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Nebraska Association of County Officials

Legislative Report

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Legislature Prepares to Adjourn Sine Die

One day remains in the 107th Legislature, Second Session before adjournment sine die. When the Legislature reconvenes on Wednesday, April 20, for the [60th day](#) of the [session](#), senators will take up motions to override any vetoes of bills passed this week and consider revisions to the Legislature's rules that are necessary to reflect redistricting. Governor Ricketts will address the Legislature and the 12 senators who are leaving the body will share parting remarks. Bills that were not passed will not carry over to the 2023 session.

This week started with a second-round filibuster of [LB773](#), a bill to provide for permit-less concealed carry of handguns. After four hours, a motion to invoke cloture and cease debate was unsuccessful and the bill was removed from the agenda.

After the advancement of a number of bills from Select File, a filibuster was started on [LB121](#), a bill to eliminate a lifetime ban on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for persons with felony drug convictions. A motion to adjourn for the day ended debate on the bill before enough time had passed for a cloture vote.

The adjournment occurred before second-round debate could begin on [LR263CA](#), a proposed constitutional amendment to require the state to reimburse political subdivisions for unfunded mandates. Because it did not appear on the agenda again, there was no opportunity for additional debate or advancement. Although this measure did not pass this year, much of the groundwork has been laid for a new bill in 2023. Throughout the session, county officials shared examples of unfunded and underfunded mandates with senators. Those examples generated much discussion and recognition of the role the state plays in county expenditures. Thank you for the time and energy you committed to LR263CA!

Governor Signs Tax Relief Package

On Wednesday, Governor Ricketts signed [LB873](#), a package of income and property tax relief measures. The bill contains an income tax credit for property taxes paid for community colleges, individual and corporate income tax cuts, a shortened time frame to phase out income taxes on Social Security payments, and a higher floor on property tax relief appropriations.

He also signed [LB1014](#) to appropriate the state's share of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The bill includes \$10 million to local public health departments for public health infrastructure and needs related to COVID and \$47.7 million for expansion and enhancement of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island.

More appropriations bills are on his desk, including [LB1015](#) that would develop the Perkins County canal to store water from Colorado and [LB1023](#) that would begin development of a lake between Lincoln and Omaha. [LB1024](#) would appropriate funds for development in North and South Omaha. These bills were passed this week and are expected to be signed.

Bills Passed by Legislature

On Tuesday and Wednesday the Legislature passed nearly 130 bills, including the following bills of interest to counties. They await Governor Ricketts' signature or veto. A more detailed summary of bills that have been signed into law will be issued in early May.

[LB742](#) would allow public bodies to keep their meeting minutes electronically.

[LB908](#) would allow virtual meetings of public bodies to be held when a quorum is present and no action is taken.

[LB840](#) would increase the maximum amount that can be charged for legal publications in newspapers.

[LB1178](#) would allow judges to request protection of their residential addresses in assessors' and register of deeds' records in the same manner as law enforcement addresses.

[LB927](#), as amended by [LB1250](#), would revise last year's bill requiring a postcard to be mailed to property owners whose tax askings have increased by more than the allowable growth amount. LB1250 was introduced by Senator Ben Hansen at NACO's request.

[LB984](#) would change the rate of reimbursement for counties and other entities that collect sales taxes for the state.

[LB707](#), as amended by [LB811](#), would eliminate the requirement for county clerks to issue licenses to out-of-state auctioneers who auction personal property in Nebraska. LB811 was introduced by Senator Myron Dorn at NACO's request.

[LB921](#) would require the state to reimburse counties for housing persons who have been ordered committed to the Department of Health and Human Services to restore competency but remain housed in county jails.

[LB922](#), as amended by [LB1171](#), would make jury commissioner statutes consistent statewide by requiring the clerk of the district court to serve in that position. LB1171 was introduced by Senator Rita Sanders at NACO's request.

[LB1241](#) would ease licensing reciprocity for law enforcement officers from other states and provide grants for hiring bonuses.

[LB1273](#) would create an income tax deduction for health insurance premiums paid by retired law enforcement officers.

[**LB800**](#), as amended by [**LB727**](#), would clean up duplication in sanitary and improvement district election language. LB727 was introduced by Senator Matt Hansen at NACO's request.

[**LB805**](#) would appropriate \$2 million for each of next three years for riparian weed control and expand the area of coverage to flood plains.

[**LB1165**](#) would allow counties and other entities to levy for bonds approved by voters before the bonds have been issued.

[**LB807**](#) would revise budget and audit requirements for nonprofit county historical societies, including reporting to county boards.

[**LB75**](#) would require county boards to hold a hearing on the disposition of a township library when a county changes from a township form of government to a commissioner form. LB75 was introduced by Senator Tim Gragert at NACO's request.

[**LB750**](#) contains provisions from bills to clarify responsibility for construction of highway approaches, redistribute fees in 24/7 sobriety programs, and clean up other motor vehicle laws

[**LB1016**](#) would allow a progressive design-build method of public-private partnerships to build projects under the Transportation Innovation Act.

[**LB983**](#) would combine a review and a hearing on the continued designation of county industrial tracts and require the owner to prove that the tract continues to be used for industrial purposes

[**LB717**](#) would increase the amount of compensation paid to public safety officers killed in the line of duty from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

[**LB848**](#) would require the Department of Agriculture to assist local emergency management agencies with catastrophic livestock disease emergency planning and response in the event of a high animal mortality incident.

[**LB1144**](#) would allow political subdivisions that allocate ARPA funds for broadband infrastructure projects to coordinate with the Public Service Commission to administer the funds in a manner consistent with the Broadband Bridge Act.

[**LB29**](#) would add Juneteenth, June 19, as a state holiday.

[**LR283CA**](#) would put a constitutional amendment on this November's ballot allow the state, counties, cities, and other political subdivisions that own or operate an airport to expend revenue to develop or expand regularly scheduled commercial passenger air services at the airport.

