

Nebraska Association of County Officials Legislative Report



Final 2009

Summary of 2009 Legislation

The following is a summary of some of the 236 bills adopted by the 2009 Legislature. Attention has been focused primarily on those bills of possible interest and impact to counties. These bill summaries are intended to provide a brief synopsis only and to highlight particular provisions of interest within each of the bills. For a more thorough understanding of any of these measures, please review the actual legislative bills. Bills are available through county clerks' offices or can be requested from the Legislature's Bill Room at (402)471-0617. The full text of the final version of the bill, called the slip law, can be viewed at the Unicameral's website at www.nebraskalegislature.gov. A link to this site can be found on NACO's website at www.nacone.org. Also, consider contacting your county attorney with questions regarding the implementation of a particular bill related to your county.

More than 680 bills and constitutional amendments were introduced this year. Bills that were not adopted or killed will carry over to the 2010 session. Because provisions from one bill were often amended into another, original and final bill numbers are noted within the summaries.

Most bills take effect at 12:01 a.m. on August 30, 2009, which is three calendar months after the Legislature's adjournment. Bills passed with an emergency clause either become effective upon receiving the signature of Governor Dave Heineman or on a specified date less than three calendar months after adjournment.

Please contact the NACO office if you have questions about this summary or suggestions for possible legislation for 2010. NACO's 2010 legislative priorities will be selected at NACO's annual legislative conference on Oct. 8 in Kearney.

County Operations

State aid to counties, county property tax relief, and jail reimbursement will be rolled into a single aid program beginning in 2011. Under **LB 218**, the Legislature will determine an appropriations amount based upon county valuation. Each county will receive \$30,000 and the remainder will be distributed based upon a ratio of valuation of each county. The amount will be certified by the Tax Commissioner by July 1 each year and funds will be distributed in nine payments. NACO requested the introduction of LB 218 in order to stabilize funds distributed through jail reimbursement.

Telephone calls or emails to family members, teachers, or babysitters about unexpected schedule changes or other essential personal business can be made on county equipment by county officials or employees without fear of violating the law under **LB 626**. Such communications must be kept to a minimum and not interfere with the conduct of public business. State employees are already statutorily provided with this flexibility for limited personal uses of public property. In addition, public officials or employees are not prohibited from using their personal cell phone, handheld electronic device or computer to access a wireless network which is provided to the public by a governing body. The bill provides that personal use

of a government-owned vehicle is not prohibited if it is provided as a part of compensation and the personal use is reported to the IRS.

LB 626 also defines the role of a public official related to ballot questions. The bill distinguishes between two types of ballot questions and clarifies that restrictions on the use of public resources to support or oppose a ballot question are not triggered until after the legislative body votes to place an issue on the ballot. Public officials or employees can identify themselves by their official title when dealing with ballot issues.

Graffiti, false security alarms, public nudity, parking related to snow removal and emergency vehicles, and abandoned motor vehicles can be regulated by county ordinance under **LB 532**. To enact ordinances, counties must follow detailed publication and hearing procedures similar to those required for cities.

Counties may adopt resolutions having the force and effect of law to prohibit trapping in the county road right-of-way or certain areas of the right-of-way. **LB 5** prohibits traps in the right-of-way that are larger than those approved for use on Game and Parks Commission lands.

Additional levy authority for bonds for certain county building projects can be extended to 20 years by **LB 294**. Existing state law authorizes counties to levy limited amounts for jails and courthouses without a vote of the people but those bonds may not exceed 10 years in duration.

Because conditions exist which make it difficult for governmental units to issue and sell bonds and obtain credit at a reasonable rate, **LB 377** provides for counties, cities, schools and other governmental entities to obtain credit support for their bonds by entering into an agreement with a bank or other financial institution. The agreement can be in the form of a letter of credit, contract of guarantee, contract of insurance or other agreement as to assurance of payment. The bill allows political subdivisions to take advantage of a change in federal law that would permit Federal Home Loan Banks to issue letters of credit to guarantee tax-exempt municipal bonds for certain projects through Dec. 31, 2010.

