

# Nebraska Association of County Officials Legislative Report



February 15, 2008

## Registration Retention and Lien Notation Bills Amended into LB 756

Although it has not been officially reported, a bill updating references to federal motor carrier law, **LB 756**, will serve as the base for a number of issues heard by the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, including two measures introduced at NACO's request. **LB 827** would allow county treasurers to dispose of paper copies of motor vehicle registrations after three years, rather than six years. Electronic registration records would still be maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles. **LB 834** would clarify that loan documents do not need to be provided when a title with a lien noted on it is brought into Nebraska from another state.

Other bills amended into LB 756 include **LB 712**, which exempts automatic daytime running lights from state prohibitions against driving with parking lights on, and **LB 841**,

which authorizes the use of an attachment when additional dealer reassignments are needed. **LB 874** would rephrase references to rubber-tired cranes with fixed loads so that annual permits could be issued for these and certain other vehicles. **LB 917** would allow certain vehicles to carry additional weight if they employ idle reduction technology. **LB 919** would address the timing of registration fee refunds for apportioned vehicles and **LB 1087** would remove a requirement for motor vehicle and trailer dealers to carry a certificate of title with vehicles and trailers that are for sale.

The Transportation Committee selected LB 756 and LB 755 as priority bills.

## Snapshots of County Issues

- Governing bodies could not require a member of the public to make a request prior to the meeting to be placed on the agenda in order to comment on an **agenda item** under **LB 962**, which was sent to the floor by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.
- The fixed portion of the state's **gas tax** would be reduced to offset new wholesale fuel taxes if **LB 846** is adopted. The bill was advanced to General File by the Revenue Committee.
- Commissions and other issues related to collecting **occupation taxes** on irrigated acres were discussed during a Natural Resources Committee hearing on Wednesday. **LB 1131** would clearly authorize counties to collect a commission on occupation tax collections identical to that collected for other natural resources district (NRD) taxes. **LB 1132** would require the tax and collection process to be conducted "in the same manner" as other taxes. An amendment was offered to require county treasurers to provide data about delinquent occupation taxes to NRDs including the owner, parcel identification number, and the delinquent amount. The bills were combined and advanced to General File as LB 1131.
- Governor Heineman signed a series of bills adopted last week. **LB 312** allows **recall elections** to be cancelled if the subject of the recall resigns at least 16 days prior to the election. In

addition, the bill requires resignations from elective office to be made in writing. **LB 269** standardizes petition signature requirements for several processes including changing the number of county commissioners and discontinuing the **township form of government**. The bill contains provisions from **LB 348** that eliminate and revise conflicting statutes pertaining to changing from a township form to a commissioner form of government.

- **Jurors** in civil and criminal trials could take notes during the trial and refer to them during deliberations if **LB 804** is adopted. The bill was advanced to General File from the Judiciary Committee.
- Counties and other governmental entities using **energy financing contracts** to install solar, thermal and other energy conservation measures could enter into agreements for 30 years, rather than 15 years, under **LB 747**, which was advanced from General File.
- In order to comply with federal requirements, the Secretary of State's office would be designated as a **voter registration** agency by **LB 750**. If more than 100 vacancies occur in the House of Representatives and special elections are required, the governor would specify an election date under **LB 856**. Both bills were advanced to Select File.

## Selected Hearing Schedule for Coming Weeks

The following is a list of some of the bills with county impact that have been scheduled for public hearing in coming weeks. Please check the Legislature's website for the full listing every Friday. Hearings will conclude on Feb. 28 and full days of debate will begin on March 4. The Legislature is in recess on Feb. 15, 18 and 29.

### **Tuesday, Feb. 19**

#### *Banking, Commerce and Insurance*

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB953 Change lien provisions relating to mobile homes and manufactured homes

#### *Transportation and Telecommunications*

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB1129 Change provisions relating to highway planning
- LR232 Authorize the Transportation Committee to review the uncompleted segments of the 1988 expressway plan

#### *Urban Affairs*

Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB1166 Provide for the extension of the corporate limits of a city of the metropolitan class into an adjoining county

### **Wednesday, Feb. 20**

#### *Judiciary*

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LR234 Retrocede jurisdiction over the Omaha Indian Reservation

#### *Revenue*

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB777 Change provisions relating to property valuation
- LB1118 Require filing additional budget and levy information
- LB1008 Provide for reassumption of the tax assessment function by counties
- LB1039 Create an agricultural land valuation task force
- LB1110 Adopt the Property Tax Review Court Act

#### *Government, Military and Veterans Affairs*

Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 1136 Change requirement of and purpose for county classification

### **Thursday, Feb. 21**

#### *Natural Resources*

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB1164 Adopt the Wildlife Damage Act

#### *Judiciary*

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 1076 Prohibit additional restriction on firearms and ammunition
- LB 1077 Provide for collection of DNA samples upon arrest

### **Thursday, Feb. 21 continued**

#### *Revenue*

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 1140 Exempt social security and government retirement benefits from income tax as prescribed

### **Friday, Feb. 22**

#### *Revenue*

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB1007 Change budget and tax levy limits
- LB1017 Change tax levy relating to risk management pools
- LB1098 Change tax levy provisions for fire protection districts

### **Monday, Feb. 25**

#### *Business and Labor*

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 1073 Adopt the Nebraska Construction Prompt Pay Act

### **Tuesday, Feb. 26**

#### *Transportation*

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB1069 Change provisions governing railroad companies blocking certain railroad crossings

#### *Agriculture*

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 1114 Require a vote of the people to approve county fairground bonds

### **Wednesday, Feb. 27**

#### *Judiciary*

Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LR224 Encourage law enforcement agencies in Nebraska to enter into a Memoranda of Agreement with the Secretary of Homeland Security to perform immigration law enforcement functions

#### *Revenue*

Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB931 Change provisions relating to taxation of air carriers

#### *Health and Human Services*

Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB742 Change licensure provisions relating to engineers

**NACO scholarship applications are due March 3. See the NACO website [www.nacone.org](http://www.nacone.org) for details.**