

**Nebraska Water Resources Association
106th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session**

Document	Senator	Committee	Hearing Date	Status	Description
LB53	Scheer	Natural Resources	02/14/2019	IPP 03/06/2020	Change and provide duties for landowners or their tenants relating to removal of a blockage or obstruction in a watercourse and provide for court costs and attorney's fees <i>Requires landowners or tenants of such landowners to keep a watercourse, slough, drainage ditch or drainage clear. Provides that any blockage or obstruction caused by the landowner or tenant will require such individual to remove such so the watercourse is restored to its natural depth and width.</i>
LB128	Hughes	Transportation and Telecommunications	02/05/2019	IPP 02/26/2020	Provide for Wildlife Conservation Plates <i>Authorizes bighorn sheep and sandhill crane license plates.</i> <i>Amended into LB356 by AM731.</i>
LB134	Stinner	Revenue	01/30/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Provide levy authority and duties for natural resources districts <i>Reinstates the previously expired maximum 3-cent levy authority for fully or over-appropriated districts from FY 2020-21 to FY 2017-28. The levy could only be used to implement groundwater management activities and integrated management activities under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. Requires each district to keep separate records on the funds raised and document how such funds are expanded to administer and implement ground water management activities and integrated management activities.</i>
LB148	Groene	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/06/2019	Gov. Signed 02/13/2020	Change requirements for public hearings on proposed budget statements and notices of meetings of public bodies <i>Change provisions relating to budgeting of a joint entity created pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act that received funds from an occupation tax on irrigated acres. Requires a public hearing on a proposed budget statement be held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body and not be limited by time. The governing body must make a detailed presentation of the proposed budget statement and make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement available to the public. Any member of the public desiring to speak on the proposed budget statement will be allowed to address the governing body and must be given a reasonable amount of time to speak. The bill also changes the publicized notice requirements to require notice to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, in a digital advertisement on such newspaper's website. Each public body will be required to record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.</i>
LB151	Brewer	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/20/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Government Neutrality in Contracting Act <i>Prohibits the state and political subdivisions from including anti-collective bargaining language in public bidding documents and agreements.</i>
LB158	Brewer	Revenue	01/24/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Change provisions relating to the assessed value of real property <i>Freezes real property valuations at the same value as previous year's valuation, plus the cost of improvements made during current year. Requires valuation procedure to be in place for year 2019 through 2023.</i>
LB163	Hunt	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	03/06/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Permit counties to conduct elections by mail <i>Permits either the election commissioner or the county clerk in counties with more than ten thousand inhabitants to apply to the Secretary of State for mail-only elections. Current law permits such actions only in counties of less than ten thousand inhabitants.</i>
LB204	Briese	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	01/24/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Require approval of voters for bonds under the Interlocal Cooperation Act <i>Require bonds issued by any joint entity on or after the effective date to be approved by the majority of the qualified electors of each public agency which is part of the joint entity.</i>

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LB242	Lindstrom	Revenue	02/22/2019	IPP 08/13/2020 Lindstrom Priority Bill	Adopt the Infrastructure Improvement and Replacement Assistance Act and provide for a turnback of state sales tax revenue <i>Requires the state to pay each political subdivision, sewer utility or water utility a percentage of the state sales tax imposed and collected on sewer and potable water fees. The turnback will be 36.36 percent of the state sales tax imposed on water and sewer fees from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. The rate will increase to 54.54 percent on taxes imposed from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. On and after July 1, 2023, the rate will be 72.72 percent.) The funds can be used to pay for infrastructure improvements related to constructing, upgrading, redeveloping or replacing sewer and water infrastructure facilities; the redevelopment or replacement of obsolete water or sewer facilities; or the repayment of bonds issued for such work. The funds can be used to pay for infrastructure improvements related to constructing, upgrading, redeveloping or replacing sewer and water infrastructure facilities; the redevelopment or replacement of obsolete water or sewer facilities; or the repayment of bonds issued for such work.</i>
LB254	McCollister	Business and Labor	02/04/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Fair Chance Hiring Act <i>Requires most private employers and employment agencies that ask an applicant to disclose his/her criminal history to afford the applicant an opportunity to explain the conviction or criminal history. The requirements of the bill apply to businesses with 15 or more employees. It does not apply to the state of Nebraska, local government agencies or political subdivisions.</i>
