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


b. The 117th Congress began on January 3, 2021 and is expected to end January 3, 2023.

ACTION

Reporting item

RECOMMENDED: 

Lisa A. Olson
Vice President – Public Affairs

APPROVED FOR REPORTING TO BOARD:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LR &amp; Current Status</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LR 23 Erdman</td>
<td>Interim study to examine the progress of natural resources districts in fulfilling their originally intended purpose. Includes a study of flood control</td>
<td>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 34 Slama</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 83 M. Hansen</td>
<td>Interim study to examine the gubernatorial appointment process of members to boards, commissions and similar entities</td>
<td>5/20/21 Referred to Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 102 Wishart</td>
<td>Provide the Legislature take steps to combat the climate and ecological crisis</td>
<td>4/22/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 106 Koltermann</td>
<td>Interim Study to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions as required by 13-2402.</td>
<td>5/20/21 Referred to Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee</td>
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### 2021 Legislative Resolutions - Interim Studies

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<tr>
<td>LR 136 Brewer</td>
<td>Interim Study to examine and evaluate the causes, costs, and impacts of rolling electrical power outages during the extreme weather events of February 2021</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 147 J. Cavanaugh</td>
<td>Interim study to examine the transfer of state-owned property to local political subdivisions</td>
<td>Transportation and Telecommunications Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 193 De Boer</td>
<td>Interim study to examine broadband mapping and broadband speed testing in Nebraska</td>
<td>Transportation and Telecommunications Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 199 Slama</td>
<td>Interim study to examine the creation of rural economic development program</td>
<td>Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 202 HHS Committee</td>
<td>Interim study to examine federal legislation regarding COVID-19 pandemic assistance</td>
<td>HHS Committee</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>LR 211 Lowe</td>
<td>Interim study to examine issues related to adopting construction codes</td>
<td>5/20/21 Referred to Urban Affairs Committee – Hearing scheduled 8/6/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 234 Friesen</td>
<td>Interim study to examine issues related to the regulation and taxation of electric vehicles</td>
<td>5/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunication Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR 246 NR Committee</td>
<td>Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee</td>
<td>5/26/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Federal Legislative Update
Bipartisan Infrastructure Package

- HR 3684 – 3000+ pages
- 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.

SOURCE Congress.gov, Politico, Whitehouse.gov