



SIERRA CLUB

NEBRASKA CHAPTER

To: Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club
From: James P. Cavanaugh
Date: June 14, 2019
RE: Nebraska 2019 Legislative Session Review

2019 Session Overview

The Session

The 2019 session of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature came to a close on May 31. Senators voted to adjourn *sine die* on the 84th day of the session. 739 bills were introduced in the 90-day session. 252 became law. The Legislature was more productive than average, increasing the percentage of bills passed from the previous two years. Furthermore, 7 constitutional amendments were introduced; two will be submitted to the voters. Out of the 107 priority bills introduced, 83 were passed and will become law. Legislation that was not indefinitely postponed will be carried over to the beginning of the 2020 session. Highlights of this session included the passing of a \$9.3 billion biennial budget and debates on new taxes and property tax relief.

Legislative Success!

In the 2019 Legislative session the Sierra Club, Nebraska Chapter achieved extraordinary success! In its article summing up the session the Omaha World-Herald listed the winners and losers: and the Sierra Club's Ornate Box Turtle bill was listed as one of the winners. Also, in the Omaha World-Herald's other article describing the legislative processes it noted that only two compromises were achieved in the entire session: both orchestrated by the Sierra Club: one on the right to farm legislation and the other on wind farm eminent domain authority.

Those three bills were only a fraction of the Sierra Club's success. Politics is the art of the possible and the Sierra Club created and seized many possibilities.

BECAME LAW (effective date is August 31, 2019; unless emergency clause)

LB691 PRO to "Provide for Ornate Box Turtle Conservation license plates" was drafted and introduced by Senator Cavanaugh at the request of the Sierra Club, Nebraska Chapter. LB691 was amended into LB356 by Speaker Scheer to "Change certain license plate fee distributions, create new license plates, and provide for the discontinuance of certain plates as prescribed". As amended and signed by the Governor on May 8th, LB356 also included two significant changes to the three specialty plates sought by the Game and Parks Commission (G&PC). LB356 changed the cash fund which G&PC sought from its general purpose Education Fund to the Sierra Club suggested LB691 cash for habitat for non-game species: which never has been funded in the past. Also, LB356 deleted the G&PC requested Cutthroat Trout license plate while retaining the Sandhill Crane and the Big Horn Sheep license plates. This was a real success for the Sierra Club.

LB678 PRO by Senator Vargas to "Create the Volkswagen Settlement Cash Fund and provide duties for the Department of Environmental Quality". The Sierra Club helped draft, secured Senator Vargas as sponsor, and led to the introduction of LB678. LB678 had three provisions, one of which was enacted into law as part of one of the budget bills (i.e., LB298) and the other two provisions were part of

an understanding between the Appropriations Committee and the Department of Environment and Energy (DE&E). The enacted provision was the creation of a specific cash fund to assure Appropriation Committee oversight of the DE&E's use of the VW settlement monies. The understandings regarded the DE&E's promise to use 15% instead of 10% of the monies for EV charging stations if there was sufficient demand to consume that fraction of the monies. (NOTE: the ball is now in the Sierra Club's court to make sure that demand is expressed to the DE&E.) The second provision with an understanding was that DE&E would not use the monies for Level I EV chargers, but instead DE&E would focus on the far more useful Level II and Level III charges. This was a real success for the Sierra Club.

Two bills dealt with the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act. They were both passed with emergency clauses and approved by Governor Ricketts. LB23 PRO by Senator Kolterman to "Change the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act" was signed by the Governor on May 1st. Since LB23 was signed with an emergency clause, it became effective immediately. LB124 PRO by Senator Crawford to "Change provisions relating to jointly created clean energy assessment districts under the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act" was signed by Governor Ricketts on March 21st, effective immediately. The Sierra Club expressed two objections to LB23 (i.e., retroactive funding requests and requests for partial efficiency), both of which were removed by the committee. The PACE topic will be back in 2020 because of LR145 by Senator Hunt, referred to the Urban Affairs Committee, to conduct an "Interim study to examine the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on single-family residential property under the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act".

LB227 ANTI by Senator Hughes to "Change provisions governing determination of a public or private nuisance under the Nebraska Right to Farm Act" was signed by Governor Ricketts on May 8th. The Sierra Club helped amend this bill. This was one of the two successful compromises mentioned above. It preserves land owners' rights to seek judicial relief from actions by neighbors that endanger their air, soil, land, or water quality. LB227 was amended to benefit those seeking to sue new, large agriculture businesses. By defining the relevant statute of limitations as two years, as well as defining the start date of any nuisance as when it could be physically noticed (as contrasted with the current rule which might require suing upon permit application), the bill was improved. Businesses got certainty and environmentalists and landowners got adequate time to bring a suit. This was a real success for the Sierra Club.

There were two proposed bills in to increase soil health. One was passed. LB243 PRO by Senator Gragert to "Create the Healthy Soils Task Force and add a use for a fund" was passed and signed by the Governor on April 17th. LB729 PRO by Senator Walz to "Adopt the Soil Health and Productivity Incentive Act" remains in the Agriculture Committee. The Sierra Club preferred LB 729's call for immediate action over LB243's call for a study. At the request of the Sierra Club a second conservation group member was added to the Task Force created by LB243. If you are interested in serving, you may apply through the Governor's office.

LB492 PRO by Senator Wayne to "Adopt the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act". LB492 was vetoed by Governor Ricketts (because the new body had taxing authority), but LB492 passed over the Governor's veto on May 31st. This will allow Omaha's MAT to join with other political subdivisions transit bodies to expand service throughout the metro area.

