Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
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8100 South 15th
Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68512

nard@nrdnet.org
(402) 471-7670

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TO: NARD Board, NRD Managers and Conservation Partners
FROM: Dean E. Edson, NARD Executive Director
RE: March 12 NARD Update

Budget Bills Advance

This week, following three full days of debate and successful cloture motions, senators advanced the mid-biennium budget adjustment bills, LB's 1071 and 1072, to Select File. The measures, as advanced, close all but approximately $125 million of a $646 million budget gap.

The measures include a variety of mid-biennium cuts to general fund appropriations, sweeps from state agency cash funds and reappropriation of existing General Fund dollars. The spreadsheet table on the final page shows a breakdown of appropriation changes related to Natural Resources.

Related to natural resources, the following adjustments from last year's adopted budget were included:

- The committee proposal and advanced budget includes a $5,133,860 transfer from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) to the Water Recreation Enhancement Fund (WREF) and a $6,130,000 transfer from the WREF to the General Fund in FY 25-26. The Governor proposed to transfer $32,700,000 from the NETF to the WREF and $50,700,000 from the WREF to the General Fund.

- The committee proposal and advanced budget includes a $6 million transfer from the NETF to the Water Resources Cash Fund in FY 26-27. The Governor proposed to transfer $8 million.

- The committee proposal and advanced budget includes a $3,627,750 transfer from the Planning and Trials Coordination Fund to the General Fund in FY 25-26. The Governor proposed to transfer $4.9 million.

- The Governor proposed transferring $5,747,931 from the Perkins County Canal Fund to the General Fund in FY 25-26 and FY 26-27. The committee proposal and advanced budget maintained this transfer. This amounts to the interest gained on the fund.

- The Governor proposed and the committee proposal and advanced budget includes a $5,172,364 appropriation for the Water Sustainability Fund in FY 25-26. Last sessions approved budget included a transfer of funds, but not the appropriation authority.

- The committee proposal and advanced budget includes a $5.1 million transfer from the Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund to the General Fund in FY 25-26. The Governor proposed to transfer $5 million.

- The Governor proposed and the committee proposal and advanced budget includes reductions to DWEE general operations. Program 513 (NDEE Operations) includes program totals of $93,864,792 in FY 25-26 and $94,541,376 in FY 26-27, these represent reductions of $343,263 in FY 25-26 and $260,048 FY 26-27. Program 334 (NDNR Operations) includes program totals of $18,561,743 in FY 25-26 and $18,956,247 in FY 26-27, these represent reductions of $1,062,572 in FY 25-26 and $587,572 in FY 26-27.

During debate on the budget measures, several amendments were proposed and discussed. Only one was successfully adopted. Sen. Storer offered an amendment, FA 1050, to LB 1072 that was adopted by a 27-0-22 vote that restores the remaining balances of the Niobrara Council Fund and the Niobrara Council Easement Defense Fund. The Governor and Committees proposed budgets swept the fund due to inactivity. Sen. Storer offered the amendment citing the importance of retaining the funds to protect the defense of easements held by the Council.

The Perkins County Canal Project fund generated significant debate during budget discussions. Ultimately, lawmakers rejected an amendment, AM 2549, to LB 1072 from Sen. Raybould that would have transferred nearly $90 million from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund. Sen. Raybould's amendment failed by a 9–30-10 vote. During debate, several senators highlighted the project's benefits and reaffirmed their strong support for moving it forward.

Senators will take up Select File debate on the budget next week. Committees will be meeting in the interim and additional proposals will be proposed and debated as the body works to address the remaining $125 million deficit.

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 was advanced to Select File on March 10, 2026, on a 32-14 vote following a successful 35-12 vote on Cloture. The original bill was modified with committee amendment AM 2162 that was adopted on General File by a 34-12 vote. The amendment incorporated the committee's proposed budget adjustments summarized above.

Multiple amendments were offered and only one was successful. Senator Hallstrom offered AM 2522, which added $325,000 in Cash Funds in FY 2025-26 for Tourism Promotion.

The bill proposes mid-biennium adjustments to appropriations for state agencies. As introduced, the Governor's proposal targeted 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 original bill proposed 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.

The bill was advanced to Select File on March 11, 2026, on a 33-12 vote following a successful 34-12 vote on Cloture. The original bill was modified with committee amendment AM 2165 that was adopted on General File by a 33-11 vote. The amendment incorporated the committee's proposed budget adjustments summarized above.

