Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
www.nrdnet.org
Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

8100 South 15th
Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68512

nard@nrdnet.org
(402) 471-7670

January 30, 2026

TO: NARD Board, NRD Managers and Conservation Partners
FROM: Dean E. Edson, NARD Executive Director
RE: January 30 NARD Update

NARD 2026 Legislative Conference - The 2026 NARD Legislative Conference was held at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln this week. Over 300 NRD board members, staff, and conservation partners from across Nebraska attended the conference to engage in conversations about natural resources issues.

The NARD Voting Delegates adopted an official NARD position on 31 bills and proposed constitutional amendments impacting the Natural Resources Districts. Final NARD positions can be found in the attached summary. Attendees met with elected officials during the Senators reception to engage in discussion about bills of interest to NRDs. Several Senators from legislative districts across the state participated in the conference and engaged with NRD representatives.

Governor Jim Pillen opened the conference and provided attendees with an overview of his legislative and budget priorities. He discussed energy issues, economic development, and the importance of continuing progress towards constructing the Perkins County Canal.

Senator Tom Brandt, Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, was the featured Tuesday luncheon speaker. Sen. Brandt addressed the issues that are before the Natural Resources Committee.

Senator Robert Clements, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, was the featured Wednesday luncheon speaker. Sen. Clements summarized the current budget status and highlighted the proposals that will be heard in his committee. They will be working to balance the budget and address the current $471 million shortfall. Sen. Clements outlined that the appropriations committee has a moving target as the economic forecasting advisory board will be providing a new forecast following their Feb. 27 meeting. The committee will then have four days following the updated forecast before they must present a budget to the floor for debate.

The conference included a half day of breakout sessions on Wednesday including:

- From Hype to Help: Practical AI
- Agricultural Data Management and Analytics Platform
- Higher Yields, Lower Costs - But New Legal Risks (Ag AI and Ag Data)
- Cyber Security and Fraud Prevention
- Accounting for Groundwater Use with Remote Sensing, Big Data, and the Internet of Things
- Making Informed Decisions About Third-Party Software
- Reducing the Loss of Productive Farmland through Agricultural Land Easements

- Building Resilient Nebraska: NRDs' Role in Engagement, Mitigation, and Preparedness
- Don't Break the Bank: Balancing Multiple Streambank Stabilization Objectives
- NRD Perspectives on the Water Quality & Quantity Task Force
- Updates from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
- Nebraska Community Foundation Overview

The conference is presented by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts with a range of local and national sponsors including HDR, JEO Consulting Group, Olsson, the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, and the Nebraska Water Center.

Committee Action

LB 807 - Change the administration of the Noxious Weed Control Act from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and change provisions of the Noxious Weed Control Act and the Water Resources Cash Fund. Ibach.

The bill was reported to General File on January 29, 2026, on an 8-0 committee vote after adopting committee amendment AM 1828.

The committee amendment (AM 1828) strikes the original sections and becomes the bill. The amendment retains administration of the Noxious Weed Control Act with the Department of Agriculture rather than transferring it to DWEE as the original bill proposed. The measure repeals authorization for the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force and transfers authority for grant funding of state aid assistance to riparian vegetation management projects to DWEE.

The amendment establishes riparian vegetation management projects as eligible activities for state aid grant assistance through the Water Resources Cash Fund administered by DWEE. The amendment authorizes eligible uses of grant funds to include riparian vegetation removal that improves streamflow conveyance and the acquisition of equipment related to that purpose. Entities eligible to apply for a grant through DWEE include natural resources districts, weed control authorities, and other weed management entities. No later than January 1, 2027, the department shall prescribe the form for application. Priority in awarding grants under this program is given to applicants for projects within streams subject to an interstate compact or decree.

The original bill also included intent language to increase annual appropriation from $3 million to $6 million. These provisions were eliminated with the committee amendment, AM 1828.

The Agriculture Committee held the hearing for LB 807 on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

In her opening, Sen. Ibach introduced LB 807 and AM 1757, a white copy amendment that would become the bill. Comments were limited to the amendment, which has been a collaborative effort between the Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE).

AM 1757 keeps administration of the Noxious Weed Act with the Department of Agriculture but amends the Water Resources Cash Fund to expand its uses to provide grants to weed management entities. Priority will be given to entities involved in interstate compacts, such as the Republican River and the Platte River.

Sen. Ibach suggested that DWEE supports LB 807 and this change will address the issue long term, as proponents will no longer have to seek general appropriation for these funds.

Proponents

John Thorburn, Tri-Basin NRD General Manager, testified in support. The Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, along with most of Nebraska's NRDs, is an active participant in and strong supporter of managing invasive vegetation in riparian areas to reduce flooding potential by ensuring that stream channel capacity is maintained. Controlling invasive species also protects critical riparian wildlife habitat and reduces non-beneficial water consumption during drought.

Tri-Basin NRD is responsible for protecting the soil and water resources of Gosper, Phelps and Kearney counties in South-Central Nebraska. Our NRD helped organize both the Platte Valley and Twin Valleys Weed Management Areas. NRD staff work with these entities, helping to identify areas that need treatment and making contact with affected district landowners to secure their cooperation with Phragmites control efforts on their properties. We have also budgeted $20,000 of our local funds annually for the past 15 years to support Platte Valley Weed Management Area. Tri-Basin isn't exceptional in this respect. Overall, Nebraska's NRDs spent more than $ 500,000 of local funds and over 3,000 hours of staff time controlling noxious and invasive weeds in FY 2024-25.

Over the past 15 years, WMAs have received modest, but steady funding from several sources and have utilized those dollars extremely effectively, keeping invasive riparian plants under control in our river systems. Steady, predictable funding is key to effective management of invasive plants. This can't be an on again/off again process. Missing even one spray season could unravel the progress that we've achieved over the past 15 years. We don't expect the state to pay all the cost of managing invasive riparian plants, but we do need a reliable, predictable partner.

Because phragmites control is so closely related to flood control efforts, we believe that the Department of Water, Energy and Environment is a good choice to administer Riparian Weed Management grant funds. Nebraska's natural resources districts work closely with DWEE on a variety of issues. Adding this program increases opportunities for collaboration on flood control efforts.

Jon Cannon, NACO, stated that their interest is in the Water Management Cash Fund and ensuring its uses can be directed toward issues tied to water management, particularly those related to the Republican River Compact. He highlighted the U.S. Supreme Court case involving the Republican River, noting the significant return on investment—avoiding a potential $100 million lawsuit and resolving it for approximately $7 million, especially given that Kansas was likely to prevail. This was a case against the State, and the Constitution provides that no property tax shall be levied for a state purpose. Instead, the approach has been to allow weed management areas to handle activities such as spraying for phragmites. These associations are primarily funded by property taxes. By funding these efforts through the Cash Fund, NACO believes their purposes can be accomplished more effectively.

Brent Meyer, Noxious Weed Superintendent for Lancaster County, testified in support on behalf of a number of weed management organizations. He noted that Nebraska has seen significant improvements in weed management, helping the state meet its water obligations to Kansas. Ensuring compliance with interstate compacts is a state responsibility.