In politics, even in an extraordinary year, you do not always win. LB302 ANTI by Senator Hughes (at request of the Governor) to "Merge the State Energy Office with and rename the Department of Environmental Quality" was approved by the Governor on March 21st.

BILLS OF INTEREST ON THE FLOOR

LB157 PRO by Senator Brewer to "Provide for voluntary registration, duties for the Department of Agriculture, and a cause of action under the Nebraska Apiary Act" is on General File. Especially with the amendment suggested by the committee, LB157 focuses on the very large beekeepers and protecting their apiary sites both from poaching and from pesticides.

LB700 PRO by Senator Bostelman to "Provide for decommissioning and reclamation of a wind energy conversion system" is on General File. LB700 stalled on first round debate in 2019. A compromise is being worked on to minimize unnecessary damage to fragile ecosystems in the decommissioning process.

BILLS OF INTEREST IN COMMITTEE WITH AN INTERIM STUDY

LB283 PRO by Senator Pansing Brooks to "Provide for a climate change study". LB283 is in the Executive Board. However, LR138 by Senator McDonnell, referred to the Natural Resources Committee, to conduct an "Interim study to identify for adoption by the Legislature three to five infrastructure project opportunities in eastern Nebraska to provide flood control, a reliable drinking water supply, power generation, climate change mitigation, and recreation". That said, since the Executive Board retained LB283 in committee it is likely that the Executive Board also will be active during the interim.

LB401 PRO by Senator Quick to "Adopt the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact". LR190 by Senator Quick, referred to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, to conduct an "Interim study to examine Nebraska's history of involvement in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact".

LB509 PRO by Senator McCollister to "Redefine the terms net metering and qualified facility and change powers and duties of a local distribution utility". Technically, there is no interim study of net metering. However, the Natural Resources Committee expressed support for an interim study and Senator Wayne has personally declared he will do a study on net metering. Note above LB138 and its power general aspect.

BILLS OF INTEREST IN COMMITTEE BEING CARRIED OVER OR KILLED

LB45 PRO by Senator Chambers to "Repeal the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act". Further action by the committee is unlikely.

LB46 PRO by Senator Chambers to "Eliminate provisions relating to the hunting of mountain lions". Further action by the committee is unlikely.

LB51 PRO by Senator Vargas to "Change license applications, prohibited acts, and franchise restrictions under the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act" (a.k.a., the Tesla bill). Additional action by the committee is possible.

LB285 PRO by Senator McCollister to "State intent to appropriate funds to the Nebraska Power Review Board for a study and state public policy". The publicly-owned electric industry has formed the Nebraska Power Association to meet multiple joint needs. One need is for the NPA to do studies at the request of the Legislature. Some report from the NPA likely will issue on this topic; and that report might or might not call for action by the Legislature. If action is called for, then a new bill likely will be introduced instead of using LB285.

LB366 PRO by Senator Bostelman to "Change registration fee for alternative fuel-powered motor vehicles". This issue was sufficiently complex the even though all testimony was in favor of some action

the committee did not prioritize LB366. Further action in 2020 is likely if Senator Bostelman pursues LB366.

LB373 ANTI by Senator Brewer to "Provide setback and zoning requirements for wind energy generation projects". Helping stop a bad bill is one of the best benefits of the Sierra Club having a presence in the Legislature. Keeping this bill in committee is clear victory.

LB521 MON by Senator McDonnall to "Change and eliminate provisions relating to automated vehicles". Now and in the future this topic will be a constant topic of discussion before the Legislature. The issues are complex and many.

LB704 PRO by Senator McCollister to "Provide for a request for proposals for renewable energy for state-owned buildings and a study regarding state vehicles". Especially if the State's budget condition worsens LB285 would become a very attractive method for immediate action.

A Note on Carry Over Legislation

One bill on the Sierra Club's bills of interest list, LB 700 PRO by Senator Bostelman to "Provide for decommissioning and reclamation of a wind energy conversion system" got stuck on General File. It will be taken up again early in the 2020 session, if Senator Bostelman desires to do so. Pending is the Natural Resources Committee white copy amendment AM1098 requiring less than full removal and still focusing on landowner agreements instead of regulations.

Many bills on the Sierra Club's bills of interest list got stuck in committee. When that happens in the first year of a two year session those bills are hard to get out in year two, but with concerted expressions of interest it might happen. Two bills still in committee are sure to get attention during the 2020 session. In the Appropriations Committee is LB678 PRO by Senator Vargas to " Create the Volkswagen Settlement Cash Fund and provide duties for the Department of Environmental Quality". LB678 had three parts: [i] create a cash fund; [ii] increase the allocation of settlement dollars from 10% to 15%; and [iii] require all EV chargers purchased with those dollars to be either Level II or Level III chargers. The cash fund part was enacted into law as part of the main line budget bill LB294. The other two parts will be revisited in 2020 when the (newly merged) Department of Environment and Energy (DE&E) reports back. Another bill in committee that is sure to get new attention in 2020 is LB401 PRO by Senator Quick to "Adopt the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact". There is an interim study resolution regarding the topic of LB401. LR190 by Senator Quick is to conduct an "Interim study to examine Nebraska's history of involvement in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact".

\$9.3 Billion Budget Approved

The Legislature succeeded in passing the \$9.3 billion budget for the next two fiscal years. State spending is set to increase annually at 2.9%. Governor Ricketts signed these bills with no line item vetoes on May 27th. The budget bills were signed with an emergency clause, meaning that the budget changes are effective immediately.