During debate on the budget measures, several amendments were proposed and discussed. Only one was successfully adopted. Sen. Storer offered an amendment, FA 1050, that was adopted by a 27-0 vote that restores the remaining balance of the Niobrara Council Fund and the Niobrara Council Easement Defense Fund. The Governor and Committees proposed budgets swept the fund due to inactivity. Sen. Storer offered the amendment citing the importance of retaining the funds to protect the defense of easements held by the Council.

The Perkins County Canal Project fund generated significant debate during budget discussions. Ultimately, lawmakers rejected an amendment, AM 2549, to LB 1072 from Sen. Raybould that would have transferred nearly $90 million from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund. Sen. Raybould's amendment failed by a 9–30-10 vote. During debate, several senators highlighted the project's benefits and reaffirmed their strong support for moving it forward.

As introduced, the original bill as part of the Governor's overall effort to address the budget deficit, proposed to modify several cash funds and redirect interest and make transfers to the General Fund.

The original proposal included transfers totaling $192.6 million over the biennium from various cash funds into the General Fund. Related to natural resources, the original bill proposed the following:

- Cash Fund transfers to be made to General Fund on or before June 30, 2026:
    - 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 as introduced proposed 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 proposed 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.

The Appropriations Committee held a joint hearing for LB 1071 and LB 1072 on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026.

Neil Sullivan, State Budget Administrator, introduced LB 1071 and LB 1072 on behalf of Gov. Pillen. He noted that the State of Nebraska remains in excellent fiscal condition and emphasized that the projected $471 million budget gap is fundamentally a spending issue, not a revenue shortfall. The Governor's budget recommendation addresses this gap while maintaining a balanced budget.

Sullivan noted that the mid-biennium budget recommendation reverses the state's recent spending trajectory, shifting from positive growth to a negative growth rate. He explained that the administration's approach includes broadening the state sales tax base by addressing select exemptions in order to stabilize revenues and deliver long-term budget sustainability.

He outlined the state's current reserve position, explaining that Nebraska holds approximately $1.3 billion in total reserves, including roughly $800 million in the Cash Reserve Fund, with the remaining balance in the General Fund. Sullivan emphasized that the budget strategy focuses on real spending reductions, not merely shifting costs from cash funds to fees.

With respect to agency reductions, particularly within the Department of Health and Human Services, Sullivan stated that the budget reflects approximately $200 million in reductions achieved through a more strategic approach. He explained that these reductions include a combination of position reductions, office closures, operational efficiencies, and targeted program reductions. While not all reductions result in the elimination of programs, he acknowledged that some program funding is being reduced. He emphasized that the administration is recommending reductions rather than complete program eliminations, and that statutory changes proposed in the bills are directly tied to appropriation reductions.

Sullivan also addressed questions regarding cash fund balances, noting that excess balances are often statutorily earmarked for specific purposes. When transfers to the General Fund are not permitted, the state must identify eligible uses consistent with existing statutory and constitutional requirements.

He confirmed that all budget recommendations comply with the Environmental Trust Act and constitutional requirements. Regarding the pause in certain grant awards, Sullivan characterized that decision as a political choice rather than a budgetary necessity.

In response to questions on lottery proceeds, Sullivan explained that lottery revenues are allocated 45 percent to education and 45 percent to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund. He also discussed the condition of the Education Future Fund, noting that special education funding has grown at a significantly faster rate. While a $60 million transfer to the fund provides temporary relief, he emphasized that the underlying causes of that growth must be addressed.

Finally, Sullivan explained that transfers such as the movement of funds from the teacher certification fund to the Education Future Fund are consistent with "usual and customary" practices and ensure that excess funds remain aligned as closely as possible with their original intent. He expressed support for rewording technical statutory language, including "shall" versus "may," noting that prior interpretations necessitated the proposed language changes.

Proponents

There was no testimony in support of the measure.

Opponents

David Potter, General Manager of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) testified in opposition. The District covers more than 1,500 square miles and serves over 350,000 people across Lancaster, Cass, Butler, Saunders, Seward, and Otoe Counties.

Potter testified in opposition to LB 1072, based on two provisions of the bill that would significantly impact on the Lower Platte South NRD and the communities and people we serve.

First, LB 1072 proposes a sweep of Nebraska Environmental Trust funds. These funds are essential to supporting water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, outdoor recreation, and community-driven environmental projects across Nebraska. The Lower Platte South NRD currently has an approved Environmental Trust project that is now in limbo due to this proposed transfer of funds.