LB272	Morfeld	Revenue	02/01/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Apprenticeship Training Program Tax Credit Act <i>Proposes to adopt the Apprenticeship Training Program Tax Credit Act. Employers who plan to hire one or more apprentices as part of a qualified apprenticeship training program can apply to receive refundable tax credits. The tax credit will be in an amount equal to one dollar multiplied by the total number of hours expected to be worked during the following calendar year by the apprentices. The credit can not exceed \$2,000 or 50% of the total wages, whichever is less.</i>
LB283	Pansing Brooks	Executive Board	02/11/2019	IPP 08/13/2020 McCollister Priority Bill	Provide for a climate change study <i>Provides for a transfer of no more than \$250,000 from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Fund to the University of Nebraska for the preparation of a strategic action plan relating to climate change, to be completed no later than December 15, 2020. Requires the developed plan to include: (1) carbon footprint measurements for the State; (2) benchmarks and goals for State and actions to meet them; (3) risk assessment from climate change; (4) discussion of opportunities from adaption and mitigation of climate change; (5) economic impacts; (6) impacts of climate change on Nebraska sectors of agriculture, water resources, health care, energy, forestry, communities, transportation, and commerce and industry. Requires the strategic plan to be developed with public comment and engagement, along with input from Nebraska subject matter experts.</i> <i>Proposed committee amendment requires the University of Nebraska to develop a strategic action plan to included opportunities that exist for Nebraskans to plan for and respond to extreme weather risks, including taking advantage of economic opportunities and reducing potential negative impacts. The plan is to include recommendations of new polices and changes to policies and programs that support the goals based on the information and data collected and generated, including funding needs and recommendations for legislation. Funding for the plan will come from the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Collection Fund.</i>
LB289	Linehan	Revenue	04/24/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Change provisions relating to county assessor inspections of real property for property tax purposes <i>Requires county assessor to inspect and review all parcels of real property at least once every three years (current requirement is six years). With committee amendment AM1572, LB289 proposes a major overhaul to Nebraska's property tax and school funding systems, with the following key components: (1) provides more state funding to school districts through "per pupil" aid with a minimum guaranteed funding amount of no less than one third of a school district's needs; (2) reduces school districts' permissible maximum tax levy and imposing spending caps based on inflation and growth; and (3) creates a special additional levy authority for the Omaha Public Schools to generate funds for shoring up the OPS pension shortfall. AM1572 raises approximately \$373 Million in new state revenue through a 1/2 cent increase in the state sales tax rate, the repeal of numerous sales tax exemptions on various goods and services, and an increase in the current cigarette tax rate. The amendment also utilizes approximately \$120 Million from Nebraska's current Property Tax Credit Fund, which under current law annually delivers approximately \$225 Million in property tax credits to Nebraska taxpayers. All told, the amendment devotes \$482 Million of new and existing funds to the purposes listed above in fiscal year 2019-20, and \$573 Million in fiscal year 2020.</i>
LB305	Crawford	Business and Labor	02/04/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act <i>Requires employers with four or more employees to provide paid leave. Workers can accrue at least one hour of paid "sick and safe time" for every 30 hours worked. Employees need to be provided up to 40 hours of paid leave per year, based on hours worked. Employees will be entitled to use accrued paid leave beginning on the 60th calendar day of employment. Does not apply to the State of Nebraska, its agencies, or political subdivisions.</i>
LB306	Crawford	Business and Labor	01/28/2019	Final Reading 02/22/2019	Change provisions relating to good cause for voluntarily leaving employment under the Employment Security Law <i>Expands eligibility for unemployment benefits. The bill adds leaving employment to care for a family member with a serious health condition to the existing list of good cause reasons to receive benefits. Requires an employee to make all reasonable efforts to preserve his or her employment before voluntarily leaving.</i>

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LB311	Crawford	Business and Labor	02/04/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act <i>Allows covered employees to take paid family medical leave for qualifying reasons beginning July 1, 2021, for a maximum of 6 to 12 weeks during any year depending on the reason. Payment to individuals using the leave ranges from 66% to 95% of their average weekly wage and is based upon their average wage in relation to the state's average weekly wage. To receive the leave benefits, employees must file a claim with the Commissioner of Labor. The Commissioner shall run the Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Fund, and it shall be funded by private donations, legislative transfers, and requires contributions from covered employers as determined by the Commissioner. Applicable to employers with an annual payroll of \$100,000 or more.</i>
LB336	Hansen, M.	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	03/07/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Change the vote required to exceed certain budget limitations <i>Changes voting requirement for exceeding restricted fund budget in amount not greater than 1%. Current law requires 75% supermajority vote of governing board, change would only require a simple majority vote of governing board.</i>
LB361	Hansen, M.	Business and Labor	02/11/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Prohibit retaliation under the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act and the Wage and Hour Act <i>Prohibits employer retaliation against employee under the Wage Payment and Collection Act for employees that file complaints pursuant to the Act, or assist and participate in Department of Labor investigations under the Act.</i>