Included in the budget is a provision to channel money into the Property Tax Credit Fund, with the hope of reducing property taxes. This amendment was added after LB289 by Senator Linehan to "change provisions relating to county assessor inspections of real property for property tax purposes" stalled. LB289 aimed to reduce property taxes by increasing state aid to the public school system and imposing sales taxes, but ultimately stalled. After Linehan's bill stalled, an amendment was added to budget bill LB298 by Scheer to "create and repeal funds and provide, change, and eliminate sources, uses, and transfers of funds" for the purpose of property tax relief. Under this amendment, the Property Tax Credit Fund is allotted \$102 million.

This addition will bring the fund's amount to approximately \$550 million, meaning that Nebraskans will see \$550 million in property tax relief in the next two fiscal years.

K-12 education and the University of Nebraska system also received increased funding from the budget. According to the Omaha World Herald, public schools will receive \$135 million in state aid over the next 24 months. Furthermore, the University of Nebraska's funding is set to increase 3.0% in the first fiscal year, then 3.7% the following year.

Along with education, the prison system was provided with increased funding to expand the number of maximum security beds and to promote "problem solving courts." Health care providers and the Medicaid expansion were also recipients of additional funding.

Property Tax and Tax Incentive Failures

The 2019 legislative session focused on tax issues, especially property tax relief. Two major tax bills became law and two major tax bills stalled, one on Select File and its companion bills stalled on Final Reading.

Becoming law was a \$102 million increase in the two-year funding of the Property Tax Credit cash Fund (at the expense of the rainy day fund). Initially this idea died as part of a stand alone bill (LB289 by Senator Linehan to "change provisions relating to county assessor inspections of real property for property tax purposes"), but resurfaced and was successful as an amendment to one (LB298 by Scheer to "create and repeal funds and provide, change, and eliminate sources, uses, and transfers of funds") of the seven bills that made up this year's budget package. Also becoming law was a lowering of the corporate income tax rate. Additionally, Senator Linehan's LB512 to "change revenue and taxation provisions" provided revaluation of destroyed property for tax purposes. Senator La Grone's LB470 to "Exempt dwelling complexes located on United States Department of Defense military installations from taxes as prescribed and authorize and provide tax deductions for contributions to the Nebraska educational savings plan trust by employers and persons other than participants as prescribed" was amended to instead include Senator Wayne's LB525 to "change provisions relating to the sale of county land in fee simple," allowing employers to make non-taxable as income payments to employees that went into fund that Nebraska uses to implement the federal IRS 529 student savings tax incentives. However, LB470 was vetoed by Governor Ricketts after the Legislature adjourned *sine die*.

The two tax bills that "died" as the legislative session drew to a close were LB720 by Kolterman to "adopt the ImagiNE Nebraska Act, Renewable Chemical Production Tax Credit Act, Customized Job Training Act, and Community Economic Opportunities Act and provide tax incentives" and LB183 by Briese to "change the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land for purposes of certain school district taxes" which were procedurally paired. LB720 was designed to update and replace the soon to expire business incentive acts (e.g., LB775 from the early 1980s), while LB183 would shift property tax support for K12 schools by imposing sales tax on many services (e.g., hair cuts) and some products (e.g., candy). While LB720 advanced from Select File to Final Reading, immediately following the advancement on LB720 the vote for LB183 fell short of ending debate, so LB183 died for 2019. Whereupon, supporters of LB183 withdrew their support for LB720 and LB720 died for 2019 on Final Reading. These tax issues will resurface early in the 2019 session since LB183 and LB720 will carry over to the 2020 session.

Hemp Industry Legalized

LB657 by Senator Wayne to "adopt the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act and change provisions relating to the industrial hemp agricultural pilot program" was passed 43-4-2 and approved by the Governor

on May 30th. LB657 allows for hemp products to be grown, processed, and sold within the state of Nebraska. Regulations on the plant include restrictions on license holders and testing to ensure the plant has less than 0.3% of the psychoactive THC.

Governor Ricketts' 2019 Vetoes

In the 2019 legislative session, Governor Ricketts vetoed five bills that were sent to him for approval. The first bill he vetoed was LB472 by Senator Dorn to “Adopt the Qualified Judgment Payment Act, authorize a sales and use tax, and require a property tax levy.” This bill would impose a sales and use tax of 0.5% within Gage County to pay off a federal judgment for a wrongful death penalty conviction of six citizens. Prior to this bill, the \$28 million dollar judgement was being paid off by an increase of property taxes approved by the Gage County Board last year. Dorn, seeking to alleviate the financial burden of large property owners and pay the judgment faster, proposed LB472. It passed the Legislature on April 18th with a vote of 43-6. However, Governor Ricketts vetoed the bill. Ricketts’ veto message pointed to an unwillingness to raise taxes without a vote from the citizens involved. Senator Dorn implemented a motion to override the Governor’s veto, which passed 41-8.

Ricketts then vetoed LB533 by Senator Cavanaugh to “change terminology related to marriage.” LB533 would change the wording on marriage licenses from “bride” and “groom” to the gender neutral “spouse.” It passed the Legislature on May 24th with a vote of 33-8-8. Ricketts sent back LB533 with the veto message that he would make a different but similar change administratively. Senator Cavanaugh filed a motion to override. However, she withdrew the motion.

