

Legislative Update

8/4/2020



Agenda

- State Legislative Update
- Federal Legislative Update
- CARES Act update

State Legislative Update



2020 Nebraska Legislative Calendar

Nebraska's 106th Legislature

- January 8th – Legislature convenes at 10 a.m.
- January 13th – Debate on carry-over legislation begins
- January 21st – Public hearings begin
- January 23rd – Last day of bill introduction
- February 19th – Deadline for Speaker priority requests
- February 21st – Deadline for designation of committee and senator priority bills
- February 25th – Speaker priority bills announced prior to adjournment
- February 27th – Date to complete committee public hearings on introduced bills
- March 3rd – Full-day debate
- March 12th – Last day of debate
- March 13th – Recess
- March 23rd-25th - LB1198 - Appropriate funds for the Governor's Emergency Program - COVID-19
- **July 20th - August 13th – Session resumes**
- **August 13th – Sine Die**

Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 283 Pansing Brooks	Provide for a climate change study
<i>Monitor</i>	1/15/19 Introduced, 1/18/19 Referred to Executive Board, 2/11/19 Hearing held, 1/24/20 Vargas AM2116 filed, 2/19/20 Placed on General File, 2/21/20 McCollister priority bill, on General File – 7/23/20 three hour debate held, motion to call the question failed <i>We are supportive of the concept, however monitoring at the current time due to easement/eminent domain language, source of funds and role in the process</i>
LB 627 Pansing Brooks	Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity
<i>Support</i>	1/23/19 Introduced, 1/25/19 Referred to Judiciary Committee, 2/7/19 Hearing held, 3/5/19 Chair ruled there had not been full and fair debate on the advancement of the bill. 3/5/19 Motion to overrule the chair failed, 2/19/20 Pansing Brooks priority bill
LB 720 Kolterman	Adopt the Imagine Nebraska Act and provide tax incentives
<i>Support</i>	1/23/2019 Introduced. 1/25/2019 Referred to Revenue Committee, 2/12/2019 Kolterman priority bill, 3/6/2019 Hearing Held, 4/5/2019 Kolterman AM1198 filed, 5/10/2019 Placed on General File with AM1614, 5/15/2019 various amendments introduced, 5/22/2019 Advanced to Select File with ER136, 5/24/2019 Kolterman MO108 invoke cloture failed, 1/8/20 Kolterman priority bill, 1/30/20 Kolterman AM2207 filed, 2/6/20 Special Hearing on AM2207, 2/27/20 Attorney General Opinion 20-004 to Brandt, 7/22/20 debate held on Select File, no vote held
LB 899 Hughes	Provide certain powers to public power districts relating to biofuels and biofuel byproducts
<i>Support</i>	1/9/20 Introduced, 1/13/20 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 1/23/20 Hearing held, 2/18/20 Moser priority bill, 3/5/20 Advanced to Select File, 7/31/20 Passed Final Reading 45-0-4

Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 923 Lindstrom	Change sales tax provisions relating to gross receipts
<i>Support</i>	1/10/20 Introduced, 1/13/20 Referred to Revenue Committee, 1/30/20 Hearing held, 2/4/20 Placed on General File, 2/25/20 Speaker priority bill, debate held on Select File, Wayne amendment failed 38-2, 7/29/20 Advanced to Final Reading
LB 933 Crawford	Change provisions relating to discontinuance of utility service
<i>Support</i>	1/10/20 Introduced, 1/13/20 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 1/27/20 Vargas name added. 2/27/20 Placed on General File, included in LB632, 7/27/20 Advanced to Select File
LB 992 Friesen	Adopt the Broadband Internet Service Infrastructure Act and provide for certain broadband and Internet -related services
<i>Monitor</i>	1/14/20 Introduced, 1/15/20 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 2/3/20 Hearing held, 2/5/20 Transportation and Telecommunications Priority Bill, 2/27/20, amendment added with OPPD input, 7/28/20 Advanced to Select File
LB 1132 Wayne	Change provisions relating to net metering
<i>Oppose</i>	1/22/20 Introduced, 1/24/20 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 2/19/20 Hearing held
LB 1205 McCollister	Adopt the Renewable Energy Standards Act
<i>Oppose</i>	1/23/20 Introduced, 1/27/20 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 2/13/20 Hearing held
LB 1198 Stinner	Appropriate funds for the Governor’s Emergency Program – COVID-19
<i>Support</i>	1/23/20 Introduced, 1/27/20 Referred to Appropriations Committee, 2/4/20 Hearing held, 2/27/20 Placed on General File, 3/23/2020 Advanced to Select File, 3/25/2020 Advanced to Final Reading, 3/25/20 Signed by the Governor

Federal Legislative Update



Congressional Outlook – 2020

Topic	Expiration date	Description
FISA Reauthorization	March 15, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “roving wiretap,” “lone wolf,” and “business records,” provisions, and the “call detail records” program—were temporarily extended in the 2019 Continuing Resolution but are currently expired
Annual Appropriations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearings have begun in House/Senate subcommittees, but COVID could delay negotiations
Surface Transportation	Sept. 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2015 FAST Act provided funding for 5 years and authorizes certain highway and public transit programs
Nat'l Flood Insurance Reauthorization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National program was last reauthorized for full five years in 2012 Reauthorized on short-term basis since 2017
TANF & CCES Reauthorization	Nov. 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs and the Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) provide child care assistance for low-income families
Health Extenders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various Medicare and Medicaid policies are set to expire, including the community mental health services demonstration program
Nat'l Defense Re-Authorization	Dec. 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorizes annual Defense programs and sets top-line budgets

Sources: Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget; Politico, National Journal.

Congress's response to the coronavirus crisis and potential next steps

Phase 1

Initial support and vaccine development

H.R. 6074 — Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

- \$8.3 billion in COVID-19 response funding for developing a vaccine and preventing further spread of the virus
- Became law on 3/6/20

Phase 2

Paid leave, unemployment and food assistance

H.R. 6201 — Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- \$100 billion in worker assistance, including emergency paid sick leave, food assistance, and unemployment payments
- Became law on 3/18/20

Phase 3

Major economic stimulus package

H.R. 748 CARES Act

- Major stimulus package (\$2 trillion)
- Loans and support to major industries, including airlines and small businesses
- Direct payments to individuals and families
- Became law on 3/27/20

Phase 3b

Additional funding for small businesses/hospitals

S.Amdt.1580 Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

- \$310 billion for the depleted Paycheck Protection Program, additional funding for hospitals and testing
- Became law on 4/24/20

Phase 3c

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) extension

S. 4116 – A bill to extend the authority for commitments for the paycheck protection program...

- Extended PPP for five weeks, until August 8th
- Became law on 7/4/2020

Phase 4 - TBD

Additional economic support

- Democratic leadership introduced a \$3 trillion package in May with priorities for the next phase
- GOP leadership introduced a \$1 trillion package that illustrated different priorities over state aid and unemployment provisions

CARES Act

- Nebraska - \$1.084 billion
- Douglas County - \$166 million
- OPPD issues
 - Reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses (State, Douglas County, FEMA)
 - Funding to Dollar Energy Fund to help customers pay bills
- Working with M.U.D.
 - Submitted joint letter to Douglas County for funding to Dollar Energy Fund
 - Douglas County set aside \$4 million for utility assistance – still working on agreement
 - Dollar Energy Fund applied for and was awarded \$1.5 million (\$1 million for OPPD, \$500,000 for M.U.D.) for other counties in our service territory