LB362	Hansen, M.	Business and Labor	02/11/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Require payment of unpaid wages for violations of the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act <i>Requires employer to pay disputed wages to employee if Commissioner of Labor determines disputed wages are due and owing.</i>
LB368	Hughes	Natural Resources	02/20/2019	IPP 03/06/2020	Eliminate overappropriated river basins, subbasins, and reaches <i>Eliminate all over appropriated references in statute. The bill would declare all basins previously deemed over appropriated as fully appropriated following the effective date of the act. The bill also requires that surface water controls be included in an integrated management plan and be adopted by the Department of Natural Resources to maintain compliance with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement. The bill will also require that on-stream reservoirs in fully appropriated river basins, subbasins, or reaches be managed by the Department of Natural Resources as flood control structures to protect lives and property below the structures. Such structures shall not exceed eighty percent capacity prior to March 1 of any year so that such structures are capable of capturing spring snow melt and runoff. The department is required to develop a management plan for the structures as part of the integrated management plan.</i>
LB383	Quick	Business and Labor	02/11/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Provide for an annual adjustment to the minimum wage <i>Beginning January 31, 2020 and each year thereafter, requires the State Treasurer to adjust the minimum wage by an amount equal to the average annual percentage change in the consumer price index. Annual increases are capped at 3.5%.</i>
LB386	Erdman	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/21/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Change provisions relating to cash reserves under the Nebraska Budget Act <i>Would limit a political subdivision's cash reserve to fifty percent or less of the total amount received from personal and real property taxation. Current law limits the cash reserve to fifty percent of the adopted budget.</i>
LB412	Geist	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/07/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Require an election regarding creation of a joint public agency <i>The bill would require a vote of the registered voters of political subdivisions before a joint public agency can be created. The vote must be at the primary or general election. The political subdivision is prohibited from entering into an agreement until after the voters of each political subdivisions have approved the creation of the joint public agency.</i>
LB415	Friesen	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/13/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Repeal recall provisions for political subdivisions <i>Repeals statutory provisions for the recall of any elected official of a political subdivision and any elected member of the governing bodies of cities, villages, counties, irrigation districts, natural resources districts, public power districts, school districts, community college areas, educational service units, hospital districts, metropolitan utilities districts, and sanitary and improvement districts.</i>
LB483	Erdman	Revenue	02/21/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Change the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land <i>Changes the valuation of agricultural land from a system based on comparable sales to a productivity/income capitalization approach.</i>

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LB502	Hunt	Judiciary	03/28/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Limited Immigration Inquiry Act <i>Prohibits employees of any local governmental unit or political subdivision from asking for a person's social security number or other information that would disclose a person's immigration status unless specifically authorized by court order, federal or state law. Further, if an employee learns information related to a person's immigration status, the employee is prohibited from disclosing such information (even to law enforcement agencies) unless required or authorized by court order, federal or state law.</i>
LB543	Lowe	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	03/07/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Change provisions relating to state contracts, state vehicles, and state personnel <i>For public building project agreements that are not subject to the Nebraska Construction Lien Act, prohibits purchase of material and commencement of work before the required payment bond has been delivered and approved by the applicable agency or political subdivision.</i>
LB581	Albrecht	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	03/20/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Require the use of generally accepted accounting principles in preparing budgets under the Nebraska Budget Act <i>Requires the budget statement for each governing body to be made in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles using the accrual basis. An exemption will be allowed if the political subdivision has been granted a waiver from the Nebraska State Auditor.</i>
LB606	Groene	Natural Resources	03/13/2019	IPP 03/06/2020	Provide for water augmentation projects and retention of water rights as prescribed <i>Authorizes Natural Resources Districts to develop water augmentation projects for streamflow enhancement and allows for the acquisition of real property for the projects. When property is acquired, the governing district is required to establish allocations for the amount of groundwater that may be withdrawn for the project. After the project has been established, the owner or owners of such project may sell any real property purchased for the project and continue to pump for beneficial use the necessary groundwater for augmentation purposes without regard to land area or acres owned.</i>
LB627	Pansing Brooks	Judiciary	02/07/2019	IPP 08/13/2020 Pansing Brooks Priority Bill	Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity <i>Prohibits employers, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Provisions of the bill apply to employers with 15 or more employees or with state contracts regardless of the number of employees, the state of Nebraska, governmental agencies and political subdivisions.</i>