Meyer stated that LB 807 makes practical improvements by strengthening funding, clarifying eligibility, and ensuring resources are directed toward effective, science-based weed management. He emphasized that the bill is a strong fit for the Water Resources Cash Fund, as improving streamflow conveyance supports flood mitigation, water management, and protection of public infrastructure. Nothing in the bill changes existing responsibilities; rather, it provides additional tools and partnerships to address statewide challenges.

Mike Reed, representing the Governor's Riparian Task Force and the Nebraska Weed Control Association, testified that the bill is critical for three reasons: 1) It helps maintain water conveyance for Nebraska's interstate water compacts; 2) DWEE intends to continue the work of the Riparian Task Force to improve and maintain streamflow, channel conveyance, riparian areas, ecosystem health, and water availability; and 3) Moving this effort to the Water Resources Cash Fund identifies a much-needed and appropriate funding source for water management. He concluded that it is good legislation that makes sense.

John Hansen, President of the Nebraska Farmers Union, stated that the amendment changed their position on the bill. He referenced the historical perspective shared by Jon Cannon, noting that this has long been a significant problem for the State of Nebraska, but one the state has tackled with substantial progress. He emphasized that this is a never-ending job and one where it pays to stay at it year after year. The work these groups are doing is saving Nebraska a tremendous amount of money, making it a sound investment.

There was no opponent testimony.

Neutral

Sherry Vinton, Director of the Department of Agriculture, testified that the Department would be concerned with the bill as originally introduced, as it removes the Department's responsibilities under the Noxious Weed Control Act and transfers them to DWEE. These responsibilities have been performed by the Department of Agriculture since 1989.

She stated that if LB 807 is amended to keep the program within the Department of Agriculture, the Department would support the bill. The Department is in favor of repealing the Riparian Task Force and supports the new language allowing the Water Resources Cash Fund to be used for riparian management purposes.

In closing, Sen. Ibach addressed the earlier question regarding funding. Previously, the program was funded 50/50 with NET and General Funds; it is now funded 100 percent through NET.
With this measure the program can return to the $5 million request level, allowing more remediation to occur in a shorter amount of time. As noted in testimony, this is a long-standing issue, and these changes will help reduce future litigation while ensuring Nebraska can deliver the required amounts of water.

With the amendment, the fiscal note is eliminated. Sen. Ibach emphasized that the intent is not to move noxious weeds out of the Department of Agriculture. Noxious weeds will remain with the Department of Agriculture, while invasive species responsibilities will move to DWEE.

Letters of support were submitted by five proponents.

General File

LB 794 – Change powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture and eliminate provisions relating to the Healthy Soils Task Force and obsolete fund transfers. DeKay.

The Legislature advanced LB 794 to Select File on January 27, 2026, on a 43-0 vote. The measure was voted out of committee on January 21, on an 8-0 vote.

The bill proposes to change the general powers granted to the Department of Agriculture from shall to may.

The bill repeals all sections of statute that were created by LB 243 in 2019 authorizing the Healthy Soils Task Force, and proposes that prior to January 1, 2027, the Department of Agriculture shall electronically submit, to the Clerk of the Legislature a copy of the comprehensive action plan, a copy of agendas, meeting minutes and any other documents, findings and recommendations reported by the Task Force as they existed on January 1, 2021.

The bill strikes language authorizing use of the Fertilizers and Soil Conditioners Administrative Fund to defray costs and provide budgetary support of the Healthy Soils Task Force.

The Agriculture Committee held the hearing for LB 794 on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Sen. DeKay opened the hearing outlining that the bill is a result of the termination of the Healthy Soils Task Force work. Sen. DeKay reviewed the purpose for the task force and noted their work ultimately concluded in December of 2020. It was highlighted that the bill includes a one-time reporting requirement to electronically submit final reports to the clerk of legislature – documents are already available, but this measure ensures work is still accessible by public at a later date.

There was no testimony at the hearing. Letters were submitted for the record by one proponent and one neutral.

Select File

LB 384 – Require a majority of the elected members of the governing bodies of participating political subdivisions to attend joint public hearings under the Property Tax Request Act. Storer.

The Legislature advanced LB 384 to Final Reading on a voice vote this week. Senators advanced the measure to Select File Jan. 20, 2026, on a 46-0 vote, after adopting AM 703 on a 44-0 vote, and FA 783 on a 39-1 vote.

AM 703 replaces the words “a majority of the elected members” with “one voting member” to require that at least one voting member of the governing body shall attend such joint public hearing. Additionally, FA 783 adds that the County Assessor of the county hosting the hearing shall attend the hearing.

The Revenue Committee advanced LB 384 to General File on March 20, 2025, with Committee Amendment AM 703.

This proposal deals with cities, counties and school districts when they seek to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage. This does not apply to NRDs.

The law requires that each such political subdivision shall designate one representative to attend the joint public hearing on behalf of the political subdivision. If a political subdivision includes area in more than one county, the political subdivision shall be deemed to be within the county in which the political subdivision's principal headquarters are located.

The original proposal would require at least a majority of the elected members of the governing body to attend the joint public hearing, which is eliminated with AM 703.

The Revenue Committee held the hearing for LB 384 on February 13, 2025.

Sen. Storer introduced LB 384, a bill requiring a majority of the board to attend joint public hearings.

In recent years, pink postcards have provided clear information on property tax increases. LB 384 strengthens the truth-in-taxation law by ensuring that a majority of the board members – those responsible for voting – are present at the joint public hearing. This measure enhances transparency in local government.

By mandating attendance, the bill holds elected officials accountable and modernizes the process, ensuring decision-makers are directly engaged in these critical discussions.

The intent is to have elected officials present to hear directly from their constituents. Currently, they are not required to attend, allowing substitutes—such as a county clerk—to represent them instead. This bill ensures that those making the decisions are the ones listening to public concerns.

Proponents

Doug Kagan testified in support on behalf of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom. The intent of the Truth and Taxation law was to require elected officials to be present at public hearings. However, very few elected officials attend these hearings to face the public. Instead, they send representatives who are not required to answer questions. By requiring a majority of governing members to attend, each official can provide their reasoning for tax increases while being directly accountable to the public.

Alan Seybert of Omaha testified in support on behalf of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom. He noted if a political subdivision wants to exceed its taxing authority, a majority of elected officials should be required to attend the hearing. All elected officials should be present.

Nicole Fox testified in support on behalf of the the Platte Institute. As a supporter of LB 644, which passed in 2021, I worked closely with Sen. Hansen to create a direct postcard notification for the public hearing process. We identified the four highest subdivisions responsible for the largest tax increases. The purpose of joint hearings is to prevent Nebraskans from having to take time off work to attend multiple hearings ensuring only one consolidated hearing is held. We believe this proposal is reasonable and continues to strengthen the ability of Nebraskans to engage directly with local officials responsible for tax decisions.

Carter Thiele testified in support on behalf of Lincoln Independent Business Association. He noted LB 644 was created with the understanding that local property tax increases significantly impact

Nebraskans. The law was designed to provide transparency, justification for increases, and an opportunity for community feedback. However, the law's intent—to ensure resident feedback matters—is undermined when voting board members do not attend hearings. This proposal aligns with the Truth and Taxation law by requiring decision-makers to be present and engaged. It ensures governing members are willing to listen to their constituents. It allows residents who take the time to attend budget hearings to interact directly with elected officials making the decisions.

