

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM WORKSHEET:

GOOD & BAD BILLS IN THE 2024 LEGISLATURE.

GOOD BILLS.

LB 16: Briese/Conrad. To require NE occupational boards to issue specific credentials based on similar credentials or work experience in another jurisdiction held for at least 1 year, particularly for military members, for applicants who have not suffered credential revocation for negligence or misconduct, have no disqualifying criminal record, and pose no threat to public safety. It will alleviate our skilled labor shortage. The bill will make it easier for state licensing boards to issue licenses to experienced workers. 20 other states have adopted similar policies. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 43: Sanders. To require hearing officers and judges to interpret laws and regulations to limit agency authority and maximize individual liberty. Deferring to state agency interpretations gives authority to unelected bureaucrats who may widen interpretations. More public records will become free for residents, charged only after 8 hrs. of fulfilling a records request. Nonresident requesters charged for the actual added cost of fulfilling the request. To prevent state agencies from assessing a special fee or fee for attorneys who review the requested records seeking a legal basis to withhold them from the public. To amend the public records law to allow the state or local subdivision to withhold records relating to cybersecurity. To prevent state and local government agencies from compelling nonprofit groups to release personal information about members, supporters, volunteers, or donors. Leftist goons seek this private information to target conservatives with harassment, bullying, and violence. Prospective contributors sometimes afraid to contribute. The bill provides for injunctive relief and damages for violations. To prohibit state agencies from imposing intrusive annual filing and reporting requirements on charities, to make these entities free and independent of intrusive and politically-motivated regulation. The bill provides a legal cause of action for a person whose exercise of religion or religious service became subject to a burden or restriction. Relief under such cause of action could include actual damages, equitable relief, attorney fees, and litigation costs. To require local taxing authorities to allow the public to speak at every meeting except closed meetings. The state teacher's union, American Atheists, and a pervert group opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 52: Lippincott. To increase the annual cap on tuition credits for Nebraska National Guard members who enroll in a state-supported university, college, community college, or independent college that are non-profit and accredited. The current annual cap is \$900,000. This bill increased that amount to \$1 million. GOOD BILL/ PASSED.

LB 71: Sanders. To require all public school districts to make learning materials and activities and testing information accessible to parents and permit parents to excuse their children from particular activities or lessons. Policies developed subject to public hearing requirements and annual review followed by a public hearing. However, not included is a hearing process for parents to object to specific learning materials. A parent or guardian will have the right to have a child repeat a K-12 grade because of academic needs, illness, or excessive absenteeism, and provide parents with the flexibility to keep their child in public preschool until developmentally ready for kindergarten. The leftist League of Women Voters opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 102: Erdman. To make land surveyors liable for property or crop damage resulting from their work. Private landowners exempt from liability for damage to surveyors occurring during their work. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 126: Day. Establishes homestead exemptions for partially-disabled veterans. Regarding homestead exemptions, occupying means to reside on a property with the intention of maintaining the property as the owner primary residence. A departure from the property for reasons of health or legal duty will not disqualify the owner of the property from receiving an exemption, if the owner demonstrates an intention to return to the property. Current homeowner exemption recipients can remain eligible for an exemption in a year, if the valuation increase pushes the value of their house above the allowed maximum. This clause invalid, if the valuation hike stems from home improvements. Removes the requirement that county boards of equalization hold hearings and vote to confirm rulings from the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. The NE Association of County Officials opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 137: Bosn. To provide a stiffer criminal penalty for illegal drug manufacture or distribution that results in serious bodily injury or death. If a drug user seriously injured or killed, their drug dealer could face up to 50 yrs. in prison, a Class 1C felony. Between 2018 and 2022, 256 Nebraskans died from poisoning or overdoses from fentanyl and other synthetic drugs. Socialist Democrat senators opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 198: McDonnell. The employing state agency or political subdivision of the state and the employee must maintain at least one of several unexpired documents to demonstrate U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the U.S. as of the employee hiring date and produce such document upon request by the Public Employees Retirement Board or the NE Public Employees Retirement Systems. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 253: Brewer. To allow judges in every district and county court to connect active duty personnel and veterans charged