LB632	Hughes	Natural Resources	02/28/2019	Gov. Signed 08/13/2020 Natural Resources Priority Bill	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the regulation of containers, and utility discontinuance and reconnection and to develop a state flood mitigation plan <i>As originally introduced, the bill proposed to make a non-substantive change to a rural water districts statute. The bill was amended and this provision was removed but LB 769, LB 861, LB 933 and LB 1201 were amended into it.</i>
LB655	Wayne	Agriculture	03/12/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Change division fence provisions <i>Changes provisions relating to construction and maintenance of division fences. Provides that any landowner that does not desire the erection, replacement, or retention of a division fence is not required to contribute to the construction or maintenance of a division fence.</i>
LB678	Vargas	Appropriations	03/20/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Create the Volkswagen Settlement Cash Fund and provide duties for the Department of Environmental Quality <i>Creates new cash fund to be administered by Department of Environmental Quality, to be expended pursuant to the Department's use plan. Provides that fifteen percent of any cash funds deposited be used for development of electric vehicle charging stations. Amended into LB294 by AM1329.</i>
LB691	Cavanaugh	Transportation and Telecommunications	02/05/2019	IPP 02/26/2020	Provide for Ornate Box Turtle Conservation license plates <i>Authorizes an ornate box turtle specialty license plate.</i>
LB712	Friesen	Judiciary	03/14/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Prohibit joint entities and joint public agencies from taking action against representative for their speech <i>For entities formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act or the Joint Public Agency Act, prohibits interlocals or joint agencies from censuring "a representative of its member public agencies or any member board" for expressing his or her opinion or speaking on any matter related to the joint public agency or interlocal.</i>

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LB729	Walz	Agriculture	02/19/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Soil Health and Productivity Incentive Act <i>Creates program administered by Department of Agriculture to incentivize planting of cover crops in specified areas. Incentives include per acre cash payments on approved practices.</i>
LB749	Blood	Judiciary	02/26/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Adopt the Nebraska Anti-Terrorism Act <i>Creates the crime of terrorism for causing damage or harm at critical infrastructure facilities. Critical infrastructure facilities include chemical manufacturing plants, refineries, natural gas compressor, railroad switching yard, telecomm switching office, water intake and treatment structures, wastewater plants or pump stations.</i>
LB750	Blood	Judiciary	02/27/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Prohibit discrimination based on military or veteran status <i>Amends numerous state civil rights protection statutes in order to prohibit discrimination based on a person's military or veteran status</i>
LB769	Gragert	Natural Resources	01/29/2020	AM into LB632 08/13/2020	Change provisions relating to membership on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission <i>Proposes that members of Natural Resources Commission be residents of the State of Nebraska. LB769 was amended into LB632 via AM 2865.</i>
LB802	Hughes	Natural Resources	01/22/2020	IPP 08/06/2020	State a legislative finding and declaration relating to the right to use ground water <i>Proposes that the right to use ground water is an attribute of owning fee simple title to land overlaying the source of the ground water and is inseparable from the land to which the right applies. The bill provides limited exceptions to the declaration including the transfers of ground water authorized in the Municipal and Rural Domestic Ground Water Transfers Permit Act, the Industrial Ground Water Regulatory Act, transfers for domestic purposes, approved permits to transfer to another state and approved permits to transfer for environmental purposes. The bill further clarifies that it does not otherwise alter, modify, or change the regulatory authority granted under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act.</i>
LB805	Wayne	Revenue	01/29/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Provide an income tax deduction for certain wages paid to individuals convicted of a felony <i>Provides an income tax deduction to Nebraska businesses that employ individuals convicted of a felony. Allows individual's federal adjusted gross income or a corporation's federal taxable income will be reduced by 65 percent of the wages paid to an individual who has been convicted of a felony in any state. The deduction will be allowed for taxable years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2021. It will be allowed only with respect to wages paid during the individual's first year of employment and could not exceed \$20,000 per individual.</i>
LB829	Erdman	Revenue	02/21/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Change provisions relating to certain in lieu of tax payments made by the Game and Parks Commission <i>For in lieu of tax payments made by Game and Parks Commission, requires tax to be calculated using the value of land at its present highest and best use rather than use when acquired by Games and Parks Commission.</i>
LB845	Groene	Natural Resources	02/20/2020	IPP 08/06/2020	Change procedures for water augmentation projects under an integrated management plan <i>LB 845 would amend section 46-715 to allow augmentation projects for streamflow enhancement to sell the real property associated with the project and continue to pump groundwater in the amount necessary for augmentation purposes, without regard to land area or acres owned.</i>