Ryan McIntosh testified in support on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business. He noted when the Truth and Taxation law first passed in 2021, it required a joint public hearing for property tax increases that exceed allowable limits. However, some political subdivisions are failing to meet their obligations under this law, reducing its effectiveness. This proposal strengthens the requirement, ensuring compliance and accountability.

Opponents

Douglas Kindig, Mayor of La Vista, testified in opposition on behalf of United Cities, emphasizing that they speak with one voice. He argued that requiring a majority of the city council to attend a joint public hearing is both unnecessary and redundant, as it mandates the presence of officials who cannot take action at the meeting. The current law, which requires only one representative from a political subdivision to attend, is sufficient. Kindig reiterated that the budget process already includes three public hearings, ensuring transparency.

While the city actively publishes its budget agenda across multiple outlets, it cannot force residents to read or engage with it. Transparency is already being upheld at the local level, making the additional requirement for the full city council's attendance redundant. His opposition was not based on concerns about transparency but rather on the fact that transparency is already being achieved through existing processes.

Sen. Jacobson countered by highlighting that many residents avoid public hearings out of fear of being singled out. He suggested that joint hearings provide an opportunity for like-minded individuals to attend together, making participation more comfortable. Additionally, he argued that attending the hearing firsthand prevents misinterpretation or errors in relayed information, ensuring that people receive accurate details directly from officials.

Dave Welsch, a school board member for 33 years, testified in opposition. He took offense at the term "Truth in Taxation," arguing that it falsely implies school boards are not transparent. He asserted that school boards are always truthful with the public and are required to maintain a quorum at budget hearings. Welsch encouraged residents to engage with school board members and governing bodies throughout the year rather than relying on a single hearing. He also criticized the pink postcard notification system, stating that it arrives too late in the process for meaningful input. He advocated for an earlier notification timeline to allow for more effective public engagement.

Kristy Abraham testified in opposition on behalf of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. She outlined three main concerns. First, she emphasized that residents should attend budget hearings, where their input can still influence decisions. Budget hearings are scheduled at a time when citizen comments can be considered, unlike the pink postcard hearings, which occur too late for adjustments. Second, she pointed out the logistical challenges of requiring full attendance at joint hearings. For example, in Madison County, 72 representatives from five cities, five school districts, and one community college would need to be present. Third, she questioned whether there would be consequences if a majority of a city council failed to attend a joint hearing, asking whether this would impact the city's budget approval process.

Beth Bazin Ferrell testified in opposition on behalf of Nebraska Association of County Officials. She reinforced previous concerns. She argued that it would be more effective for residents to attend budget hearings rather than joint hearings. She noted that most attendees of the pink postcard hearings come to dispute their property tax valuations rather than to discuss budgets or levies. She emphasized that public input should be incorporated earlier in the budget process and expressed support for LB 683, which aims to address these issues.

Colby Coash testified in opposition on behalf of the Nebraska Association of School Boards. He focused on process-related concerns. He stated that school board members participate in these hearings because they are required to, but they receive public feedback too late in the process to make meaningful adjustments. The current timeline does not allow for concerns to be addressed effectively. He also noted that budget hearings used to be included as agenda items in regular school board meetings but now require separate notices, adding to the administrative burden. His testimony echoed many of the concerns raised by previous speakers.

Courtney Wittstruck testified in opposition on behalf of the Nebraska Community College Association. She reiterated many of the previously stated concerns. She explained that four political subdivisions were selected for joint hearings because they received the highest property tax levies, but community colleges have since dropped from fourth to seventh on that list. She highlighted LB 495, a bill that would remove community colleges from this requirement and stated that further details would be provided when the bill is heard.

Wittstruck emphasized that political subdivisions have been collaborating with senators who support "Truth in Taxation" and suggested that budget hearing dates should be added to the notification process. She argued that residents should be directed to budget hearings instead of joint hearings so they can provide input earlier, allowing boards to adjust. Additionally, she pointed out that many citizens cannot attend budget hearings because they are typically held during the day, advocating for evening hearings to increase accessibility.

In closing, Sen. Storer recognized today's discussion brought forward a range of thoughtful questions. However, one clear takeaway is that there are steps we can take to make the pink postcards more effective.

Much of the opposition came from those directly being asked to attend these meetings, and the broader concerns raised were less about the requirement itself and more about whether the pink postcard notification process is truly effective.

As long as the Truth and Transparency Act remains in place, we must remain mindful of our responsibility to taxpayers. If the officials voting on the budget are unable to answer questions about the budgeting process or justify their request for an increase, they are not fully prepared to cast that vote.

Requiring elected officials to attend one additional meeting should not be considered an undue burden—it is a reasonable expectation in the interest of accountability and transparency.

The Following Bills Had Hearings This Week

LB 947 – Change fees under the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act and the Pesticide Act, change provisions relating to the Weeds of the Great Plains book, and change, eliminate, and terminate certain funds. Agriculture Committee.

This is a Department of Agriculture clean-up bill.

The bill increases some fees related to natural resources.

- The pesticide registration fee increases from $160 to $200 and increases the amount going to the Noxious Weed Cash fund from $30 to $50.
- Establishes a penalty of 25% of the license fee for nursery stock distributor for each month such person has failed to obtain such license.

The Agriculture Committee held the hearing for LB 947 on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Rick Leonard introduced LB 947 on behalf of the Agriculture Committee. The bill was introduced at the request of the Department of Agriculture and reflects an element of the Governor's budget recommendation. He outlined the measure includes authorizing the Director to annually revise fees outside the formal rules and regulations process, using fee criteria consistent with other programs.

Proponents

Sherry Vinton, Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, testified that the bill increases the statutory ceiling on fees under the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act to allow the program to cover its costs without requesting additional General Funds. Fees would be set based on the budgeting needs of the existing program and are established each July 1, using a formula. Without these changes, the Department would need an increase of approximately $139,000 in General Funds, and that amount would continue to grow in future years.

She also noted that the pesticide product registration fee would increase from $160 to $200. Of that increase, $20 would be directed to the Noxious Weed Cash Fund and $20 to the Pesticide Administrative Cash Fund. These proposed fee changes are intended to keep the programs operating.

The bill also eliminates the Department's responsibility to publish and sell the *Weeds of the Great Plains* book. The Department has had difficulty selling the book, and LB 947 would allow the remaining 7,000 copies to be freely distributed. It also eliminates the related cash fund and transfers approximately $30,000 to the Noxious Weed Cash Fund.

Finally, LB 947 would transfer funds from the Nebraska Potato Development Fund to the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Cash Fund. When LB 346 passed, there was no language designating the disposition of those funds. Transferring the remaining balance is appropriate because the Plant Protection and Plant Pest program conducts potato cyst nematode inspections.

Sen. Ibach questioned that a few people have expressed concern about the *Noxious Weed* book and suggestions to publish it every five years – is it currently published every year?

Vinton explained that the book was last published in 2019, and prior to that in 2003. The Department currently has 7,000 books in storage. She noted how much has changed with technology and that there are now many different ways to communicate information.

Vinton was asked if the Department has any influence on changing the planting of red cedars with NRDs – Vinton praised NRDs for their local control, stating that this is largely a matter of education and management of cedar trees at the local level.

There was no opponent or neutral testimony. Letters of support were submitted by two proponents.

