirements for the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	GF	
197	Raikes	Include funds received due to annexation or replatting in formula resources in the state aid formula	C	
198	Raikes	Provide for state aid adjustments to reflect transfers of property	S	
199	Raikes	Eliminate requirements for agreements between school districts affected by certain annexations	IPP	
200	Friend	Eliminate the strict liability requirement for pursuits by law enforcement officers	C	
201	Cudaback	Adopt the 2005 National Electrical Code	S	10
202	Cudaback	Change provisions relating to license plate numbering	IPP	
203	Thompson	Provide consumer protection regarding identifiable health information	WD	
204	Thompson	Provide a rate of payment for certain medical services and emergency protective custody situations	C	
205	Engel	Eliminate provisions governing developmental disability regions	S	
206	Byars	Adopt the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered Custody Act	S	11, 21
207	Stuthman	Permit service of summons of proposed jurors by first-class mail	C	
208	Stuthman	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support to provide services to uninsured persons	C	
209	General Affairs	Change and eliminate certain gaming license and fee provisions as prescribed	GF	
210	General Affairs	Change time periods for use of proceeds under the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act	IPP	
211	Janssen	Adopt the Nebraska Archaeological Resources Preservation Act and create the Statewide Cemetery Registry	S +167	9, 18, 22
211A	Janssen	Appropriation Bill	S	
212	Mines	Change the Uniform Principal and Income Act to authorize total return trusts as prescribed	IPP >513	
213	Cudaback	Prohibit the use of a mobile telephone while operating a motor vehicle as prescribed	C	4
214	Beutler	Adopt the Nebraska Treasures Act	GF	
215	Brown	Provide for deferred compensation payment and health insurance for certain state employees	C	
216	Revenue	Change revenue provisions	S	
217	Flood	Adopt the Public Facilities Construction and Finance Act	S	10, 13
218	Stuthman	Change child abuse and neglect reporting and register	IPP >116	22
219	Redfield	Change third party claims and dismissals for workers' compensation actions	C >13	
220	Cunningham	Change motor vehicle operator's permit provisions	C	9
221	Cunningham	Modify the duty of landowners to cut vegetation along public roads	GF	
222	Fischer	Eliminate a licensure requirement for grain warehouses and grain dealers	IPP >52	
223	Fischer	Create the School Finance Review Committee	C	4
224	Smith	Change tax incentive provisions	IPP	
225	Smith	Change provisions relating to solid waste and commencement of municipal waste collection service	C	
226	Smith	Change provisions relating to solid waste and provide requirements for condemnation of private waste collection	C	
227	Louden	Change provisions relating to the funding of veteran cemeteries and certain hunting and fishing licenses	S	21, 22
228	Howard	Provide tax levy and state-aid increases for full-day kindergarten expenses as prescribed	C	
229	Howard	Change requirements for school district fall membership reports	C	
230	Redfield	Require a nonunion employee to reimburse a union for legal services requested by such employee	GF	9
231	Heidemann	Change the maximum school levy as prescribed	C	
232	Brown	Authorize interlocal agreements relating to assumption of duties of certain county officials	C	
233	Pahls	Change provisions relating to altering election precincts	IPP >401	13, 15, 18, 19

LB	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	INDEX
234	Connealy	Change the authority of cities of the first class relating to storm sewers	S	
235	Connealy	Exempt materials used in the manufacture of steel or cement from sales tax	C	
236	Combs	Change Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court review procedure	S	
237	Combs	Change workers' compensation awards or judgments against the state	IPP >13	
238	Combs	Change provisions of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	S	
239	Schimek	Permit certain students who attended Nebraska high schools to establish residency	GF	11
240	Schimek	Change a state employee hiring preference and eliminate a retraining program	IPP >54	
241	Schimek	Change provisions relating to review of boards and commissions by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	S	
242	Schimek	Change, transfer, and repeal political accountability and disclosure provisions	S +74, 187, 519	11, 13
243	Byars	Permit a portion of nurse credentialing fees to be used to support the Nebraska Center for Nursing	S	
243A	Byars	Appropriation Bill	S	
244	Byars	Change provisions governing occupational therapy	S	
245	Louden	Change employment security law benefit disqualification provisions	C >484	22
246	Johnson	Change provisions relating to nursing home administrators and health care facility fees	S +174	
247	Baker	Clarify Public Service Commission administrative revocation jurisdiction	S	
248	Baker	Change motor vehicle tax calculations	GF	4
249	Baker	Change provisions relating to motor vehicle operator's licenses	GF	
249A	Baker	Appropriation Bill	GF	
250	Baker	State intent relating to General Fund appropriations for ethanol production incentive funding	IPP >90	8
251	Baker	Change provisions relating to towing and liens	IPP >82	15, 18, 19
252	Baker	Prohibit certain city taxes, change motor fuel tax rates, and restrict use of certain tax revenue	IPP	4
253	Baker	Prohibit certain city taxes, change motor fuel tax rates, and restrict use of certain tax revenue	IPP	4
254	Brown	Exempt housing agencies from sales and use taxation	IPP	
255	Redfield	Allow a bidding preference for resident bidders	IPP	
256	Price	Adopt the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act and change health-related practices provisions	S +603	21, 22
256A	Price	Appropriation Bill	S	
257	Beutler	Provide coordination of workers' compensation claims under laws of different jurisdictions	GF	
258	Burling	Change provisions relating to legal settlement for public assistance programs	C	
259	Dw. Pedersen	Create a work group for purposes of training youth services workers	S	
260	Stuhr	Create the Task Force on Trafficking in Persons	C	3
261	Stuhr	Eliminate agricultural and horticultural land valuation boards and land manual areas	S	5, 9
262	Stuhr	Authorize certain cities and villages to purchase land for cemetery purposes	S	
263	Landis	Change property tax provisions	S +300	
264	Howard	Authorize secondary prevention services and change child welfare caseload requirements	S +265, 266	5, 9, 10, 11
265	Howard	Change child welfare caseload and employment reporting requirements	IPP >264	5
266	Howard	Change requirements for establishing child welfare caseloads	IPP >264	5
267	Howard	State legislative intent relating to funding for child welfare services	C	
268	Urban Affairs	Change Volunteer Emergency Responders Recruitment and Retention Act provisions	S	11, 13
269	Erdman	Provide a procedure for judicial emancipation for minors	GF	
270	Erdman	Provide for part-time enrollment and extracurricular participation by exempt students	IPP	7
