



Reporting Item

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 17, 2021

ITEM

Legislative and Regulatory Update

PURPOSE

To provide an update on 2021 state and federal legislative matters and regulatory matters

FACTS

- a. Nebraska’s 107th Legislature began on January 6, 2021 and ended on May 27, 2021.
- b. The 117th Congress began on January 3, 2021 and is expected to end January 3, 2023.

ACTION

Reporting item


RECOMMENDED:

DocuSigned by:

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 Lisa A. Olson
 Vice President – Public Affairs

APPROVED FOR REPORTING TO BOARD:

DocuSigned by:

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 L. Javier Fernandez
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: State and Federal Legislative Update

Legislative Update 8/10/2021

Tim O'Brien, Director – Economic Development & External Relations

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
- May 27th – Sine die
- Interim Studies – August and September
- Special Session on Redistricting – September 13-30

2021 Legislative Resolutions - Interim Studies

LR & Current Status	Summary
LR 23 Erdman	Interim study to examine the progress of natural resources districts in fulfilling their originally intended purpose. Includes a study of flood control
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 34 Slama	Interim study to examine the structure and funding of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. OPPD has received \$600,000 for battery storage, butterfly and EV charging station grants over the years
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 83 M. Hansen	Interim study to examine the gubernatorial appointment process of members to boards, commissions and similar entities
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Executive Board</i>
LR 102 Wishart	Provide the Legislature take steps to combat the climate and ecological crisis
	<i>4/22/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 106 Kolterman	Interim Study to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions as required by 13-2402.
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee</i>

2021 Legislative Resolutions - Interim Studies

LR & Current Status	Summary
LR 136 Brewer	Interim Study to examine and evaluate the causes, costs, and impacts of rolling electrical power outages during the extreme weather events of February 2021
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 147 J. Cavanaugh	Interim study to examine the transfer of state-owned property to local political subdivisions
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee</i>
LR 193 De Boer	Interim study to examine broadband mapping and broadband speed testing in Nebraska
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee</i>
LR 199 Slama	Interim study to examine the creation of rural economic development program
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee</i>
LR 202 HHS Committee	Interim study to examine federal legislation regarding COVID-19 pandemic assistance
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to HHS Committee</i>

2021 Legislative Resolutions - Interim Studies

LR & Current Status	Summary
LR 211 Lowe	Interim study to examine issues related to adopting construction codes
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Urban Affairs Committee – Hearing scheduled 8/6/21</i>
LR 234 Friesen	Interim study to examine issues related to the regulation and taxation of electric vehicles
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunication Committee</i>
LR 246 NR Committee	Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee
	<i>5/26/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>

Federal Legislative Update



Bipartisan Infrastructure Package

- HR 3684 – 3000+ pages
- Summary – <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/28/fact-sheet-historic-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal/>
- 350 amendments to the package have been filed
- \$550 billion in new spending
- primarily focuses on investments in roads, bridges, public transit, electric grid, electric-vehicle charging stations, drinking-water lines, broadband, permitting reform, wildfire and drought mitigation, and more.
- Issues remain in the House
 - Has to be paired with Reconciliation Package
 - Does not go far enough

Bipartisan Infrastructure Package

Major provisions of interest:

- \$73 billion on upgrading the nation's power infrastructure
- \$7.5 billion for building out a national network of electrical vehicle charging stations.
- \$50 billion+ on improving the resiliency of U.S. infrastructure to protect against droughts, floods and other natural disasters, as well as cyberattacks.
- \$21 billion on cleaning up polluted areas, including money to reclaim abandoned mines and cap orphaned gas wells.
- \$65 billion in improving access to broadband internet.

Federal Update

- Reconciliation Package for the rest of President Biden's infrastructure not included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package
- Also likely included in Reconciliation Package
 - House Energy & Commerce Committee's Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America Act (H.R. 1848 LIFT America Act) introduced March 11th.
 - H.R. 848, the GREEN Act (renewable energy tax incentives).
 - H.R. 1512, the CLEAN Future Act (Clean Energy Standard) – the basis for the House Climate Package.
 - Human infrastructure
- Debt Ceiling
- Continuing Resolution for government funding
- Cyber Security Legislation
- 7,530 bills introduced in the 117th Congress as of August 5th
- Federal bill tracker included.