LB492 by Senator Wayne to “adopt the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act” was the target of the Governor’s next veto. LB492 would allow existing transit authorities operating in the same metro area to band together to create a RMTA, which would have the authority to issue revenue bonds. Ricketts vetoed this, citing issues with possible tax increases. Refuting these claims, Senator Wayne put forward a motion to override the veto. The motion to override passed on May 31st with a vote of 33-16.

The following bills, LB436 and LB470, were vetoed after the Legislature adjourned *sine die*. LB436 by Senator Hansen to “create the Complete Count Committee” aimed to increase participation in the 2020 census. It passed the Legislature with a 38-4-7 vote. Ricketts signed the veto on June 4th. LB470 by Senator La Grone introduced plans to exempt military housing complexes from certain taxes and implement tax breaks for employers who contribute to a college savings fund. This passed the Legislature on May 30th with a vote of 43-2-4. Since Governor Ricketts vetoed these bills after the adjournment of the Legislature, there are no opportunities to override his actions.

What’s Next

The 106th Legislature will begin its second session on January 8th, 2020. Until then, there are many Interim Study Resolutions that are worth monitoring. We will be monitoring the list of Interim Studies which will not begin in earnest until late summer and early fall.

Over 100 ISRs were introduced in the current session (see attached list). Some ISRs that may be of interest to the Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club are:

Document	Primary Introducer	Committee	Description
LR94	Wishart	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	Interim study in conjunction with the Attorney General and the Dept.

			of Banking and Finance to examine issues surrounding regulatory sandbox programs
LR96	Slama	Natural Resources	Interim study to examine the long-term public power generation and transmission options in the state
LR114	Hughes	Natural Resources	Interim study to examine conditions under which the board of directors of the Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project and the Rock Creek augmentation project may dispose of real property each owns related to the projects
LR126	Hunt	Urban Affairs	Interim study to examine issues related to urban development in municipalities
LR130	Wayne	Urban Affairs	Interim study to examine issues related to density bonuses and other nonmonetary regulatory incentives in municipal zoning ordinances
LR131	Wayne	Urban Affairs	Interim study to examine issues related to the regulation of solar energy by municipalities and sanitary and improvement districts
LR132	Wayne	Urban Affairs	Interim study to examine issues related to plumbing codes
LR138	McDonnell	Natural Resources	Interim study to identify for adoption by the Legislature three to five infrastructure project opportunities in eastern Nebraska to provide flood control, a reliable drinking water supply, power generation, climate change mitigation, and recreation
LR140	Kolowski	Urban Affairs	Interim study to examine the roles and guidelines of homeowners' associations
LR142	Hughes	Natural Resources	Interim study to examine any matter concerning the Game and Parks Commission
LR145	Hunt	Urban Affairs	Interim study to examine the financing of energy efficiency and

			renewable energy improvements on single-family residential property under the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act
LR154	Groene	Natural Resources	Interim study to examine statutes related to augmentation projects in relationship to the Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement interlocal project in Lincoln County
LR167	Friesen	Transportation and Telecommunications	Interim study to review the current model of collecting taxes to build and repair roads
LR168	Friesen	Transportation and Telecommunications	Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
LR174	Cavanaugh	Transportation and Telecommunications	Interim study to examine the Highway Trust Fund and ways to increase transit infrastructure in areas with limited access
LR188	Hansen, M	Transportation and Telecommunications	Interim study to review the policy of operating trains of increasing length and the effects on worker safety and on the operations of businesses near railroad crossings
LR190	Quick	Transportation and Telecommunications	Interim study to examine Nebraska's history of involvement in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact
LR209	Bolz	Appropriations	Interim study to examine state and federal funding options for existing and potential research by the University of Nebraska on local, state, and global water management systems
LR211	Stinner	Appropriations	Interim study to examine alternatives for funding the Nebraska Tree Recovery Program
LR219	Halloran	Agriculture	Interim study to identify constraints on agricultural processing, production, and marketing investment

LR227	Bostelman	Natural Resources	Interim study to examine the future of nuclear-generated electricity in Nebraska
LR241	Pansing Brooks	Executive Board	Interim study to create a select committee to develop an environmental action plan for the state, including assessments of vulnerability, risks, economic impacts, and mitigation strategies

The full list of Interim Studies is attached.

Thank you!

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the Nebraska Legislature.

Refer to the Nebraska Legislature home page <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov> for links to one-liners for current bills. You'll also find current committee assignment listings, and an updated list of senators and their contact information.

A list of Interim Studies can be found at: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/session/interim.php>

The latest issue of the legislature's weekly Update can be found at: <http://update.legislature.ne.gov/>

Please call or e-mail me at any time if you have any questions. My contact information is:
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2019 Bills of Special Interest to Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club

Bill #	Position	Sen.	
LB 51	PRO	Vargas	Change license applications, prohibited acts, and franchise restrictions under the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act
		1/31/2019	Hunt name added
		1/30/2019	Notice of hearing for February 26, 2019
		1/14/2019	Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
		1/10/2019	Date of introduction
LB155	ANTI	Brewer	Change eminent domain provisions that apply to privately developed renewable energy generation facilities
		5/21/2019	Approved by Governor on May 17, 2019
		5/13/2019	President/Speaker signed
		5/13/2019	Wayne AM1611 withdrawn
		5/13/2019	Presented to Governor on May 13, 2019
		5/13/2019	Passed on Final Reading 44-0-5
		5/13/2019	Motion to return to Select File withdrawn
		5/8/2019	Wayne AM1611 filed
		5/7/2019	Placed on Final Reading
		5/2/2019	Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
		5/2/2019	Enrollment and Review ER89 adopted
		4/23/2019	Enrollment and Review ER89 filed
		4/23/2019	Placed on Select File with ER89
		4/17/2019	Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
		4/17/2019	Brewer AM1380 adopted
		4/16/2019	Brewer AM1380 filed
		3/19/2019	Clements priority bill
		2/27/2019	Pending
		2/27/2019	Failed to advance to Enrollment and Review Initial
		2/14/2019	Placed on General File
		2/6/2019	Brewer priority bill
		1/31/2019	Notice of hearing for February 07, 2019
		1/15/2019	Referred to Natural Resources Committee
		1/11/2019	Date of introduction
LB283	PRO		Pansing Brooks Provide for a climate change study
		2/4/2019	Hunt name added
		1/30/2019	Notice of hearing for February 11, 2019
		1/18/2019	Referred to Executive Board
		1/15/2019	Date of introduction

