

Nebraska Association of County Officials Legislative Report



June 2007

Summary of 2007 Legislation

The following is a summary of some of the 222 bills and constitutional amendments adopted by the 2007 Legislature. These bill summaries are intended to provide a brief synopsis only and to highlight particular provisions of interest within bills of possible interest and impact to counties. 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 and other documents 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 700 bills and constitutional amendments were

introduced this year. Bills that were not adopted or killed will carry over to the 2008 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 September 1, 2007, which is three calendar months after the Legislature's adjournment. Bills passed with an emergency clause either become effective immediately 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 2008. NACO's 2008 legislative priorities will be selected at NACO's annual legislative conference on Oct. 11 in Kearney.

Budget

Counties will receive \$3.91 million in jail reimbursement, nearly \$5 million in state aid to counties, and \$1.5 million in County Property Tax Relief under **LB 321**, the annual state appropriations bill. Although **LB 33** originally sought roughly \$3 million per year for County Property Tax Relief, the Appropriations Committee reduced that amount to \$2 million and a veto further reduced the funding to \$1.5 million. NACO supported the appropriation at any level since the program had not received any funding since FY02-03. The program was introduced as a companion to jail reimbursement but the formula was altered in 2002.

The Legislature enacted approximately \$425 million in tax

cuts over the next two years. **LB 367** creates tax credits of \$105 million for FY07-08 and \$115 million in FY08-09. Each property owner's credit will be calculated by the county treasurer and will appear on the tax statement. It is estimated to provide a reduction of 8 cents per \$100 of valuation. The state estate tax, but not county inheritance tax, is repealed for decedents dying after Jan. 1, 2007. The bill eliminates remaining sales taxes on commercial construction projects and enacts a tax credit for renewable energy. Several elements of income taxes are revised including elimination of the marriage penalty, changes to the standard deduction and an increase of earned income credits.

County Operations

State and local governments that do not charge a fee for access to recreational areas are given some protection from lawsuits under **LB 564**. The bill was introduced in response to a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling that political subdivisions were not protected by the Recreational Liability Act. Historically, counties and other governmental entities were granted limitations from liability for injuries occurring on publicly-owned property.

LB 564 requires warning signs to be posted at skateboard and bicycle motorcross parks. A stricter liability standard is applied for activities for which a fee is charged, such as a publicly-owned swimming pool. The same language is amended into the State Tort Claims Act.

LB 255 revises the Wage Payment and Collection Act in response to a recent Nebraska Supreme Court decision requiring the payment of unused vacation leave upon separation from employment. The bill states that all paid leave, except unused vacation leave, is a fringe benefit which does not need to be paid when employment ends unless both parties have agreed otherwise. The bill also addresses the payment of commissions that are due.

LB 299 prohibits trapping in county right-of-way. The bill defines right-of-way as the area which has been designated a part of the county road system and which has not been vacated. Several possible mechanisms to regulate trapping, including permits issued by county boards, were suggested before the complete prohibition was enacted.

County clerks are no longer responsible for appointing a panel of fence viewers to settle fence disputes. **LB 108** replaces that process with a county court filing and the potential to settle disputes through mediation. The bill was introduced at NACO's request.

Landowners seeking to transfer their property into an adjoining school district would have to file a freeholder petition before July 1 this year or before June 1 in future years under **LB 219**. Existing law does not set a time frame for these petitions and several schools have been negatively impacted by the loss of tax dollars. The bill also requires a public hearing on the issue to be held on or before Nov. 1 following the filing of the petition. The transfer takes place on the next Jan. 1. The bill specifically states that the freeholder board, which is composed of the county clerk, treasurer and assessor, must approve or disapprove the petition based upon a determination of whether the petitioner has complied with all of the requirements of the law.

LB 701 addresses concerns about a potential lawsuit to enforce a three-state compact that allocates water from the Republican River. The bill authorizes natural resource districts (NRDs) to increase property tax levies, enter into bonded debt, impose a \$10 per irrigated acre occupation tax, and participate in a \$2 million program to manage vegetation in streambeds. Two representatives of the Nebraska Weed Control Association will serve on a vegetation management task force. The bill provides \$13 million in state funds over the next three years to negotiate surface water rights and comply with interstate water compacts. An excise tax on corn or grain sorghum and some lottery proceeds will be deposited into the related cash fund. In addition, NRDs will be allowed to impose a temporary stay upon the construction of water wells without prior notice or public hearings. The bill took effect on May 1.

