



DIRT ALERT

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105th Nebraska Legislature Adjourns *Sine Die*

The Nebraska Legislature adjourned *sine die* on May 23, 2017. The Legislature considered 667 bills, enacted 173, and enacted 67 additional bills via amendments to other bills. Highlights of the session included significant debate on various budget cuts to close the projected \$1 billion budget gap and a variety of proposals to reform income and property taxes.

The biennial budget for fiscal years 2017–18 and 2018–19 holds annual spending growth at or below 1.5 percent. Efforts to reduce income taxes, limit growth in property taxes, and rewrite Nebraska's laws on tax incentives were all unsuccessful. Efforts to eliminate the historic tax credit program and new markets tax credit program were also rebuffed.

Senators introduced 126 interim studies for possible discussion before January 2018. As in prior years, the Legislature will consider changes to state and local economic development programs, including the use of tax increment financing ([LR 60](#), [LR 138](#), and [LR 224](#)), expansion of broadband telecommunication services ([LR 176](#)), and regulation of utilities and renewable energy projects ([LR 125](#), [LR 211](#), [LR 239](#), and [LR 245](#)).

The chart below provides a final update on bills and interim studies related to economic development, municipal law, real estate, renewable energy, and taxation. Copies of the bills and interim studies are available on the Nebraska Legislature's website at <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov>.

Please contact us if you have questions. Thank you.

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Bill	Summary	Introducer	Committee	Hearing Date	Current Status
Economic Development					
LB 74	Change population thresholds relating to annexation, suburban development, and planned unit development by a city or village	Crawford	Urban Affairs	1/17/17	Approved by Governor
LB 97 Speaker Priority	Adopt the Riverfront Development District Act	Crawford	Urban Affairs	2/14/17	Approved by Governor
LB 126	Change sunset dates under the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act and the Nebraska Advantage Act	Groene	Revenue	2/9/17	Committee
LB 131	Change provisions relating to urban growth districts and urban growth bonds and refunding bonds	Urban Affairs Committee	Urban Affairs	1/17/17	Approved by Governor
LB 161 Smith Priority	Change a carryover period under the Nebraska Advantage Act	Friesen	Revenue	1/25/17	Approved by Governor
LB 272	Change procedures for tax credits under the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act	Vargas	Revenue	3/3/17	Committee
LB 291 Larson Priority	Adopt the Special Economic Impact Zone Act	Larson	Revenue	3/1/17	Select File
LB 373 Leg. Planning Priority	Change and eliminate revenue and taxation provisions	Schumacher	Revenue	3/22/17	Committee
LB 374	Provide an income tax credit for corporate income taxes paid and change sunset dates under the Nebraska Advantage Act	Schumacher	Revenue	3/15/17	Committee
LB 387	Change and eliminate provisions relating to various tax credit programs and economic development activities	Lindstrom	Revenue	2/9/17	Committee
LB 467	Change provisions relating to certain tax incentive programs	Krist	Revenue	3/15/17	Committee
LB 475	Change the application deadline under the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act	Schumacher	Revenue	3/3/17	Committee
LB 528	Change provisions relating to the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act	Harr	Revenue	3/3/17	Committee
LB 543 Legis. Perform. Audit Priority	Change provisions relating to applications and reporting requirements under the Nebraska Advantage Act	Watermeier	Revenue	3/15/17	Committee
LB 546	Change the Nebraska Advantage Act	Watermeier	Revenue	2/9/17	Committee