LB492 PRO Wayne Adopt the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act

5/31/2019 Passed notwithstanding objections of Governor 33-16-0
5/31/2019 Returned by Governor without approval on May 30, 2019
5/31/2019 Communication
5/31/2019 Certificate
5/31/2019 Wayne MO111 Becomes law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor filed
5/31/2019 Wayne MO111 prevailed
5/30/2019 Presented to Governor on May 24, 2019
5/24/2019 Dispensing of reading at large approved
5/24/2019 Passed on Final Reading 32-11-6
5/24/2019 President/Speaker signed
5/22/2019 Placed on Final Reading with ST36
5/21/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
5/21/2019 Enrollment and Review ER111 adopted
5/13/2019 Placed on Select File with ER111
5/13/2019 Enrollment and Review ER111 filed
5/9/2019 Wayne AM1657 adopted
5/9/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
5/9/2019 Urban Affairs AM628 adopted
5/9/2019 Wayne AM1657 filed
4/30/2019 Urban Affairs AM628 pending
4/30/2019 La Grone AM1552 filed
4/30/2019 La Grone AM1552 withdrawn
4/18/2019 Urban Affairs AM628 filed
4/18/2019 Placed on General File with AM628
4/11/2019 Hunt name added
3/19/2019 Urban Affairs priority bill
1/25/2019 Notice of hearing for February 26, 2019
1/24/2019 Referred to Urban Affairs Committee
1/22/2019 Date of introduction

LB509 PRO McCollister Redefine the terms net metering and qualified facility and change powers and duties of a local distribution utility

3/5/2019 Notice of hearing for March 14, 2019
1/24/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee
1/22/2019 Date of introduction

LB678 PRO Vargas Create the Volkswagen Settlement Cash Fund and provide duties for the Department of Environmental Quality

3/4/2019 Notice of hearing for March 20, 2019
1/25/2019 Referred to Appropriations Committee
1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB691 PRO Cavanaugh Provide for the Ornate Box Turtle Conservation license plates

5/08/2019 Absorbed into LB356 and Approved by the Governor May 8, 2019
1/25/2019 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
1/25/2019 Notice of hearing for February 05, 2019
1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB704 PRO McCollister Provide for a request for proposals for renewable energy for state-owned buildings and a study regarding state vehicles

3/4/2019 Notice of hearing for March 15, 2019
1/25/2019 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
1/23/2019 Date of introduction

2019 Bills of Interest to the Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club

Bill #	Position	Sen.	
LB 23	PRO	Kolterman	Change the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act
	5/1/2019		Approved by Governor on May 01, 2019
	4/29/2019		Presented to Governor on April 26, 2019
	4/26/2019		President/Speaker signed
	4/26/2019		Passed on Final Reading with Emergency Clause 45-0-4
	4/24/2019		Placed on Final Reading
	4/23/2019		Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
	4/9/2019		Placed on Select File
	4/8/2019		Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
	4/8/2019		Urban Affairs AM795 adopted
	3/20/2019		Speaker priority bill
	3/20/2019		Placed on General File with AM795
	3/20/2019		Urban Affairs AM795 filed
	1/25/2019		Notice of hearing for February 05, 2019
	1/14/2019		Referred to Urban Affairs Committee
	1/10/2019		Date of introduction
LB 45	PRO	Chambers	Repeal the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act
	2/21/2019		Notice of hearing for March 05, 2019
	1/14/2019		Referred to Agriculture Committee
	1/10/2019		Date of introduction
LB 46	PRO	Chambers	Eliminate provisions relating to the hunting of mountain lions
	2/14/2019		Notice of hearing for February 21, 2019
	1/14/2019		Referred to Natural Resources Committee
	1/10/2019		Date of introduction
LB 51	PRO	Vargas	Change license applications, prohibited acts, and franchise restrictions under the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act
	1/31/2019		Hunt name added
	1/30/2019		Notice of hearing for February 26, 2019
	1/14/2019		Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
	1/10/2019		Date of introduction
LB124	PRO	Crawford	Change provisions relating to jointly created clean energy assessment districts under the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act
	3/21/2019		Approved by Governor on March 21, 2019

3/18/2019 Presented to Governor on March 15, 2019
3/15/2019 Passed on Final Reading with Emergency Clause 44-0-5
3/15/2019 President/Speaker signed
3/6/2019 Placed on Final Reading
3/1/2019 Crawford AM405 adopted
3/1/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
2/22/2019 Crawford AM405 filed
2/21/2019 Placed on Select File
2/13/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
2/13/2019 Urban Affairs AM199 adopted
2/8/2019 Urban Affairs AM199 filed
2/8/2019 Placed on General File with AM199
1/25/2019 Notice of hearing for February 05, 2019
1/14/2019 Referred to Urban Affairs Committee
1/10/2019 Date of introduction