County boards can adopt resolutions authorizing the operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) within unincorporated villages under **LB 307**. Cities may regulate their use by ordinance. If the vehicle is used for agricultural purposes, ATVs may be used in other areas of the county, including on highways. In addition to a driver's license, the operator must have liability insurance coverage for the vehicle and provide proof of insurance within five days of a peace officer's request.

Counties and other employers must provide unpaid family military leave to employees who are the spouse or parent of a person called to military service that will last 179 days or longer pursuant to orders of the Governor of Nebraska or President of the United States. Under **LB 497**, small employers must provide up to 15 days of leave and larger employers must provide up to 30 days of leave. If the leave will consist of five or more consecutive work days, the employee must give 14 days' notice. Advanced notice must be given as practicable if leave is requested in shorter increments. Employers may require certification from the proper military authority to verify the employee's eligibility for the leave request. The employee cannot lose benefits during the leave and must be reinstated to the position held when leave began. The bill contains an emergency clause and took effect on April 4.

LB 530 changes the population distribution of storm water management grants to counties in an effort to prevent double counting of some residents. Under the new formula, the funds will be distributed based upon the county population, less the population of city applicants within that county.

Employers are prohibited from posting more than the last four digits of an employee's social security number or using more numbers as an identification number or code under **LB 674**. Language amended into the bill from **LB 190** authorizes consumers to put a freeze on their file at consumer reporting agencies for up to seven years. The agencies may charge a \$15 fee unless the consumer is a minor or a victim of identity theft as documented by a police report. The bill does not prohibit a consumer reporting agency from furnishing a consumer's name, address, former address, place of employment, or former place of employment to a governmental agency.

LB 389 revises public records laws to address the disclosure of job application materials related to finalists for the position. The new language, which took effect on April 2, defines the term finalist.

LB 568 extends until 2009 a \$1 million scrap tire grant program that was scheduled to expire in 2007. In order to identify the litter problem more fully and measure progress, a survey of litter on public highways, recreation lands and urban areas is required by the bill.

LB 233 sets residency requirements for the fifth member of public building commissions. If such a commission is activated in a county, two of the members are county board members appointed by the county board and two are appointed by the mayor with approval of the city council. The fifth member is appointed by the other four members and must reside in the county in which the commission is established.

LB 629 adopts the Rural Community-Based Energy Development Act (C-BED) to encourage development of wind energy projects. Among other requirements, such projects must have a resolution of support adopted by the county board of each county in which the C-BED project is located.

Motor Vehicles

Family members of persons who have died while serving in good standing in the U.S. Armed Forces will be able to use Gold Star license plates under **LB 570**. Proceeds from the plates will be placed in the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery System Operations Fund. The bill becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2010. A number of other specialty license plate bills are held by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

LB 286 is the annual clean-up bill from the Department of Motor Vehicles and contains more substantive changes that were proposed in **LB 287**. Among other changes, the bill bases the definition of truck upon the manufacturer's designation. It adds a definition of low speed vehicles and exempts them from titling and registration requirements. The Department is given authority to recall a title if a lien is not noted upon it.

Personalized message plates can be issued for vehicles and trailers weighing over ten tons. The bill clarifies the placement of farm and passenger license plates on sport utility vehicles.

LB 349 consolidates into a single section the existing law defining the type of trailers that can be pulled by properly registered motor vehicles.

LB 358 authorizes registration of fleet vehicles under the unified carrier registration plan enacted by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. **LB 239** updates references to federal motor vehicle laws.

LB 162, a bill to authorize electronic lien notation, is on Select File, but it is possible that an amendment will be offered to require electronic titling as well.