Bill	Summary	Introducer	Committee	Hearing Date	Current Status
LB 564	Adopt the Nebraska Main Street Fairness Act	McCollister	Revenue	1/27/17	Committee
LB 557	Updates Nebraska's tax incentive programs; sunsets Nebraska Advantage	Harr	Revenue	3/8/17	Committee
LR 16CA	Constitutional amendment to allow cities and villages to pledge taxes relating to a redevelopment project for up to twenty years if area is extremely blighted	Wayne	Urban Affairs	2/28/17	General File
Energy					
LB 87	Redefine a qualified facility and authorize local distribution utilities to waive certain requirements relating to net metering	Blood	Natural Resources	2/22/17	Indefinitely Postponed
LB 352	Adopt the Wind, Solar, and Fuel Cell Business Financing Act	Vargas	Natural Resources	3/2/17	Indefinitely Postponed
LB 392	Adopt the Wind Friendly Counties Act	Larson	Natural Resources	2/9/17	Committee
LB 429	Provide for virtual net metering	Wishart	Natural Resources	2/22/17	Indefinitely Postponed
LB 494	Provide for withholding public records relating to energy infrastructure	Briese	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	2/2/17	General File
LB 504	Provide for a moratorium on industrial development of wind energy projects and for a task force study as prescribed	Brewer	Natural Resources	3/1/17	Committee
LB 547	State legislative findings and change provisions relating to eminent domain and review by the Nebraska Power Review Board	Watermeier	Natural Resources	2/23/17	Indefinitely Postponed
LB 610	Adopt the Community Solar Energy Economic Development Act	Kolowski	Natural Resources	2/22/17	Committee
LB 625 Urban Affairs Priority	Change the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act	Larson	Urban Affairs	2/14/17	Approved by Governor
LB 626	Adopt the Shared Community Solar Act	Larson	Natural Resources	2/9/17	Indefinitely Postponed
LB 657	Adopt the Retail Electricity Transparency Act	Wayne	Natural Resources	2/16/17	Indefinitely Postponed
LB 660	Adopt the Nebraska Retail Electricity Choice Act and remove a restriction on the sale or delivery of retail electricity by a private electric supplier	Wayne	Natural Resources	2/16/17	Indefinitely Postponed
Liquor					

Bill	Summary	Introducer	Committee	Hearing Date	Current Status
LB 254	Change provisions relating to making and serving alcoholic liquor by nonlicensed persons as prescribed	Crawford	General Affairs	2/13/17	Committee
LB 632 General Affairs Priority	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act and music licensing agencies	Larson	General Affairs	2/13/17	Select File
Municipal Law					
LB 78	Change provisions relating to relinquishment or abandonment of any portion of a state highway system	Crawford	Transportation and Telecommunications	1/30/17	General File
LB 113	Change population threshold provisions relating to municipalities and eliminate obsolete provisions	Hansen	Urban Affairs	1/17/17	Approved by Governor
LB 127	Change notice requirements under Open Meetings Act	Groene	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	2/2/17	General File
LB 130	Change municipal annexation provisions relating to certain districts	Urban Affairs Committee	Urban Affairs	1/24/17	General File
LB 132	Change provisions relating to improvement districts and extraterritorial zoning jurisdictions	Urban Affairs Committee	Urban Affairs	1/17/17	Approved by Governor
LB 133	Change and eliminate provisions regarding cities of the second class and villages	Urban Affairs Committee	Urban Affairs	1/17/17	Approved by Governor
LB 339 Transp. & Telecomm. Priority	Merge the Department of Aeronautics into the Department of Roads and rename as the Department of Transportation	Friesen, at the request of the Governor	Transportation and Telecommunications	1/30/17	Approved by Governor
LB 383	Change membership provisions for certain municipal community redevelopment authorities, citizen advisory review committees, and planning commissions	Quick	Urban Affairs	1/31/17	Approved by Governor
LB 389 Speaker Priority	Adopt the Small Wireless Facilities Act	Friesen	Transportation and Telecommunications	2/21/17	Committee

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LB 618	Change provisions relating to the use of the Transportation Network Company Regulation Cash Fund	Wayne	Transportation and Telecommunications	2/14/17	General File
LB 627	Provide for the operation of autonomous motor vehicles as prescribed	Larson	Transportation and Telecommunications	2/28/17	Committee
LB 644 Gov't, Military, & Veterans Affairs Priority	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions governing boards, commissions, and similar entities	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs	2/23/17	Approved by Governor
Real Estate					
LB 20	Change provisions relating to homestead exemption certifications	Kolterman	Revenue	1/19/17	Approved by Governor
LB 38	Authorize electronic or digital signatures for instruments submitted to register of deeds	Harr	Government, Military, and Veteran Affairs	1/20/17	Indefinitely Postponed
LB 228	Change provisions relating to rent-restricted housing projects	Harr	Revenue	3/3/17	Committee
LB 236	Change provisions relating to the inclusion of multiple lots in one parcel	Erdman	Revenue	2/23/17	Committee
LB 304	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Housing Agency Act	Crawford	Urban Affairs	1/31/17	General File
LB 315	Change provisions relating to the sale of real property by a city of the second class or village	Murante	Urban Affairs	1/24/17	Approved by Governor
LB 364	Change and eliminate licensure, regulation, and penalty provisions under the Professional Landscape Architects Act	Walz	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	3/8/17	Committee
LB 365	Change provisions relating to access to public records and provide for fees	Blood	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	2/2/17	General File
LB 371	Eliminate condemnation authority of the State Fire Marshal	Crawford	Judiciary	2/1/17	Passed
LB 388	Authorize remote electronic notarial acts	Lindstrom	Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs	1/25/17	Committee
LB 399	Change provisions relating to housing commissions	Wayne	Urban Affairs	1/31/17	General File
LB 439	Change licensure and regulation provisions for assisted-living facilities	Wishart	Health and Human Services	3/16/17	General File
LB 492	Adopt the Self-Service Storage Facilities Act and authorize certain liens	Harr	Judiciary	2/15/17	Approved by Governor