LB155 ANTI Brewer Change eminent domain provisions that apply to privately developed renewable energy generation facilities

5/21/2019 Approved by Governor on May 17, 2019
5/13/2019 Motion to return to Select File withdrawn
5/13/2019 Wayne AM1611 withdrawn
5/13/2019 President/Speaker signed
5/13/2019 Presented to Governor on May 13, 2019
5/13/2019 Passed on Final Reading 44-0-5
5/8/2019 Wayne AM1611 filed
5/7/2019 Placed on Final Reading
5/2/2019 Enrollment and Review ER89 adopted
5/2/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
4/23/2019 Enrollment and Review ER89 filed
4/23/2019 Placed on Select File with ER89
4/17/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
4/17/2019 Brewer AM1380 adopted
4/16/2019 Brewer AM1380 filed
3/19/2019 Clements priority bill
2/27/2019 Pending
2/27/2019 Failed to advance to Enrollment and Review Initial
2/14/2019 Placed on General File
2/6/2019 Brewer priority bill
1/31/2019 Notice of hearing for February 07, 2019
1/15/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee
1/11/2019 Date of introduction

LB157 PRO Brewer Provide for voluntary registration, duties for the Department of Agriculture, and a cause of action under the Nebraska Apiary Act

4/26/2019 Agriculture AM1484 filed
4/26/2019 Placed on General File with AM1484
2/13/2019 Notice of hearing for February 26, 2019
1/15/2019 Referred to Agriculture Committee
1/11/2019 Date of introduction

LB227 ANTI - **Change provisions governing determination of a public or private nuisance under the Nebraska Right to Farm Act**

May 08, 2019 **Approved by Governor on May 08, 2019**
May 02, 2019 Presented to Governor on May 02, 2019
May 02, 2019 President/Speaker signed
May 02, 2019 Passed on Final Reading 46-2-1
Apr 30, 2019 Placed on Final Reading with ST18
Apr 25, 2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
Apr 25, 2019 Lathrop AM1485 adopted
Apr 25, 2019 Lathrop AM1485 filed
Apr 25, 2019 Lathrop AM1332 withdrawn
Apr 25, 2019 Lathrop AM1331 withdrawn
Apr 25, 2019 Lathrop AM1330 withdrawn
Apr 25, 2019 Enrollment and Review ER80 adopted
Apr 15, 2019 Lathrop AM1332 filed
Apr 15, 2019 Lathrop AM1331 filed
Apr 15, 2019 Lathrop AM1330 filed
Apr 15, 2019 Enrollment and Review ER80 filed
Apr 15, 2019 Placed on Select File with ER80 1165
Apr 10, 2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
Apr 10, 2019 Agriculture AM746 adopted
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes MO61 prevailed
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes MO61 Invoke cloture filed
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes AM1287 adopted
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes AM1287 pending
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes AM1287 filed
Apr 10, 2019 Chambers MO60 withdrawn
Apr 10, 2019 Chambers MO60 Recommit to the Agriculture Committee filed
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes AM1274 withdrawn
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes AM1274 filed
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes AM1201 withdrawn
Apr 10, 2019 Hughes AM1209 withdrawn
Apr 08, 2019 Chambers MO58 failed
Apr 08, 2019 Hughes AM1209 pending

Apr 08, 2019 Chambers MO58 Recommit to the Agriculture Committee filed
Apr 08, 2019 Hughes AM1209 pending
Apr 08, 2019 Agriculture AM746 pending
Apr 05, 2019 Slama name added
Apr 05, 2019 Hughes AM1201 filed
Apr 05, 2019 Hughes AM1209 filed
Mar 21, 2019 Agriculture AM746 filed
Mar 21, 2019 Placed on General File with AM746
Mar 19, 2019 Agriculture priority bill
Feb 11, 2019 Kolterman name added
Jan 31, 2019 Notice of hearing for February 12, 2019
Jan 24, 2019 Briese name added
Jan 16, 2019 Referred to Agriculture Committee
Jan 14, 2019 Date of introduction

LB243 MON Gragert Create the Healthy Soils Task Force

4/18/2019 Approved by Governor on April 17, 2019

4/11/2019 Chambers FA44 filed
4/11/2019 President/Speaker signed
4/11/2019 Presented to Governor on April 11, 2019
4/11/2019 Chambers FA44 withdrawn
4/11/2019 Motion to return to Select File withdrawn
4/11/2019 Passed on Final Reading with Emergency Clause 43-0-6
4/3/2019 Chambers MO48 failed
4/3/2019 Placed on Final Reading
4/3/2019 Gragert MO49 prevailed
4/3/2019 Chambers MO48 Reconsider the vote to recommit to committee filed
4/3/2019 Chambers MO47 failed
4/3/2019 Gragert MO49 Invoke cloture filed
4/3/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
4/3/2019 Chambers MO47 Recommit to the Agriculture Committee filed
4/2/2019 Enrollment and Review ER57 adopted
4/2/2019 Chambers MO44 failed
4/2/2019 Chambers MO46 failed
4/2/2019 Chair ruled AM1142 is not germane to bill
4/2/2019 Chambers AM1142 filed
4/2/2019 Chambers MO46 Reconsider the vote to indefinitely postpone filed
4/2/2019 Hughes AM937 adopted
4/2/2019 Chambers MO44 Indefinitely postpone filed
4/2/2019 Motion to overrule the Chair failed
3/25/2019 Enrollment and Review ER57 filed
3/25/2019 Placed on Select File with ER57