Counties, learning communities, joint public agencies and other public bodies are authorized to use an electronic voting device to record the votes of each member by **LB 361**. Currently this process is only available to cities. The bill also expands authority for risk management pools to meet more frequently by conference call.

Political subdivisions and state agencies are prohibited from

providing public benefits to persons who are not lawfully in the United States by **LB 403**. Benefits that are required by federal law are exempt from the bill. Governmental employers must verify the presence of every person who applies for benefits, which include, but are not limited to, grants, contracts, financial assistance, and public or assisted housing. Verification is not required for public health assistance for immunizations, disaster relief, and several other programs. In order to verify status, applicants for public benefits must attest that they are U.S. citizens or otherwise qualified under a federal immigration act. Public employers must also use E-Verify, a database operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. The bill takes effect on Oct. 1, 2009.

Natural resources districts containing a city of the metropolitan class are authorized to impose a special levy to cover bonds issued for flood-control measures by **LB 160**, but county boards can block large projects. The authority to issue bonds expires in 2019.

LB 259 clarifies references to security for deposits of public funds in excess of FDIC insurance. Existing law requires such funds to be secured by pledged securities or a guarantee bond. The bill clarifies that references to FDIC-insured amounts must include amounts "guaranteed" by the FDIC.

County Officials

LB 7 enacts residency requirements for clerks of the district court. The requirements are identical to those of most other elected county officials.

Only persons who are already admitted to the practice of law are eligible for nomination or appointment to the office of county attorney by **LB 55**.

Counties that transferred the assessment function to the state will reassume that duty by 2013 under **LB 121**. Beginning July 1, 2010, counties will begin to reimburse the state for a share of the costs until the transfer is complete. After one year, counties can voluntarily reassume the assessment function, rather than reimbursing the state for costs. All books, files, furniture, computers and other equipment, except motor vehicles, will be transferred to the county. The county board will appoint an assessor who will hold office until the office is filled at the next election. State employees will be paid for their vacation and sick leave and will immediately participate in the county retirement plan. Property taxes levied for the reassumption of the assessment function will be excluded from levy and budget limits for FY10-11 through FY13-14.

LB 671 was introduced in response to ongoing study of death investigations by public officials. The bill adds four members to the Nebraska County Attorney Standards Advisory Council and requires the group to develop guidelines to promote uniform and quality death investigations for county coroners. The council must also help establish a voluntary network of regional officials including law enforcement, county coroners, and medical personnel to provide death investigation support

services for any location in Nebraska. County attorneys and deputies must complete initial death investigation training within one year after election or appointment and undergo annual training.

Unless provided otherwise by collective bargaining agreements, county sheriffs and first class cities must adopt rules and regulations governing the removal, suspension or demotion of peace officers. The rules must include provisions for giving notice to the officer, representation by an attorney, and a process for appeals. **LB 158** limits when a county or municipality can release a photograph of an officer who is the subject of an investigation. The bill prohibits retaliatory discharge and disclosure of an officer's personal financial information.

Real estate transfer statements, commonly called 521's, must be available in the office of the register of deeds under **LB 348**. Existing law requires the forms to be available only in the office of the county assessor or Tax Commissioner.

Instruments showing the transfer of rights to use ground water must be recorded with the register of deeds under **LB 477**. The transfer instrument, which must be executed, acknowledged, and recorded in the same manner as conveyances of real estate, must include legal descriptions, the nature of the transfer, and the date on which it occurred. Recording fees can be recovered from the person seeking the transfer. The bill creates uniform procedures for the transfer of ground water rights.

Motor Vehicles

LB 49 implements mandatory one-stop for motor vehicle functions after Jan. 1, 2011. After that date, county treasurers will be responsible for all titling and registration of motor vehicles. Currently county clerks perform titling in many counties, although there is a trend to shift these duties to county treasurers.

Vehicle owners who issue an insufficient funds check for their motor vehicle registration may find the sheriff at their door asking for the license plates under **LB 129**. The county treasurer must first notify the applicant in writing by first-class, registered or certified mail. If the vehicle owner does not make payment or return the license plates and registration, the treasurer can cancel the registration and notify the sheriff that he or she may recover these items.