The committee reported no action on the measure.

LB 814 – Change provisions relating to the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land. Brandt.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill proposes taxing agricultural land at 50% of market value rather than 75%.

The Revenue Committee held the hearing for LB 814 on Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Senator Brandt introduced LB 814, describing it as a straightforward, common-sense adjustment to how agricultural land is evaluated for property tax purposes. Under current law, agricultural land has been assessed at 75% of actual value since its adoption in 2007. LB 814 proposes to reduce that assessment level from 75% to 50% of actual value.

Senator Brandt explained that this change is grounded in the reality that agricultural land is fundamentally different from other classes of property. While additional homes, businesses, and industrial facilities can be built, new farmland cannot be created. Nebraska continues to lose agricultural acres each year, and property taxes should not push land out of production.

He noted that for farmers operating on thin or no margins, rising land valuations can result in higher property tax bills even when levy rates remain unchanged. The proposal is intended to provide meaningful property tax relief. Senator Brandt also emphasized that when one part of the tax system is reduced, such as income taxes, while other areas like property taxes continue to increase, it creates inequities. He clarified that LB 814 addresses valuation, not the tax bill itself.

During questioning, Senator Brandt clarified that the proposal applies strictly to agricultural land and does not include farm homes, buildings, or other improvements.

Jacobson noted that the change is not painless but emphasized that it is about fairness across all tax bases.

It was also noted that lowering tax valuation is one approach, but alternative methods, such as implementing valuation caps, could also be considered. Senator Brandt acknowledged that this is the first valuation bill he has brought forward, rather than a tax bill, and stated that he is willing to work with the committee on potential caps as well.

Proponents

John Hansen, Nebraska Farmers Union, testified that the Legislature historically recognized agriculture as a high-risk, low-margin industry and structured the tax system accordingly. He noted that this framework changed following the MAPCO decision, which required agricultural land to be treated the same as other property classes for valuation purposes.

Hansen explained that agricultural land values now reflect roughly three times what the land can reasonably cash flow. He noted that a voter-approved attempt to return to an earnings-based valuation system was later ruled unconstitutional, resulting in the current market-based valuation approach.

He emphasized that agriculture is in crisis and acknowledged that the proposal is not perfect, but stated that action is necessary.

Bruce Rieker, testifying on behalf of the Nebraska Farm Bureau and agricultural leaders, spoke in support of the bill and noted that Senator Brandt's opening remarks covered many of his points. He encouraged the committee to consider broader property tax impacts as discussions continue.

Rieker highlighted that statewide property taxes increased 5.4% last year, totaling approximately $286 million, and that each 1% increase equals roughly $55 million. He stated that Senator Brandt's bill could be one component of a broader solution.

He emphasized the Farm Bureau's preference for LB 1219, which would cap property tax growth at 2% plus real growth. With real growth at 1.2% last year, this approach would have limited statewide property tax growth to approximately 3.2% and reduced annual growth by about $120 million.

Rieker also noted that between 2000 and 2025, median family income increased 106%, while property taxes rose 261%, calling the trend unsustainable. He added that while an income-based valuation approach is appealing, it is not workable in Nebraska and would require a constitutional amendment.

Opponent

Jon Cannon, testifying on behalf of the Nebraska Association of County Officials, expressed appreciation for Senator Brandt's proposal but raised concerns about the financial viability of Nebraska's primarily rural counties. He cautioned that the bill could discourage growth in rural areas.

Cannon emphasized that property taxation is ultimately a math problem, noting that valuation is part of the calculation but not the driver of the tax bill. He explained that valuation multiplied by the levy rate equals the tax, and that the system must generate a fixed amount of revenue to fund government services.

He stated that the bill would reduce statewide valuations by approximately $35.2 billion, requiring the average levy rate to increase from 2.64 to 3.27 to offset the loss. Cannon also noted that an analysis of a 33% reduction in assessed value showed impacts would vary by county based on size and valuation composition.

Connie Knoche, Senior Fellow at the Open Sky Policy Institute, testified that the bill could reduce revenue for school districts and potentially lead to cuts in higher education. She noted that an analysis by the Open Sky Policy Institute found that reducing agricultural land valuations by 50% could lower property tax revenue by up to 27% in some school districts.

Knoche stated that the largest benefits would likely go to farmers and ranchers near urban areas with higher levy rates. She explained that school districts would need to increase levy rates to offset lost revenue, which would eliminate much of the intended tax relief in areas with significant agricultural land. The analysis showed average levy increases of 15.3 cents, including increases of up to 32.6 cents in heavily agricultural regions.

She concluded by noting that 56 school districts would be unable to fully replace the lost revenue.

Lynn Rex, League of Nebraska Municipalities, testified that the proposal represents a tax shift and raised concerns about its impact on counties, cities, and villages. She acknowledged Senator Brandt for bringing forward ideas but emphasized the need to consider how changes in one part of the tax system affect other governmental entities. Rex expressed appreciation for the continued discussion on addressing property taxes.

Courtney Wittstruck testified that the proposal would significantly impact community colleges, which rely solely on a capped $0.02 capital levy as their only source of local funding and do not receive state aid. She explained that reducing valuations would lower revenue under the capped levy.

Wittstruck also noted that community colleges have outstanding bond obligations issued when agricultural land was taxed at 75% of actual value. Because the levy is capped, it cannot be increased to offset valuation reductions or meet fixed debt service requirements.

Dan Schnos testified that the bill's impact extends beyond school districts, noting that the proposed valuation reduction would automatically reduce ESU adjusted valuation and levy capacity. He explained that while ESUs receive state aid through course service funding, state support has declined by more than 14% since 2009.

Schnos cited ESU 6 in Milford as an example, estimating an annual loss of approximately $388,000, and noted that statewide ESU losses are estimated at $5 million.

The was no neutral testimony

Letters submitted online included: 11 proponents and 3 opponents.

In closing, Senator Brandt addressed concerns raised by opponents of the bill and stated that he would continue to consider and review those issues. He noted that at the current rate of increases in land valuation percentages, the state would be in the same position within four to five years, making the proposal a short-term fix. He suggested that an alternative approach could be to pursue legislation that allows all property classes to increase by an equal amount. He concluded by emphasizing that the issue is one of fairness for rural Nebraska.

The Committee reported no action on the measure.

LB 827 - Provide for natural resources districts to create soil and water programs. DeKay.

The bill clarifies that a Natural Resources District may establish or participate in programs to educate residents about or research practices to improve water quality, water quantity management, or soil health practices.

Such programs may include conducting demonstration projects and hosting educational events to inform agricultural producers and the general public about practices to protect and preserve natural resources in the state.

A district may enter into agreements with agricultural producers, nonprofit organizations, companies, service organizations, political subdivisions, public or private postsecondary educational institutions, or state or federal agencies to establish or participate in such programs.

The Natural Resources Committee held the hearing for LB 827 on Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Annette Sudbeck, Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) General Manager, testified in support on behalf of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts and LCNRD.

LB 827 provides clear, practical authority for natural resources districts to continue, and formally recognizes the important work NRDs already do to support soil health, water quality, water quantity, and public education. This bill strengthens the statutory foundation for programming that directly benefits landowners, communities, and Nebraska's long-term natural resources.