Bill	Summary	Introducer	Committee	Hearing Date	Current Status
LB 510	Provide a restriction on installment contracts for the purchase of real or personal property by political subdivisions	Ebke	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	3/8/17	Committee
LB 518 Bus. & Labor Priority	Adopt the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act and transfer funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund	Williams	Business and Labor	2/13/17	Approved by Governor
LB 535 Hughes Priority	Change requirements for instruments and statements filed with the register of deeds	Hughes	Revenue	2/22/17	Approved by Governor
Tax Increment Financing					
LB 95	Change provisions relating to the Community Development Law and tax-increment financing	Crawford	Urban Affairs	2/28/17	Committee
LB 151 Speaker Priority	Change and provide for duties of the Auditor of Public Accounts and certain audited entities	Stinner	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	1/19/17	Approved by Governor
LB 262	Change provisions relating to undeveloped vacant land under the Community Development Law	Groene	Urban Affairs	2/21/17	Committee
LB 489	Redefine development project under the Community Development Law	Groene	Urban Affairs	2/21/17	Committee
LB 496 Williams Priority	Define and redefine terms under the Community Development Law	Stinner	Urban Affairs	2/28/17	Enrollment and Review Initial
LB 594	Require a limited liability company seeking a tax benefit to file an amended certificate of organization	Groene	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	3/13/17	Committee
LB 597	Provide for application process through county assessor and Tax Commissioner prior to using tax-increment financing	Groene	Urban Affairs	2/21/17	Indefinitely Postponed
Taxes and Tax Equalization and Review Commission					
LB 49	Provide for the treatment of certain amendments to the Internal Revenue Code	Schumacher	Revenue	2/1/17	Committee
LB 51	Change provisions relating to sales of real property for nonpayment of taxes	Schumacher	Revenue	1/19/17	General File
LB 232	Provide a property tax exemption for property leased to the state or a governmental subdivision	Kolterman	Revenue	2/23/17	Committee
LB 322	Change the Tax Equalization and Review Commission Act	Craighead	Revenue	3/1/17	Committee

Bill	Summary	Introducer	Committee	Hearing Date	Current Status
LB 385	Change provisions relating to the burden of proof and who may appeal under the Tax Equalization and Review Commission Act	Lindstrom	Revenue	3/1/17	Committee
LB 555	Change and eliminate provisions of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission Act	Smith	Revenue	3/1/17	Committee
LB 565	Require the posting of tax incentive information under the Taxpayer Transparency Act	McCollister	Revenue	3/15/17	General File
LB 570	Provide a property tax exemption for all tangible personal property	Friesen	Revenue	3/9/17	Committee
LB 579	Provide for termination of city occupation taxes subject to a vote and require vote on tax rate changes	McDonnell	Urban Affairs	2/21/17	Committee
LB 613	Change provisions relating to property tax exemptions under the Nebraska Housing Agency Act	Wayne	Revenue	3/16/17	Committee
Water					
LB 182 Natural Res. Priority	Change powers and duties of the Department of Environmental Quality under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act	Hughes	Natural Resources	1/25/17	Approved by Governor
LB 218	Provide for installation of ground water pumps by public entities	Groene	Natural Resources	2/15/17	Committee
LR 4	Interim Study to explore if the development of a more comprehensive water quality study is needed	Blood	Executive Board	TBD	Committee