

Nebraska Association of County Officials Legislative Report



May 2008

Summary of 2008 Legislation

The following is a summary of some of the 182 bills and constitutional amendments adopted by the 2008 Legislature. Attention has been focused primarily on those bills of possible interest and impact to counties. These bill summaries are intended to provide a brief synopsis only and to highlight particular provisions of interest within each of the bills. For a more thorough understanding of any of these measures, please review the actual legislative bills. Bills are available through county clerks' offices or can be requested from the Legislature's Bill Room at (402)471-2877. The full text of the slip laws can be viewed at the Unicameral's website at www.nebraskalegislature.gov. A link to this site can be found on NACO's website at www.nacone.org. Also, consider contacting your county attorney with questions regarding the implementation of a particular bill related to your county.

More than 470 bills and constitutional amendments were introduced this year. Bills that were not adopted will not carry over to the 2009 session. Because provisions from one bill were often amended into another, original and final bill numbers are noted within the summaries.

Most bills take effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 18, 2008, which is three calendar months after the Legislature's adjournment. Bills passed with an emergency clause either become effective upon receiving the signature of Governor Dave Heineman or on a specified date less than three calendar months after adjournment.

Please contact the NACO office if you have questions about this summary or suggestions for possible legislation for 2009. NACO's 2009 legislative priorities will be selected at NACO's annual legislative conference on Oct. 23, 2008 in Kearney.

County Operations

Counties seeking to change from a township form of government to a commissioner form are given clearer procedures as to the number of board members and the determination of district boundaries under language from **LB 348** that was amended into **LB 269**. In recent years, several township counties have examined the possibility of changing to a commissioner form, but the process was convoluted and somewhat contradictory. **LB 269** also contains provisions that harmonize the number of signatures needed on petitions to change the number of commissioners and establish a county library, as well as creating or discontinuing the township form of government. NACO supported both bills.

Counties and other political subdivisions can use a two-step process for building projects under **LB 889**. Currently counties use a traditional design-bid-build process but schools are allowed to construct facilities using a design-bid process or construction management at risk contract. Except in limited instances, the new procedures cannot be used for highways, roads, utility and similar projects.

Public bodies cannot require members of the public who wish to speak on an agenda item at a public meeting to have their names placed on the agenda prior to the meeting under

LB 962. The bill does not affect the authority of the public body to make and enforce reasonable rules for speaking at public meetings. In late June, NACO will distribute new open meetings law posters to counties that reflect this change. Additional posters will be available for sale.

LB 995 was introduced to clarify and change the duties of local governments related to cemeteries. The bill requires county boards to spend up to \$1,000 per cemetery per year for the care and maintenance of abandoned or neglected cemeteries. Existing law sets different contribution amounts and requires cemeteries to be both abandoned and neglected. The bill continues to require one annual mowing of abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries and authorizes additional mowings following a public hearing. **LB 995** repeals requirements for counties to post signs or markers on every abandoned or neglected cemetery or Indian burial ground.

Although legislation to repeal last year's ban on trapping in county road right-of-ways was introduced and designated as a speaker priority, only a bill to allow the trapping of raptors in the right-of-way was adopted. **LB 865** authorizes the Game and Parks Commission to allow the taking of raptors, subject to falconry licensing laws.

LB 1055 requires each county to designate an animal control authority to be responsible for enforcing state and local restrictions on dangerous dogs. The designee can be a local law enforcement entity or other agency. Dogs that are declared dangerous must be spayed or neutered and implanted with a microchip identification number. Persons convicted of dangerous dog violations are banned from owning a dangerous dog for ten years. Population restrictions are eliminated so that counties of all sizes can collect dog license taxes and regulate dogs running at large, including the destruction, adoption, impoundment or other disposition of such animals.

Employees who are emergency responders cannot be terminated or otherwise disciplined if they are absent or tardy due to responding to an emergency that occurred prior to the time they were scheduled to report to work. The Volunteer Emergency Responders Job Protection Act was presented in **LB 948** and amended into **LB 1096**. The Act requires employees to make a reasonable effort to notify their employers prior to their absence. Wages can be reduced for absences related to an emergency response. The job protection does not apply to career firefighters or law enforcement officers who are acting as volunteer emergency responders. Employers with less than ten employees are exempt from the Act. The bill also requires cities over 37,500 to employ a full-time fire chief.