LB855	Moser	Natural Resources	01/29/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Eliminate legislative confirmation for certain members of the Niobrara Council <i>Removes the current requirement for Legislative confirmation of individuals on the Niobrara Council. These currently exist for the following Governor appointments: 1) The individuals from each of Brown, Cherry, Keya Paha, and Rock counties; 2) the representative from a recreational business operating within the Niobrara scenic river corridor; 3) the timber industry representative operating within the Niobrara scenic river corridor; and 4) the representative of a recognized, nonprofit environmental, conservation, or wildlife organization. Amended into LB858 via AM2346.</i>
LB857	Lowe	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	01/31/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Require state agency review of rules and regulations <i>Requires each state agency to review the rules and regulations adopted by the state agency on the schedule prescribed in the bill and provide a report electronically to the Legislature on or before December 31 of the year prescribed in the schedule. The report must include the statutory authorization for the regulations and an assessment of whether they are accomplishing the statutory purposes or need revision.</i>

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LB858	Hughes	Natural Resources	01/22/2020	Gov. Signed w/Emergency Clause 08/11/2020 Natural Resources Priority Bill	Change provisions of the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Act, the Niobrara Scenic River Act, and the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act <i>Updates the governance of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). Authorizes another Joint Agency comprised of municipalities to join MEAN, as long as the agency is comprised of municipalities similar to MEAN. The bill also authorizes MEAN to utilize several provisions that other public power districts in Nebraska are allowed. Those include: 1) Capping bonds at \$200 million; 2) Submitting expenditure reports to the board; 3) Selling assets to other public agencies, such as public power districts, power plants, municipalities, and electric generation plants; and 4) Providing due process to a municipality facing expulsion or suspension. LB367 (changes to the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act), LB855 (Niobrara Council legislative confirmation changes) and LB856 (change sunset date for Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund) amended into LB 858 via AM2346.</i>
LB863	Hughes	Natural Resources	01/30/2020	IPP 08/06/2020	Limit ownership of land by the Game and Parks Commission <i>Proposes that beginning September 1, 2020, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will be prohibited from purchasing or acquiring title to any additional sites if such purchase or acquisition increases the amount of property the commission owns on September 1, 2020.</i>
LB890	Hilgers	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	01/23/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Provide for water, wastewater, utility, and sewer construction projects under the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act <i>Allows a political subdivision to use a design-build contract or construction management at risk contract under the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act for a project, in whole or in part, for water, wastewater, utility, or sewer construction. Political subdivision is defined in the act to mean a city, village, county, school district, community college, or state college. Requires a resolution by the governing body that decides to use this contract must include a finding that using the method is in the public interest because of time or cost savings, or because there is a requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for one of the modes of service delivery. LB890 amended into LB790 via AM2758.</i>
LB974		Revenue	01/22/2020	IPP 08/13/2020 Revenue Priority Bill	Change taxation and school funding provisions <i>Phases in per student foundation aid equal to a percentage of Nebraska's sales and income tax collections, 5% in year 1, 10% in year 2 and 15% in year 3. This would generate approximately \$742 per student in year 1, \$1,539 per student in year 1 and \$2,416 per student in year 3. From year 3 onward the proposal would target providing 15% of a school's basic funding moving forward. Reduces agricultural land valuation from 75% to 65% in year 1 and then down to 57% in year 2. Reduces residential and commercial property valuations from 100% to 95% in year 1, down to 90% in year 2 and finally down to 87% in year 3. Eliminates the averaging adjustment and the allocated income tax provisions of the school funding formula. Modifies Net Option Student Funding to Gross Per Pupil Property Taxes Funding. Provides transition aid for four years to schools with more than 1% of resources lost compared to Budget Disbursements and Transfers. This aid is provided at 100% in year 1 and phased down to 0% by year 4. Maintains a max levy limit of \$1.05. Schools retain the ability to override their maximum levy with a public vote. School spending is capped at inflation plus new construction; however, there is an escape clause to let schools recapture and levy more property taxes if the state does not provide the level of support under LB974 as the formula dictates with a supermajority vote of the school board.</i>
LB992	Friesen	Transportation and Telecommunications	02/03/2020	Gov. Signed 08/11/2020 Transportation and Telecommunications Priority Bill	Adopt the Broadband Internet Service Infrastructure Act and provide for certain broadband and Internet-related services <i>As amended, LB992 contains the Broadband Internet Service Infrastructure Act in Sections 1 through 7 of the bill. The purpose of the Broadband Internet Service Infrastructure Act is to implement certain statutory changes recommended by the Rural Broadband Task Force relating to broadband over existing electric easements.</i> <i>The Act creates a new definition for "broadband facility agreement", which is an agreement between an electric utility and a commercial broadband supplier, and "electric utility infrastructure", which clarifies that facilities for electric transmission service are not included. As amended, the bill provides that notice must be given only to the property owner and not to any other property interest holders. Provisions relating to delivery of notice are also clarified. A property owner must respond within 90 days for compensation relating to the use of an electric utility easement in connection with a broadband facility agreement. The electric utility would not be required to enter into a broadband facility agreement until one of the following has occurred: (a) 90 days after notice to a property owner who has not filed a claim; (b) a claim filed within the 90 days has been resolved; or (c) the statute of limitations has expired. It is in the electric utility's sole discretion to offer or grant a right of access or use to an easement that would interfere with the utility's provision of electric service. Outside the requirements of the Act, nothing limits the electric utility's authority to enter into agreements relating to the use of its easements or electric system facilities.</i>