This city-NRD project is critical to the flood reduction effort on Deadman's Run in Lincoln between 48th Street and Cornhusker Highway. The approved $687,000 of Trust funds are key to designing and constructing a wetlands complex and detention basin on UNL's East Campus necessary for the overall $30 million Deadman's Run Flood Reduction Project which will remove nearly 480 properties from the mapped floodplain and benefit public safety. Construction on this project is expected to start later this year. Without this state investment, the project which has consumed much time and resources is now at risk.

The second, and most significant, concern is the sweep of trail funds designated for the MoPac East Trail Connector. Lower Platte South NRD has been working diligently on this trail connection project since the legislature allocated funds for it in 2022, and many aspects are actively underway. These are not future expenses, but rather dollars we are spending now. Currently, we are developing 2.25 miles of trail, advancing construction and design activities, and coordinating a key connection in Cass County.

In addition, Lower Platte South NRD has multiple existing contracts and agreements in place related to the MoPac Connector Project. These commitments were made in good faith based on the availability of the appropriated funds. A sweep of these dollars would jeopardize not only the project but also our ability to meet existing obligations.

The MoPac East Trail is a significant investment in Nebraska's future. It supports economic development by attracting tourism and supporting local businesses, while also improving the quality of life for Nebraskans through safe, accessible outdoor recreation and stronger community connections. As part of the Great American Rail-Trail, this project represents a nationally significant, coast-to-coast network, and the funds at issue are critical to completing the essential link between Lincoln and Omaha and to continuing to leverage federal funding.

Our NRD experienced a similar sweep of funds last year, and while we worked through those challenges, we cannot afford to lose the remaining funds or risk the momentum we have built.

Over the past couple of years this project has hit some road blocks, however after we lost cooperation from Cass County, we have discovered new opportunities that may provide a great benefit to the State, specifically our partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks to explore connections between Platte River State Park, Louisville State Recreation Area, and the City of Louisville. This new option has the opportunity to do more than just connect the trail but could open up recreational opportunities and tourism for thousands of park goers and trail enthusiasts.

Removing these designated funds could affect ongoing projects, impact future federal investments, and slow some of the economic and quality-of-life benefits currently being realized by Nebraskans. For these reasons, the Lower Platte South NRD respectfully suggests the committee not sweep these funds as proposed in LB 1072.

Other opponents included more than 30 testifiers, representing state agencies, conservation and environmental organizations, labor unions, nonprofits, education advocates, rural stakeholders, veteran groups, financial institutions, and public interest organizations. While testifiers spoke from diverse perspectives, several consistent and overlapping concerns were repeatedly raised.

Use of Cash Fund Sweeps and Constitutional Concerns
A significant number of opponents objected to the sweeping of cash funds—particularly the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET), Gamblers Assistance Fund, Veterans' Aid Fund, and other dedicated funds—arguing that these funds were created by statute or constitutional mandate for specific purposes and were never intended to support General Fund shortfalls. Many testified that transferring these funds undermines voter intent, violates constitutional obligations, and sets a precedent for treating dedicated funds as a general revenue source rather than purpose-driven accounts.

Impact on Conservation, Natural Resources, and Environmental Programs
Numerous conservation, wildlife, agricultural, and natural resources organizations testified that the proposed NET fund transfers would place Nebraska's conservation system "in crisis." Testifiers emphasized that NET dollars are frequently used as matching funds, meaning that sweeping them would result in the loss of significant federal and private investment. Several noted that two-thirds or more of total project funding could be lost due to the inability to leverage matching dollars. Repeated concerns were raised about impacts to habitat protection, water quality, endangered species projects, hunting and public access programs, and rural conservation initiatives.

Opposition to Treating Dedicated Funds as a Budget Solution
Across testimony, opponents repeatedly stated that cash fund sweeps are not a sustainable or a long-term budget solution. Several testified that the state is not facing a fiscal emergency and that the budget gap is being driven by policy choices, including tax exemptions and transfers, rather than excessive General Fund appropriations. Many urged the Legislature to pursue sustainable revenue sources rather than one-time fund transfers that erode programs over time.

Concerns About Reductions to Frontline Services and Workforce Impacts
Labor representatives and nonprofit organizations testified that proposed reductions would negatively affect frontline services, particularly in health, human services, education, and community-based programs. Testifiers highlighted concerns about layoffs, reduced capacity, and the cumulative effect of agencies being asked to "do more with less," noting that some agencies have already implemented prior reductions. Several emphasized that service reductions disproportionately affect rural communities and vulnerable populations.