After changes on Final Reading to eliminate opt-out provisions for communities, a smoking ban was enacted with an operative date of June 1, 2009. **LB 395** prohibits smoking in public places or places of employment. Exceptions are made for certain hotel guest rooms for smokers, smoking research facilities, and tobacco retail outlets.

Counties, cities, schools and community colleges can enter into energy financing contracts for periods of 30 years, rather than 15 years. **LB 747** reflects the potential 30-year useful life

of geothermal energy projects.

Wireless carriers receiving payment from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund are prohibited from assessing costs associated with implementing or providing enhanced wireless 911 service to counties, cities or public safety answering points without the express consent of the Public Service Commission (PSC) under **LB 755**. Language from **LB 829** was amended into the bill to narrow the PSC's authority to determine if certain rates are fair and reasonable.

Land reutilization authorities must notify the owners of adjacent parcels before the property is sold under **LB 710**. The notice must include the legal description and must be mailed at least 45 days prior to the sale.

LB 202 limits the members of an integrated solid waste management agency that can vote on whether to attach a lien to real estate for nonpayment of rates and charges. Beginning Aug. 1, 2008, only elected officials or alternate members of the agency's governing body are authorized to vote on the imposition of such liens.

Under **LB 734**, counties with a population in excess of 200,000 and cities of the primary class are authorized to provide self-insurance without excess insurance coverage if they obtain a determination from an independent actuary or insurer that the excess insurance is not needed to preserve the safety and soundness of the plan. Under existing law, only cities of the metropolitan class are allowed to forgo excess insurance.

LB 822 eliminates outdated language requiring the State Auditor to develop a process for on-line filing of political subdivision budgets by 2003.

LB 204 requires contractors in counties to register with the Department of Labor. Existing law requires registration only in counties in excess of 100,000.

Roads

LB 846 imposes a new 5 percent wholesale tax on fuel for road construction and maintenance. The new tax is based on the price of gas and diesel, rather than the number of gallons purchased. The money is credited to the Highway Trust Fund, with 65 percent earmarked for the Department of Roads and 17 percent each for allocation among cities and counties. In order to stabilize costs for consumers, the wholesale tax cannot increase or decrease more than one cent per gallon in a six month period. The bill also provides for transfers of \$5 million annually from the state's cash reserve to the Road Operations Cash Fund. In combination with the fuel tax increase in **LB 959** noted elsewhere in this publication, it is estimated that gas taxes could increase by 4 cents per gallon.

A new functional classification for roads – remote residential roads – is created by **LB 1068**. The classification can only be used in counties with a low population density or a large geographic area with limited residences. The bill is intended to give counties flexibility in maintaining county roads that receive too much use to be considered minimum

maintenance but do not need to be maintained to a high standard. The Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards will develop criteria for these roads. Other portions of the bill require the Department of Roads to submit an annual report to the Appropriations Committee regarding funding requests and grants for public transportation assistance programs.

LB 837 amends language adopted in 2006 that required the closing of certain railroad crossings located near crossings with warning devices. As originally introduced, **LB 837** would have entirely eliminated the closure language. The final version of the bill states that a written request from a professional engineer to keep a crossing open will exempt it from closure.

LB 914 revises filing deadlines for sales, motor fuel and income taxes to a uniform 60 days. The Tax Commissioner is given broader authority to waive interest during certain disputes.

State Budget

Because February revenue projections were lower than anticipated and amounts needed for state aid to schools were higher than anticipated, senators made mid-cycle adjustments to the state budget that was adopted last year.

LB 959 is the mainline appropriations bill in this year's budget. Governor Heineman vetoed a \$14.5 million transfer to the Department of Roads for increased costs for salaries and health insurance that translates into an estimated 1.2 cent per gallon gas tax increase. Senators overrode the veto as part of an agreement to forgo the appropriations bill for LB 846, the wholesale fuel tax bill discussed in the Roads section.