Certain approved lending institutions will be able to note motor vehicle liens electronically through an electronic title and lien system adopted under **LB 202**. Titles with liens will be maintained electronically by the Department of Motor Vehicles. An electronic title can be printed if the vehicle owner is moving to another state or requests a printed copy for reasons approved by the Department. The system will be implemented by Jan. 1, 2011.

Groups and organizations with 500 prepaid applications will be able to receive specialty license plates after Jan. 1, 2011. **LB 110** provides for the Department of Motor Vehicles to determine the design of the plate. The bill also revises the fee amount and distribution formula.

Federal law enforcement agencies can use undercover license plates under the same standards as state, county or city law enforcement pursuant to **LB 28**.

LB 175 provides that registration refunds for lost license plate charges are eliminated if the vehicle has been reported stolen. No duplicate registration or plate fee is charged.

LB 331 delays the implementation date for drivers' license central issuance from April 1, 2009 to August 1, 2009. The bill revises the types of vehicles that can carry Gold Star license plates and allows for any number of vehicles owned by one person to use these plates. It clarifies the reasons for the issuance of a refund on apportioned vehicles and updates federal references.

State or federal agency investigating officers are given access to digital signatures or digital images maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles for use with operators' licenses and state identification cards. Use of this information is subject to existing limits for federal, state and local law enforcement. **LB 372** reduces the penalty for disclosure to a Class I misdemeanor.

LB 48 updates Nebraska statutes to reflect current federal motor carrier safety regulations.

LB 219 transfers the highway safety program administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Roads on July 1, 2009.

Elections

LB 434 clarifies ballot language when the issue of changing from a township form of government to a commissioner form is presented to voters. Under existing law, the ballot question is posed as "For continuance of a township form of government" and "For discontinuance of a township form of government." The bill changes the ballot language to a more standard positive/negative format of "For discontinuance" and "Against changing."

Ballots for sanitary and improvement districts must be returned by 5 p.m. on the day of the election, rather than the first Thursday after the election. **LB 412** is intended to

harmonize this deadline with those found in the Election Act.

LB 501 allows counties with less than 10,000 inhabitants to conduct elections by mail. Existing law limits all-mail elections to counties of less than 7,000. The bill also changes time frames for special elections for local option sales taxes and elections to exceed allowable budget growth percentages.

Political parties are given flexibility in the location of their post-primary conventions by **LB 133**. Existing law requires these gatherings to be at the courthouse or other suitable place. The bill requires such conventions to be held in the county.

Zoning

Existing shooting ranges that are operated in compliance with shooting range performance standards cannot be regulated by city, village or county laws, rules, regulations, ordinances or resolutions under **LB 503**. However, counties, cities and other political subdivisions can regulate the location and construction of shooting ranges and limit their hours of operation. The Game and Parks Commission will enact performance standards based upon a manual prepared by the National Rifle Association.

Political subdivisions are prohibited from regulating the registration, labeling, or sale of seeds based upon the type,

nature, or genetic makeup of the seeds by **LB 263**. The regulation of storage, transportation, planting and other uses of seeds must be in compliance with the Nebraska Seed Law. Similar restrictions are placed upon the regulation of fertilizers and soil conditioners covered by the Nebraska Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act. Neither section is intended to preempt or otherwise limit the authority of a county or city to adopt and enforce zoning regulations.

LB 56 changes the process and penalties for determining the offender under the Livestock Waste Management Act.

Taxes

Homestead exemption recipients who purchase and move to a new residence but have not sold their prior homestead by August 15 are allowed to transfer the exemption to the new property under **LB 302**. The bill was introduced at NACO's request to address homestead exemption recipients who downsize or move to accessible homes but cannot sell their prior residence within the specified time frame.

Persons with a medical condition that has impaired their ability to file a timely homestead exemption application are given an opportunity to extend the filing deadline pursuant to **LB 94**. Medical conditions include a disease, physical ailment, or injury requiring inpatient care in a hospital, hospice or residential care facility or involving a period of incapacity for which treatment may not be effective. The delayed filing is limited to the current tax year.