271	Combs	Redefine mental health practice	C	
272	Cunningham	Adopt the Long-Term Care Partnership Program Development Act	IPP >709	6, 14
273	Cunningham	Adopt the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act	IPP >90	12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
273A	Cunningham	Appropriation Bill	IPP	14
274	Transportation and Telecommunications	Adopt the Motor Vehicle Registration Act	S	
275	Transportation and Telecommunications	Change provisions relating to motor vehicle registration	GF	
276	Transportation and Telecommunications	Adopt the Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act	S	
277	Transportation and Telecommunications	Change provisions relating to certificates of title	GF	
278	Cunningham	Provide for notice and a lien relating to medical assistance payments	C	
279	Combs	Provide for attorney's fees in contract actions	C	
280	Thompson	Provide additional abuse and neglect reporting requirements	C	
281	Cornett	Change limitation of action provisions under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act	C	6
282	Redfield	Authorize the aggregation of amounts for classifying certain forgery offenses	C	
283	Raikes	Change property tax equalization timeframes	S	
284	Stuthman	Change provisions relating to apportionable vehicles	S	
285	Stuthman	Adopt the Nutrition in Schools Act	C	7
286	McDonald	Change fence viewers' fees	C	
287	McDonald	Require a cemetery study and report by the General Affairs Committee	SF	
288	Thompson	Provide for child abuse prevention license plates	GF	
288A	Thompson	Appropriation Bill	GF	
289	Mines	Change annexation provisions of cities of the first class	GF	
290	Mines	Authorize use of other locations for voting and counting votes	IPP >401	13, 15, 18, 19
291	Baker	Change provisions relating to state assumption of the property assessment function	S	10
292	Bourne	Provide for consent to service of search warrants by foreign corporations	C	
293	Schimek	Change application review procedures under the Livestock Waste Management Act	GF	
294	Flood	Change provisions relating to identity theft and create the identity theft passport program	C	
295	Hudkins	Change point assessments for failure to report an accident	GF	

LB	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	INDEX
296	Synowiecki	Create the Tourism Supplemental Revenue Fund and provide for transfers from the General Fund	C	
297	Business and Labor	Change state contract claim procedures	GF	
298	Landis	Adopt the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act and redefine petroleum under the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act	S +8	
299	Landis	Change property tax protest procedures	S	12
300	Brown	Provide for central assessment of certain property subject to land-use restrictions	IPP >263	
301	Health and Human Services	Change provisions relating to health and human services	S	
302	Price	Grant powers to cities of the primary class relating to trees	IPP >161	13, 15, 18, 19
303	Schrock	Change provisions of the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act	C	
304	Schrock	Adopt the Education Buildings Review Commission Act	C	
305	Byars	Prohibit use of tobacco products on public and private educational property	GF	5
306	Byars	Require criminal background checks for certain health care professionals	S	
306A	Byars	Appropriation Bill	S	
307	Stuhr	Create the Task Force on Safe Havens for Abandoned Infants	C	
308	Redfield	Change and provide damages for shoplifting and conversion actions	C	
309	Connealy	Create the Small Business Rural Microenterprise Tax Credit Program	C >312	8, 19, 20, 21
310	Connealy	Change motor vehicle liability insurance and financial responsibility requirements	IPP	4
311	Byars	Provide requirements for retail cigarette dealers relating to sales tax	IPP	
312	Landis	Adopt the Nebraska Advantage Act, the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act, the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act and adopt and change tax incentives, credits, exemptions, and refunds	S +309, 482, 520, 672, 695, 696	19, 20, 21
312A	Landis	Appropriation Bill	S	
313	Landis	Change tax incentive provisions	IPP	
314	Howard	Create a Nebraska Heritage Week	C	
315	Howard	Require sellers of residential real property to provide a notice regarding registered sex offender information	IPP	
316	Howard	Adopt the Consumer Protection Against Computer Spyware Act	C	10
317	Kremer	Change tractor testing provisions	GF	
318	Johnson	Change provisions relating to wholesale drug distributors	C	
319	Jensen	Change civil penalty and fee provisions relating to modular housing units, manufactured homes, and recreational vehicles	S	
320	Chambers	Change communicable disease screening provisions within the Nebraska Correctional Health Care Services Act	S	
321	Schimek	Exempt certain corrections officials from the State Personnel System as prescribed	GF	
322	Schimek	Provide additional requirements for child custody, visitation, and modification proceedings	GF	
323	Hudkins	Appropriate funds to the Winery and Grape Producers Promotional Fund	C	
324	Raikes	Redefine public purpose for property tax purposes	IPP	
325	Raikes	Change and eliminate provisions relating to ethanol and the Ethanol Board and change fees	GF	5, 8
326	Raikes	Change average daily membership requirements for freeholders' petitions	GF	
327	Raikes	Change school district average daily membership requirements for freeholder petitions	C	
328	Stuhr	Authorize a change in the retirement contribution rate by the Board of Regents	C	
329	Stuhr	Authorize separation payments and retirement inducements for school employees	S	
330	Louden	Change livestock brand provisions	IPP >441	
331	McDonald	Create a participant registry for the Cancer Drug Repository Program Act	S	7, 12
332	McDonald	State intent regarding funding for compulsive gamblers assistance programs	S	21, 22
332A	McDonald	Appropriation Bill	S	
333	Thompson	Change provisions relating to holders of provisional operator's permits and school permits	IPP	
334	Janssen	Change provisions of the Community Development Assistance Act to allow a tax credit for individuals	S	21
335	Schrock	Adopt the Safety of Dams and Reservoirs Act and provide an exemption under the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act	S +619	13
336	Natural Resources	Adopt the Public Entities Mandated Project Charges Act	GF	
337	Janssen	Change provisions relating to municipal counties	C	
338	Smith	Change settings and terms of practice by certified nurse midwives	IPP	
339	Smith	Adopt the Licensed Midwifery Practice Act	IPP	
340	Smith	Change eligibility requirements for public power district members	C	
341	Baker	Change provisions of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund	GF	
342	Baker	Eliminate an advisory committee relating to a soil and water resources data bank	S	
343	Baker	Change and eliminate provisions of the Nebraska Public Safety Wireless Communication System Act	S	21, 22
344	Baker	Provide Public Service Commission jurisdiction over certain wireless service and carriers	IPP	6
345	Brown	Change provisions relating to criminal trespass and littering	C	
