



# Government Affairs Update January 17, 2023

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# 2023 Nebraska Legislative Calendar

Nebraska's 108<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Session

- 90-day session
- January 4<sup>th</sup> – First day of session
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – Last day of bill introduction
- Other key items TBD based on Speaker & Committee Appointments
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – Sine Die
  - The calendar is subject to revision by the Speaker of the 108<sup>th</sup> Legislature, but will be finalized and distributed before January 4<sup>th</sup>.

# 2023 Legislative Committee Chairs

The Legislature's 14 standing committees will begin to piece together the composition of their members for the upcoming sessions.

## Speaker of the Legislature

- Senator John Arch

## Agriculture

- Senator Steve Halloran

## Appropriations

- Senator Rob Clements

## Banking, Commerce and Insurance

- Senator Julie Slama

## Business and Labor

- Senator Merv Riepe

## Education

- Senator Dave Murman

## Executive Board

- Senator Tom Briese

## General Affairs

- Senator John Lowe

## Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- Senator Tom Brewer

## Health and Human Services

- Senator Ben Hansen

## Judiciary

- Senator Justin Wayne

## Natural Resources

- Senator Bruce Bostelman

## NE Retirement Systems

- Senator Mike McDonnell

## Revenue

- Senator Lou Ann Linehan

## Transportation and Telecommunications

- Senator Suzanne Geist

## Urban Affairs

- Senator Terrell McKinney

# 2023 OPPD Legislative Bills

These issues have been brought to the forefront to have OPPD take a leading role to champion. We view this process as a 2-year journey. Three senators will introduced these bills on OPPD's behalf.

- **Broadband LB61**– Seek to repeal the dark fiber statutes to help expand broadband coverage across the state. This could also incorporate a repeal of the challenge of safe harbor rates under LB992.
- **Critical/essential utility workers LB267** - seek to have defined as emergency personnel in declared emergencies in order to protect our communities while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety.
- **Weatherization funding LB237** – seek state funding for weatherization efforts to upgrade more homes in order to lower utility bills permanently.



# Local Update





# Federal Legislative Update



# Federal Update

- In late December 2022, the Senate and House passed H.R. 2617, the \$1.7 trillion 2023 omnibus spending package.
  - Included in the package is a \$7,787,500 earmark from Department of Energy to OPPD for **grid resiliency and modernization**. The earmark request was submitted by Rep. Don Bacon on behalf of OPPD. The funding will be used to acquire reclosers, overhead conductor replacement, and potential targeted undergrounding. OPPD will coordinate with Dept. of Energy on acquisition and implementation of equipment early in 2023.
- The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress convened on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rep. Kevin McCarthy was elected Speaker of the House. Committee assignments are being finalized, and the next major policy issue is the debt ceiling.
- Significant federal legislation passed in 2022.
  - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R.3684).
  - CHIPS and Science Act (H.R.4346).
  - Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (H.R.5440).
  - Inflation Reduction Act (H.R.5376).