with a specific category of crime with services that help them deal with their underlying traumas resulting from their military service unless a risk to public safety. A case plan for vets to receive supervision and treatment to address stress disorders or trauma. The NE Probation System will create this justice program for vets eligible for probation and offer them deferred judgements. Victim notification. If vets pass the program, cases possibly dismissed. Vets failing the program then sentenced for their crimes. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 262: Ag. Comm. To remove the duty and authority of the Public Service Commission to establish grain storage rates. To clarify an exemption for criminal background checks of grain dealers submitting a new license application who have previously submitted a background check for a previous but separate license. To criminalize the possession, sale, and consumption of additional marijuana products. These products are worse than regular marijuana and have sent children to the hospital after consuming them. NE Att.-Gen. Hilgers stated that NE retailers are using a loophole to sell illegal products. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 287: Brewer. To establish alternative means of public notice under the Open Meetings Act. To expand the use of videoconferencing public meetings. The Governor while certifying NE presidential electors must include a security feature in the certificates for purposes of verifying the authenticity of the certificate. If the identification number of a voter's driver's license or state identification card issued by NE provided to vote, the election commissioner or county clerk must verify the driver's license or state identification card data with information provided by the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. To allow individuals to remove their name from a petition by signing and delivering a written letter to the Secretary of State, county election commissioner, or county clerk, streamlining this process. Removal signatures verified through voter registration records. Falsifying the letter is a Class IV felony. No person can conduct electioneering or disseminate information or materials advertising or advocating for or against a ballot measure within 200 feet of a secure ballot drop-box. Specific public employees must prepare and submit a written statement disclosing specific conflicts of interest or potential conflicts. Extends disclosure reporting to all employees whose decisions might benefit, or cause a detriment, to their family or associations. The leftist League of Women Voters and Civic NE opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 299: Linehan. To require joint political entities related to education to hold a bond election in a primary or general election, not a special election. Once defeated, these entities cannot hold a similar election for at least 6 months. Individual school districts must obtain voter approval for their bond issues but avoid a vote by teaming with other districts. To prohibit a joint entity that includes a Nebraska school district or educational service unit from issuing bonds without approval from a majority of voters. The restriction will apply to joint public entities created on or after the bill effective date. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 304: Linehan. Each political subdivision must publicly disclose membership dues paid annually to an association or organization, identifying each such association or organization and the dues amounts paid. Also, fees paid to an individual lobbyist or lobbying firm other than fees paid for lobbying services included in the membership dues. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 308: Bostar. To require personal consent by NE residents for sharing, storage, or use of consumer genetic data by genetic testing services. To require a process by which consumers can delete their accounts and their genetic data. The disclosure of genetic data must comply with all state and federal laws for the protection of privacy and security. The NE Att.-Gen. may sue to enforce the provisions. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 317: Von Gillern. To provide county assessors more flexibility with property inspections, such as virtual assessments. The intent is to provide savings to counties and taxpayers by cutting unnecessary inspection time and travel costs. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 399: Brewer. To require private renewable energy generation companies to explain the need for a wind project at a public hearing, to allow opponents to speak, set guidelines and procedures for those public meetings, and give advance notice in 1 of the counties in which the facility locates. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 441: Albrecht. To allow prosecution of K-12 teachers and librarians who provide porn materials to minors, closing a NE law loophole. GOOD BILL/ GENERAL FILE

LB 461: Arch. The state has not updated its purchasing system for over 20 years. This bill will revise factors considered when evaluating bids, such as not necessarily taking the lowest bid. It will provide guidance for evaluating realistic and reasonable prices and simplify resident bidder preference provisions. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 575: Kauth. Every school district must designate specific bathrooms and locker rooms for biological males and biological females. No school can allow a biological male to use a bathroom or locker room designated for biological females and vice-versa. No school or school official may retaliate against anyone reporting a violation or who files lawsuits for violations. Students retaliated against can file a civil suit against a school or school official. A prevailing plaintiff entitled to injunctive relief, actual damages, and reasonable attorney fees. Interscholastic and intramural athletic

teams sponsored by a school will have only 1 sex included except those designated as mixed. No government entity or athletic association may complain against or investigate schools following these guidelines. Each school district must adopt a policy implementing this legislation. This bill would protect student privacy and dignity. Multiple school superintendents have requested this bill. 18 other states have passed such laws. The ACLU-NE naturally opposes this bill. The Omaha and Bellevue Public School districts also opposed. GOOD BILL/ GENERAL FILE