346	Agriculture	Change provisions of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act	GF	
346A	Kremer	Appropriation Bill	GF	
347	Bourne	Provide for socioeconomic integration plans relating to the enrollment option program	C	
348	Bourne	Change provisions relating to judges' salaries and retirement, court fees, and notaries public	S +540, 643, 758	20, 21, 22
348A	Bourne	Appropriation Bill	S	
349	Bourne	Add a district judge to the ninth district	C	
350	Bourne	Provide for inclusion of prekindergarten programs in the state aid formula as prescribed	C	
351	Preister	Change membership provisions on the Environmental Quality Council	S	14, 15, 16

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352	Preister	Provide that persons hired by a community college to replace an employee on a leave of absence not have certain employment rights	S	
353	Preister	Change tax levy provisions for community colleges	IPP	
354	Preister	Provide a service fee for employees who are not members of certain labor unions	C	
355	Janssen	Provide for transfer of cemetery ownership from cemetery associations to cities and villages	S	
356	Janssen	Change tax levy provisions for cities, villages, and counties	IPP	
357	Raikes	Change withdrawal and dissolution provisions for unified school systems	C	
358	Raikes	Change tax levy provisions relating to judgments against unified school systems	C	
359	Kremer	Change qualifications for the Director of Natural Resources	C	
360	Bourne	Change provisions relating to the crime of burglary	SF	10
361	Bourne	Adopt the Patient Safety Improvement Act and provide regulation regarding DNA samples, dissolution of marriage, discriminatory housing practices, county court jurisdiction, educational personnel, and judicial orders	S + 110, 130, 410, 446, 755, 756	12, 13, 15, 16
362	Bourne	Change procedures relating to felony complaints	SF	
363	Bourne	Change penalty provisions for criminal attempt	SF	
364	Retirement Systems	Change provisions relating to retirement	S + 365, 367, 691	18, 21
365	Retirement Systems	Change membership on the Public Employees Retirement Board	IPP >364	18, 21
366	Retirement Systems	Change membership and contribution rate provisions for state and county retirement plans	GF	7
367	Retirement Systems	Authorize and change provisions relating to retirement late payment fees	IPP >364	18, 21
368	Retirement Systems	Change the retirement contribution rate for school employees	IPP >503	3, 7
369	Retirement Systems	Change the retirement contribution rate for judges	C	
370	Combs	Provide colorectal cancer screenings as a standard of care	C	
371	Combs	Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions	IPP	3
372	Bourne	Change general manager to president in the management of a metropolitan utilities district	GF	
373	Bourne	Provide for legislative review of rules and regulations under the Administrative Procedure Act	S	22
374	Kruse	Provide state insurance to employees of regional library systems	C	
375	Kruse	Change motor vehicle insurance and financial responsibility requirements	IPP	4
376	Kruse	State intent relating to appropriations relating to behavioral health care services	C	
377	Kruse	Change provisions relating to assault	C	
378	Howard	Create the Commission on School Finance and require a study	C	4
379	Brown	Change election procedures for formation of municipal counties	C	
380	Redfield	Provide for insurance as a bond alternative for school district treasurers	S	
381	Jensen	Provide for facsimile medical orders to a pharmacist or pharmacist intern	IPP >382	
382	Jensen	Change provisions relating to pharmacists, dentists, pharmacy and pharmaceuticals, and cosmetology board members	S + 25, 381, 725	11, 15, 18
383	Landis	Change references to the Internal Revenue Code	S	
384	Combs	Change and eliminate provisions relating to natural gas	IPP	6
385	Johnson	Rename and change provisions of the DNA Detection of Sexual and Violent Offenders Act to apply to missing persons	C	
386	Kremer	Change the definition of allowable growth for political subdivisions	IPP	
387	Combs	Change provisions relating to nursing assistants	C	
388	Mines	Provide for removal of unsealed wine bottles from restaurants as prescribed	GF	6
389	Mines	Adopt the Health Care Prompt Payment Act	S	13, 16
389A	Mines	Appropriation Bill	S	
390	Smith	Change Livestock Waste Management Act permit conditions	IPP	7
391	Mines	Authorize use of teleconferencing and videoconferencing by the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority	IPP	
392	Mines	Appropriate funds to the Department of Administrative Services to cause plans to be developed to provide a parking garage	C	
393	Smith	Prohibit acts relating to electronic mail	C	10
394	Redfield	Exempt certain business owners from the Employment Security Law	GF	
395	Louden	Exempt volunteer agricultural workers from workers' compensation coverage	IPP >13	
396	Jensen	Change the format of reporting child support case information to the court	S	
397	Smith	Adopt the Cathode Ray Tube Device Recycling Act	C	
398	Beutler	Require legislative approval of federal fund expenditures	C	
399	Baker	Terminate inheritance, estate, and generation-skipping taxes	C	4
400	Baker	Eliminate the ten-day grace period for failure to register a vehicle	C	
401	Fischer	Change provisions for registering to vote and voting	S + 233, 290, 408, 477, 734	13, 15, 18, 19
402	Fischer	Change the procedures for preparation of master juror lists	S	
403	Friend	Provide a penalty for committing motor vehicle homicide during a period of operator's license suspension or revocation	C	
404	Wehrbein	Provide an income tax credit for livestock modernization and expansion	IPP	
405	Schimek	Change provisions relating to negotiation and adoption of a tribal-state gaming compact	IPP	
406	Schimek	Change handicapped parking permit expiration dates	S	
407	Raikes	Eliminate provisions relating to agricultural and horticultural land valuation	GF	
408	Flood	Provide for voter registration and voting by persons outside the country	IPP >401	13, 15, 18, 19
409	Flood	Change provisions relating to conveyance or encumbrance of homesteads	GF	
410	Flood	Provide for certificates of dissolution of marriage to be filed with the register of deeds	IPP >361	12, 15, 16
411	Stuhr	Change calculations for school employee retirement	IPP >503	7
412	Retirement Systems	Change state patrol retirement provisions	IPP >503	7
413	Price	Adopt the Wage Replacement Savings Plan Act	IPP	
414	Combs	Redefine natural gas public utility for purposes of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act	IPP	6

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415	Combs	Provide confidentiality for Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court documents and information as prescribed	GF	
416	Howard	Change age limitations for state wards	C	
417	Stuthman	Exempt construction labor and services from sales tax	IPP	
418	Kremer	Require arbitration for the annexation of certain school district territory	IPP	
419	Connealy	Create the Legal Education for Public Service Loan Repayment Act	GF	