Amendments were adopted to address funding and staffing concerns at the Beatrice State Developmental Center. Later, a legislative resolution, **LR 283**, was adopted to create a special committee of the Legislature to investigate those concerns. Other amendments to LB 959 provide an additional

\$500,000 for community-based aging programs and require the Department of Roads to provide more information on appropriations for handicapped transportation.

LB 960 is the state appropriations bill for salaries and health insurance. The bill includes an earmark within the State Patrol's budget for Byrne funds for criminal justice information systems improvement, among other things.

LB 961 makes various cash fund transfers. Senators discussed the sometimes high balances in state agency cash funds and their relationship with the state's general fund. A one-time transfer of \$250,000 was made to the Noxious Weed cash fund to fully fund the program and another \$250,000 was appropriated to examine the juvenile legal defense and guardian ad litem systems. The bill also makes transfers from the Health Care Cash Fund to several programs.

Retirement

LB 1147 is a retirement clean-up bill which makes technical amendments to the five state-administered retirement systems.

A proposal to create a new retirement system for county and city law enforcement officers was prioritized by the Nebraska Retirement Systems but not debated. **LB 371** was introduced last year and amended as the result of an actuarial study that

was conducted during the interim. Among other things, the proposal would have increased both employee and employer contributions and set a mandatory retirement age of 62. An interim study, **LR 403**, will continue to examine the issue this summer.

Motor Vehicles

When the owner of a vehicle or boat from another state brings in a title with a lien to be re-titled in Nebraska, it is not necessary to show the lien documentation in order to note the lien on the new title under provisions of **LB 756**. The language, which was originally introduced in **LB 834**, was requested by NACO and was one of numerous motor vehicle bills amended into LB 756. Language from **LB 841** allows motor vehicle dealers to attach additional dealer transfer statements if all reassignments have been filled. NACO requested the introduction of **LB 827**, which reduces the length of time counties must retain a paper copy of motor vehicle registrations from six years to three years. The Department of Motor Vehicles will continue to maintain electronic registration information. **LB 919** changes the date on which registration fees are refunded for apportioned vehicles. **LB 917** authorizes additional weight for vehicles equipped with idle reduction technology. **LB 874** replaces references to "rubber-tired cranes" with "self-propelled specialized mobile equipment" to reflect the terminology used by the Department of Roads. Other sections of the original bill update references to federal laws and language from **LB 239** updates the International Registration Plan.

By April 1, 2009, the Department of Motor Vehicles must develop operator's licenses and state identification cards that protect the identity of the holder under **LB 911**. Although the bill does not bring Nebraska fully into compliance with the

federally-mandated requirements of REAL ID, the bill is substantive enough to allow Nebraska to seek an extension beyond the 2010 deadline. Counties will continue to be responsible for providing office space to examiners appointed by the Department of Motor Vehicles but will no longer issue drivers' licenses and ID cards. Instead, examiners will issue a certificate to be presented to the county treasurer within 90 days. After the payment of a fee and a new security surcharge, county treasurers will issue a receipt, which is valid for 30 days. The cards will be produced at a secure central location and mailed to applicants.

When a mobile home is permanently attached to a foundation, the title may be surrendered and the property is deemed affixed to the real estate. This process effectively converts the mobile home from a motor vehicle that is transferred by a title to real property that is transferred by a deed. **LB 953** authorizes a title to be issued, even if the property has been affixed before application was made for a title.

The Adjutant General is given authority to designate certain publicly-owned military vehicle as emergency vehicles when responding to a public disaster, war or riot. **LB 196** also adds funeral escort vehicles to the list of authorized emergency vehicles that are authorized to use flashing or rotating red lights, red and white lights, red and blue lights, or red, white and blue lights.

Property Taxes

LB 777 is an effort to delineate whether an acreage or other parcel of land can receive the special valuation that is reserved for agricultural or horticultural uses. Under existing law, county assessors determine whether the primary use of the parcel is agricultural or horticultural. Numerous cases have been appealed to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) and several TERC decisions have been appealed to the Nebraska Court of Appeals. **LB 777** requires assessors to value the house, ground and adjacent buildings at full market value and then examine the rest of the parcel to determine its use and whether it can be considered agricultural or horticultural. Several senators raised questions during debate about whether other taxpayers will have to pay more to make up for reduced valuations on acreages under the bill. The bill takes effect on Jan. 1, 2009.