3/25/2019 Hughes AM937 filed
3/21/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
3/21/2019 Agriculture AM640 adopted
3/21/2019 Gragert AM789 adopted
3/20/2019 Gragert AM789 filed
3/15/2019 Placed on General File with AM640
3/15/2019 Agriculture AM640 filed
3/15/2019 Gragert priority bill
1/22/2019 Notice of hearing for January 29, 2019
1/16/2019 Referred to Agriculture Committee
1/14/2019 Date of introduction

LB283 PRO Pansing Brooks Provide for a climate change study

2/4/2019 Hunt name added
1/30/2019 Notice of hearing for February 11, 2019
1/18/2019 Referred to Executive Board
1/15/2019 Date of introduction

LB285 PRO McCollister State intent to appropriate funds to the Nebraska Power Review Board for a study and state public policy

3/5/2019 Notice of hearing for March 14, 2019
1/17/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee
1/15/2019 Date of introduction

LB298 PRO **Create and repeal funds and provide, change, and eliminate sources, uses, and transfers of funds (Now includes LB678 VW settlement cash fund)**

May 30, 2019 **Approved by Governor on May 27, 2019**
May 21, 2019 **Presented to Governor on May 21, 2019**
May 21, 2019 President/Speaker signed
May 21, 2019 Passed on Final Reading with Emergency Clause 46-2-1 Vote
May 21, 2019 Dispensing of reading at large approved
May 14, 2019 Placed on Final Reading
May 14, 2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
May 14, 2019 Moser FA77 adopted
May 14, 2019 Moser FA77 filed
May 14, 2019 Chambers MO90 withdrawn
May 14, 2019 Chambers MO90 Indefinitely postpone filed
May 14, 2019 Hilkemann AM1748 adopted
May 14, 2019 Enrollment and Review ER107 adopted
May 13, 2019 Hilkemann AM1748 filed
May 08, 2019 Enrollment and Review ER107 filed
May 08, 2019 Placed on Select File with ER107

May 08, 2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
May 08, 2019 Linehan FA67 adopted
May 08, 2019 Linehan FA67 filed
May 08, 2019 Friesen AM1666 withdrawn
May 08, 2019 Friesen AM1666 filed
May 08, 2019 Appropriations AM1498 adopted
May 07, 2019 Speaker major proposal
May 02, 2019 Appropriations AM1498 filed
May 02, 2019 Placed on General File with AM1498
Feb 14, 2019 Notice of hearing for February 26, 2019
Jan 17, 2019 Referred to Appropriations Committee
Jan 15, 2019 Date of introduction

**LB302 ANTI Hughes Merge the State Energy Office with and rename the
Department of Environmental Quality**

3/21/2019 Approved by Governor on March 21, 2019
3/18/2019 Presented to Governor on March 15, 2019
3/15/2019 Passed on Final Reading with Emergency Clause 45-0-4
3/15/2019 President/Speaker signed
3/15/2019 Dispensing of reading at large approved
2/27/2019 Placed on Final Reading
2/21/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
2/13/2019 Placed on Select File
2/7/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
2/1/2019 Placed on General File
1/23/2019 Notice of hearing for January 30, 2019
1/17/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee
1/15/2019 Date of introduction

**LB356 PRO- Change certain license plate fee distributions, create
new license plates, and provide for the discontinuance
of certain plates as prescribed (now includes LB691
Ornate Box Turtle license plate)**

May 08, 2019 Approved by Governor on May 08, 2019
May 02, 2019 Presented to Governor on May 02, 2019
May 02, 2019 President/Speaker signed
May 02, 2019 Passed on Final Reading 49-0-0
May 02, 2019 Dispensing of reading at large approved
Apr 25, 2019 Placed on Final Reading
Apr 23, 2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
Apr 23, 2019 Friesen AM1325 adopted
Apr 23, 2019 Enrollment and Review ER75 adopted

Apr 16, 2019	Friesen AM1325 filed
Apr 11, 2019	Enrollment and Review ER75 filed
Apr 11, 2019	Placed on Select File with ER75
Apr 09, 2019	Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
Apr 09, 2019	Friesen AM1167 adopted
Apr 09, 2019	Wayne FA38 withdrawn
Apr 09, 2019	Transportation and Telecommunications AM731 adopted
Apr 08, 2019	Friesen AM1167 filed
Mar 28, 2019	Wayne FA38 filed
Mar 21, 2019	Transportation and Telecommunications AM731 filed
Mar 21, 2019	Placed on General File with AM731
Mar 20, 2019	Speaker priority bill
Jan 25, 2019	Notice of hearing for February 05, 2019
Jan 18, 2019	Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
Jan 16, 2019	Date of introduction

LB366 ANTI Bostelman Change registration fee for alternative fuel-powered motor vehicles

1/30/2019 Notice of hearing for February 26, 2019
 1/18/2019 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
 1/16/2019 Date of introduction

LB368 ANTI Hughes Eliminate overappropriated river basins, subbasins, and reaches

2/13/2019 Notice of hearing for February 20, 2019
 1/18/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee
 1/16/2019 Date of introduction

LB373 ANTI Brewer **Provide setback and zoning requirements for wind energy generation projects**

5/30/2019 Attorney General Opinion 19-008 to Brewer
 3/5/2019 Brewer AM428 filed
 1/24/2019 Notice of hearing for January 31, 2019
 1/18/2019 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
 1/16/2019 Date of introduction