LB 166 is the annual Department of Revenue cleanup bill. It provides for valuation changes due to annexations occurring on or after August 1 to be considered in the following year. County boards are authorized to request a special assessor's examination if the office is vacant. A single copy, rather than three copies, of property tax protest forms must be filed with the county clerk. Assessors are authorized to appoint a designee to attend county board of equalization meetings. The certificate of taxes levied, rather than the final adjusted value must be used to certify levies to taxing entities for budget preparation. The bill makes numerous revisions to updated recapture and special valuation sections of law.

LB 447 provides for annual adjustments to net worth thresholds for participants in the beginning farmer tax credit act.

State Budget

With the assistance of transfers from the state's cash reserve and the receipt of more than \$500 million in federal stimulus funds, the Legislature approved a \$6.9 million two-year budget package. The package funds county property tax relief, state

aid to counties and jail reimbursement at last year's levels. **LB 315** is the mainline budget bill. **LB 456** provides for the \$254 million transfer from the cash reserve.

Veterans

Active duty, rather than service during wartime, is the criteria for veterans service officers under **LB 52**. The change is intended to broaden the pool of candidates for this position.

LB 422 updates the definition of veteran to include veterans of the global war on terror. The expanded definition will provide increased eligibility for certain veterans benefits.

LB 488 allows all veterans who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, other than active duty for training, to be eligible for admission to a Nebraska veterans' home. Currently only wartime veterans are eligible for residency in a veterans' home.

Courts and Criminal Justice

Fees charged by county sheriffs for serving a summons are increased from \$10 to \$12 by **LB 35**. The fee change, as well as increases to five other sheriffs' fees, had originally been introduced as part a larger fee proposal in **LB 273**. Among numerous other bills amended into LB 35 are **LB 305**, which provides for state identification card holders to be included in initial jury pools, and concepts from **LB 669**, which creates a new district judgeship in Lancaster County in two years. Criminal docket fees increase from \$1 to \$2 and the Supreme Court Automation fee increases from \$6 to \$8 to fund conversion of the Douglas County District Court and Juvenile Court to the statewide court computer system.

LB 90 removes an existing requirement for written consent and waiver of a physical personal appearance when an audiovisual court appearance is made in nonevidentiary criminal proceedings. The bill eliminates waiver requirements if the prisoner and his or her counsel are in different locations but can communicate confidentially.

LB 288 is a Department of Health and Human Services cleanup bill that was amended to include provisions from several other bills. Language from **LB 173** allows jails and state correctional facilities to return unused prescription medications to the dispensing pharmacy for relabeling and redispensing to another inmate. The Jail Standards Board will adopt rules and regulations for guidance in this process.

Dogs used by a government agency for police or military work are not responsible for injuries or damage caused when the dog is responding to a harassing or provoking act. **LB 347** also provides an exception if the damage is the result of a reasonable use of force while assisting in the apprehension of a suspect, investigation of a crime, execution of a warrant, or defense of a peace officer.

Owners of dangerous dogs are subject to increased penalties if the dog inflicts a serious bodily injury on a human being. In addition, **LB 494** requires each county's designated animal control authority to enforce the new provision.

Convicted sex offenders who intentionally use social networking sites, instant messaging or chat rooms that allow access by persons under 18 years of age commit the offense of unlawful use of the Internet by a prohibited sex offender pursuant to **LB 97**. In addition, the bill contains provisions from **LB 15** that require drivers' license numbers, email addresses, domain names and other identifying information to be registered by sex offenders. Provisions from **LB 290** prohibit employees and volunteers who have been convicted of or indicted for certain crimes of moral turpitude from providing transportation to vulnerable citizens or persons under age 19 through contracts with the Department of Health and Human Services.

LB 285 expands the information included in the sex offender registry and the verification process for such information.

LB 63 increases penalties for firearm offenses, gang-related violence, and graffiti offenses. Provisions taken from **LB 35** establish the Office of Violence Prevention and concepts from **LB 64** require schools to develop dating violence policies.