LB 893 requires the holder of a tax sales certificate to publish notice if he or she cannot, upon diligent inquiry, find the holder of a lien of record against the real property. The bill provides that a sheriff's deed will extinguish only the liens of persons who were a party to the proceedings, who were served with notice, and over whom the court has jurisdiction. The bill also addresses the process of redemption before foreclosure.

LB 965 contains clean-up provisions requested by the Department of Revenue, including the elimination of a requirement to produce Form 521's in quadruplicate. Other provisions move the date that personal property exempted under two tax incentive acts is certified to county assessors from Aug. 10 to Aug. 1. During the first round of debate on

the bill, an amendment was offered and withdrawn that would have required counties to send additional tax notices and accept partial payments of taxes in amounts over \$500. A similar amendment was offered but defeated during the second round of debate. This concept was introduced as **LB 814**, which was advanced by the Revenue Committee but not debated.

Up to \$100,000 of the taxable value of agricultural and horticultural machinery and equipment used by qualifying beginning farmers is exempted from tangible personal property tax for three years by **LB 1027**. Qualified beginning farmers must submit an application to the county assessor by Dec. 31. The assessor must approve or deny the claim by Feb. 1. If the application is denied, the farmer may appeal to the county board of equalization and then the TERC.

Landowners in the Republican River basin who agreed to forgo irrigating their crops but were not paid for the water they sent to Kansas will receive \$9 million through **LB 1094** and **LB 1094A**. A lawsuit filed in opposition to occupation taxes imposed by natural resources districts delayed the payment. Procedures for collecting the occupation tax, providing information about delinquencies, and authorizing a collection fee for counties were amended into **LB 1094**. These provisions were originally part of **LB 1131** and **LB 1132** and their committee amendments.

LB 1011 revises real property appraiser standards to eliminate obsolete language and conform Nebraska law to uniform standards.

Elections

Recall elections can be cancelled if the recalled official resigns at least 16 days prior to the election under the terms of **LB 312**. The bill also addresses the resignation process by requiring resignations of public officials to be made in writing. NACO requested introduction of this bill.

NACO also requested the introduction of a bill, **LB 838**, to eliminate the use of additional secrecy envelopes for elections conducted entirely by mail. Secrecy envelopes are not required for absentee ballots. The bill harmonizes language between the two types of ballots.

All subdivisions placing issues or candidates on the primary and general election ballot must pay at least \$50 toward their share of election costs pursuant to **LB 1067**. For public power district elections, the minimum increases from \$75 to \$100. Under the ballot-inch formula in existing law, some entities are charged as little as \$10, which does not accurately reflect actual costs.

Lancaster County will nominate and elect commissioners by district pursuant to **LB 268**. Under existing law, commissioners are nominated by district but elected at-large.

Petition circulators and their sponsors are subject to additional requirements under **LB 39**. Circulators must be electors, but need not be registered to vote. Electors are

Nebraska residents who are U.S. citizens that meet the age requirements for voter registration. In hopes of reducing some of the friction between circulators and the public prior to the last general election, circulators cannot be paid based upon the number of signatures collected. Campaign statements and circulator's reports must contain additional information about the amounts paid to circulators. The bill was vetoed by Governor Heineman but overridden by the Legislature.

LB 720 sets out new requirements for calls made by automatic dialing-announcing devices, commonly called robo-calls. The requirements do not apply to messages from political subdivisions.

Three bills were adopted to address federal election requirements. The offices of election commissioners and the Secretary of State are designated voter registration agencies for purposes of National Voter Registration Act by **LB 750**. **LB 856** provides for special elections when more than 100 vacancies exist in the House of Representatives. **LB 857** changes the date for national political parties to certify their candidates to the Secretary of State to Sept. 8. Existing law requires such certification at least 60 days prior to the election.

Filings

LB 308A began as the appropriations bill for the Automated Medication Systems Act but was pulled back from Final Reading for an amendment that gutted the bill and replaced it with a revision of a section of **LB 851** that amends the Uniform Commercial Code. Beginning on Sept. 9, 2009, a financing statement with minor errors is not considered seriously misleading if a search using an individual debtor's correct last name would disclose the financing statement.