Taxation

County assessors must mail a notice on or before April 1 to persons who were granted a homestead exemption in the prior year under **LB 145**. If the person has already filed the application or the assessor has reason to believe that there has been a change of circumstances so that the person is no longer eligible, the notice is not required. The notice must include the claimant's name, the application deadlines for the current year, a list of documents that must be filed and the county assessor's office address and phone number. The Tax Commissioner must provide printed claim forms and address lists of the prior year's applicants to county assessors.

The Department of Property Assessment and Taxation will again be a part of the Department of Revenue under **LB 334**, which was introduced at the request of the Governor. In addition, language amended into the bill from **LB 627** includes trade fixtures within the definition of personal property. Sections from **LB 519** require each county assessor to conduct a systematic inspection and review of all real property parcels at least once every six years. Language from **LB 484** eliminated the warrant process for distribution of funds to county ag societies and rural and suburban fire districts. The bill takes effect on July 1, 2007.

Tax Administrator to clarify the phase-out of special valuation recapture that was adopted last year. The bill eliminates requirements for multiple copies of mobile home transfer statements. The seats on the Greenbelt Advisory Committee held by a local planning and zoning official, a member of an agricultural and horticultural land valuation board, and a county attorney are eliminated. The bill as originally introduced would have limited the ability to file property tax protests to the record owner or a person responsible for paying the tax, but spite protest provisions were eventually eliminated from the bill.

LB 562 provides an alternative to tax increment financing to assist cities in economic development. Cities can designate enhanced employment areas and use an occupation tax in those areas to pay revenue bonds issued by the city. The bill sets required levels of investment and employment based upon county population.

LB 167 is the annual cleanup bill introduced on behalf of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission.

LB 186 changes credentialing requirements for real property appraisers to reflection national standards.

LB 206 eliminates requirements for the county treasurer to act as ex officio city treasurer for cities of the metropolitan class.

LB 166 is a clean-up bill introduced on behalf of the Property

Inheritance Tax

LB 502 alters inheritance tax rates and exemptions within a revenue-neutral framework. The bill creates a \$40,000 exemption for Class I beneficiaries (lineal descendants), who are taxed at one percent on the remainder of the bequest. For Class II beneficiaries (aunt, uncle, niece, nephew), the exemption amount is set at \$15,000 with a tax rate of 13 percent. The first \$5,000 for Class III beneficiaries (non-relatives) is exempt and the remainder is taxed at 18 percent. Existing law exempted the first \$10,000 for Class I beneficiaries and used a tiered schedule

of tax rates and exemption amounts for other classes. If the inheritance tax proceedings are not filed within twelve months after the decedent's death, the bill creates a penalty of five percent per month, up to 25 percent of the unpaid taxes due. The bill takes effect on Jan. 1, 2008.

LB 364 defines the distribution of inheritance tax receipts when the decedent owned property in more than one county. The bill provides for apportionment based upon both taxable and exempt property in each county.

Roads

Beginning on Oct. 1, sales tax proceeds from vehicles leased for more than 30 days will be placed in the Highway Allocation Fund, rather than the state's General Fund under **LB 305**. The change will equate to approximately \$17 million in funding for roads over the next two years. Several other proposals to increase road funding by raising gas tax rates, earmarking sales tax on the sale of construction equipment, and shifting cigarette taxes did not pass.

LB 43 authorizes the Department of Roads to issue hay harvesting permits for right-of-ways on the state highway system. No legislation was introduced this year regarding mowing county right-of-ways.

LB 147 clarifies an oversight in existing language to create a penalty for prohibiting a vehicle's contents from dropping,

sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle.

LB 148 creates an exemption from weight requirements for trucks with no more than a single rear axle which are hauling seasonally harvested products from the field or stockpile to the market or factory. Such travel is limited to 70 miles.

LB 208 changes the triggering amount for labor and material payment bonds required for public building projects to \$10,000. Existing law requires county boards, state agencies and other public bodies empowered by law to enter into a contract for erecting, furnishing, or repairing any public building, bridge, highway, or other public structure or improvement with a total cost more than \$5,000 to require such bonds.

LB 252 changes the fee process for land surveyors exams and registration.

Elections

Election commissioners or county clerks can combine lists of registered voters in the precinct and the sign-in register into a single document under **LB 44**. The bill was introduced at NACO's request to clearly authorize a current practice of some election commissioners and county clerks.