Gambling Addiction and Public Health Impacts
Multiple testifiers opposed reductions to or transfers from the Gamblers Assistance Fund, stressing that gambling has expanded and become normalized statewide. They argued that cutting prevention and treatment funding at a time of increased gambling activity is irresponsible and counter to the original intent of lottery-related funding. Gambling addiction was repeatedly characterized as a public health issue rather than a discretionary program.

Veterans, Disability, and Vulnerable Populations
Opponents representing veterans, individuals with disabilities, children with special needs, Alzheimer's patients, and survivors of sexual violence testified that the proposed transfers and statutory changes would weaken programs designed to serve high-need populations. Several emphasized that these programs often operate with minimal staffing and that even small reductions would have outsized impacts.

Concerns with DEI-Related Provisions and Federal Compliance
Multiple nonprofit and advocacy organizations raised concerns that Sections related to DEI restrictions could place state agencies and nonprofits out of compliance with federal funding requirements, potentially jeopardizing millions of dollars in federal pass-through funds. Testifiers stated that compliance with federal law would be impossible under the proposed language.

Rural Economic Development and Housing Programs
Opposition testimony repeatedly highlighted concerns with proposed changes to rural workforce housing and economic development funds, noting strong return-on-investment metrics and ongoing demand. Testifiers warned that eliminating or reducing these programs would hinder rural growth, workforce recruitment, and community sustainability.

Process and Policy Concerns
Finally, several opponents expressed concern with the budget process itself, arguing that the bills use the budget as a vehicle to make major policy changes without sufficient vetting. Testifiers cautioned against using broad budget tools to address complex policy issues, urging a more targeted and transparent approach.

Neutral

Neutral testimony was provided by representatives of law enforcement–related victim services and veterans' organizations, with testimony focused on technical corrections and program continuity rather than overall support or opposition to the bills.

Testifiers raised concerns that certain proposed statutory changes could unintentionally disrupt existing programs that currently function as intended. One testifier requested that specific language be restored to its original form to ensure the continued payment of sexual assault forensic exam kits without cost to victims. Testimony emphasized that these services are critical to victims, primarily children between the ages of 0 and 12, and that any change resulting in victims receiving bills would be contrary to long-standing state policy. Historically, approximately $1–$1.5 million annually has been used for these services.

Additional neutral testimony addressed concerns related to the Veterans' Aid Fund, noting that Nebraska is home to approximately 119,000 veterans. Testifiers emphasized that the fund has a defined purpose and warned that proposed budget changes could limit the state's ability to provide essential assistance to veterans. Testimony highlighted that, if evenly distributed, available funding would equate to roughly $391 per veteran per claim, underscoring the importance of maintaining sufficient resources to meet demand.

Overall, neutral testifiers did not take a position on the bills but requested clarifying amendments and cautioned that unintended consequences of the proposed changes could negatively impact vulnerable populations if not addressed.

Written testimony submitted online for LB 1071 included 1 proponent, 124 opponents, and 2 neutral letters.

Written testimony submitted online for LB 1072 included 1 proponent, 490 opponents, and 5 neutral letters.

The Appropriations committee scheduled the hearing for the state budget bills (LB 1071 & LB 1072) on Feb. 2. While this was the advertised date for the hearings, hearings on the measures continue as each code agency receives a specific hearing. A hearing for DWEE was held on Feb. 17th.

- **Agency 84 – Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment**

DWEE had a hearing before the committee on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026. Dir. Bradley opened by expressing full support for the Governor's proposed budget adjustments. Bradley highlighted

decreases to agency operations from the General Fund, but noted a portion of the reduction would be offset by revenues from increased fees proposed in LB 761.

Bradley also highlighted the Governor's proposal includes several cash fund transfers, totaling approximately $15 million, he told the committee these transfers can be accommodated while leaving sufficient resources.

Bradley discussed the proposed transfer from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) to the Water Resources Cash Fund (WRCF). Bradley provided an overview of the WRCF, noting the fund supports management actions and water resources programs statewide. It was mentioned that if LB 807 passes, the WRCF would also support riparian vegetation removal. Bradley discussed that current statute requires any funds transferred from NETF to WRCF to be used in alignment with purposes established for NETF. Bradley provided the committee with a handout summarizing the NETF budget, a copy of that summary is provided following the hearing summary. The handout demonstrates that NETF has a current balance in excess of $70 million, and even after accounting for the full funding of all currently approved grants and all the proposed transfers, over $20 million would be retained in the fund. The handout is provided on the next page.