LB 386 enacts the Nebraska Security Instrument Satisfaction Act to provide a process for borrowers if a

secured creditor fails to record a satisfaction upon payment in full. The bill provides for the filing of a certificate of satisfaction by a closing agent and authorizes the filing of a certified copy in a second county. The bill also provides for the recording of a designation of authority so that a title insurance agent can execute and record certificates of satisfaction. A designation of authority must be indexed under the name of the title insurance agent designated in the instrument as a miscellaneous instrument related to real estate.

Law Enforcement

A bill to remove the \$3.91 million cap on county jail reimbursement was debated and then bracketed until the last day of the session, which effectively killed the bill. By removing the cap, **LB 587** would have allowed legislators to appropriate a larger amount that would more accurately reflect the cost to counties of holding state prisoners. In an effort to bring attention to the issue, an amendment was filed that would have required the state to assume responsibility for county jails. Jail reimbursement and other forms of state aid will be examined by the Appropriations Committee as an interim study, **LR 402**. A broader study of state aid to counties and cities will be conducted as part of **LR 349**.

Custodial interrogations related to felonies resulting in death or felonies involving sexual assault, kidnapping, child abuse, or strangulation or offenses being investigated within the same course of conduct must be electronically recorded pursuant to **LB 179**. The bill applies to statements made at a place of detention, such as a sheriff's office, county attorney's office, courthouse, or holding facility. Failure to comply with recording requirements does not bar the use of evidence acquired if the court finds it admissible. Testimony contrary to the recorded statement may be used for impeachment.

LB 246 is intended to strike a balance between the availability of organs for donation and the maintenance of justice when an autopsy is necessary. Within a time period that is compatible with the preservation and recovery of tissues for donation, coroners are required to complete a preliminary investigation of whether any organs or tissues are necessary to determine the proximate cause or means of death. After the preliminary investigation, donated tissues or organs which are not needed for further investigation are released. If the coroner reasonably believes that a specific organ or tissue contains evidence of the proximate cause or time of death, he or she or a designee must be present for the removal procedure and make a determination whether the organ is needed for the investigation or can be released. Certain samples may be taken before an organ or tissue is released. Good faith compliance with this law provides immunity from criminal liability. The bill carries an emergency clause and was signed by the governor on Feb. 7.

The state ombudsman's office will create a new position, a deputy public counsel for institutions, to investigate the

grievances of county jail inmates and others pursuant to **LB 467**. The office currently investigates allegations of mistreatment in state facilities. The new ombudsman will also address grievances related to mental health and veterans institutions and facilities operated by the Department of Health and Human Services, regional behavioral health authorities, and community-based regional health providers that contract with regions.

LB 736 requires first- and second-offense drunk drivers to install ignition interlock devices on their cars. The driver pays for the cost of the device and a special permit to replace their driver's license. A portion of fees from the permits is used to fund interlock devices for indigent offenders.

Several bills increase fines or penalties. **LB 621** increases the fines and points for driving more than 36 mph over the speed limit or faster. **LB 624** revises penalties for fleeing to avoid arrest to reflect prior convictions and the dangerousness of the flight. **LB 764** makes it a misdemeanor to intentionally trip or cause a bovine or equine to fall for the purposes of entertainment. **LB 844** increases the fines for possession of marijuana weighing up to one pound.

LB 465 revises the definition of jailhouse informer to clarify that the informant is considered to be in custody whether physically in jail or not.

After legislative efforts for several years, Nebraska became the 49th state with a safe haven law that allows mothers to leave their children at a hospital without charges of abandonment. Although the original bill and several amendments were very detailed, the final version of **LB 157** prohibits prosecution for any crime based solely upon the act of leaving the child at a hospital. Hospitals are required to promptly contact appropriate authorities to take custody of the child.

LB 782 provides for the chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services to make disclosure of information regarding child abuse and neglect and the related services if it is not contrary to the best interest of the child and one of several factors are present, including public disclosure of the services by a law enforcement agency official, county attorney or specified other official.

Courts

Residency requirements for deputy clerks of the district court are eliminated by **LB 775**. NACO requested the introduction of this bill.

