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Nebraska Association of County Officials

Legislative Report

January 8, 2021 [Legislative Report Archive](#)

Legislature Convened on January 6

The 107th Legislature, First Session convened on Wednesday, January 6 for a "long" 90-day session. Senators began bill introductions on the second day and will continue to introduce bills during the first ten days of the session. By the end of the third day of the session, 212 bills and five constitutional amendments had been introduced. A complete list of introduced legislation is available [here](#). Bills that were not passed or killed in 2020 did not carry over and bill numbers began again this year with LB1.

Five new senators joined the body. A list of senators and their contact information is [here](#).

Senator Mike Hilgers of Lincoln was elected as Speaker and new committee chairs were chosen. A complete list of committee membership is available [here](#).

Senators are following safety protocols developed last fall and procedures are being developed for committee hearings, which will begin on January 25. These protocols are subject to change throughout the session. The protocols and schedule for the coming weeks is available [here](#).

After hearings conclude in late March, the Legislature will begin full days of debate. If a committee advances a bill to the full legislature, it must advance through three rounds of debate -- General File, Select File, and Final Reading -- before passage. Bills that pass will be sent to Governor Ricketts for a signature or veto. Adjournment is tentatively scheduled for June 9.

The Legislature's website contains information pertinent to legislative activities: daily and session [calendars](#), text of bills and amendments, daily agendas, [hearing schedules](#), [senator contact information](#), transcripts of debate, [state laws](#), and more. Live video [streaming](#) of floor debate and committee hearings is provided by Nebraska Educational Television (NET).

Video Legislative Updates

Beginning January 15, weekly legislative updates will be posted on Fridays on NACO's [YouTube Channel](#). Other updates will be posted periodically on legislative issues. Check out our new format!

NACO Legislative Committee to Meet on January 29

NACO's Legislative Committee will meet on Friday, January 29 to review and take positions on 2021 legislation. Due to COVID restrictions, the meeting will be conducted through Zoom. Each affiliate group will be asked to review bills pertinent to their office prior to the meeting and select one of their members to speak to their recommended positions on bills. NACO staff will reach out to each affiliate president and legislative representative to schedule times for preliminary discussions. Registration information will be made available next week.

Snapshots of Bills Introduced This Week

A number of bills introduced this week could have an impact on counties. Some of these include:

County Operations

- [LB41](#) (Dorn) Change provisions relating to certain payments of funds to townships
- [LB102](#) (Dorn) Provide for transfer of duties of clerks of the district court to clerk magistrates
- [LB103](#) (Dorn) Appropriate funds to aid counties to pay certain federal judgments
- [LB169](#) (Hansen, M.) Repeal locksmith registration requirements
- [LB179](#) (Linehan) Transition from elected to appointed county assessors

Open Meetings and Public Records

- [LB83](#) (Flood) Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing
- [LB112](#) (Albrecht) Require members of the public to be allowed to speak at each meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act
- [LB212](#) (Cavanaugh, M.) Prohibit charging members of the Legislature fees for public record requests

Property Tax

- [LB2](#) (Briese) Change the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land for certain school district taxes
- [LB63](#) (Lindstrom) Change certain deadlines relating to property tax exemptions
- [LB98](#) (Walz) Change provisions relating to agricultural or horticultural land receiving special valuation
- [LB133](#) (Erdman) Adopt the Nebraska EPIC Consumption Tax Act and eliminate certain other taxes
- [LB165](#) (Erdman) Change provisions relating to the assessment of real property that suffers significant property damage
- [LR11CA](#) (Erdman) Constitutional amendment to require enactment of a consumption tax and prohibit certain other forms of taxation

Elections

- [LB11](#) (Blood) Change provisions regarding voter registration and requests for ballots for early voting
- [LB43](#) (Hansen, M.) Provide for election of election commissioners and eliminate certain deputy positions
- [LB125](#) (McCollister) Provide for ranked-choice voting for certain elections

Law Enforcement

- [LB51](#) (Lathrop) Change and provide qualifications for and duties relating to certification of law enforcement officers, require accreditation of law enforcement agencies, prohibit chokeholds in law enforcement, and require policies on excessive force
- [LB110](#) (Pansing Brooks) Change and provide duties relating to use of force in law enforcement
- [LB192](#) (Wishart) State intent regarding appropriations for law enforcement training and certification
- [LB193](#) (Wishart) State intent regarding appropriations for law enforcement training

NACO Requests

- [LB63](#) (Lindstrom) Change certain deadlines relating to property tax exemptions

[LB75](#) (Gragert) Change provisions relating to township libraries

[LB93](#) (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee) Eliminate a reporting requirement regarding marriages

[LB105](#) (Friesen) Change certification dates for unpaid county claims

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