NRDs have long partnered with producers to encourage voluntary, research-based practices that protect Nebraska's land and water. Many of these programs depend on collaboration with UNL Extension, state and federal agencies, nonprofit partners, farmers, and private organizations. LB 827 reflects the modern, collaborative model of conservation that districts are using today. It also affirms our ability to host educational events, support demonstration projects, and provide research-driven information to residents.

At LCNRD, we are actively engaged in programs that would fall squarely within the authority clarified by LB 827. Over the next three years, we will be deeply involved in implementing funds focused on water quality and quantity utilizing district funds to match a Water Sustainability Fund and we recently received notice of approval for a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant focused on:

- Improving groundwater quality through nitrate-reduction efforts.
- Expanding soil health practices through producer-led demonstration fields.
- Supporting efficient water use with updated irrigation technology programs.
- Partnering with neighboring NRDs to address shared water-quality challenges.
- Enhancing education and outreach, including workshops, tours, and on-farm demonstrations.

Several projects implemented by LCNRD and NRDs across the state, particularly those addressing groundwater nitrate levels and long-term aquifer resilience, are structured around multi-year planning, testing, and evaluation. These initiatives rely heavily on our ability to educate landowners, host field days, gather research data, and demonstrate practices on working farms.

LB 827 explicitly supports that framework and enables us to continue these programs effectively.

This bill does not expand NRD authority, it clarifies and modernizes it. The expectations placed on NRDs today require strong partnerships, proactive education, and science-based decision-making. LB 827 ensures that state law clearly supports these efforts.

Producers consistently ask for practical, localized information that helps them protect natural resources while remaining profitable. LB 827 helps NRDs continue delivering that information through programs, demonstrations, and collaborative research.

On behalf of Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, LCNRD and the producers we work with, I respectfully urge the committee to advance LB 827. This bill recognizes the good work already happening across Nebraska and strengthens our ability to protect soil and water resources for future generations.

Sudbeck addressed questions from the committee regarding LCNRD's NET grant being put on hold – she highlighted the impact of the proposed grant activities and the impact the loss of the funds would have on the district's efforts to address water quality. Sen. Brandt mentioned an upcoming hearing on Feb. 19, for his CA (LR 298 CA) addressing NET funds.

John Hansen, Nebraska Farmers Union, testified in support suggesting this probably isn't necessary, but they support it if it helps NRDs that may be reluctant to get into the mode of educating. Hansen suggested the way of moving conservation forward is education and then incentives.

Sen. DeKay closed by discussing that we can and need to do more to address nitrates. The NRDs are well positioned, and this bill recognizes that. The measure provides clarity to local boards that NRDs have that authority.

Letters were submitted for the record by one proponent.

The committee has not reported any action on the bill.

Committee Hearings Scheduled Next Week

Upcoming Committee Hearings - Committee hearings began Jan. 20, and are scheduled to conclude by Feb. 27. Full-day floor debate will start on March 3, and will carry through until the Legislature adjourns sine die scheduled for April 17.

Hearings and Procedure: The following are procedures for providing hearing testimony:

In Person Public Hearing – individuals attending a public hearing in person will have an opportunity to present verbal testimony to the committee and be subject to questioning by the committee members. In-person testimony is generally limited to at least 3 minutes although the chair of each committee has discretion to modify that time limit. People verbally testifying will be listed as a testifier on the committee statement as has been the practice, and have their position included within the official committee hearing record.

Written Testimony Public Hearing – individuals can submit testimony for the public hearing record as an exhibit once a bill has been scheduled for public hearing and up until 8:00 a.m. CST on the day of the public hearing. Comments must be verified through a confirmation returned from the email address provided by the submitter. Verification must be completed prior to the 8:00 a.m. deadline.

A copy of the rules governing public hearings, testimony and position comments can be found at**:**
Nebraska Legislature - Public Input Options

Monday, February 2nd

Appropriations, Room 1524 - 1:30 PM

The Appropriations committee has scheduled the hearing for the state budget bills (LB 1071 & LB 1072) on Feb. 2. While this is the advertised date for the hearings, hearings on the bills will continue for the next few weeks as each code agency receives a specific hearing date – this is the appropriate time for testimony on the appropriations for a respective agency. NGPC is scheduled for a hearing before the committee on Wednesday, Feb. 5. DWEE is not scheduled for an agency hearing next week.

LB 1071 - Provide, change, and eliminate provisions related to appropriations for the expenses of Nebraska State Government for the biennium ending June 30, 2027. Speaker Arch, at the request of Governor.

The bill proposes mid-biennium adjustments to appropriations for state agencies. Overall, the Governor's proposals target a reduction in state spending of 0.4% in FY2025-26 and by 1.8% in FY2026-27. The Governor's budget packages propose a total of $495 million in spending cuts over the biennium. Related to natural resources, the bill proposes the following:

AGENCY NO. 11 — ATTORNEY GENERAL

Program No. 496 - Interstate Water Litigation – adjusts the FY2026-27 General Fund appropriation from $300,000 to $0; this is offset by an increase in Cash Fund appropriation from $200,000 to $500,000.

AGENCY NO. 84 — DEPARTMENT OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Program No. 313 - Water Sustainability Fund – Increases the Cash Fund Appropriation for FY2025-26 from $0 to $5,172,364.

Program No. 334 - Soil and Water Conservation – Decreases FY2025-26 General Fund appropriation from $10,708,426 to $9,645,854 and decreases the FY2026-27 General Fund appropriation from $10,758,426 to $10,160,854.

The General Fund appropriation shown for Program 334 for FY2026-27 is reduced by $210,000 if LB 761 (water well registration fees) becomes law. The Cash Fund for Program 334 for FY2026-27 is increased by $210,000 if LB 761 becomes law.

Program No. 513 - Environmental Quality – Decreases FY2025-26 General Fund appropriation from $5,593,323 to $5,250,000 and decreases FY2026-27 General Fund appropriation from $5,593,323 to $5,250,060 in FY2026-27.

The General Fund appropriation shown for Program 513 for FY2026-27 is reduced by $315,000 if LB 761 (NPDES fees) becomes law. The Cash Fund appropriation shown for this program for FY2026-27 is increased by $315,000 if LB 761 becomes law.

LB 1072 - Provide for and change transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund and provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to fees, funds, fund transfers, agency powers and duties, and various statutory programs. Speaker Arch, at the request of Governor.

As part of the Governor's overall effort to address the budget deficit, the bill modifies several cash funds and redirects interests and makes transfers to the General Fund. The proposal includes transfers totaling $192.6 million over the biennium from various cash funds into the General Fund. Related to natural resources, the bill proposes the following:

- Cash Fund transfers to be made to General Fund on or before June 30, 2026:
    - Niobrara Council Easement Defense Fund remaining balance within the Niobrara Council Fund.
    - Remaining balance of the Niobrara Council Fund.
    - Remaining balance from the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Trust Fund.
    - Remaining balance from the Petroleum Products and Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Fund.
    - $4,900,000 from the Trail Development and Maintenance Fund.
    - $5,000,000 from the Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund.
    - $1,400,000 from the Jobs and Economic Development Initiative Fund.
    - $250,000 from the Integrated Solid Waste Management Cash Fund.
    - $400,000 from the Safe Drinking Water Act Cash Fund.
    - $50,700,000 from the Water Recreation Enhancement Fund.
    - $2,000,000 from the Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund.
    - $1,000,000 from the Wildlife Conservation Fund.
    - $2,000,000 from the Game and Parks Commission Capital Maintenance Fund.
    - Remaining balance from the Nebraska Environmental Response Cash Fund.
    - Remaining balance from the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund.