LB 155 implements the Public Protection Act to address organized crime, identity theft, forgery and deceptive advertising. Abuse of public records is an offense that can be considered as a racketeering activity.

LB 92 requires drivers on controlled-access highways, including Interstate 80, to move over when approaching a stopped authorized emergency vehicle or road assistance vehicle.

Speeders in construction zones where no workers are present get a break from **LB 111**. Existing law provides for speeding fines to be doubled in maintenance, repair or construction zones. **LB 111** causes fines to double only in portions of the highway where road construction workers are present.

LB 105 makes revisions to state game laws, including imposing a minimum \$100 fine upon conviction of discharging a firearm from a public highway, road or bridge.

LB 201 provides that a Nebraska court does not need personal jurisdiction over a party to a custody action in order to make a child custody determination in certain situations.

LB 517 adds an exception to efforts toward family reunification. The court may terminate parental rights if the

parent of the juvenile has been convicted of felony sexual assault of the other parent of the juvenile or a comparable crime in another state.

LB 237 repeals the existing interstate compact for the placement of juveniles and replaces it with an updated version.

LB 238 replaces existing penalties for criminal trespass and interference with electrical poles. The new penalty structure is broader in scope and addresses damage to a nuclear power facility.

LB 497 makes technical changes to uses of ignition interlock permits for persons convicted of drunk driving, including listing approved destinations for persons driving with an ignition interlock permit during an administrative license revocation. Persons who refuse a chemical test are allowed to apply for an ignition interlock permit after 60 days.

Fines for handicapped parking infractions are increased by \$50 for a first offense, with larger increases for subsequent offenses under **LB 524**.

LB 36 provides for imposition of the death penalty by lethal injection.

Persons who are wrongly convicted of a crime will have recourse to file a claim against the state under the Nebraska Claims for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment Act. Awards under **LB 260** are capped at \$500,000 per claimant per occurrence. The bill was precipitated by the release of six people who were wrongly convicted of murder 23 years ago.

City or village ordinances regulating ownership, possession and transportation of concealed weapons are void under **LB 430**. Places of worship may authorize security personnel with concealed handgun permits to carry weapons. The bill gives more types of educational institutions the authority to prohibit the possession of firearms.

Cities of the first or second class and villages may pass ordinances to declare weeds over eight inches tall as nuisances if the municipality has removed 12-inch tall weeds from the same property previously that year. **LB 495** also changes annexation laws for these municipalities and sets out procedures for providing notices to property owners and energy service providers.

Miscellaneous

LB 98 extends funding for the Riparian Management Task Force for four years, until 2013. The program annually offers \$2 million in grants to weed control entities and natural resources districts to help implement and maintain vegetation management programs. The bill also transfers \$500,000 from the Buffer Strip Incentive Fund to the program.

LB 120 provides that no inheritance tax penalty applies if a petition or application for probate proceedings is filed within 12 months of the decedent's death or the filing of a tentative tax application and the tentative tax is paid within 12 months of the decedent's death. **LB 119**, a bill to decrease the inheritance tax rate paid by uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews, was killed.

Retired participants in the county defined contribution retirement plan are given a holiday from distributions to offset investment losses under **LB 188**. The bill also extends deadlines for new employee vesting credits and surviving spouse annuity applications. Former county employees who participated in a defined contribution plan and return to work for a county will participate in the cash balance plan. Funds remaining in the earlier account will be transferred to the cash balance plan.

LB 427, a bill to increase employee and employer retirement contributions for sheriffs and certificated law enforcement employees, remains in committee.

A children's behavioral health hotline is one of the elements of a bill addressing issues raised by Nebraska's safe haven law. Provisions from **LB 346** were amended into **LB 603** to create the hotline, as well as peer support and post-adoption and post-guardianship care management services for adoptive parents. The bill creates a behavioral health education center administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and provides funding for psychiatry residency programs.

