

State Legislative Update

3/16/2021

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State Legislative Update



2021 Nebraska Legislative Calendar

Nebraska's 107th Legislature

- January 6th – Legislature convened at 10 am
- January 20th – Last day of bill introduction
- January 25th – All day public hearings begin
- March 4th - Date to complete committee hearings, except Judiciary Committee on introduced bills
- March 10th – Deadline for Speaker priority requests
- March 12th – Deadline for designation of Committee and Senator priority bills (extended)
- March 12th - Judiciary Committee hearings to be completed
- March 15th – Full-day debate
- June 10th – Day 90, sine die

2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 52 Lathrop	Provide for immunity for injury or death resulting from COVID-19 exposure
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Judiciary Committee, 2/18/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 83 Flood	Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing
<i>Support</i>	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, 1/27/21 Hearing held OPPD submitted a letter in support, Placed on General File with AM127, 3/10/21 Government, Military and Veterans Affairs priority bill</i>
LB 84 Bostelman	Redefine terms relating to tax incentive performance audits and the ImagiNE Nebraska Act
<i>Support</i>	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Revenue Committee, 2/26/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted a letter in support, 3/10/21 Placed on General File</i>
LB 112 Albrecht	Require members of the public to be allowed to speak at each meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Government, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee, 1/27/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 120 Hunt	Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity
<i>Support</i>	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Judiciary Committee, 2/26/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted a letter in support.</i>
LB 126 Halloran	Require use of headlights and taillights when windshield wipers are in operation
<i>Support</i>	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 1/26/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted a letter in support, 2/25/21 Indefinitely postponed.</i>

2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 139 Briese	Adopt the COVID-19 Liability Protection Act
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/8/21 Introduced, 1/12/21 Referred to Judiciary Committee, 2/18/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 140 Stinner	Provide funding for enforcement of railroad safety standards
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/8/21 Introduced, 1/12/21 Referred to Appropriations Committee, 2/19/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 212 M. Cavanaugh	Prohibit charging members of the Legislature fees for public records requests
<i>Oppose</i>	<i>1/8/21 Introduced, 1/12/21 Referred to Executive Board, 2/25/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 239 Hilkemann	Change provisions relating to the use of handheld wireless communication devices under the Nebraska Rules of the Road
<i>Support</i>	<i>1/11/21 Introduced, 1/13/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunication Committee, 1/26/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted a letter in support, 2/25/21 Indefinitely postponed</i>
LB 240 Hilkemann	Require use of occupant protection systems for each vehicle occupant
<i>Support</i>	<i>1/11/21 Introduced, 1/13/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 1/26/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted a letter in support, 2/25/21 Indefinitely postponed.</i>
LB 266 McCollister	Adopt the Renewable Energy Standard Act
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/12/21 Introduced, 1/14/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 2/11/21 Hearing held</i>

2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 279 Bostar	Authorize certain activities that are eligible for assistance from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
	<i>1/12/21 Introduced, 1/14/21 Referred to Appropriations Committee, 2/26/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 306 Brandt	Provide eligibility requirements for the low-income home energy assistance program
Support	<i>1/12/21 Introduced, 1/14/21 Referred to Health and Human Service Committee, 1/29/21 Hearing held, OPPD testified in support, 3/9/21 Placed on General file</i>
LB 339 Bostelman	Require a utility coordination plan for certain highway and bridge contracts
Neutral	<i>1/13/21 Introduced, 1/15/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 1/20/21 Hearing 1/26/21 cancelled, 2/16/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 344 Friesen	Change provisions of the One-Call Notification System Act and create the Underground Excavation Safety Committee
Oppose	<i>1/13/21 Introduced, 1/15/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 2/1/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted written testimony in opposition, Placed on General File with AM83</i>
LB 346 Wishart	Adopt the Fueling Station Tax Credit Act
Neutral	<i>1/13/21 Introduced, 1/15/21 Referred to Revenue Committee, Hearing held 2/5/21</i>
LB 368 Sanders	Provide the Auditor of Public Accounts enforcement powers for failure of political subdivisions to file reports
Neutral	<i>1/13/21 Introduced, 1/15/21 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, 1/29/21 Hearing held, 2/8/21 Placed on General File with AM66</i>

2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 409 Brewer	Provide a moratorium on construction of electric transmission lines and create the Electric Transmission Line Study Committee of the Legislature
Oppose	<i>1/14/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Executive Board, 1/22/21 Brewer priority bill, 2/3/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted opposition letter</i>
LB 424 Brewer	Provide and change zoning requirements for wind energy generation projects
Oppose	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, 2/26/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 449 Wishart	Appropriate funds to the Department of Environment and Energy
Support	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Appropriations Committee, 2/26/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 455 Friesen	Adopt the Broadband Pole Attachment Act
Oppose	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 2/8/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 460 Brandt	Authorize leasing of dark fiber and eliminate certain powers of the Public Service Commission
Support	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 2/9/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 474 Wishart	Adopt the Medicinal Cannabis Act
Neutral	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Judiciary Committee, 3/10/21 Hearing scheduled</i>

2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 483 J. Cavanaugh	Provide for climate change study and action plan
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 2/11/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 486 Day	Require train crews of at least two individuals
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 3/1/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 506 J. Cavanaugh	Change provisions relating to net metering provided by local distribution utilities
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/19/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 2/10/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 512 Brewer	Adopt the Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act
<i>Support</i>	<i>1/19/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Business and Labor Committee, 3/1/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 520 Friesen	Provide for applications for the collocation of certain wireless facilities
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/19/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 2/8/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 539 Walz	Provide for the limit on the length of trains
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>1/19/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 3/1/21 Hearing held</i>

2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 557 M. Hansen	Change provisions relating to public records and include body-worn camera recordings in certain circumstances <i>1/19/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, 2/25/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 573 Bostar <i>Neutral</i>	Change the definition of qualified facility for purposes of net metering <i>1/19/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 2/10/21 Hearing held</i>
LB 619 Sanders <i>Neutral</i>	Change excavation requirements under the One-Call Notification System Act <i>1/20/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, 2/1/21 Hearing held, AM 70 introduced which writes OPPD out of the bill</i>
LB 683 Wayne <i>Oppose</i>	Change provisions relating to net metering <i>1/20/21 Introduced, 1/22/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee, 2/10/21 Hearing held</i>
LR 48 Bostelman	Recognize the need for the Legislature to understand the circumstances and practices surrounding the interruptions in electricity to residents in the state <i>3/3/21 Hearing held</i>
LR 49 Wayne	Provide the need for the Legislature to understand the reasons for and circumstances surrounding the natural gas shortages <i>3/9/21 Hearing held</i>

Federal Legislative Update



Since Last Report...

- More than 2,400 bills introduced so far in the 117th Congress.
- Confirmation of appointees speeding up. EPA Administrator confirmed March 10th. (slide 30 in appendix).
- Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan passed the House and Senate. Sent to President for signature.
- Major focus is pandemic relief, but other bills of interest introduced.
 - H.R. 848, the GREEN Act (renewable energy tax incentives) continues to gain cosponsors (37).
 - H.R. 1512, the CLEAN Future Act (Clean Energy Standard)
- Infrastructure package expected to be introduced after Covid-19 stimulus. Biden's campaign promised a \$2 trillion investment to create a "modern, sustainable infrastructure" system and clean energy transition.
 - House Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow's America Act, or LIFT America Act
- Hearings are starting on energy and environmental policies to set the groundwork for future legislation on climate.
- Senate Energy Committee hearing on energy grid reliability March 11th.