Bradley closed by reiterating the Departments full support for the governor's proposed budget.

During questioning, Sen. Prokop asked Bradley for updates on the Perkins County Canal. Bradley highlighted that the project is advancing on schedule, with design now exceeding 60%. The state is currently working on federal permits and moving forward with willing buyer proposals. Public meetings are being scheduled. Through the design process areas have been identified where existing infrastructure can be used.

Nebraska Environmental Trust Funds Analysis

	NE Environmental Trust # 23290					*Projected*			
	Funds Analysis	**FY 22**	**FY 23**	**FY 24**	**FY 25**	**FY 26**	**FY 27**	**FY 28**	**FY 29**
	Beginning Balance	**43,159,421**	**52,570,917**	**59,487,222**	**68,821,115**	**73,280,616**	**29,930,916**	**22,728,216**	**25,981,456**
	Revenues								
	Investment Income	785,079	1,053,120	1,588,310	669,877	0	0	0	0
	Other	-695,326	283,307	312,855	196,953	300	300	300	300
	Lottery Revenue	21,773,822	24,593,362	24,396,802	20,113,372	22,350,000	22,797,000	23,252,940	23,717,999
	Subtotal	***21,863,575***	***25,929,789***	***26,297,967***	***20,980,202***	***22,350,300***	***22,797,300***	***23,253,240***	***23,718,299***
	Current Law: Transfers to WRCF	0	0	-7,000,000	-7,000,000	-3,000,000	0		
	Current Law: Transfers to WSF	0	0	0	0	-8,000,000	0		
	Current Law: Transfers to Soil & Water	0	0	0	0	-2,000,000	-2,000,000		
1	Additional: Transfers to WREF & WRCF					***-32,700,000***	***-8,000,000***		
	Revenue Total	**21,863,575**	**25,929,789**	**19,297,967**	**13,980,202**	**-23,349,700**	**12,797,300**	**23,253,240**	**23,718,299**
2	**Expenditures Total**	**12,452,079**	**19,013,484**	**9,964,074**	**9,520,700**	**20,000,000**	**20,000,000**	**20,000,000**	**20,000,000**
3	**EOY Fund Total**	**52,570,917**	**59,487,222**	**68,821,115**	**73,280,616**	**29,930,916**	**22,728,216**	**25,981,456**	**29,699,755**
	25% of Expenditures	*3,113,020*	*4,753,371*	*2,491,019*	*2,380,175*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*	*5,000,000*

2 Expenditures are above what is currently forecasted to demonstrate the health of the NET cash fund.

Mike Reed, Chair of Governor Riparian Vegetation Task Force and Douglas County Weed Superintendent testified at the hearing. Reed spoke in favor of utilizing the WRCF for purposes of funding riparian vegetation management. Reed highlighted that in 2024, the appropriations committee decided riparian program dollars would be part of budget, but the Dept. of Ag retained funds and did not award grants. Reed reiterated the importance of LB 807 and support from the

committee for the use of WRCF as funded by NETF transfer for the purpose of riparian vegetation management.

Tracy Bruckner, Audubon Great Plains, presented testimony highlighting Audubon's opposition to sweeps from the NETF to the WRCF. Bruckner highlighted the value of both funds, but suggested WRCF should be funded through appropriate General Fund appropriations and not via the constitutionally protected lottery funding. It was noted that using NET to finance regulatory duties of DWEE violates the constitutional intent of the fund. Testimony highlighted that NETF grantees are facing more rigorous requirements, but this transfer would circumvent the process for the WRCF.

Russ Souchek, Nebraska Wildlife Federation, provided testimony focused on the NETF transfers. It was suggested that a competitive citizen guided grant process encourages transparency. The WRCF purposes matter, but the process does not go through a competitive process and violates voter trust. Souchek suggested that WRCF projects should apply like every other applicant. Would set precedent that NETF could be tapped whenever budgets get tight.

John Bender, Friends of Trust, presented testimony expressing opposition to proposed NETF transfers. Bender suggested that direct transfers are not in keeping with the intent of the trust and the NETF should not be used to fill gaps in agencies operations. This will break the trust and leave it unable to fund future projects. Bender highlighted that in past years, DNR at least went through the grant process. Bender suggested that WRCF projects are valuable and in Nebraska's interest, but the projects are due to agreements with other states and should be funded through general appropriation.