- Cash Fund transfers to be made to General Fund on or before June 30, 2027:
    - $5,747,931 from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund.
    - $250,000 from the Safe Drinking Water Act Cash Fund.
    - Remaining balance from the Superfund Cost Share Cash Fund.
    - Remaining balance from the Nebraska Environmental Response Cash Fund.
    - $2,000,000 from the Game and Parks Commission Capital Maintenance Fund.

Additionally, the bill proposes to transfer $32,700,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to the Water Recreation Enhancement Fund before June 30, 2026, and $8,000,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund before June 30, 2027.

To carry out provisions, the bill proposes to add the Water Recreation Enhancement Fund to list of funds eligible to receive transfers from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund.

Furthermore, the bill outright repeals the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund.

LB 772 - Eliminate provisions allowing certain transfers of funds. Cavanaugh, M.

The bill proposes to strike language under existing funds that authorize the transfer from the Fund to the General Fund at the direction of the legislature.

Funds of interest included:

Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund, Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund, Nebraska Resources Development Fund, Natural Resources Water Quality Fund, Buffer Strip Incentive Fund, Chemigation Costs Fund, Water Well Decommissioning Fund, Department of Water, Energy, and Environment Cash Fund, Critical Infrastructure Facilities Cash Fund, Petroleum Release Remedial Action Collection Fund, Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund.

Tuesday, February 3rd

Urban Affairs, Room 1200 - 1:30 PM

LB 1130 - Adopt the Community Improvement District Act. Jacobson.

The bill proposes to adopt the Community Improvement District Act to allow cities and villages to construct, install, improve, equip, maintain, and repair public infrastructure.

Public infrastructure is defined under the bill as any publicly owned electric service lines and conduits, gas service lines and conduits, sanitary sewer lines, sanitary sewer system improvements, storm sewer lines, storm sewer system improvements, flood control improvements, water lines, water system improvements, emergency management warning system improvements, sidewalks, roads, streets, highways, pedestrian walkways, public spaces, public facilities, parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, off-street motor vehicle parking facilities, public waterways, docks, wharfs, rail lines, flood control systems, flood control improvements, and related appurtenances, whether owned or to be owned by the community improvement district or another political subdivision;

Public waterways are defined under the bill as artificially created boat channels dedicated to public use and providing access to navigable rivers or streams.

Under the proposed bill, no community improvement district may own or hold land in excess of 10 acres, unless such land is owned and held by such community improvement district is actually used for a public purpose.

The payments for the projects would be from a property tax levy in the district. The maximum amount is left blank in the proposed bill.

Thursday, February 5th

Government, Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

LB 898 - Change which political subdivisions may use virtual conferencing for meetings under the Open Meetings Act and change related requirements. Lonowski.

The bill expands the authority to conduct meetings under the Open Meetings Act by means of virtual conferencing to all public bodies.

Current law only provides the authority to specific public bodies. NRDs are currently allowed to use virtual conferencing.

LB 964 - Adopt the Nebraska Public Property Disclosure Act. Bostar.

The bill proposes to create the Nebraska Public Property Disclosure Act.

Under the act, the governing body of a political subdivision shall hold an open and public hearing prior to any sale or lease of real property owned by the political subdivision or any purchase of real property by the political subdivision. Any person may appear at the hearing and speak for or against the sale, lease, or purchase and raise any issue regarding the property.

After the public hearing, if the governing body decides to complete such sale, lease, or purchase, the governing body shall do so within two months after the date of such hearing. If such sale, lease, or purchase is not completed within such two-month period, the governing body shall hold a new hearing before proceeding with such sale, lease, or purchase.

Public notice would be required of the governing body at least ten days prior to the sale, lease, or purchase. The notice shall be in a legal newspaper published in or of general circulation in the political subdivision. The notice shall state the legal description, address, assessed value, proposed sale, lease, or purchase price, including any proposed lease term, and the name of any proposed seller, buyer, lessor, or lessee of the real property.

LB 1145 - Change provisions relating to notice requirements for a meeting of a public body under the Open Meetings Act. Lonowski.

Requires governing bodies of all political subdivisions to provide notice at least twice a year of the regular meeting schedule, location, and the method designated by the public body to provide reasonable advance notice of each meeting, such twice-yearly notice shall be in a legal newspaper of general circulation within the jurisdiction. Exempts a city of the second class or village, and a rural or suburban fire protection district. The bill outlines that failure to comply with such notice requirement shall not void any action of a public body. Strikes existing notice and publication requirements.

Judiciary, Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

LB 1096 - Adopt the Preventing Lethal Agricultural and National Threats Act and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, authorize the withholding of records relating to critical water infrastructure, and provide civil and criminal penalties. Bostar, at the request of the Governor.

First, the bill proposes to create the Preventing Lethal Agricultural and National Threats Act. The Act creates penalties for knowingly importing a high-risk agricultural pathogen or pest into the state or importing such with a conscious disregard of a risk that the pest could cause significant harm to crops, livestock, or ag ecosystems. An exception is provided if receiving a permit from the Department of Agriculture.

Criminal enhancements are provided if the violation involves concealment of the origin of the pest, the person acting is funded by a foreign government, or results in actual economic damage exceeding $1 million.

High-risk agricultural pathogen or pest means:

(a) Any disease or pest included in the list of diseases or pests of concern, as such list existed on January 1, 2026, established by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.
(b) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that designate any agent, toxin, or organism as a high-risk agricultural pathogen or pest if such agent, toxin, or organism is capable of causing significant harm to crops, livestock, or agricultural ecosystems.

Additionally, the bill proposes to create the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act with the purposes of protecting Nebraska's critical infrastructure by prohibiting foreign adversaries from accessing state critical infrastructure, assessing Nebraska's vulnerability to sanctioned communications equipment, and prohibiting the use of foreign adversary cameras and laser sensor technologies in Nebraska transportation systems.

The act defines critical infrastructure as systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to Nebraska or the US that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on state or national security, economic security, and public health.

Critical infrastructure would include gas and oil production, storage, or delivery systems; water supply, refinement, storage, or delivery systems; telecommunications networks; electrical power delivery systems; emergency services; transportation services; and personal data storage systems including cybersecurity.

The act prohibits any company or governmental entity that is constructing, repairing, operating, or accessing critical infrastructure from entering into an agreement with a foreign principal that would allow the foreign principal to directly or remotely access or control critical infrastructure. Exceptions are made if no other reasonable option for addressing the need exists, the contract is approved by the AG, and if not entering the contract would pose a greater threat.

The act requires registration with the AG to access critical infrastructure, including paying a registration fee not to exceed $150. Owners of critical infrastructure are required to notify the AG of the proposed sale or transfer of critical infrastructure to or by a person domiciled outside the US or with any foreign adversary ownership.

The act requires that all software used in critical infrastructure located within or serving Nebraska shall not include any software produced by a company headquartered in and subject to the laws of a foreign adversary or a company under the direction or control of a foreign adversary.