LB 664: Riepe. To expand the authority of the state Medicaid fraud investigation unit to investigate and prosecute cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of Medicaid recipients who receive medical services in or outside of institutional settings. The NE Att.-Gen. will have access to all patient records in Medicaid-funded facilities. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 844: Erdman. To reserve corn detasseler jobs for Nebraskans instead of for labor contracts that include illegal aliens. Seed corn producers must solicit bids from local contractors first. 700 young Nebraskans have lost these jobs to foreigners. Violation of the bid solicitation and reporting requirements is a Class IV misdemeanor. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 848: Brewer. To change the maximum age for the Adjutant-General of Nebraska from age 60 to age 66. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 852: Jacobson. To close a loophole that permits a non-participating Medicare durable medical equipment supplier to charge a Medicare beneficiary or Medicare supplement insurer an unlimited amount of money for durable medical equipment. Under federal guidelines, all other non-participating Medicare providers, such as physicians, must limit the number of charges to a beneficiary and insurer to 15% over the Medicare allowed amount. To apply the same limitation to non-participating durable medical equipment suppliers. An individual who is under 65 and eligible for a Medicare supplement policy or certificate by reason of disability is privileged to the same open enrollment rules applicable to an individual who is 65 and eligible for a Medicare supplement policy or certificate. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 867: Bostelman. To prohibit political subdivisions from passing ordinances that restrict or prohibit the types of fuel sources of energy that natural gas utilities, natural gas transmission companies, and other entities may use or deliver to customers. To provide a free 1-day hunting permit for veterans on Veterans Day. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 876: Holdcroft. To increase from 30 days to 90 days during which parents or designated others can abandon infants to a hospital or staffed fire or police stations. A blanket prohibition against prosecution of parents for neglect of a sibling of a child properly surrendered. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 877: Holdcroft. To guarantee ag or horticultural property valuation for acreages adjacent to urban areas. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 894 Amend. 2927: Ibach. To disallow illegal aliens from becoming law enforcement officers. GOOD AMENDMENT/ PASSED

LB 910: Riepe. An emergency care provider may provide emergency medical care to a law enforcement canine injured in the line of duty while at the scene of an emergency or while such canine transported to a veterinary clinic or similar facility. An emergency care provider who acts in good faith to provide emergency medical care to an injured law enforcement canine is immune from criminal or civil liability. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 934: Bosn. To allow the state Att.-Gen. additional authority to protect consumers from fraudulent practices and seek monetary compensation from fraudsters. The Att.-Gen. can bring a trial by jury and freeze assets, making it easier to return money and property to victims. To classify manufacture, publication, depictions, promotion, or distribution of sexually explicit or obscene material or material harmful to minors as a deceptive trade practice. This bill will allow the state Att.-Gen. to prosecute these criminals and recover \$4,000 per violation. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 936: Bostar. Under existing law, pool halls, bowling alleys, roadhouses, dance halls, carnivals, shows, amusement parks, and other places of public amusement located outside of municipal limits must obtain a license from the county board. There is a statutorily imposed license fee of \$10 for the license application. Violation of this law is a Class V misdemeanor. This bill would outright repeal several of these fee requirements. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 938: Brandt. To add auctions and trades as means by which counties may obtain personal property or services. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1004: Hansen. To allow NE motorcycle riders who receive their licenses after May, 2024, to ride without a helmet if completing a safety class. To allow bikers and moped drivers 21 or older who obtained a Class M motorcycle license before May, 2024, and take an online version of the safety course to ride without a helmet. To eliminate the current requirement that motorcycle passengers over 21 must complete a safety class before riding without a helmet. A nonresident in the state who has completed an equivalent motorcycle safety education course may ride without a helmet. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1017: Bosn. To tighten worker compensation rules. The Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys and leftist Applesed Center opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1023: Von Gillern. To allow businesses to fully and immediately deduct expenses for specific machinery and equipment, also for research and experimental expenditures. The bill will allow businesses to reinvest money in their operations, helping local economies. NE will become more attractive to companies looking to invest capital and help our businesses upgrade their facilities and hire new employees. Up to \$5,000 in compensation paid to nonresident employees not considered taxable income under several stipulations. To decrease a tax on telecommunications customers from 6.25c to 4c. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1027: Clements. An application to the state dept. of education for a student to attend a home school will require the signature of only 1 parent, the same requirement as for public schools, instead of 2 parents. The annual application procedure will simplify. The state education dept. no longer can inspect or visit these schools or mandate testing there. The bill aligns requirements for exempt school employees to those of public school teachers, who are no longer required to pass the Praxis content exam. NE homeschool regulations are intimidating and burdensome, more restrictive than in other states. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1035: Hughes. Individuals, organizations, prescription drug manufacturers, and health care facilities may donate prescription drugs, over the counter medicines and products, and supplies after inspection. A 6 mo. expiration date for these drugs unless in high demand. These drugs after inspection would go to poor people who cannot afford their prescriptions. Civil and criminal protections and prohibition on professional disciplinary actions for individuals and entities that donate. NE would partner with the IA. program, which would reduce state costs. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1070: Bostar. To adjust the filing deadlines for ballot question committee campaign statements to align the timeline with other required reports. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1073: Slama. Amends a provision of the Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Registration Act to allow a PEO to offer its covered employees a health benefit plan that follows the requirements of the Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement Act and the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The purpose of the change is to eliminate unnecessary limits on the available options for PEOs in structuring their health benefit plans and level the playing field for Nebraska-based PEOs. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1074: Slama. To allow state chartered financial institutions and credit unions to conduct the same activities as their federally chartered counterparts and therefore preserve parity with federal institutions, so that state institutions not disadvantaged by state laws more restrictive than federal law. To update requirements for background checks of consumer finance licensees and require them to notify the state Dept. of Banking & Insurance of data security breaches within 3 business days. A county treasurer, county official, or state or political subdivision official cannot accept central bank digital currency (funny money) as a method of cash payment of a tax, levy, excise, duty, custom, toll, interest, penalty, fine, license, fee, or assessment. To exempt from public disclosure specific vital records. To address individual ability to use the name, trade name, logo, or symbol of a financial institution. Generally, under law, a person restricted from such activity unless gaining permission from the financial institution or promising to abide by stringent written solicitation notices to the individual being solicited. These laws designed to prevent customers of financial institutions from being misled by solicitations that they mistakenly assume have come from a financial institution. The NE Dept. of Banking & Finance can combat activity that violates this law and can fine violators \$5,000 per violation of those statutes. There is an increase in these misleading written solicitations. Companies cannot engage in the sale of sensitive personal data without receiving prior consent from the consumer. Violators face a penalty. The state welfare dept. no longer required to index all births, deaths, marriages, and divorces, only preserve and tabulate statistics on the documents. Credit unions allowed to open school savings branches. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1092: Murman. To make commercial business websites liable, if they intentionally distribute or publish materials online that are pornographic, without requiring age 18 verification for access. Parents and minors can sue companies for violations and win financial damages. To prohibit porn sites and screening businesses from keeping personal data after access granted. 8 other states already have such laws. Childhood exposure to porn links to serious mental health problems and exacerbates current mental problems. The ACLU-NE opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1120: Hardin. Whenever there is a sale of real property located in whole or in part near a military area in 8 NE Panhandle counties, the purchaser of the property must complete and sign an affidavit stating that such purchaser is not affiliated with a foreign government or nongovernment person designated as a foreign adversary, e.g., Red China. NE harbors 80 ICBM launch facilities. A falsely-sworn affidavit is a misdemeanor. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1200: Moser. To allow a contractor to combine the separate qualification and proposal steps of a construction manager-general contractor contract into a single-step process. To increase maximum truck length on NE highways from 40' to 45'. To change the way the state transportation dept. calculates the state variable fuel tax rate by adjusting the increments from the current one tenth of 1% to one-hundredth of 1% to make the calculation process more precise. To ensure that individuals utilizing the 988 Hotline can connect with and communicate with the 911 service system. As part of the provisions applicable to the titling of motor vehicles, buyers can check the National Motor Vehicle Title