Early ballots, formerly called absentee ballots, can be counted as early as 24 hours prior to election day under **LB 646**. County clerks and election commissioners will also be able to pick up ballots during election day, a process that was prohibited during the 2006 election. Although the counting could begin, no votes could be tabulated or reported prior to one hour before the closing of the polls. The bill also makes technical corrections that were originally part of **LB 528** and changes the time frame in which a voter must be affiliated with a political party to be eligible as a write-in candidate. It changes a deadline for issuing a special ballot to comply with federal law.

LB 311 changes the process for validating petition signatures pursuant to a 1999 Nebraska Supreme Court case. A similar bill was proposed in 2001 but died at the end of the session. The

bill would eliminate the requirement for an exact match of all of the related records.

LB 298 increases the number of signatures needed to place the name of a candidate on the general election ballot.

LB 289 requires a record to be made of registered voters residing in the district who are attending a levy townhall meeting to override their levy. The method of voting at such a meeting protects the secrecy of the ballot. The bill also strikes obsolete provisions that were effective prior to Oct. 10, 1998.

LB 248 provides for road improvement district elections to be conducted by mail.

LB 641 is a revision of last year's law creating learning communities in Douglas and Sarpy county school districts. Among other provisions of the bill, election commissioners in counties that have established learning communities must divide the territory into six numbered districts for purposes of electing members of the learning community coordinating council. After the initial election, additional redistricting will be done by the coordinating council.

Health and Human Services

LB 296 reorganizes the state's Department of Health and Human Services into a single department with one executive officer and six separate divisions.

LB 542 creates the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force to prepare a plan for an integrated system of care for children and their families, as well as community-based inpatient and subacute substance and behavioral health services and other service and funding issues. Legislation will be introduced in 2008 based upon the plan. One regional administrator, two providers of community-based behavioral health services, and one juvenile court judge are included on the 12-member panel.

LB 144 creates the Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for

addressing the increasing epidemic of hepatitis C in Nebraska. Among the 18 members are representatives of behavioral health, public health associations, and rural health associations.

LB 292 authorizes county boards to conduct intergovernmental transfers to the Department of Health and Human Services, rather than directly to providers. The funds will be used to obtain a federal Medicaid match for the purpose of paying disproportionate share payments to hospitals.

LB 185 is the annual cleanup bill introduced on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services.

LB 351 revises the Welfare Reform Act and the Aid to Dependent Children Act to comply with federal requirements.

Courts and Law Enforcement

NACO requested the introduction of **LB 67** to allow jury summonses to be delivered by first-class mail. Existing law requires service by certified or registered mail or personal service. A prospective juror cannot be charged with contempt of court for failure to respond when the summons was sent by first-class mail.

Several bills addressed privacy issues. Among these, **LB 221** eliminates the use of children's birth dates on certain court proceedings. Instead, the birth year is to be used. The bill is part of a continuing effort to keep personal information out of court records that may be accessible to the public. **LB 470** provides for removal of arrest records from dissemination as public records after a specified period of time of one to three years in certain instances when charges are dismissed or no charges are filed.

A number of criminal penalties were created or revised. **LB 8** increases the penalty for failure or refusal to remove an accumulation of junk. **LB 142** creates the offense of enticement by an electronic communication device. **LB 227** revises definitions of abandonment and serious injury or illness for purposes of increasing the penalty for abandoning or cruelly neglecting an animal. **LB 504** prohibits hunting through the Internet. **LB 424** eliminates language regarding inducing or enticing persons to inhale or drink certain substances that result in an intoxicated condition. This language has made it difficult to prosecute the person actually committing the act of inhaling or drinking.

Young drivers operating under learner's or school permits are prohibited from using cell phones, laptop computers and other interactive wireless devices under **LB 415**. Enforcement of the new law is limited to a secondary offense after the driver is cited or charged with a violation of some other law. Holders of learner's permits are limited to carrying no more than one passenger who is not an immediate family member and who is under age 19 for the first six months of holding the permit. The bill takes effect on Jan. 1, 2008. The bill was vetoed by Gov. Heineman but overridden by the Legislature.