LB401 PRO Quick Adopt the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact

1/30/2019 Notice of hearing for March 05, 2019
 1/22/2019 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
 1/17/2019 Date of introduction

LB492 PRO Wayne **Adopt the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act**

5/31/2019 Passed notwithstanding objections of Governor 33-16-0

- 5/31/2019** Returned by Governor without approval on May 30, 2019
- 5/31/2019** Communication
- 5/31/2019** Certificate
- 5/31/2019** Wayne MO111 Becomes law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor filed
- 5/31/2019** Wayne MO111 prevailed
- 5/30/2019** Presented to Governor on May 24, 2019
- 5/24/2019 President/Speaker signed
- 5/24/2019 Passed on Final Reading 32-11-6
- 5/24/2019 Dispensing of reading at large approved
- 5/22/2019 Placed on Final Reading with ST36
- 5/21/2019 Enrollment and Review ER111 adopted
- 5/21/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
- 5/13/2019 Enrollment and Review ER111 filed
- 5/13/2019 Placed on Select File with ER111
- 5/9/2019 Wayne AM1657 adopted
- 5/9/2019 Wayne AM1657 filed
- 5/9/2019 Urban Affairs AM628 adopted
- 5/9/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
- 4/30/2019 Urban Affairs AM628 pending
- 4/30/2019 La Grone AM1552 withdrawn
- 4/30/2019 La Grone AM1552 filed
- 4/18/2019 Urban Affairs AM628 filed
- 4/18/2019 Placed on General File with AM628
- 4/11/2019 Hunt name added
- 3/19/2019 Urban Affairs priority bill
- 1/25/2019 Notice of hearing for February 26, 2019
- 1/24/2019 Referred to Urban Affairs Committee
- 1/22/2019 Date of introduction

- LB509 PRO** McCollister Redefine the terms net metering and qualified facility and change powers and duties of a local distribution utility

- 3/5/2019 Notice of hearing for March 14, 2019
- 1/24/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee
- 1/22/2019 Date of introduction

- LB585 MON** Friesen **Create the Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Program, eliminate a sales tax exemption, and provide for grants**

- 5/8/2019** Approved by Governor on May 08, 2019
- 5/2/2019 Passed on Final Reading 49-0-0
- 5/2/2019 President/Speaker signed
- 5/2/2019 Presented to Governor on May 02, 2019
- 4/24/2019 Placed on Final Reading with ST15

4/23/2019 Enrollment and Review ER82 adopted
4/23/2019 Friesen AM1419 adopted
4/23/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment
4/17/2019 Friesen AM1419 filed
4/15/2019 Enrollment and Review ER82 filed
4/15/2019 Placed on Select File with ER82
4/10/2019 Revenue AM953 adopted
4/10/2019 Friesen AM1257 filed
4/10/2019 Friesen AM1257 adopted
4/10/2019 Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial
3/26/2019 Placed on General File with AM953
3/26/2019 Revenue AM953 filed
3/19/2019 Murman priority bill
3/6/2019 Notice of hearing for March 13, 2019
1/24/2019 Referred to Revenue Committee
1/22/2019 Date of introduction

LB606 MON Groene Provide for water augmentation projects and retention of water rights as prescribed

3/27/2019 Wayne MO42 Indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Sec. 3(f) filed
3/26/2019 Wayne FA34 filed
3/19/2019 Groene priority bill
3/5/2019 Notice of hearing for March 13, 2019
1/25/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee
1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB621 PRO Kolowski Change provisions relating to solar energy and wind energy, declare certain instruments void and unenforceable, and provide for a civil cause of action

2/5/2019 Notice of hearing for February 21, 2019
1/25/2019 Referred to Judiciary Committee
1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB665 MON Friesen Authorize the use of electric foot scooters

1/30/2019 Notice of hearing for February 12, 2019
1/25/2019 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB678 PRO Vargas Create the Volkswagen Settlement Cash Fund and provide duties for the Department of Environmental Quality

3/4/2019 Notice of hearing for March 20, 2019
1/25/2019 Referred to Appropriations Committee
1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB691 PRO Cavanaugh Provide for the Ornate Box Turtle Conservation license

plates

5/08/2019 Absorbed into LB356 and Approved by the Governor May 8, 2019

1/25/2019 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

1/25/2019 Notice of hearing for February 05, 2019

1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB700 PRO Bostelman Provide for decommissioning and reclamation of a wind energy conversion system

4/23/2019 Natural Resources AM1098 pending

4/23/2019 Bostelman MO66 Bracket until April 24, 2019 filed

4/23/2019 Natural Resources AM1098 pending

4/23/2019 Bostelman MO66 withdrawn

4/23/2019 Wayne MO36 withdrawn

4/5/2019 Placed on General File with AM1098

4/5/2019 Natural Resources AM1098 filed

3/27/2019 Wayne MO36 Indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Sec. 3(f) filed

3/19/2019 Natural Resources priority bill

2/27/2019 Notice of hearing for March 06, 2019

1/25/2019 Referred to Natural Resources Committee

1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB704 PRO McCollister Provide for a request for proposals for renewable energy for state-owned buildings and a study regarding state vehicles

3/4/2019 Notice of hearing for March 15, 2019

1/25/2019 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

1/23/2019 Date of introduction

LB729 PRO Walz Adopt the Soil Health Productivity Incentive Act

2/20/2019 Brandt name added

1/31/2019 Notice of hearing for February 19, 2019

1/25/2019 Referred to Agriculture Committee

1/23/2019 Date of introduction