LB 1014 was introduced in response to the Nebraska Bar Association's Judicial Structure and Administration Task Force report on methods of allocating judicial resources. Although the original bill would have given the Supreme Court, rather than the Legislature, authority to determine the location of judges within the state, that proposed new language was removed and numerous other bills were added. Language from **LB 1159** addresses the expenditure of unused county juvenile justice grants. **LB 1085** revises last year's Parenting Act. **LB 1160** clarifies issues related to juvenile courts and where charges are filed. **LB 1107** codifies problem solving courts. **LB 804** authorizes jurors to take notes,

regardless of whether the parties agree to allow it.

LB 280 gives juvenile courts the authority to enter final custody orders in cases already subject to the juvenile court's jurisdiction.

LB 620 authorizes a collection fee for bad checks issued to the state for child support. The bill also reduces the number of bad checks before payments must be made by money order, cashier's check or certified check. In addition, employers with more than 50 employees with child support orders must submit payments electronically.

LB 623 redefines the beginning of six-month period during which an offense must be brought to trial to specifically address misdemeanor offenses against intimate partners.

LB 952 eliminates the State Patrol's authority to issue administrative subpoenas.

Other Issues

The state of Nebraska is authorized to lease state property to the federal government or political subdivisions under **LB 744**. The intent is to allow vacant state office space to be used to co-locate similar governmental entities. An administrator appointed by the Department of Administrative Services handles existing leases and will assume the new responsibilities in July.

LB 904 authorizes county veterans service officers to apply on behalf of a deceased veteran with no next of kin to the Department of Veteran's Affairs for assistance in paying the expenses of their last illness and burial. Existing law limits this application to a recognized veterans organization.

LB 912 expands a mechanism to provide funding for convention or meeting centers to include private as well as publicly-owned locations. The bill requires public or privately owned hotels to be located within 450 yards from a sports arena seating less than 160,000 to qualify.

LB 928 changes the membership of the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission to specify numbers of representatives from certain areas of interest. Beginning on July 1, 2008, the Commission will include, among others, three providers of community-based behavioral health services and three regional behavioral health authority administrators. Language from **LB 759** to allow jails and correctional facilities to re-

dispense certain drugs was drafted as part of the Health and Human Services committee amendment but removed before the bill passed.

LB 988 is a major school-aid restructuring bill that contains provisions from **LB 1017** and **LB 977**. As originally introduced, **LB 1017** would have eliminated an exception from levy limits for public bodies which issue general obligation bonds to pay premium costs for insurance. As amended into **LB 988**, the limitation applies only to school districts and educational service units. Language from **LB 977** adds new criteria for county assessors, clerks and treasurers to consider when reviewing a freeholder application to transfer property from one school district to another. The deadline to file a freeholder petition is moved to July 15, with an approval deadline of Aug. 1.

LR 5CA, which will appear on the primary election ballot in May 2010, is substantially similar to Amendment 1 which appeared on the ballot in 2006. If approved by voters, the proposal would authorize the use of revenue bonds by counties or cities to develop and lease property for the use of nonprofit enterprises. The bonds would not be a general obligation of the county or city. The amendment would allow non-profit borrowers to reduce their costs of borrowing and permit them to benefit from federal tax provisions.

2008 Interim Studies

What follows is a partial listing of interim study resolutions that were introduced for examination during the summer and fall months. This listing represents only those studies determined to be of significant interest and importance to county government. Listed here are the resolution numbers, introducer(s), a brief description, and the committee or committees that will conduct the study. The public hearing schedule for selected interim studies will be posted on the Legislature's website as it becomes available.