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<i>The Act does not apply to railroad rights-of-way, and specifically states that crossings of railroad rights-of-way by telecommunications carriers are governed by Section 86-164.</i>					
<i>Section 8 of the bill creates the position of State Broadband Coordinator,</i>					
<i>Section 12 of the bill relates to leasing of dark fiber by state agencies or political subdivisions. The bill requires that such lease terms must be fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory. Before a lease becomes effective, it must be filed with the PSC for publication and comment. The lease becomes effective in 14 days unless a protest is filed. If the protest relates to the allocation of served location and unserved location, the PSC shall determine such allocation as a contested matter. For a lease of dark fiber, the PSC shall establish a safe harbor range of market rates using a competitive price determination comparison. If the lease utilizes rates within the safe harbor range, the lease shall be deemed approved. Any other term of the lease may be contested. For leases in served locations, 50 percent of the profit from the lease shall be remitted to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. Profit means the lease price less the cost of infrastructure development. If the lease is for an unserved location, no profits shall be remitted to the NUSF.</i>					
LB1008	Scheer	Appropriations	01/29/2020	Gov. Signed w/Emergency Clause 08/11/2020	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to appropriations
<i>LB 1008 is part of the Governor's 2020 midbiennium budget adjustment recommendations for the 2019-2021 biennium. The bill makes adjustments to appropriations and reappropriations for state operations, aid and construction programs, and modifies intent language and earmarks accompanying appropriations approved for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and the next fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.</i>					
<i>The following bills were amended into LB1008 via Appropriations Committee AM2737:</i>					
773, 779, 827, 894, 995, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1026, 1050, 1079, 1093, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1100, 1102 and 1161					
LB1009	Scheer	Appropriations	01/29/2020	Gov. Signed w/Emergency Clause 08/11/2020	Provide for, change, and eliminate fund transfers, change use of funds, and eliminate a fund
<i>LB 1009 is the annual Appropriations Committee funds transfer bill. In essence, the purpose of the bill is to enact transfers that are used to carry out actions contained in the mainline budget adjustment bill (LB1008). The provisions of LB826 were amended into LB1009 via AM2738.</i>					
LB1010	Scheer	Appropriations	01/29/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Change Cash Reserve Fund provisions
<i>LB 1010, introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor, is part of the Governor's 2020 mid-biennium budget adjustment recommendations for the 2019-2021 biennium. The bill provides for transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund, the Governor's Emergency Cash Fund, and the Critical Infrastructure Facilities Cash Fund.</i>					
LB1016	Hansen, M.	Business and Labor	02/03/2020	Gov. Signed w/Emergency Clause 07/27/2020 Business and Labor Priority Bill	Change provisions regarding the worker training program, the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act, the Contractor Registration Act, and the Employee Classification Act and eliminate provisions regarding service letters, high voltage lines, and private employment companies
<i>Amends the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act to provide for anti-retaliatory protections and change current relief of claims to "appropriate relief and attorney fees." The bill also provides that if an employee institutes suit against an employer, any citation that is issued against such employer and that is relevant to the suit will be admitted into evidence unless specifically excluded by the court. If a citation has been contested, it will not be admitted into evidence until after such contest has been resolved. Any employer who has an unpaid citation for a violation of the Act will be barred from contracting with the state or any political subdivision until such citation is paid. If a citation has been contested, it will not be considered an unpaid citation until after such contest has been resolved. LB926 (changes to the Employee Classification Act) and LB788 (change provisions related to the Department of Labor) were amended into LB1016 via AM2350.</i>					
LB1026	Bolz	Appropriations	02/12/2020	AM into LB1008 08/13/2020	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska
<i>Appropriates \$500,000 for FY2020-21 to University of Nebraska Daugherty Water for Food Institute to support water and agricultural research and existing collaborative initiatives to implement best practices in water conservation. The appropriation will be financed by a \$500,000 transfer from the Water Sustainability Fund. LB1026 was amended into LB1008 via AM2737.</i>					

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LB1035	Friesen	Executive Board	02/18/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Change the number of legislative districts <i>Beginning in 2023, expands the number of legislative districts from 49 to 50. This action is presently permitted under the Nebraska Constitution and would not require amendment of the Nebraska Constitution.</i>