LB 143 prohibits law enforcement officers or other governmental officials from asking or requiring victims of sex offenses to submit to a polygraph test as a condition to investigate the alleged offense.

LB 213 replaces requirements for county courts to preserve testimony with tape recorders with requirements to use multi-track recorders. This is a technical change that was requested by the Supreme Court to reflect current technology.

LB 449 authorizes the designee of a clerk magistrate to certify records of state and federal courts.

LB 214 clarifies the compensation process for special prosecutors appointed in county court and authorizes county judges to substitute for each other. The bill also repeals obsolete requirements for review of arrests without warrants.

LB 377 revises the number of district judges in several districts.

LB 382 requires all notary stamps to contain the date of expiration of the notary's commission. Notaries whose commissions were issued before Sept. 1, 2007 are not required to purchase a new stamp until their next renewal.

LB 554 adopts a new Parenting Act to address child custody, visitation, support and other issues. The bill provides for mandatory mediation of parenting cases after 2010.

LB 132 provides a process to set aside a legal separation decree.

LB 83 provides for the placement of felony offenders at the incarceration work camp upon a recommendation of the Board of Parole. Unlike other offenders placed at the camp, counties will not be responsible for transportation costs for these individuals.

LB 97 originally contained provisions repealing settlement escrow accounts but was gutted by the Legislature and replaced with language explicitly prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons at colleges, universities and hospitals. An Attorney General's opinion indicated that because colleges and universities were not included within the definition of schools, it would be necessary to post signs prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons at those institutions.

LB 218 brings Nebraska's laws restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine into line with federal requirements.

LB 341 revises the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act regarding the enforcement of foreign child custody determinations.

LB 464 places enforcement of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act with the Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the violation occurred.

LB 638 allows Department of Revenue investigators who discover an illegal gambling device when they are in an establishment for an authorized purpose to refer the issue to local law enforcement authorities. Current practice is to report such violations to the State Patrol.

LB 561 authorizes peace officers to remove vehicles, cargo or other property that is obstructing the roadway or endangering public safety. The action can be taken without the consent of the owner. Drivers are also required to move vehicles that are inoperable or disabled in a roadway

Persons who allow minors to drink on their property, adults who procure liquor for minors, and retailers who sell alcohol to minors are liable for injuries caused by the negligence of intoxicated minors under **LB 573**.

LB 578 allows amounts on liquor excise tax reports or returns to be rounded. An effort was made but failed to attach a bill to allow individuals who have been placed in civil protective custody three or more times during the prior month to be held up to 72 hours, if necessary (**LB 335**).

LB 540 is a study of the probation and parole systems in the state. In November voters approved a constitutional amendment merging those offices.

Retirement

LB 328 was introduced at the request of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System to address account expense issues. It was amended with **LB 665** to include an opportunity for county and state employees who remain in the defined contribution plan to enroll in the cash balance plan between Nov. 1, 2007 and Jan. 1, 2008. The defined contribution plan was eliminated for new employees in 2002, but existing employees were given the option of changing to the new cash balance plan at that time or remaining in their existing plan. The bill also requires the Nebraska Retirement Systems to conduct

a survey of current retirement plans in place for law enforcement officers. This study, which was originally **LB 370**, will require each political subdivision and the state to provide information about earnings, the type of retirement plan and other data.

LB 324 provides a deferred retirement option plan for members of the Nebraska State Patrol. A similar proposal was offered for local law enforcement officers in **LB 371** but remains in committee until the actuarial study is completed this summer.

Planning and Zoning

LB 11 authorizes owners of property contiguous or adjacent to a city of the first class to petition for annexation.

Counties or cities designated as metropolitan planning organizations may submit an annual metropolitan transportation improvement program, rather than one and six year plans (**LB 277**).

LB 313 exempts certain small and medium livestock feeding operations that apply for a construction permit from requirements to use a professional engineer.

LB 677 grants an extension to request an inspection of animal feeding operations by ranches that were exempt from inspections until federal regulations were adopted by the state in 2004.

Miscellaneous

Nebraska's minimum wage will increase from \$5.15 to \$7.25 to mirror changes to federal law. The increase takes effect in three phases, with the final step becoming law on July 24, 2009. The language was added to an omnibus employment bill, **LB 265**, which was introduced by the Business and Labor Committee.