Grace Barton, Program Director Nebraska Recycling Council, also provided testimony focused on the NETF transfers. Barton highlighted that recycling industry has a $731 million recycling impact on Nebraska and programs are primarily funded through grants, including NETF. Reducing NETF funds would weaken the revenue source that is keeping programs running.

Rae Powers, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, also provided testimony focused on NETF transfers. Powers highlighted that the NETF has been a viable source to support invertebrate creatures and large pulls from the fund would impact work of the society.

Candace Meredith, NACO, provided testimony highlighting NACO's support for funding of riparian weed management. NACO supports maintaining the necessary processes and funding to support these weed management projects.

Letters for the record were submitted by one proponent and 18 opponents.

- **Agency 11 – Attorney General**

Attorney General Hilgers provided the committee with an overview of his office's proposed budget. During questioning, Hilgers addressed questions from the committee on the status of the Perkins County Canal and South Platte Compact litigation. Hilgers discussed that following more than a year and a half of attempted negotiations, where the intent was and remains to find a resolution that allows for the canal to be built without litigation, it became clear the only way for Nebraska to exercise its right was to file suit.

In addressing questions about the anticipated legal costs, Hilgers discussed that the state is currently waiting for the Solicitor Generals' opinion, and through that process to this point, most of the work handled with the existing team and there has been very little spend. When asked for potential

estimates for future litigation costs, Hilgers expressed that costs of litigation will vary, but it's anticipated that it will be less than 2-3% of project costs – and Hilgers reiterated that while not cheap, the benefits far outweigh the costs. Hilgers also expressed the importance of retaining and protecting the funds appropriated for the project.

Final Reading

LB 948 - Change provisions of the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act, change fees under the Pesticide Act, rename and change provisions of the Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act, eliminate the Nebraska Poultry and Egg Resources Act, terminate a fund, and eliminate provisions relating to certain associations and societies. Agriculture Commitee

Senators gave Final Approval to LB 948 on March 12, 2026, by a 35-10-4 vote. The bill now awaits action by Governor Pillen. This bill was not on the NARD watch list. However, another bill NARD was following, LB 947, was added as an amendment to the bill by the Committee Amendment, AM 1976.

The bill renames the Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act and incorporates "beneficial substances" as regulated products under the Act and also revises fees collected under the Act. It also proposed to repeal the Nebraska Poultry and Egg Resources Act and directs a transfer of funds remaining in an associated cash fund. Additionally, the bill repeals long dormant statutes pertaining to the support of certain agricultural associations.

The following is a summary of LB 947.

- ***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 amended LB 947 into LB 948 with AM 1976. LB 948 passed on Final Reading by a 35-10-4 vote and awaits action from Governor Pillen.