420	Connealy	Change compensation provisions for certain injuries under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	C	
421	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Provide for deficit appropriations and provide for transfers	S	7, 18, 19, 20
422	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for salaries of constitutional officers	S	7, 18, 19, 20
423	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for legislative salaries	S	7, 18, 19, 20
424	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for capital construction	S	7, 18, 19, 20
425	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Appropriate funds for state government expenses	LV +716	7, 18, 19, 20
426	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Create and transfer funds	S +184, 515, 694	7, 18, 19, 20
427	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Transfer money from the Cash Reserve Fund	S	7, 18, 19, 20
428	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Change provisions relating to renewal assessment funds under the Deferred Building Renewal Act	C	7
429	Brashear, req. of Gov.	Increase a court fee and extend the Law Enforcement Improvement Fund	C	10
430	Cornett	Change permissible hours of retail sales of alcoholic liquor	C	
431	Beutler	Change district court judicial districts	C	
432	Brown	Create the County Issues Task Force	C	
433	Cunningham	Change provisions relating to physician selection under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	C	7
434	Cunningham	Change workers' compensation provisions relating to medical services and fees	C	7
435	Cunningham	Change workers' compensation medical fees and disability compensation	C >13	7
436	Combs	Provide compensation for permanent disfigurement or scarring under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	GF	
437	Smith	Adopt the Human Cloning Prohibition Act	C	10
438	Janssen	Provide for Shriners License Plates	GF	
438A	Janssen	Appropriation Bill	GF	
439	Kremer	Change provisions relating to grain dealers, grain warehouses, and direct delivery grain	S	11, 13
440	Kremer	Adopt the Feedlot Statutory Trust Act	GF	
441	Kremer	Change livestock brand and inspection fee provisions	S +330	
442	McDonald	Allow workers' compensation coverage for members of county fair boards and county agricultural societies	IPP	
443	McDonald	Change provisions relating to the discontinuance of township organization	C	
444	Jensen	Change provisions relating to child support payments to the State Disbursement Unit	IPP >116	22
445	Jensen	Change provisions relating to physical therapy	GF	
446	Jensen	Adopt the Patient Safety Improvement Act	IPP >361	12, 15, 16
447	Bourne	Create a state employees retirement health care account and change contribution rates	C	
448	Bourne	Change a sales tax exemption relating to car washing	IPP	
449	Bourne	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the distribution of scholarship awards	C	
450	Wehrbein	Eliminate a requirement that a trade name registration application be notarized	S	
451	Wehrbein	Change provisions relating to the maintenance and destruction of records	S	
452	Urban Affairs	Change city code violation citation procedures	GF	
453	Cunningham	Create the Medical Radiographer Advisory Committee	S	
454	Combs	Adopt the Concealed Handgun Permit Act	GF	11, 18
454A	Combs	Appropriation Bill	GF	
455	Combs	Adopt the Commonsense Consumption Act which limits civil claims based on weight gain or obesity	GF	4
456	Hudkins	Change motor fuel tax rates and allocate funds for city, county, and municipal county roads	IPP	4
457	Cornett	Change penalties relating to driving under the influence	C	
458	Baker	Change a wireless telecommunication carrier surcharge	C	6
459	Beutler	Require political committees to pay registration fees	C	
460	Raikes	Rename and change provisions relating to the Minority Scholarship Program Act	GF	
461	Kremer	Authorize annexation of redevelopment project areas as prescribed	IPP	
462	D. Pederson	Provide access to medical records for purposes of workers' compensation	GF	
463	Cunningham	Change Employment Security Law relating to remuneration subject to tax and the tax rate	C	
464	Heidemann	Change provisions relating to civil protective custody	C	
465	Redfield	Change provisions relating to claims of creditors to insurance and similar assets	S +151	21, 22
466	Mines	Change credit report requirements of licensed bank executive officers	IPP >533	
467	Byars	Adopt the Creating Essential Educational Opportunities for All Students Act	C	
468	Bourne	Change judges' retirement benefits	IPP	
469	Bourne	Adopt the Public Guardianship Act	C	
470	Johnson	Provide direction to the Department of Roads relating to state road projects	C	8
471	Louden	Permit a rotating or flashing light on motor vehicles owned by the railroad	S	
472	Beutler	Provide an income tax credit for donations of perpetual conservation easements and impose a fee on wells	IPP	
473	Heidemann	Change and eliminate provisions relating to filing for office and political parties	GF	6

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474	Jensen	Change provisions relating to zoning of political subdivisions	IPP >161	15, 19
475	Schimek	Require the preparation and posting of employee rights and responsibilities under the State Government Effectiveness Act	S	
476	Schimek	Change notice provisions for unclaimed property	S	
477	Schimek	Provide for replacement absentee ballots and use of provisional ballots	IPP >401	13, 15, 18, 19
478	Cornett	Exclude certain military retirement benefits from income tax	SF	19, 20, 21, 22
478A	Cornett	Appropriation Bill	SF	
479	Thompson	Redefine a qualifying business under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act	IPP	
480	Thompson	Change provisions of the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act	GF	5, 14, 15
481	Aguiar	Change provisions relating to ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine	C	
482	Mines, req. of Gov.	Change investment incentive tax credit provisions	IPP >312	
483	Pahls	Change sheriff's fees and handgun certificate fees	C	5, 21
484	Business and Labor	Change child labor and employment security law provisions	S +245, 749	5, 22
485	Business and Labor	Change state tort claim procedures	S	
486	Business and Labor	Change unemployment combined tax rate provisions	C	5
487	Business and Labor	Provide for a solvency surcharge under the Employment Security Law	C	5
488	Business and Labor	Change unemployment insurance weekly benefits and combined tax provisions	C	5
489	Business and Labor	Change elevator inspection provisions	GF	
490	Thompson	Regulate access to geographic computer data bases	C	
491	Cudaback	Provide for filing of state and federal tax liens on real property with the Secretary of State	IPP	
492	Kremer	Change provisions relating to title of grain in warehouses	S	
493	Stuhr	Change provisions relating to school employee retirement statements	IPP	
494	Stuhr	Provide additional retirement account investment options	IPP >503	5, 7
495	Stuhr	Provide a medical cost-of-living adjustment for school employees	C	
496	Redfield	Change provisions relating to deposits of public funds with certain credit unions	C	