LB 34 establishes a State-Tribal Relations Committee as a special legislative committee intended to foster better relationships between the state and the federally recognized Indian tribes in the state.

LB 537 authorizes the governor or his or her representative to negotiate an agreement with Indian tribes concerning the collection of motor fuel taxes collected and disseminated on land held in trust for Nebraska-based, federally-recognized Indian tribes.

Entities donating fire control or rescue equipment to a fire department or political subdivision for use by its fire department are not liable for civil damages for personal injuries, property damages or death caused by the equipment under **LB 160**. The bill is intended to give protection to larger departments that donate equipment to smaller departments.

LB 232 expands the availability of grant funds under the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act and reduces the required cash match. The Act is intended to help support economically depressed rural areas of the state through grants that create community capacity, including the establishment of community initiatives to attract new residents.

LB 263 eliminates publication and hearing requirements for certain minor modifications to solid waste permits.

LB 324 equalizes community college levies and **LB 324A**

appropriates \$12 million for state aid.

LB 347 authorizes city officials to use a blanket bond, rather than individual bonds. Counties were given similar authority in 1979.

LB 390 gives the State Fire Marshal authority to prohibit the delivery to, deposit into, or acceptance of certain materials in underground storage tanks.

LB 551 revises a sales tax program used by the city of Omaha to help build the Qwest Center. The bill simplifies the division of sales tax proceeds used to repay bonds and earmarks some funds for high poverty areas.

LB 603 requires the State Board of Education to adjust the boundaries of educational service units (ESUs) which do not align with the boundaries of the member school districts by July 31 each year. These adjustments will be referred to county and ESU officials to make the necessary changes to maps and tax records.

LB 661 revises telecommunications statutes and contains elements originally introduced in **LB 560** and **LB 660**. Providers of voice over Internet protocol services (VoIP) will be required to collect and submit landline 911 and telecommunications relay surcharges. Wireless E-911 surcharges will be collected from users of prepaid wireless services.

The Legislature would be able to authorize certain cities to invest public endowment funds under **LR6CA**, which will be presented to voters at a special election on May 13, 2008. As originally introduced, the bill mirrored a proposed constitutional amendment that appeared on the Nov. 2006 ballot.

2007 Interim Studies

What follows is a partial listing of interim study resolutions that were introduced by the Nebraska Legislature 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 of each, 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.

LR 67 (*Transportation Committee*) Interim study to examine issues relating to public and private highway and rail crossings. (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR 77 (*Preister*) Interim study to examine the issue of electronic waste recycling. (Natural Resources)

LR 78 (*Preister*) Interim study to examine issues relating to the Open Meetings Act. (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR 86 (*Pahls*) Interim study to examine the method used to verify proof of automobile liability insurance and to examine ways to increase compliance. (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR 90 (*Pahls*) Interim study to examine the requirements to license, register, purchase plates, verify proof of insurance, tax, and assess fees on motor vehicles. (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR 99 (*Schimek*) Interim study to examine policies relating to the incarceration of persons with mental illness in Nebraska's correctional facilities, including juvenile facilities. (Judiciary)

LR 101 (*Retirement Systems Committee*) Interim study to review the actuarial assumptions used to perform the annual actuarial valuation for the retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board. (Nebraska Retirement Systems)

LR 102 (*Retirement Systems Committee*) Interim study to examine the employee retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board. (Nebraska Retirement Systems)

LR 104 (*Schimek*) Interim study to examine ways for the State of Nebraska to respectfully honor its citizens who have served their country and died in combat. (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR 106 (*Natural Resources Committee*) Interim study to examine the effects of vegetation on river-flow in river basins in Nebraska. (Natural Resources/Agriculture)

LR 113 (*Schimek*) Interim study to examine issues relating to urban storm water runoff. (Natural Resources)

LR 114 (*Janssen*) Interim study to examine the burden of proof and standard of review of valuation cases appealed to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. (Revenue)

LR 115 (*Janssen*) Interim study to examine an income-based method of placing a value on agricultural and horticultural land. (Revenue)