3/12/2026		2025 1st Session Adopted Biennium Budget		Governor's LB 1071 & LB 1072 Proposed Changes		Appropraitons Committee AM 2165 & AM 2162 Adopted General File Changes	
Agency 84 - Department of Water, Energy, Enivronment		**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**
Program 513, 586, 587, 588 - NDEE Operations	General Fund	$ 5,593,323	$ 5,593,323	$ 5,250,060	$ 5,250,060	$ 5,250,060	$ 5,250,060
	Cash Fund	$ 42,816,431	$ 43,115,996	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund est.	$ 45,798,301	$ 46,175,320	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 94,208,055	$ 94,884,639	$ 93,864,792	$ 94,541,376	$ 93,864,792	$ 94,541,376
	Salary Limit	$ 18,821,791	$ 19,216,295	$ 18,561,743	$ 18,956,247	$ 18,561,743	$ 18,956,247
There is included in the amount shown for FY2026-27 $38,000,000 Federal Funds for the purpose of awarding a grant to a city of the first class which operates a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility that is subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and that has experienced documented increases in industrial wastewater load resulting in treatment capacity or compliance challenges due to a calcium caseinate food ingredient manufacturing facility.							
Program 334 - Soil & Water Conservation (General Operations)	General Fund	$ 10,708,426	$ 10,758,426	$ 9,645,854	$ 10,170,854	$ 9,645,854	$ 10,170,854
	Cash Fund	$ 9,573,272	$ 9,614,357	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund est.	$ 2,207,789	$ 2,273,709	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 22,489,487	$ 22,646,492	$ 21,426,915	$ 22,058,920	$ 21,426,915	$ 22,058,920
	Salary Limit	$ 8,618,370	$ 8,639,688	$ 8,201,870	$ 8,223,188	$ 8,201,870	$ 8,223,188
Unexpended GF and CF appropriation balances existing on June 30, 2025, allocated to budget subprograms 19, 20, 21, and 24 of Program 334 are reappropriated. There is included in the appropriation to this program for both FY $7,450,000 Cash Funds plus any reappropriated amounts and $5,000 Federal Funds estimate, for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as state aid for FY2026-27, $353,000 Cash Funds for the removal of riparian vegetation as part of a vegetation management program, if such vegetation management program is being conducted for the primary objective of improving the conveyance of streamflow in natural streams.							
Water Resources Cash Fund	General Fund Transfer	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	NETF Transfer	$ 3,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ 8,000,000	$ -	$ 6,000,000
Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund	General Fund Transfer	$ -	$ -	$ (5,000,000)	$ -	$ (5,100,000)	$ -
Program 303 - Small Watersheds	Cash Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
State Treasurer shall transfer the remaining balance from the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund to the General Fund before June 30, 2026							
Program 304 - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Fund	General Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Cash Fund	$ 2,050,000	$ 2,050,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 2,050,000	$ 2,050,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	NET Fund Transfer	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Program 306 - Water Well Decommissioning	Cash Fund	$ 70,000	$ 70,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 70,000	$ 70,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Program 309 - Natural Resources Water Quality Fund	Cash Fund	$ 1,187,500	$ 1,187,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 1,187,500	$ 1,187,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Program 313 - Water Sustainability Fund	Cash Fund	$ -	$ -	$ 5,172,364	$ -	$ 5,172,364	$ -
	General FundTransfer	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	NET Fund Transfer	$ 8,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Includes Cash Funds plus any reappropriated amounts.							
Program 314 - Critical Infrastructure Facilities	Cash Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	General Fund Transfer	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Program 319 - Water Projects *	Cash Fund	$ 65,300,000	$ 62,800,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 65,300,000	$ 62,800,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Included in the appropriation to this program for FY2025-26 $2,500,000 Cash Funds from the Jobs and Economic Development Initiative Fund.							
Perkins County Canal Project Fund	General Fund Transfer	$ -	$ -	$ (5,747,931)	$ -	$ -	$ (5,747,931)
Beginning July 1, 2025, any investment earnings from investment of money in the fund shall be credited to the General Fund. Language added Transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund and the State Settlement Cash Fund at the direction of the Legislature.							
Program 523 - Wastewater Loan Fund*	Cash Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund est.	$ 9,089,000	$ 9,089,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 9,089,000	$ 9,089,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
*Grants to small communities shall not be commingled with funds deposited in the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund							
Program 528 - Drinking Water Facilities Loan Fund	Cash Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund est.	$ 12,990,000	$ 12,990,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 12,990,000	$ 12,990,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Program 106 - Energy Office Administration	Cash Fund	$ 1,096,962	$ 1,099,821	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund est.	$ 13,639,412	$ 13,685,125	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 14,736,374	$ 14,784,946	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Salary Limit	$ 1,502,581	$ 1,531,909	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Agency 33 - Game & Parks Commission		**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**
Progam 162 - Environmental Trust	Cash Fund	$ 26,602,651	$ 26,622,563	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 26,602,651	$ 26,622,563	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Salary Limit	$ 362,301	$ 373,707	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Includes $8,000,000 transfer in FY 25-26 to Water Sustainability Fund. Includes $2,000,000 transfer in FY 25-26 and 26-27 to Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund.							
Program 965 - Water Recreation Enhancement Fund	Cash Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	General Fund Transfer	$ -	$ -	$ (50,700,000)	$ -	$ (6,130,000)	$ -
	NETF Transfer	$ -	$ -	$ 32,700,000	$ -	$ 5,133,860	$ -
The State Treasurer shall transfer $5,133,860 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to the Water Recreation Enhancement Fund before June 30, 2026. The State Treasurer shall transfer $6,130,000 from							
Program 338 - Niobrara Council	General Fund	$ 52,500	$ 52,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Cash Fund	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund est.	$ 125,000	$ 125,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 178,500	$ 178,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Program 550 - Planning & Trails Coordination *	General Fund	$ 559,668	$ 559,668	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Cash Fund	$ 2,394,449	$ 1,789,895	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Federal Fund est.	$ 111,172	$ 111,172	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Program Total	$ 3,065,289	$ 2,460,735	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Salary Limit	$ 1,231,050	$ 1,292,121	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	General Fund Transfer	$ (3,350,000)	$ -	$ (4,900,000)	$ -	$ (3,627,750)	$ -
The unexpended Cash Fund appropriation balance existing on June 30, 2025, is hereby reappropriated, up to $5,400,000 to fund the MOPAC trail.							
Agency 11 - Attorney General		**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27**
Program 496 Interstate Water	General Fund	$ 300,000	$ 300,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	*0*
	Cash Fund	$ 200,000	$ 200,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 500,000
	Program Total	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