497	Stuhr	Adopt the Nebraska Scholarship for Academic Achievement Program Act	C	
498	Landis	Reenact the Nebraska Venture Capital Forum Act	GF	
499	Landis	Change and eliminate provisions relating to estate tax	S	4, 7, 21
500	Landis	Adopt the Entertainment and Tourism Development Act	GF	19, 20
500A	Landis	Appropriation Bill	GF	
501	Combs	Change provisions relating to minutes of public meetings for cities of the second class and villages	S	
502	Stuhr	Change provisions relating to average formula cost per student	C	
503	Retirement Systems	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Investment Council and the retirement systems	S +368, 411, 412, 494	7, 8, 15, 16
503A	Stuhr	Appropriation Bill	S	
504	Smith	Change provisions relating to good-time credit for jail inmates	C	
505	Erdman	Change the age of majority in certain instances	C	
506	Erdman, req. of Gov.	Change the mode of inflicting the death penalty	C	11
507	Dw. Pedersen	Change inspection and examination provisions relating to presentence investigation reports	GF	
508	Schrock	Change cost-share provisions for decommissioning illegal water wells	GF	
509	Smith	Change county personnel policy board membership provisions	C	
510	Combs	Provide for immunity relating to employment references	C	
511	Wehrbein	Change provisions relating to child care reimbursement	C	
512	Hudkins	Change provisions relating to prohibited activities near polling places	IPP	
513	Thompson	Change provisions relating to school building levies	IPP	
514	Dw. Pedersen	Exempt certain delivery charges from sales tax	IPP	
515	D. Pederson	Change provisions relating to funds appropriated for the use and benefit of state colleges	C >426	
516	Baker	Provide powers for the Public Service Commission relating to federal grants	S	
517	Baker	Provide the Livestock Brand Act is applicable statewide	C	
518	Dw. Pedersen	Provide for consolidation of cities of the first class with cities of the second class or villages	IPP	
519	Brown	Change conflict of interest provisions for certain officials	IPP >242	
520	Landis	Change provisions of the Employment and Investment Growth Act	IPP >312	
521	Byars	Provide for funding services for persons with developmental disabilities	C	
522	Byars	Change and eliminate provisions relating to barber schools	C	
523	Byars	Authorize claims against the state for certain property taxes	C	8
524	Cunningham	Change provisions relating to selection of a physician under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	C	
525	Engel	Change provisions relating to electronic access to public records	S	
526	Connealy	Provide ethanol production incentives and funding	C	5, 8
527	Connealy	Adopt the In the Line of Duty Dependent Education Act	C	11
528	Connealy	Change provisions relating to city and village treasurers	S	
529	Beutler	Provide court reform with the state assuming costs of district courts and consolidation of positions	GF	5
529A	Beutler	Appropriation Bill	GF	
530	General Affairs	Change retail liquor license issuance considerations and eliminate certain oath requirements	IPP	6
531	Fischer	Authorize a livestock premises and animal identification system	GF	
532	Burling	Change provisions governing coverage under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act and require employers to provide a notice	IPP >13	
533	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Change provisions relating to banking, finance, and trusts	S +170, 212, 466	7, 11
534	Synowiecki	Redefine mental health professional for purposes of the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act	S	

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535	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to assault in the third degree and domestic assault in the third degree	GF	20
536	Synowiecki	Authorize a liquor licensee to detain a minor attempting to purchase alcoholic liquor	C	
537	Synowiecki	Provide for copayments for health care services provided for certain inmates	C	6
538	Brashear	Change provisions relating to probation, parole, and community corrections and redefine certain offenses	S + 703	21, 22
538A	Brashear	Appropriation Bill	S	
539	Brashear	Appropriate funds to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	C	
540	Brashear	Change provisions for judges' salaries	C >348	20, 21, 22
541	Brashear	Change the number of county judges in the fourth and twelfth judicial districts	C	
542	Burling	Create the Tax Policy Reform Commission	GF	9, 18
542A	Burling	Appropriation Bill	GF	
543	Wehrbein, req. of Gov.	Adopt the Certified Local Investment Fund Act and provide an income tax credit	C	
544	Schrock	Eliminate a provision under the Geologists Regulation Act	S	
545	Mines	Change subrogation rights for health insurance and workers' compensation insurance	GF	
546	Brown	Adopt the Nebraska Opportunity Zone Act and create the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission	S	8, 9, 11, 21
546A	Brown	Appropriation Bill	S	
547	Johnson	Provide additional members for the Board of Engineers and Architects as prescribed	IPP	
548	Jensen	Change and eliminate provisions relating to health care	SF	6, 14, 19
549	Jensen	Require a response plan regarding prescription drug benefits under the federal Medicare program	C	6
550	Jensen	Require a plan for assistance for community health centers and emergency medical services	C	6
551	Jensen	Change provisions relating to alcohol and drug counselors, behavioral health services, and mental health boards	S + 177, 618	13, 15, 18
552	Schrock	Authorize issuance of bonds by certain natural resources districts	C	
553	Schrock	Change election provisions for directors of natural resources districts	IPP	
554	Beutler	Change minimum wage and training wage provisions	GF	7
554A	Beutler	Appropriation Bill	GF	
555	Beutler	Increase motor fuel taxes and distribute the revenue for street and road purposes	IPP	4
556	Beutler	Change provisions relating to financial aid for purchase of required textbooks and supplies	C	
557	Beutler	Change permitted uses of lodging tax revenue	S	21, 22
558	Beutler	Change provisions relating to bond issuance by railroad transportation safety districts	IPP >161	15, 19
559	Brown	Change provisions relating to personal information on operator's licenses and state identification cards	C	
560	Wehrbein	Change funding provisions relating to the Information Technology Infrastructure Fund	C	
561	Kopplin	Provide free school meals for children of deployed military personnel	C	7
562	Janssen	Redefine alcohol to include the gaseous form	GF	
563	Janssen	Redefine beer to include flavored malt beverages	SF	7, 11
564	Janssen	Provide requirements relating to contracts dealing with payment of federal excise tax	GF	
565	Wehrbein	Adopt the Land Information System Program Act and provide funding	C	
566	Schimek	Change and eliminate provisions relating to voter registration and elections	S	12, 20, 21
567	Beutler	Adopt the Sex Offender Monitoring Act	C	
568	Landis	Change provisions relating to delayed deposit services	GF	
569	Landis	Prohibit certain ingredients in early childhood immunizations	IPP	