LR 116 (*Janssen*) Interim study to examine residential, business, and agricultural tax burdens in Nebraska. (Revenue)

LR 117 (*Mines*) Interim study to analyze the municipal county process. (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR 120 (*Wightman*) Interim study to examine the cost of public employee health plans at all levels of government. (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR 121 (*Pedersen*) Interim study to examine the feasibility of the adoption of juvenile certification legislation to provide that the juvenile court have original jurisdiction for juveniles who have committed crimes. (Judiciary)

LR 122 (*Aguilar*) Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs)

LR 124 (*Fischer*) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR 130 (*Synowiecki*) Interim study to examine requirements necessary to implement an effective statewide comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program. (Health and Human Services)

LR 132 (*Kruse*) Interim study of funding and distribution of transit aid related to the local operating subsidy of transit vehicles. (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR 137 (*Erdman*) Interim study to examine the feasibility of redesigning the livestock friendly county program. (Agriculture)

LR 138 (*Erdman*) Interim study to examine means of fully cash funding the duties of the Department of Agriculture under the Noxious Weed Control Act. (Agriculture)

LR 143 (*Friend*) Interim study to review issues raised by LR 2CA which proposed to broaden authority for cities and counties to use tax increment financing. (Urban Affairs)

LR 148 (*McDonald*) Interim study to examine Nebraska's cemetery statutes. (General Affairs)

LR 152 (*Urban Affairs Committee*) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee. (Urban Affairs)

LR 158 (*Johnson*) Interim study to examine development of voluntary emergency medical personnel to assist in responding to natural disasters. (Health and Human Services)

LR 160 (*Erdman*) Interim study to examine the results of the law enforcement retirement survey. (Nebraska Retirement Systems)

LR 162 (*Synoweicki*) Interim study to examine the overall impact of the area agency on aging programs on the health of the citizens. (Health and Human Services)

LR 165 (*McGill*) Interim study to examine the service needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and identify cost-effective system enhancements for prevention and intervention. (Health and Human Services)

LR 168 (*Flood*) Interim study to examine issues relating to Nebraska's emergency protective custody procedures. (Health and Human Services)

LR 174 (*Christensen*) Interim study to examine coordination between natural resources districts, state agencies, and state and federal government with respect to surface water flows during times of great need. (Natural Resources)

LR 175 (*Christensen*) Interim study to examine every major river and stream in Nebraska with respect to stream flow. (Natural Resources)

LR 176 (*Christensen*) Interim study to examine and identify areas of historical surplus of surface water. (Natural Resources)

LR 178 (*Christensen*) Interim study to examine the nature and consistency of local firearm regulation. (Judiciary)

LR 179 (*Fischer*) Interim study to consider alternatives available to the Department of Motor Vehicles in implementing the REAL ID Act of 2005. (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR 180 (*Fischer*) Interim study to examine laws relating to titling, registration, and operation of off-road vehicles. (Transportation and Telecommunications)

LR 182 (*Kruse*) Interim study to examine retirement benefits provided to public employees. (Nebraska Retirement Systems)

LR 191 (*Flood*) Interim study to examine the effect of lowering

the property tax lid on cities of the second class and villages. (Revenue)

LR 195 (*Schimek*) Interim study to examine and provide recommendations relating to the state's operation of facilities that provide twenty-four-hour care to the citizens of Nebraska. (Health and Human Services)

LR 196 (*Janssen*) Interim study to review the findings of the Nebraska Juvenile Correctional Facilities Master Plan Update. (Health and Human Services)

LR 199 (*Ashford*) Interim study to examine the existing first degree sexual assault and statutory rape statute. Judiciary

LR 203 (*Johnson*) Interim study to examine statewide behavioral health services. (Health and Human Services)

LR 205 (*Johnson*) Interim study to provide development of additional recommendations relating to implementation of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act. (Health and Human Services)

LR 207 (*Johnson*) Interim study to provide additional recommendations relating to implementation of the Medicaid Reform Plan and Medical Assistance Act. (Health and Human Services)

LR 208 (*Johnson*) Interim study to provide additional recommendations relating to the reorganization of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. (Health and Human Services)