LB1055	Brewer	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/05/2020	Gov. Signed 08/11/2020 Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Priority Bill	Change provisions regarding elections and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act <i>Requires counties that conduct elections by mail to have an in -person polling site at the office of the county clerk, at least one secure ballot drop box available for voters and in-person early voting opportunities. LB820, LB1086, LB1136, LB1119 and LB1120 were amended into LB1055 via AM2573. LB1110, LB1121 and LB1122 were amended into LB1055 via AM2703.</i>
LB1071	Hughes	Natural Resources	02/19/2020	IPP 03/06/2020	Adopt the Wildlife Damage Recovery Act <i>LB 1071 would establish the Wildlife Damage Recovery Act to compensate agricultural producers for damage to farm products caused by wildlife activity. Compensation would come from the Wildlife Damage Recovery Fund, which would be administered by the Wildlife Damage Recovery Council, both created by the Act.</i>
LB1072	Hughes	Natural Resources	02/05/2020	IPP 08/06/2020	Authorize certain natural resources districts to issue flood protection bonds and use bond proceeds as prescribed <i>The bill proposes to grant those Natural Resource Districts not encompassing a city of the metropolitan class the authority to issue flood protection bonds. The bonds will be used to pay costs of design, rights-of-way acquisition, and construction of flood protection projects and practices within the natural resources district issuing such bonds. The flood protection projects and practices will include, but are not limited to, low-impact development best management measures, conveyance channels, dams, reservoir basins, and levees.</i>
LB1084	Kolterman	Revenue	02/06/2020	AM into LB1107 08/13/2020	Adopt the Nebraska Transformational Projects Act <i>Allows for an applicant pursuing a partnership with the federal government for a project with a total new investment of more than \$1 billion to apply to Department of Economic Development for matching funds of up to \$300 million. The application must include an independent economic impact assessment showing at least \$1.7 billion during the planning and construction period and at least \$2.9 billion during the 10-year period when construction is commenced or the application is approved. LB1084 was amended into LB1107 via AM3316. As amended, the provisions of LB1084 would prevent any General Fund transfers for a project as described above prior to FY25-26.</i>
LB1107	Scheer	Revenue	02/19/2020	Gov. Signed w/Emergency Clause 08/13/2020 Speaker Priority Bill	Adopt the ImagINE Nebraska Act, Key Employer and Jobs Retention Act, Renewable Chemical Production Tax Credit Act, Customized Job Training Act, Nebraska Transformational Projects Act, and Nebraska Property Tax Incentive Act and change and provide other related provisions <i>Provisions of LB930, LB720, LB1084 and new property tax relief provisions incorporated into LB1107 via Revenue Committee AM3316. LB1107 is the carrier bill for the Legislature's major compromise package on property tax relief, a renewal of the state's business incentives program, and partial funding for UNMC's NExt Project. A summary of the provisions related to each:</i>
<i>Property Tax Relief Provisions:</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sets a minimum requirement of \$275 Million per year in the existing Property Tax Credit Fund (LB930) - If gambling ballot initiative is approved by voters, additional revenue generated from gambling proceeds will be deposited into PTCF - Establishes a new Property Tax Refundable Income Tax Credit based on amount of school district property taxes paid during the preceding year, which can be claimed on individual or corporate returns. Amount of available credits limited to \$125 Million in FY20-21. In future years, net receipts over 3.5% will be added to the amount of available credits if the Cash Reserve exceeds \$500 Million. If the Cash Reserve is less than \$500 Million, half of net receipts over 3.5% will be added. Requires that \$375 Million in credits be available by tax year 2024. Thereafter, fund is increased in an amount equal to the statewide growth in assessed valuations. - Repeals personal property tax exclusions (\$14.8 Million) 					
<i>NExt Project (LB1084):</i>					

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<i>Adopts the Nebraska Transformational Projects Act which would permit UNMC to apply to the state for project funds. No state funding can occur prior to the following: (1) federal government and private funding of \$1.3 Billion is achieved; (2) the Property Tax Refundable Income Tax Credit has reached \$375 Million; and (3) no funds can transfer prior to FY25-26.</i>					
<i>Business Incentives Provisions:</i>					
<i>- Contains the <i>ImagiNE Nebraska Act</i>, which reauthorizes and updates the state's business incentives program. Contains new rural manufacturing, urban manufacturing, and economic redevelopment tiers. Caps the total allowable amount of authorized credits annually to \$25 Million for Years 1 and 2, \$100 Million for Years 3 and 4, \$150 Million in Year 5, and 3% of net receipts for the final five years of the program.</i>					
<i>- Contains the <i>Key Employer and Jobs Retention Act</i>, which permits payments to key employers with more than 1000 employees to receive incentive payments of no more than \$4 Million per year for 10 years to remain in Nebraska.</i>					
<i>- Contains the <i>Renewable Chemical Production Tax Credit Act (LB605)</i></i>					
<i>- Contains the <i>Customized Job Training Act (LB527)</i></i>					
LB1109	Chambers	Revenue	02/13/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Provide a sales tax exemption for the furnishing of water service <i>For entities furnishing potable water in Nebraska, LB1109 removes the requirement for collection of both sales and use taxes.</i>
LB1136	Williams	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/20/2020	AM into LB1055 08/13/2020	Prescribe when an interest in a contract is prohibited and eliminate a prohibition against such interest by a public power and irrigation district board member <i>Requires members of public power boards to be governed by the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act when dealing with conflicts of interest on board business. The bill also repeals a law prohibiting a public power board member from having an interest in a contract to which the board is a party. LB1136 was amended into LB1055 via AM2573.</i>