570	Landis	Adopt a revised Article 1 and Article 7 of the Uniform Commercial Code	S + 171	8, 13
571	Landis	Create the Tax Incentive Division of the Department of Revenue and assess administrative costs	IPP	
572	Dw. Pedersen	Create a task force to study the Department of Correctional Services	GF	7
573	Dw. Pedersen	Change provisions relating to horseracing	S	21, 22
574	Kremer	Change sibling provisions under the enrollment option program	C	
575	Redfield	Adopt the Long-Term Care Savings Plan Act and provide an income tax credit	IPP	
576	Redfield	Decrease the sales tax rate and tax certain services	IPP	
577	Raikes	Include early childhood education programs within the state aid formula as prescribed	S	5, 21, 22
578	Raikes	Change provisions relating to payment of property tax refunds	C	
579	Raikes	Change provisions relating to schools	GF	
580	Johnson	Adopt the Human Cloning Prohibition Act	C	10
581	Raikes	Provide for certain records to be withheld from the public	IPP	
582	Raikes	Change eligibility and educational requirements for county assessors	IPP	
583	Dw. Pedersen	Change minimum school term provisions	IPP	
584	Mines	Change provisions relating to inspectors of and licensure under the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act	GF	
585	Baker	Require criminal history record checks for drivers of taxis and limousines	C	
586	Connealy	Provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to food stamp program waivers	C	
587	Burling	Provide for taxation, titles, and registration of replica motor vehicles	GF	
588	Performance Audit	Change provisions of the Legislative Performance Audit Act	FR	11, 14
589	Performance Audit	Require coordination of benefits by insurers	S	22
589A	Beutler	Appropriation Bill	S	
590	Preister	Exempt injuries caused deliberately or by willful negligence of the employer from coverage under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act	C	
591	Preister	Change provisions relating to public records and open meetings law	IPP	
592	Kruse	Adopt the Alcoholic Liquor Liability Act	C	
593	Kruse	Appropriate funds for biomedical research	C	
594	Kruse	Change and provide penalties for driving under the influence	S	
595	Kruse	Change weighting of schools demographic factors within the state aid formula	C	22

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596	Baker	Adopt the Nebraska Higher Education Deposit Program Act	C	
597	Baker	Adopt federal provisions for commercial vehicles and change provisions relating to transporting hazardous materials	IPP >76	
598	Jensen	Increase alcohol taxes and provide funding for substance abuse services	IPP	
599	Louden	Provide for cities of the second class and villages to establish and maintain libraries	IPP	
600	Louden	Change provisions relating to use of comparable sales for property assessment purposes	IPP	
601	Louden	Provide restrictions on solid waste management entities	GF	
602	Cornett	Change Nebraska Veterans' Cemetery Advisory Board membership	C	
603	Price	Provide an exemption for airbrush tanning and temporary nonpermanent airbrush tattooing under the Nebraska Cosmetology Act	IPP >256	
604	Price	Require licensed child care programs to be smokefree	GF	5
605	Thompson	Provide for expenditures for construction, maintenance, and upkeep by the University of Nebraska and the state colleges	GF	
605A	Thompson	Appropriation Bill	GF	
606	Thompson	Adopt the Children's Behavioral Health Act	C	
607	Thompson	Increase fees on deeds or certificates issued for reassignment of real property or sale of real property for taxes	IPP	
608	Bourne	Adopt the Thermal System Insulation and Firestop Act	C	
609	Bourne	Prohibit acts relating to repairs to motor vehicles and redefine cost of repair	C	
610	Synowiecki	Exempt certain construction labor and materials from sales tax	IPP	
611	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to appearance bonds	C	
612	Synowiecki	Change the term of years for designation as an enterprise zone	IPP	
613	Price	Require certain licensed foster care homes to be smokefree	IPP	5
614	Pahls	Authorize salary adjustments for employees of the State Electrical Division	SF	18, 19
614A	Pahls	Appropriation Bill	SF	
615	Howard	Exempt sales tax on residential repairs	IPP	
616	Howard	Change reimbursement provisions under the Special Education Act	C	
617	Louden	Change recreational land liability provisions	C	
618	Flood	Provide for tracking, reporting, and funding relating to behavioral health services	C >551	6, 13, 15, 18
619	Schrock	Adopt the Safety of Dams and Reservoirs Act	IPP >335	
620	Schrock	Change provisions relating to leased recreational land and landowner liability	GF	
621	Redfield	Provide for a rebuttable presumption of negligence for use of a mobile telephone	C	
622	Redfield	Adopt the In the Line of Duty Dependent Education Act	C	11
623	Byars	Provide requirements relating to grants for home and community service programs	C	6
624	Combs	Redefine eligible postsecondary educational institution for purposes of the Nebraska Scholarship Act	C	
625	Combs	Adopt the Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities Act	C	6
626	Combs	Change requirements for membership on certain committees and boards and eliminate references to freeholders	S	
627	Howard	Require school boards to adopt a bullying policy	C	
628	Howard	Impose sales tax on snack foods and use the revenue for school facilities	IPP	
629	Wehrbein	Change provisions relating to annexation and disconnection by cities of the second class or villages	IPP	
630	Wehrbein	Require an annexing city or village to reimburse rural water districts	IPP	
631	Wehrbein	Change issuance provisions for permits for extraordinary use of controlled-access highways	C	
632	Pahls	Create offenses relating to unlawful possession of a firearm	C	
633	Pahls	Change provisions relating to the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act	GF	20
634	Raikes	Change and eliminate certain school transportation provisions	GF	
635	Raikes	Change tax levy provisions relating to schools	C	
636	Raikes	Change cost calculations for wards' education and special education	C	
637	Raikes	Create and provide duties for the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council	C	
638	Hudkins	Change public power district operating area provisions	C	
639	Hudkins	Include proposed beltways on the corridor location map	S	
640	Connealy	Change registration requirements for abstractors	S	
641	Connealy	Change workers' compensation partial disability compensation provisions	C	
642	Brashear	Change and eliminate provisions relating to probation and parole	C	
643	Brashear	Change certain court fees as prescribed	C >348	20, 21, 22
644	Brashear	Authorize a refund of sales tax on certain admissions	IPP	
645	Brashear	Prohibit an agency, political subdivision, or public power supplier from providing certain telecommunications services	S >71A	17, 21, 22
646	Brashear	Adopt the Advantage Nebraska Act	IPP	6, 8
647	Brashear	Provide for the filing of biennial reports by limited liability companies	SF	
648	Brashear	Eliminate settlement escrow provisions which have terminated	SF	
649	Brashear	Clarify internal references to motions for new trial	SF	