LB 180 changes the frequency of distribution of landfill waste disposal fee rebates to cities and counties. The bill creates a new grant category to provide funding for the deconstruction of abandoned buildings by counties of less than 5,000, second class cities and villages. Costs related to the recovery and processing of recyclable or reusable material are eligible for the grants.

LB 131 changes the legal boundaries between Merrick and Polk counties using global positioning coordinates, rather than the Platte River.

In order to increase transparency in government, **LB 16** charges the State Treasurer with developing a single, searchable website with information on state tax receipts and public expenditures. Information about the source of state aid to political subdivisions must be included.

LB 653 establishes the Legislature's Planning Committee to collect and analyze data about Nebraska, including, but not limited to, demographics, workforce, education, wages, wealth, tax structure, revenue, natural resources, assets, challenges, trends, and growth and efficiency of government. The committee is composed of members of the Legislature.

LB 392 revises learning community statutes to require a primary election for candidates running for seats on the coordinating council. County treasurers are required to distribute learning community funds at least once each month.

LB 60 redefines the term "abandoned vehicles" to include those removed from private property by a municipality pursuant to a municipal ordinance.

LB 85 gives authority for municipalities to issue urban growth bonds for infrastructure needs near the edge of city boundaries. The bonds would be paid by local option sales and use taxes.

LB 87 delays implementation of language adopted last year requiring a record search of the Uniform Commercial Code to use the debtor's correct last name unless errors or omissions render the financing statement seriously misleading. These provisions were scheduled to take effect on Sept. 2, 2009 but will be delayed until 2010.

LB 99 adopts the Anthrax Control Act to protect the health of livestock in the state. The Attorney General or county attorney of the county in which violations occur must cause appropriate proceedings to occur and prosecute violations of quarantine, vaccination, cleaning and carcass disposal requirements.

LB 162 creates a uniform database for contractors who currently must file with the Department of Labor and Department of Revenue. Both departments will share the information.

LB 204 expands the scope of out-of-service orders for commercial motor vehicle drivers' license holders and extends criminal penalties.

Children of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty will be eligible for scholarships at public colleges in Nebraska. Students are eligible for the benefits provided in **LB 206** after filing for federal financial aid.

LB 322 prohibits nepotism in the hiring of family members by state employees or officials. Similar prohibitions are already in place for counties.

LB 396 creates a medical home pilot program to improve health care access and health outcomes for patients. The program terminates on June 30, 2014.

LB 441 provides a process for determining fees for transcripts of municipal proceedings.

LB 598 provides for the creation of a nonprofit entity that could accept public donations, manage funds, and distribute contributions to help individuals, families, and communities in Nebraska who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster.

LB 630 makes technical changes to workers' compensation laws and incorporates bills allowing lump sum settlements. Concepts adopted from **LB 453** require exempt agricultural employers to notify employees that they are not covered by workers' compensation insurance.

More employers will have to electronically file combined tax and wage returns under **LB 631**. Electronic filing is required for employers with an annual payroll of \$100,000 or more, beginning with tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2010.

The city of Omaha can develop a land reutilization authority to dispose of tax-delinquent land within municipal boundaries under **LB 360**. Counties already have this authority but few use it.

Wind energy agreements will have to comply with existing rules for solar energy systems pursuant to **LB 568**. In addition to existing requirements, these agreements must include information about improvements the developer plans to make to the real property including roads, transmission lines, and towers. Under the bill, wind interests run with the land and cannot exceed 40 years. However, if development has not begun within ten years after the effective date of the agreement, the agreement terminates unless the parties agree to extend it. Wind interests cannot be severed from the surface estate. The bill is intended to create standards as more wind energy developers attempt to enter Nebraska.

INTERIM STUDIES

What follows is a partial listing of interim study resolutions that were introduced for examination during the summer and fall months. This listing represents only those studies determined to be of significant interest and importance to county government. Listed here are the resolution numbers, introducer(s), the committee that will conduct the study, and a brief description of the issue. The public hearing schedule for selected interim studies will be posted on the Legislature's website as it becomes available.