The AG is required to create a public list of prohibited network-connected technologies that shall not be connected to critical infrastructure operating networks. Government entities and critical infrastructure providers are prohibited from adding any listed prohibited network-connected technology to any critical infrastructure operating network. The Act creates a civil penalty for violations of $10,000/day for failure to certify that a communications provider does not use equipment on the Covered List.

Lastly, the bill adds information that relates details of physical and cyber assets of critical water infrastructure to the list of records which may be withheld from the public by the lawful custodian of the records.

Revenue, Room 1524 – 1:30 PM

LB 1183 - Change provisions relating to valuation of property. Lippincott.

The bill proposes to drop the taxable values of real property in half.

LB 1219 - Limit the amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision. Brandt.

The bill proposes that beginning January 1, 2027, the total amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision in any year shall not exceed the total amount levied in the prior year by more than the allowable growth percentage.

(a) Allowable growth percentage means a percentage equal to the sum of (i) two percent plus (ii) the political subdivision's real growth percentage;

(b) Real growth percentage means the percentage obtained by dividing (i) the political subdivision's real growth value by (ii) the political subdivision's total property valuation from the prior year; and

(c) Real growth value means the increase in a political subdivision's total property valuation from the prior year to the current year due to (i) improvements to real property as a result of new construction and additions to existing buildings, (ii) any other improvements to real property which increase the value of such property, (iii) annexation of real property by the political subdivision, (iv) a change in the use of real property, and (v) any increase in personal property valuation over the prior year.

LR 317CA - Constitutional amendment to limit the annual growth in the amount of property taxes levied by political subdivisions. Brandt.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the total amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision in any year shall not exceed the total amount levied in the prior year by more than the allowable growth percentage.

(a) Allowable growth percentage means a percentage equal to the sum of (i) two percent plus (ii) the political subdivision's real growth percentage;

(b) Real growth percentage means the percentage obtained by dividing (i) the political subdivision's real growth value by (ii) the political subdivision's total property valuation from the prior year; and

(c) Real growth value means the increase in a political subdivision's total property valuation from the prior year to the current year due to (i) improvements to real property as a result of new construction and additions to existing buildings, (ii) any other improvements to real property which increase the value of such property, (iii) annexation of real property by the political subdivision, (iv) a change in the use of real property, and (v) any increase in personal property valuation over the prior year.

Friday, February 6th

Government, Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

LB 1048 - Change and eliminate reporting requirements for certain government agencies and preparation of the state executive budget and eliminate the Small Business Advisory Council, the Suggestion Award Board, and the state employee suggestion system. Speaker Arch, at the Request of Governor.

The bill merges reports and reduces duplicative reporting requirements by combining several separate state agency reports required to the Governor and the Legislature.

Related to DWEE, the bill incorporates the following reports into DWEE's annual report due December 1 of each year: Water Resources Cash Fund Report; Annual State Energy Report; Livestock Waste Control Program Report; and Title V Air Quality Permit Program Report.

Bill, LR or CA	Description	Sponsor(s)	Priority	NARD POSITION	Committee	Hearing Date	Status	Amendments/Notes
LR 12CA	Constitutional amendment to impose a limit on ad valorem taxes for real property, provide a new method of valuing real property for tax purposes, provide certain exceptions, and eliminate conflicting constitutional provisions	Kauth	Andersen (2025)	Oppose	Revenue	2/28/2025		MO 126, 127, 128, AM 1101 - Pending
LR 16CA	Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions	Urban Affairs Committee		Support	Government	2/27/2025		
LR 18CA	Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions	Government Committee		Support	Government	2/27/2025	General File - Failed to advance (23-20)	AM 1727 - Withdrawn
LR 22CA	Constitutional amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the state and political subdivisions serve as trustee of the natural resources of Nebraska	Dungan		Oppose	Natural Resources	2/26/2025		
LR 27CA	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three consecutive terms	Hunt	Planning Committee (2025)	Support	Executive Board	2/27/2025		
LB 86e	Appropriate funds to the Department of Natural Resources	Dorn		Support	Appropriations	3/18/2025		
LB 145	Require the Director of Agriculture to administer a grant program relating to noxious weeds and restate intent regarding appropriations for vegetation management	Ibach		Support	Agriculture	1/28/2025		
LB 147	Change provisions relating to approval and regulation of adding fluoride to the water supply of certain political subdivisions	Hansen		Monitor	Health & Human Services	3/12/2025		
LB 163	Create the Office of Climate Action	Spivey		Monitor	Natural Resources	1/30/2025		
LB 242	Change the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act and the School District Property Tax Relief Act and change provisions relating to budget limitations, municipal occupation taxes, and property tax statements	Riepe		Monitor	Revenue	3/5/2025		Provisions Amended into LB 647 via AM 994 - divided into AM 1202 - Adopted & Passed.
LB 309	Adopt the Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Act	Hughes		Monitor	Natural Resources	2/12/2025		Provisions Amended into LB 36 via AM 635 - Adopted & Passed.
LB 384	Require a majority of the elected members of the governing bodies of participating political subdivisions to attend joint public hearings under the Property Tax Request Act	Storer		Monitor	Revenue	2/13/2025	Final Reading	AM 703, FA 783 - Adopted
LB 393	Eliminate obsolete transfers relating to the Cash Reserve Fund	Clements	Appropriations (2025)	Monitor	Appropriations	3/12/2025		
LB 403	Create the Office of Grants and provide duties	Spivey		Monitor	Government	2/13/2025		
LB 424	Limit increases in property tax bills	Andersen		Monitor - See Policy Statement 2025-1	Revenue	2/27/2025		
LB 525	Adopt the Agricultural Data Privacy Act	Jacobson, at the request of the Governor		Oppose - See Policy Statement 2025-3	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	2/17/2026		AM 1710 - Filed (Hearing Scheduled Feb. 17)
LB 546e	Change provisions relating to proclamations for disasters, emergencies, and civil defense emergencies made by the Governor	Rountree		Support	Government	3/12/2025		
LB 565e	Provide and change requirements relating to agency guidance documents	Quick		Monitor	Government	2/12/2025		AM 239 - Pending
LB 575e	Change provisions relating to the Property Tax Request Act and property tax levy limits	Hallstrom		Oppose - See Policy Statement 2025-1	Revenue	2/20/2025		
LB 579	Prohibit charging a fee for public records requests by members of the Legislature	Cavanaugh, M.		Monitor	Executive Board	2/18/2025		
LB 596	Change requirements for legal publications and notices required by law	Sanders		Support	Government	3/13/2025		