650	Brashear	Clarify provisions relating to audiovisual court appearances	SF	
651	Beutler	Adopt the Limited Purpose Sanitary and Improvement District Act	IPP	
652	Beutler	Change provisions of the Motor Vehicle Service Contract Reimbursement Insurance Act	C	
653	Beutler	Reduce the number of county judgeships in District 12 by one	C	
654	Beutler	Change child custody and remediation costs	GF	
655	Beutler	Create the Task Force on Small Employers Health Plans	IPP	
656	Preister	Change provisions of and provide funding for the Workplace Safety Consultation Program	C	
657	Preister	Change provisions relating to service contracts with state agencies	C	
658	Preister	Redefine permit under the Livestock Waste Management Act	IPP	8
659	Beutler	Require reports relating to health care billings for regional center patients	C	
660	Price	Adopt the Home Inspector Licensing Act	C	
661	Price	Change employment provisions and adopt the Advocacy Leave Act	C	

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662	Smith	Change provisions relating to handicapped or disabled parking permits	IPP	
663	Cudaback	Change certificate of title and registration provisions for assembled, kit, and historical vehicles	GF	
664	Cudaback	Redefine critical access hospital	S	12, 21
664A	Cudaback	Appropriation Bill	S	
665	Cudaback	Provide for permanent state identification cards for persons over seventy years of age	C	
666	Beutler	Provide duties for providers of services to persons with disabilities	C	
667	Redfield	Change a sales tax definition relating to computer software	C	
668	Johnson	Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to convey land to the University of Nebraska at Kearney	S	
669	Landis	Create and provide duties for the Institutional Agricultural Committee	C	
670	Landis	Prohibit acts relating to computers and electronic mail	C	10
671	Landis	Provide county personnel policies for transferring employees from the state or other political subdivisions to a county at county request	GF	
672	Landis	Provide a tax credit for research and experimental activities	IPP >312	19, 20, 21
673	Louden	Adopt the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act	SF	8, 15, 16, 20
673A	Louden	Appropriation Bill	SF	15, 16
674	Connealy	Change provisions relating to the exercise of eminent domain by railroads	C	
675	Langemeier	Change provisions relating to school permits and other motor vehicle operators' permits	S	9, 10, 13
675A	Langemeier	Appropriation Bill	S	
676	Langemeier	Exempt referees appointed by county boards of equalization from the Real Estate Appraiser Act	S	
677	Dw. Pedersen	Provide for administrative segregation in correctional facilities	GF	
677A	Dw. Pedersen	Appropriation Bill	GF	
678	Dw. Pedersen	Change provisions relating to the use of ignition interlock devices	C	
679	D. Pederson	Change amounts and procedures for proposing the issuance of highway bonds	C	
680	Baker	Create the Energy Enhancement and Research Fund and authorize transfers from the Severance Tax Fund	GF	
681	Schimek	Adopt the Physical Education in Schools Act	C	
682	Schimek	Change provisions for filling a vacancy in the House of Representatives	S	18, 19
683	Schimek	Change the salaries of state constitutional officers	V	18, 19, 21, 22
683A	Schimek	Appropriation Bill	V	
684	Schimek	Provide and change provisions relating to the State Capitol and the Nebraska Capitol Commission	S	
684A	Schimek	Appropriation Bill	S	
685	Smith	Change provisions relating to public records	IPP	
686	Mines	Change provisions relating to the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act	C	
687	Mines	Change distribution of inheritance tax revenue and change budget provisions	IPP	
688	Mines	Allow the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority to authorize military housing projects and modify agricultural financing	IPP >71, 90	10, 19, 20, 21
689	Stuhr	Create and provide duties for the Distance Education Enhancement Task Force	S	14, 21
689A	Stuhr	Appropriation Bill	S	14
690	Stuhr	Adopt the Career Education Partnership Act	GF	
690A	Stuhr	Appropriation Bill	GF	
691	Stuhr	Change provisions relating to cash balance and defined contribution benefits	IPP >364	18, 21
692	Friend	Reduce income tax rates	IPP	
693	Landis	Allow the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority to authorize projects tied to the federal new markets tax credit	FR	21
694	Landis	Create the Nebraska State Fair Support and Improvement Fund	C >426	
695	Baker	Exempt manufacturing machinery, equipment, and related services from sales tax	C >312	19, 20, 21
696	Janssen	Provide for timing of refunds under the Employment and Investment Growth Act	C >312	
697	Brown	Rename the Department of Roads	GF	
698	Brown	Change voting and compensation provisions of public building commissions	IPP	
699	Smith	Change provisions relating to agricultural or horticultural land valuation	IPP	
700	Synowiecki	Change provisions relating to the practice of law	C	
701	Synowiecki	Create the Department of Personnel	C	
702	Synowiecki	Define and provide for use of cash or cash equivalent by a retail liquor licensee	C	
703	McDonald	Provide for medical parole	IPP >538	22
704	McDonald	Change provisions relating to equalization aid to schools	C	
705	McDonald	Provide for a study and subsequent pilot program to provide assistance to cancer patients and their families	C	7
706	McDonald	Eliminate fence viewing and provide for mediation for resolution of fence disputes	C	
707	Cornett	Provide for county emergency alarm system registration and false alarm fees	WD	
708	Kremer	Change provisions relating to the domestic use of ground water	IPP	
709	Erdman	Adopt the Medicaid Reform Act and the Long-Term Care Partnership Program Development Act	S +272	6, 14, 16, 22
710	Erdman	Change provisions relating to retirement systems for police in cities of the first class	C	
711	Erdman	Provide a retirement benefit for law enforcement officers in certain cities	C	
712	Thompson	Adopt the Healthy Nebraska Rx Card Program Act	C	
713	Thompson	Change provisions relating to sexual assault, convictions set aside, and sex offender registration	S +123	20, 21, 22
714	Smith	Adopt the Prisoner Reimbursement to the County Act	C	
715	Wehrbein	Change provisions of the Nebraska Public Safety Wireless Communication System Act and eliminate the advisory board	IPP	

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716	Engel	Create the Advantage Nebraska Workforce Training Institute as a division of the Department of Economic Development	IPP >425	8
717	Raikes	Adopt the Reorganization Building Aid Act	C	
718	Raikes	Change educational service unit board provisions	C	
719	Howard	Eliminate certain payments to guardians of wards of the Department of Health and Human Services	C	
720	Raikes	Exempt railroad transportation safety districts from sales tax	IPP	
721	Raikes	Require motor vehicle registration for all-terrain vehicles and minibikes	IPP	
722	Schrock	Provide for use of public power infrastructure	GF	
723	Smith	Establish a process to adjust the sales tax rate	IPP	