- LR82** *Gloor* (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs) Interim study to examine issues relating to the Grand Island Veterans' Home
- LR83** *Natural Resources Committee* (Natural Resources) Interim study relating to expanded development of wind energy in Nebraska
- LR95** *Pahls* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the needs, resources, and responsibilities of the Dept. of Revenue and its divisions
- LR97** *Pahls* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the major sources of state and local tax revenue
- LR102** *Giese* (Transportation and Telecommunications) Interim study to examine issues relating to the Nebraska Expressway System
- LR103** *Agriculture Committee* (Agriculture) Interim study to examine the statutory duties of riparian landowners adjacent to natural streams and other watercourses for the control and removal of noxious and invasive vegetation
- LR106** *Cornett* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the economic impact of retirement income on the State of Nebraska and the most appropriate way to tax such income
- LR109** *Ashford* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine the issue of juvenile overcrowding in youth detention centers
- LR112** *Sullivan* (Agriculture) Interim study to examine Nebraska's fence laws and develop a proposal to refine and simplify the laws as applied in rural and urban areas
- LR113** *McGill* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine whether Nebraska should update provisions of the Nebraska Criminal Code relating to the degrees and types of homicides that may be charged under Nebraska law
- LR115** *Langemeier* (Natural Resources) Interim study to review issues under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee
- LR117** *Adams* (Education) Interim study to determine the positive and negative outcomes that could result from aligning the school fiscal year with the state fiscal year
- LR119** *Avery* (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs) Interim study to examine the initiative and referendum process and how petitions are circulated
- LR124** *Pankonin* (Natural Resources) Interim study to examine the use of eminent domain by natural resources districts for the taking of private land for development or management of recreational trails or corridors
- LR126** *Avery* (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
- LR127** *Avery* (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs) Interim study to examine the issue of election day registration
- LR128** *Langemeier* (Natural Resources) Interim study to examine issues relating to the laws of Nebraska governing the management and use of Nebraska surface water and ground water
- LR133** *Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee* (Nebraska Retirement Systems) Interim study to examine retirement issues relating to military leave and persons returning to employment following military leave
- LR134** *Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee* (Nebraska Retirement Systems) Interim study to examine the public employees retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board
- LR136** *Avery* (Health and Human Services) Interim study to examine the public psychiatric rehabilitation in secure settings that is available to chronically and severely impaired mentally ill persons residing in Nebraska
- LR137** *Heidemann* (Nebraska Retirement Systems) Interim study to determine whether a reserve is necessary for the defined benefit retirement plans prior to the Legislature's approval of any benefit improvements
- LR138** *Ashford* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee
- LR139** *Nordquist* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the tax climate for Nebraska's retired citizens
- LR141** *Stuthman* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the subject matter of LB 474, 2009, that would have required the state and its governmental subdivisions to pay property tax on property that was not being used for a public purpose
- LR142** *Fischer* (Transportation and Telecommunications) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
- LR143** *Fischer* (Transportation and Telecommunications) Interim study to examine Nebraska statutes and address the lack of governance regarding off-road vehicles
- LR144** *Carlson* (Business and Labor) Interim study to examine the Commission of Industrial Relations and the statutory requirements for comparable wages and conditions of employment for municipal employees
- LR145** *Pahls* (Banking, Commerce and Insurance) Interim study to determine whether Nebraska should update its version of the Uniform Commercial Code, Article 9, relating to secured transactions
- LR152** *Fischer* (Transportation and Telecommunications) Interim study to examine Nebraska's highway funding structure and to recommend possible alternatives to the traditional methods
- LR155** *Gay* (Appropriations) Interim study to provide recommendations and examine issues relating to rates paid by the state to providers of publicly-funded behavioral health services