LR276 (Pirsch) Interim study to examine the standards and oversight of death investigations in Nebraska (Judiciary)

LR288 (Louden) Interim study to examine the causes and effects of water depletion across the state of Nebraska

(Natural Resources)

LR290 (Louden) Interim study to examine the possibility of recycling construction waste and deconstruction materials (Natural Resources)

LR298 (*Aguilar*) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR305 (*Pahls*) Interim study to examine requiring issuers of group health benefit plans to provide information regarding claims paid and the amount of premiums by line of coverage (Banking, Commerce and Insurance)

LR306 (*Janssen*) Interim study to examine issues relating to the use of latex in public places and efforts to restrict or eliminate the use of latex (Health and Human Services)

LR311 (*Nebraska Retirement Systems*) Interim study to examine the public employee retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board (Nebraska Retirement Systems)

LR313 (*Fischer*) Interim study to examine the need for a uniform voluntary procedure of dispute resolution between railroads and entities who enter into agreements to construct certain facilities (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR314 (*Erdman*) Interim study to examine means to fully cash fund the duties carried out by the Dept. of Agriculture under the Noxious Weed Control Act (Agriculture)

LR317 (*Kopplin*) Interim study to examine the use of electronic surveillance devices and software by individuals who engage in the crime of stalking (Judiciary)

LR319 (*Hudkins*) Interim study to examine the statutes governing the placement of electric transmission lines (Natural Resources)

LR321 (*Fischer*) Interim study to examine issues relating to the Nebraska expressway system (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR322 (*Fischer*) Interim study to examine the current and proposed system that the Dept. of Roads uses to prioritize the needs of Nebraska's highways (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR324 (*Gay*) Interim study to conduct a comprehensive study on Nebraska's highway development and funding system (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR326 (*Transportation and Telecommunications*) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR327 (*Burling*) Interim study to review the report and recommendations of the Tax Policy Reform Commission (Revenue)

LR328 (*Karpisek*) Interim study to develop and publish information necessary to implement a method of valuation of agricultural real estate used by neighboring agricultural states (Revenue)

LR333 (*Synowiecki*) Interim study to review the crime of destruction of property through the use of graffiti and to make recommendations to combat the crime (Judiciary)

LR336 (*Hansen*) Interim study to examine how to better educate parents, school officials, day care providers, and the public regarding the administration of the influenza vaccine (Health and Human Services)

LR337 (*Johnson*) Interim study to examine the needs of the state for development of a plan to provide behavioral health workers support personnel necessary to support community-based behavioral health services and funding of the plan (Health and Human Services)

LR338 (*Johnson*) Interim study to conduct research and develop recommendations relating to the implementation of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act (Health and Human Services/Appropriations)

LR339 (*Johnson*) Interim study to examine issues raised by LB 742, 2008, relating to educational requirements for licensure as an engineer (Health and Human Services)

LR341 (*Rogert*) Interim study to review issues associated with requiring that DNA samples be collected for arrestees for felony sex offenses and other specified offenses (Judiciary)

LR346 (*Rogert*) Interim study to reexamine the effects of changing the age of majority from age nineteen to age eighteen (Judiciary)

LR349 (*Dubas*) Interim study to conduct a comprehensive examination of city and county state aid programs currently in state law (Revenue)

LR356 (*Preister*) Interim study to examine financing mechanisms for a natural resources district encompassing a city of the metropolitan class in order to implement flood control and water quality projects (Revenue)

LR357 (*Preister*) Interim study to examine policies relating to livestock friendly county programs in the state (Agriculture)

LR360 (*Lautenbaugh*) Interim study to examine the feasibility of including Highway 133 as part of the expressway system in Nebraska (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR362 (*Ashford*) Interim study to examine issues relating to illegal immigration (Judiciary)

LR363 (*Erdman*) Interim study to identify powers and duties of the Dept. of Health and Human Services, to prioritize programs and services, and to examine funding of programs and services (Health and Human Services)

LR368 (*Schimek*) Interim study to examine policy changes to provide cooperation between governmental agencies and tribal governments relating to paleontological resources (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR385 (*Government, Military and Veterans Affairs*) Interim study to examine requiring state government to purchase certain goods and services produced in the State of Nebraska (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR390 (*Judiciary*) Interim study to examine firearm-related violence in Nebraska (Judiciary)

LR399 (*Business and Labor*) Interim study to examine how the federal Family and Medical Leave Act has been implemented in Nebraska (Business and Labor)

LR402 (*Appropriations*) Interim study to examine various state aid to county programs (Appropriations)

LR403 (*Nebraska Retirement Systems*) Interim study to examine retirement plans for law enforcement personnel of political subdivisions (Nebraska Retirement Systems)