724	Stuthman	Provide for a pilot project for child abuse and neglect investigations	C	
725	Stuthman	Adopt the Community Health Medication Distribution Act	IPP >382	15, 18
726	Stuthman	Change emergency protective custody provisions under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act	C	6
727	Stuthman	Provide a change of venue docket fee	C	
728	Stuthman	Create the Provider Reimbursement Advisory Committee for health care reimbursement	C	
729	Bourne	Change district court fees	C	
730	Bourne	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act	C	8
731	Bourne	Provide requirements for rules and regulations under the Environmental Protection Act	C	
732	Bourne	Change state deposits for school retirement	C	
733	Bourne	Provide for electronic pickle card devices	IPP	
734	Urban Affairs	Change provisions for the election of board of trustees of sanitary and improvement districts	IPP >401	
735	Urban Affairs	Change provisions relating to the Community Development Law for cities and villages	GF	
736	Brown	Adopt the Elevator Safety Act	IPP	
737	Business and Labor	Provide for payment of claims against the state	S	18, 20
738	Cunningham	Disapprove certain claims against the state	IPP	
739	Cunningham	Change Employment Security Law provisions	S	5, 11, 12, 15, 16
740	Schimek	Change provisions relating to the limitation of actions for certain political subdivisions	C	
741	Connealy	Require the Public Service Commission to adopt rules regarding safe walkways for railroad carrier workers	C	
742	Connealy	Provide powers and duties for the Public Service Commission to identify hazardous railroad areas	IPP	
743	Connealy	Require safety and accident reports from railroad carriers	C	
744	Price	Change provisions relating to assisted living facilities	IPP	
745	Synowiecki	Authorize the State Racing Commission to regulate parimutuel wagering on historic races	GF	
746	D. Pederson	Provide appropriations for grants to providers of free civil legal services	GF	
747	Synowiecki	Adopt the Department of Probation and Parole Services Act	C	7
748	Bourne	Change provisions relating to natural gas and eliminate the Municipal Natural Gas System Condemnation Act	C	6, 19, 20
749	Foley	Change child labor provisions to prohibit certain employments as prescribed	GF >484	
750	Foley	Adopt the Human Embryonic Research Funding Prohibition Act	C	10
751	Foley	Transfer funds from the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund	C	
752	Foley	Add information regarding fetal pain to the informed consent provisions relating to abortion	C	10
753	Bourne	Redefine gross receipts for sales tax purposes	S	13, 21
754	Chambers	Require an annual report from the Commission on Judicial Qualifications and change provisions relating to reprimands	S	12
755	Chambers	Prohibit taking of a DNA sample by law enforcement without probable cause	IPP >361	13, 15, 16
756	Chambers	Change criminal procedure court order requirements	IPP >361	13, 15, 16
757	Chambers	Change provisions relating to the supervision and assignment of appointed deputy state sheriffs	GF	
758	Chambers	Eliminate the authority of notaries public to summon and punish witnesses	IPP >348	20, 21, 22
759	Chambers	Prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation	C	8
760	Chambers	Change the death penalty to life imprisonment without possibility of parole	C	11
761	Thompson	Change Foster Care Review Board membership provisions	S	21, 22
761A	Thompson	Appropriation Bill	S	
762	Engel	Provide for appointments by the county clerk	S	
763	Engel	Require reimbursement of homestead exemption tax benefits and change state reimbursements	IPP	
1CA	Schrock	Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to authorize spending part of the principal of the perpetual funds for the common schools	C	
2CA	Landis	Constitutional amendment to authorize use of revenue bonds to develop and lease property for use by nonprofit enterprises	SF	7, 13
3CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to terminate term limit provisions for members of the Legislature	C	6, 21
4CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to create the Ethics and Compensation Review Commission, change and eliminate compensation provisions for employees and members of the Legislature, and provide for a legislative code of ethics	C	
5CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to provide for recall of members of the Legislature and repeal term limits for such members	C	6
8CA	Schrock	Constitutional amendment to preserve the right to fish, hunt, and trap	SF	3, 9, 16, 17
9	Cunningham	Urge Congress to amend the Social Security Act by deleting May 14, 1993, as the deadline for approval by states of long-term care partnership plans	A	6
11CA	Executive Board	Constitutional amendment to authorize the Legislature to prescribe appointment and removal procedures for certain state employees	C	8
12CA	Schimek	Constitutional amendment to change legislative salary provisions	P	12, 21, 22

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13CA	Schimek	Constitutional amendment to provide for increases in legislative salaries	C	
14CA	Schimek	Constitutional amendment to repeal term limit provisions for members of the Legislature	C	6
15	Smith	Urge Nebraska's United States Senators to support the repeal of the federal excise tax on telecommunications	A	
16CA	Schrock	Constitutional amendment to change term limit provisions for members of the Legislature	C	6
17CA	Chambers	Constitutional amendment that changes a penalty and confidentiality restrictions for judges' disciplinary actions	WD	
18CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to provide for investment by political subdivisions	GF	
22CA	Brashear	Constitutional amendment to change distribution of certain forfeited or seized money	C	
23	Howard	Urge Congress to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act	C	
24CA	Raikes	Constitutional amendment to permit the Legislature to direct fines, penalties, and license fees to the perpetual fund for common school purposes	C	
25CA	Smith	Constitutional amendment to authorize municipalities and counties to exercise powers in areas of local concern	IPP	
26CA	Beutler	Constitutional amendment to provide that misdemeanors related to election to office are grounds for impeachment of civil officers	C	11
27CA	Langemeier	Constitutional amendment to provide for one organization day prior to ninety-day legislative session and change legislative terms accordingly	C	6
28CA	Brashear	Constitutional amendment to eliminate provisions relating to creation, powers, and duties of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	C	6
65	Byars	Request Congress to make it a priority to ensure a stable support workforce for individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities	A	
76	Landis	Provide the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government combine efforts to insure and improve timely and safe permanent placements of children	A	
98	Schrock	Encourage the resignation of David Hergert from the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska	A	18, 20, 22

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