- LR161** *Cornett* (Revenue) Interim study to examine Nebraska's sales and use tax provisions
- LR162** *Avery* (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs) Interim study to examine the competitive bidding statutes for the purchase of machinery and equipment
- LR163** *Avery* (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs) Interim study to examine issues which fall under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission
- LR166** *Dierks* (Revenue) Interim study to conduct a comprehensive review of state and local taxes in Nebraska
- LR173** *Mello* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the film industry in Nebraska and whether tax incentives could be used to encourage future economic growth
- LR177** *Christensen* (Transportation and Telecommunications) Interim study to examine issues relating to the current mechanism utilized by the Public Service Commission to allocate money deposited in the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund to wireless carriers
- LR181** *McCoy* (Natural Resources) Interim study to examine the feasibility and benefits of restructuring the natural resources districts
- LR182** *Dubas* (Revenue) Interim study to examine issues relating to recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical care providers
- LR183** *Coash* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine creating a specialized magistrate for the state's largest courts
- LR186** *Lathrop* (Business and Labor) Interim study to examine workers' compensation insurance premiums
- LR187** *Lathrop* (Transportation and Telecommunications) Interim study to examine issues relating to LB560 which would have amended laws regarding the towing of motor vehicles
- LR189** *Lathrop* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine Nebraska's court-appointed special advocate programs
- LR190** *Lathrop* (Urban Affairs) Interim study to review the current practice of issuing handicapped parking permits
- LR191** *Christensen* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine Nebraska's laws regarding a persons' right in their home to defend another person's life by reasonable force and to review the Castle Doctrine laws
- LR195** *Haar* (Natural Resources) Interim study to examine energy efficiency
- LR200** *Rogert* (Revenue) Interim study to determine if Thurston County is entitled to automatic state aid payments and a reimbursement for law enforcement on the reservations
- LR201** *Rogert* (Urban Affairs) Interim study to examine LB381, which would have created the Community Improvement District Act and the Transportation Development District Act
- LR202** *Friend* (Urban Affairs) Interim study to investigate the full range of powers granted to municipalities which involve jurisdiction over residents in areas outside of municipal boundaries
- LR204** *Urban Affairs Committee* (Urban Affairs) Interim study to review matters under the jurisdiction of the Urban Affairs Committee
- LR209** *Nantkes* (Appropriations) Interim study to examine the implications of requiring communities to partner with the state in the delivery of health and human services previously provided by state employees
- LR210** *Revenue Committee* (Revenue) Interim study to determine whether lodging taxes should apply to home rentals
- LR212** *Revenue Committee* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the valuation of agricultural land for tax purposes in Nebraska and in surrounding states
- LR214** *Revenue Committee* (Revenue) Interim study to examine local government levy limits and property tax proposals that have been implemented since 1995
- LR215** *Revenue Committee* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the current processes and procedures in statute applicable to county boards of equalization
- LR216** *Friend* (Urban Affairs) Interim study to identify the range of occupations taxes which are currently levied by cities and villages in Nebraska
- LR222** *Langemeier* (Natural Resources) Interim study to examine granting the Department of Environmental Quality the statutory authority to file and collect environmental liens on property
- LR225** *Christensen* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine the actions other states and organizations have taken to strengthen marriage and reduce divorce through policy change and marriage education
- LR227** *Nordquist* (Health and Human Services) Interim study to conduct research and make recommendations relating to peer support for mental health consumers
- LR231** *Pirsch* (Business and Labor Interim) study to examine ways the state could promote job creation in the more economically disadvantaged rural communities in Nebraska
- LR232** *Pirsch* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the occupation taxes imposed on wireless telecommunication services
- LR233** *Coash* (Judiciary) Interim study to examine judicial resources and the allocation of judicial resources
- LR234** *Coash* (Health and Human Services) Interim study to review current statutes and regulations related to community-based developmental disability service providers
- LR235** *Christensen* (Natural Resources) Interim study to examine water issues
- LR237** *Pirsch* (Judiciary) Interim study to evaluate the period of time juveniles are involved in the Nebraska juvenile court system
- LR239** *Pirsch* (Judiciary) Interim study to assess the effectiveness of existing community corrections programs
- LR240** *Christensen* (Agriculture) Interim study to examine ideas for encouraging responsible livestock development through participation and partnerships between communities, counties, organizations, and state agencies
- LR241** *Pirsch* (Revenue) Interim study to examine the valuation processes of real property
- LR263** *Revenue Committee* (Revenue) Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Revenue Committee