LB 607	**Adopt the Environmental Stewardship of Batteries Act, the Extended Producer Responsibility Data Collection Act, and the Minimum Recycled Content Act, and change provisions relating to the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund**	**Bostar**		**Monitor**	**Natural Resources**	**2/27/2025**		
LB 638e	**Change provisions of the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act**	**Ibach**		**Support - w/ Compensation for Admin.**	**Agriculture**	**2/25/2025**		
LB 673e	**Change provisions relating to the Perkins County Canal Project and provide for a transfer from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund**	**Raybould**		**Oppose**	**Appropriations**	**3/18/2025**		
LB 674e	**Change provisions relating to the Perkins County Canal Project and provide for a transfer from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund**	**Raybould**		**Oppose**	**Appropriations**	**3/18/2025**		
LB 683	**Change provisions relating to duties of county assessors regarding notification of real property assessments and eliminate and change provisions of the Property Tax Request Act**	**Raybould**		**Monitor**	**Revenue**	**3/20/2025**		
LB 695	**Require the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District to construct a dam and provide for flood control measures**	**Dover**		**Oppose**	**Natural Resources**	**3/5/2025**		**MO 42 - Prevailed**
LB 759	**Change provisions relating to water wells, the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, the Perkins County Canal Project Act, and the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund**	**Brandt**		**Support**	**Natural Resouces**	**1/21/2026**		**FA388 Filed - Kauth**
LB 761	**Create a fund and change provisions relating to water well fees, use of funds, and powers and duties of the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment**	**Brandt**		**Support**	**Natural Resouces**	**1/21/2026**		**FA390 Filed - Kauth**
LB 770	**Authorize fees for the collection of certain taxes of reclamation districts and county agricultural societies and change the distribution of the nameplate capacity tax**	**DeKay**		**Monitor**	**Revenue**	**1/21/2026**		**FA399 Filed - Kauth**
LB 772	**Eliminate provisions allowing certain transfers of funds**	**Cavanaugh, M.**		**Monitor**	**Appropriations**	**2/2/2026**		**FA401 Filed - Kauth**
LB 794	**Change powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture and eliminate provisions relating to the Healthy Soils Task Force and obsolete fund transfers**	**DeKay**		**Monitor**	**Agriculture**	**1/20/2026**	**Select File**	**FA423 Filed - Kauth**
LB 807	**Change the administration of the Noxious Weed Control Act from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and change provisions of the Noxious Weed Control Act and the Water Resources Cash Fund**	**Ibach**		**Support**	**Agriculture**	**1/27/2026**	**General File**	**FA436, AM 1757, 1828 - Pending**
LB 814	**Change provisions related to the valuation of agriculture land and horticulture land**	**Brandt**		**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Revenue**	**1/28/2026**		**FA443 Filed - Kauth**
LB 823	**Change provisions relating to burning permits and the statewide open burning ban**	**Wordekemper**		**Support**	**Natural Resources**	**1/22/2026**		**FA452 Filed - Kauth**
LB 827	**Provide for natural resources districts to create soil and water programs**	**DeKay**		**Support**	**Natural Resources**	**1/28/2026**		**FA456 Filed - Kauth**
LB 898	**Change which political subdivisions may use virtual conferencing for meetings under the Open Meetings Act and change related requirements**	**Lonowski**		**Support**	**Government**	**2/5/2026**		**FA538 Filed - Kauth**
LB 935	**Provide for the award of costs and attorney's fees in certain actions involving political subdivisions**	**Bosn**		**Support**	**Judiciary**			**FA594 Filed - Kauth**
LB 947	**Change fees under the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act and the Pesticide Act, change, eliminate and and terminate certain funds**	**Agriculture Committee**		**Support**	**Agriculture**	**1/27/2026**		**FA603 Filed - Kauth**
LB 964	**Adopt the Nebraska Public Property Disclosure Act**	**Bostar**		**Oppose**	**Government**	**2/5/2026**		**FA620 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1028	**Provide requirements for nutrient management plans and the application of livestock waste or litter**	**Jaurez**		**Oppose**	**Natural Resources**			**FA684 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1048	**Change and eliminate reporting requirements for certain government agencies and preparation of the state executive budget and eliminate the Small Business Advisory Council, the Suggestion Award Board, and the state employee suggestion system**	**Arch, at the Request of Governor**		**Support**	**Government**	**2/6/2026**		**FA707 Filed - Kauth**

LB 1049	**Require the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to prepare economic impact reports for regulatory actions**	**Ibach**		**Monitor**	**Executive Board**	**2/12/2026**		**FA708 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1071	**Provide, change, and eliminate provisions related to appropriations for the expenses of Nebraska State Government for the biennium ending June 30, 2027**	**Arch, at the Request of Governor**		**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Appropriations**	**2/2/2026**		**FA 945, 730 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1072	**Provide for and change transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund and provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to fees, funds, fund transfers, agency powers and duties, and various statutory programs**	**Arch, at the Request of Governor**		**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Appropriations**	**2/2/2026**		**FA731 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1081	**Require state agencies and political subdivisions to purchase flags made in the United States**	**Meyer, G.**		**Support**	**Government**			**FA740 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1096	**Adopt the Preventing Lethal Agricultural and National Threats Act and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, authorize the withholding of records relating to critical water infrastructure, and provide civil and criminal penalties**	**Bostar, at the request of the Governor**		**Monitor**	**Judiciary**	**2/5/2026**		**FA755 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1130	**Adopt the Community Improvement District Act**	**Jacobson**		**Monitor**	**Urban Affairs**	**2/3/2026**		**FA 790 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1136	**Require political subdivisions to identify authorized recipients of tort claims filed under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act**	**Dungan**		**Oppose**	**Judiciary**			**FA 796 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1145	**Change provisions relating to notice requirements for a meeting of a public body under the Open Meetings Act**	**Lonowski**		**Support**	**Government**	**2/5/2026**		**FA 805 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1179	**Change provisions relating to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature, the Transportation Committee of the Legislature, and the Telecommunications and Technology Committee of the Legislature**	**DeBoer**		**Oppose**	**Executive Board**	**2/12/2026**		**FA 839 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1183	**Change provisions relating to valuation of property**	**Lippincott**		**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Revenue**	**2/5/2026**		**FA 843 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1215	**Adopt the Political Subdivision Contracting Transparency Act**	**McKinney**		**Oppose**	**Government**			**FA 875 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1219	**Limit the amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision**	**Brandt**		**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Revenue**	**2/5/2026**		**FA 879 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1256	**Redefine a term under the Emergency Management Act**	**Cavanaugh, J.**		**Support**	**Government**			**FA 916 Filed - Kauth**
LR 292CA	**Constitutional amendment to provide a new method of valuing real property for property tax purposes, provide a limit on property tax increases, provide certain exceptions, provide requirements for declared emergencies, provide for emergency bond levies, and eliminate conflicting constitutional provisions**	**Andersen**	**Andersen (2026)**	**Oppose**	**Revenue**			**FA343 Filed - Andersen**
LR 298CA	**Constitutional amendment to create requirements for the use of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund**	**Brandt**		**Support**	**Natural Resources**			
LR 317CA	**Constitutional amendment to limit the annual growth in the amount of property taxes levied by political subdivisions**	**Brandt**		**Oppose**	**Revenue**	**2/5/2026**		

NARD Policy Statement 2025-1 - We will work with the Legislature and Governor Pillen on reasonable property tax reform measures. We support reforms that reduce property tax reliance and provide adequate funding for both rural and urban areas. We oppose restrictions on local budgets that harm the ability of local governments: 1) To implement programs and projects to meet federal and state mandated programs; 2) Make local annual adjustments to meet the needs of the local citizens; 3) Adequately fund both rural and urban needs; and 4) Provide local funding for efficient natural resources programs that protect water quality, water quantity, soil, property and the economy.

NARD Policy Statement 2025-3 – We support with an amendment to exclude NRD data request for water quality and quantity management.