



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS

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TO: NARD Board, NRD Managers and Conservation Partners
FROM: Dean E. Edson, NARD Executive Director
RE: January 7 NARD Update

Session Begins -- The Nebraska Legislature convened its 90-day work session on January 5, 2005 and is tentatively scheduled to end June 3rd. Days off for Holidays (H) and Recess (R) are as follows: Jan 17 (H), 28 (R); Feb 18 (R), and 21(H); March 4 (R), 7 (R), 18 (R), 25 (R) and 28(R); April 8 (R), 15(R), 18 (R) and 29 (H); May 2 (R), 13 (R), 16 (R), 27 (R) and 30 (H). These are dates your senator(s) should be back in the district if you wish to schedule meetings with him or her.

Committees -- First item on the agenda for the session is the election of committee chairs and committee assignments. For a complete list of all assignments, please visit the Unicameral Web-site at www.unicam.state.ne.us. The 14 Standing Committee and Executive Committee chairs and assignments are as follows:

Agriculture: Senators Kremer (Chair), Burling, Chambers, Cunningham, Erdman, Fischer, Preister and Wehrbein.

Appropriations: Senators D. Pederson (Chair), Beutler, Cudaback, Engel, Heidemann, Kruse, Price, Synowiecki and Thompson.

Banking: Senators Mines (Chair), Flood, Jensen, Johnson, Langemeier, Loudon, Pahls, and Redfield.

Business and Labor: Senators Cunningham (Chair), Burling, Chambers, Combs, Kremer, Preister and Schimek.

Education: Senators Raikes (Chair), Bourne, Byars, Howard, Kopplin, McDonald, Schrock and Stuhr.

General Affairs: Senators Janssen (Chair), Connealy, Cornett, Erdman, Fisher, Friend, Landis, and Wehrbein.

Government: Senators Schimek (Chair), Brown, Burling, Fischer, Langemeier, Mines, Pahls and Wehrbein.

Health and Human Services: Senators Jensen (Chair), Byars, Cunningham, Erdman, Howard, Johnson, and Stuthman.

Judiciary: Senators Bourne (Chair), Aguilar, Chambers, Combs, Flood, Foley, Friend, and Dw. Pedersen.

Natural Resources: Senators Schrock (Chair), Hudkins, Kopplin, Kremer, Loudon, McDonald, Smith and Stuhr.

Retirement: Senators Stuhr (Chair), Bourne, Erdman, D. Pederson, Price, and Synowiecki.

Revenue: Senators Landis (Chair), Baker, Connealy, Cornett, Janssen, Preister, Raikes and Redfield.

Transportation: Senators Baker (Chair), Aguilar, Brown, Foley, Hudkins, Dw. Pedersen, Smith and Stuthman.

Urban Affairs: Senators Friend (Chair) Combs, Connealy, Cornett, Janssen, Landis and Schimek.

Executive Board: Senators Engel (Chair), Cudaback (VC), Brasher (Speaker), D. Pederson (ex officio), 1st District - Beutler & Stuthman; 2nd District - Chambers & Thompson, 3rd District - Erdman & McDonald,

New Bills -- Introduction of legislative bills occurs in the first ten working days of the session. This is the beginning of a new session so there are no carry over bills from last year. The following are a few new bills of interest for the NRDs introduced in the first few days. Note, no bills were introduced on the first day.

**Legislation introduced based on adopted NRD resolutions.

LB 23 (Erdman) Change eligibility and terms of members of the Game and Parks Commission

Changes the terms for commissioners from 5 to 4 years for those appointed after January 1, 2006. The bill places term limits on NGPC members of 2 consecutive terms and eliminates the political party affiliation maximum number (4) of the commission members.

*****(2004-6) LB 31 (Schrock) Change well restriction provisions in ground water management areas*** Current law exempts permits for test wells and dewatering wells used less than 90 days or less, regardless of the amount pumped. The bill allows natural resources districts, by rule and regulation, reduce the exemption to those used less than 30 days, if the district determines it would result in better management of the resources.

*****(2004-4) LB 32 (Schrock) Change per diem maximums for natural resources district board members*** The bill changes the maximum amount for per diem for natural resources districts directors from \$2,800 per calendar year to \$3,600 calendar year. The bill does not change the daily per diem maximums, which are set at \$70/day.

LB 33 (Schrock) Extend the termination date of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act. Extends the termination date of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act from October 30, 2007 to October 30, 2010.

LB 34 (Schrock) Provide for hunting, trapping, and target practice in designated public areas. The bill proposes that construction of a building or livestock feedlot or confinement facility shall not affect the ability to hunt, trap, or engage in target practice with any weapon in a public area designated for such hunting, trapping, or target practice by a local, state, or federal government entity if the designation was made prior to such construction and if such construction was completed after the effective date of this act.

LB 39 (Raikes) Change Board of Regents limitations governing employment of professional foresters. The bill eliminates the requirement that professional foresters hired by the University to be graduates of a forestry school of recognized standing and other standards set by the Board of Regents.

LB 102 (Natural Resources Committee, Beutler, Preister) Authorize natural resources districts, counties, and certain cities to establish and fund storm water management areas The bill authorizes villages, cities, municipalities, counties and natural resources districts to work independently or together to develop and implement storm water management plans and programs. The costs for the storm sewer system programs would be based on fees based upon estimated contributions, adjustments for impervious surfaces and best management practices. The political subdivision handling the program could create exemptions to entities that are exempt from property taxes. Only one subdivision storm water fee would be applicable and the program would only be implemented in those areas as required by federal law.

LB 120 (Louden, Erdman, Kremer, et al.) Change Livestock Waste Management Act permit conditions. The bill would allow existing animal feeding operations or livestock waste control facilities located less than two miles from a cold water class A stream to obtain a livestock waste permit if the department determines based on scientific information provided in the application that the proposed expansion does not pose a potential threat to the stream.

For more information on introduced legislation, visit the Nebraska Unicameral web-site at www.unicam.state.ne.us