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	Passed 49-0	Approved by Governor on February 9, 2026
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	Jacobson (2026)	Oppose - See Policy Statement 2025-3	Banking, Commerce and Insurance	2/17/2026	General File	AM 2076, 1710, 2221, 2284, 2444, MO 508, 509, 510 - Filed
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	Government Committee (2026)	Support	Government	3/13/2025	Select File	AM 2282, 2428, FA 1027 - Adopted; AM 2405 - Withdrawn

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	Natural Resources Committee (2026)	Support	Natural Resources	1/21/2026	Final Reading	AM 1939, 2182, FA 1025 - Adopted.
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 Resources	1/21/2026		Provisions amended into LB 759 via AM 1939
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	Passed 48-0-1	Approved by Governor on February 24, 2026
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	Passed 39-9-1	Approved by Governor on March 4, 2026
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	Final Reading	
LB 827	Provide for natural resources districts to create soil and water programs	DeKay		Support	Natural Resources	1/28/2026	General File	Provisions amended into LB 794 via AM 2019 - Passed & Approved by Governor on February 24, 2026
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		Provisions Amended into LB 596 via AM 2282
LB 935	Provide for the award of costs and attorney's fees in certain actions involving political subdivisions	Bosn	Judiciary (2026)	Support	Judiciary	2/18/2026		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		Provisions Amended into LB 948 via AM 1976 and Passed 35-10.
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	2/19/2026		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	Speaker (2026)	Support	Government	2/6/2026	General File	AM 1957, FA707 (Kauth) - Filed

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**	**Speaker Major Proposal**	**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Appropriations**	**2/2/2026**	**Select File**	**AM 2162, 2522 - Adopted; FA 1036, 1039, AM 2500, 2573 - Lost; MO 517 Prevailed; FA 1045, 730, 945, 1037, AM 2583, 2571, 2580, 2567, 2566 - Filed**
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**	**Speaker Major Proposal**	**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Appropriations**	**2/2/2026**	**Select File**	**AM 2165, FA 1050 - Adopted; MO 518 - Prevailed; FA 1049, 1048, AM 2554, 2584, 2579, 2558, 2549, 2591 - Lost; FA 731, 1046, 1051 - Pending**
LB 1081	**Require state agencies and political subdivisions to purchase flags made in the United States**	**Meyer, G.**		**Support**	**Government**	**2/26/2026**		**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**	**Bostar (2026)**	**Monitor**	**Judiciary**	**2/5/2026**		**AM 2313 - Filed**
LB 1130	**Adopt the Community Improvement District Act**	**Jacobson**		**Monitor**	**Urban Affairs**	**2/3/2026**		**Provisions Amended into LB 1114 via AM 2360**
LB 1136	**Require political subdivisions to identify authorized recipients of tort claims filed under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act**	**Dungan**		**Oppose**	**Judiciary**	**2/19/2026**		**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**		**Provisions Amended into LB 596 via AM 2282**
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**	**Planning Committee (2026)**	**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**	**2/26/2026**		**FA 875 Filed - Kauth**
LB 1219	**Limit the amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision**	**Brandt**	**Hansen (2026)**	**See Policy Statement 2025-1**	**Revenue**	**2/5/2026**	**General File**	**FA 879 , 999, 1053 - Filed**
LB 1256	**Redefine a term under the Emergency Management Act**	**Cavanaugh, J.**		**Support**	**Government**	**2/26/2026**		**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**	**2/12/2026**		**FA343 Filed - Andersen**
LR 298CA	**Constitutional amendment to create requirements for the use of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund**	**Brandt**	**Brandt (2026)**	**Support**	**Natural Resources**	**2/19/2026**	**General File**	**AM 2400 - Filed**
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.