LB1167	Albrecht	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs		IPP 08/13/2020	Require members of the public to be allowed to speak at each meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act <i>Changes the Open Meetings Act by eliminating language that a body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings. The bill proposes to require a public body to allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting,</i>
LB1198	Stinner	Appropriations	02/04/2020	Gov. Signed w/Emergency Clause 03/25/2020 Appropriations Priority Bill	Appropriate funds for the Governor's Emergency Program - COVID-19 <i>As amended, LB1198 appropriates approximately \$83 Million from the Governor's Emergency Fund to the Military Department for its COVID-19 response activities.</i>
LB1201	Bostelman	Natural Resources	02/05/2020	AM into LB632 08/13/2020	Create the Flood Mitigation and Planning Task Force <i>Creates Flood Mitigation and Planning Task Force within the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Requires the Department of Natural Resources to convene a plan development group which will be housed and staffed by DNR. The developed plan must: 1) Evaluate the flood issues that occurred in 2019, and identify cost-effective flood mitigation strategies that should be adopted; 2) Identify opportunities to implement flood hazard mitigation strategies with the intent to reduce the impact of flood events; 3) Work to improve knowledge of available recovery resources while identifying potential gaps in current disaster program delivery; 4) Identify potential available funding sources to improve the resilience of the state through flood mitigation and post-flood disaster recovery; 5) Compile a centralized list of critical infrastructure and state owned facilities and identify those with the highest risk of flooding; 6) Include an evaluation of state policies and programs related to flood hazard mitigation and development of flood hazard-prone area to support the state's administration of FEMA programs. The plan is to be completed and reported to the Governor and the Legislature on or before December, 31, 2021. LB1201 was amended into LB 632 via AM 2865.</i>

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LB1218	Wayne	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/13/2020	IPP 08/13/2020 Wayne Priority Bill	Adopt the Nebraska Historically Underutilized Business Program Act <i>Proposes the Nebraska Historically Underutilized Business Program Act. An Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) is defined as an entity with its principal place of business in Nebraska, participates in the Department of Transportation's disadvantaged business enterprise program or is an entity with its principal place of business in Nebraska and within an economic redevelopment area and is a construction contractor, specialty trade contractor or other contractor with average annual gross receipts under a limitation amount. HUB entities must be certified by the Department of Labor or participate in the Department of Transportation's Unified Certification Program. The Department of Administrative Services, constitutional offices, state agencies and political subdivisions must make a good faith effort to utilize HUB entities in contracts for construction services. The bill provides for statewide HUB goals in contract agreements. The bill also allows for additional percentage of sales and use tax incentives to businesses that utilize HUB entities for contracts, with a \$5 million cap.</i>
LR8CA	Linehan	Revenue	02/27/2019	IPP 08/13/2020	Constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue that may be raised by political subdivisions <i>Proposes to place on the November 2020 general election ballot a constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue raised by a political subdivision in any fiscal year to 3 percent greater than the amount raised the previous fiscal year. A political subdivision can exceed that limit by a specific amount only if a majority of legal voters approve in a special election.</i>
LR279CA	Scheer	Executive Board	01/22/2020	IPP 08/13/2020 Executive Board Priority Bill	Constitutional amendment to authorize an increase in the number of members of the Legislature <i>Proposes constitutional amendment to increase the number of legislative districts from 49 to 55</i>
LR280CA	Wayne	Executive Board	02/18/2020	IPP 08/13/2020	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three consecutive terms
LR285CA	Brewer	General Affairs		Withdrawn 01/14/2020	Constitutional amendment to provide for use of lottery proceeds for prison overcrowding prior to use for the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act <i>A proposed constitutional amendment to allow use of the funds intended for the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) to be first used to address prison overcrowding as the Legislature may direct. Any remaining money would be transferred to the NETF.</i>
LR288	Slama	Natural Resources	02/05/2020	President/Speaker Signed 03/03/2020 Slama Priority Bill	Urge Congress and the United States Corps of Engineers to prioritize flood control as a top priority for the management of water systems under their authority in the Missouri River Mainstream Reservoir System Water Control Manual <i>Proposes a resolution urging Congress and the Corps of Engineers to place flood control as the top management priority for the Missouri River Basin.</i>
LR300CA	Erdman	Revenue	02/12/2020	IPP 08/13/2020 Erdman Priority Bill	Constitutional amendment to prohibit all forms of taxation other than a consumption tax <i>Proposes a constitutional amendment providing that notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution to the contrary, effective January 1, 2022, the State of Nebraska and all political subdivisions of the state shall be prohibited from imposing any form of taxation other than a single-rate consumption tax. The Legislature shall enact a single-rate consumption tax which shall begin no later than January 1, 2022. Such consumption tax shall apply to the consumption of new goods and services. The Legislature shall be prohibited from granting any exemptions from such consumption tax.</i>
LR333	McDonnell	Natural Resources		Committee 07/30/2020	