Information System or the Nebraska Crime Information Service when conducting an identification inspection of a vehicle. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1215: Hansen. To eliminate certificate of need requirements for rehab beds in hospitals. To repeal the requirement for a signed statement within 10 days when a telehealth patient offers verbal consent during an initial consultation. To permit a prescriber who issues fewer than 50 RXs annually to not use electronic RX technology. To allow NE to become a member of the Interstate Compact for Physician Associates. The compact will remove licensure hurdles for licensed physician associates moving to NE to practice through granting a multi-state license and a shared database among compact member states for background checks. Active-duty military spouses and others licensed in this profession who have moved to NE can enter the workforce sooner. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1300: Bostar. To require an assessment of all risks to state security, economic security, or public health, if war breaks out with Red China or other Pacific countries. In conjunction, the state treasurer must conduct an audit of all state-managed funds and produce a report within 180 days of the effective date of this act. This report will identify investments at risk of substantial loss of value in a Pacific conflict, also investments in arms interests of a foreign adversary, state-owned enterprises of a foreign adversary, and companies domiciled within or owned by companies domiciled within a foreign adversary. To direct the governor to appoint a lead state agency to conduct a study on adversarial threats to state assets and critical infrastructure and to coordinate research and report development. To prohibit a scrutinized company from bidding on or submitting proposals, directly or indirectly, for public procurement relating to information, surveillance, or communications technologies or related goods or services. To prohibit companies from hostile nations bidding on specific state or local contracts. Also imposes civil penalties for violations of this law and gives the Att.-Gen. standing to enforce actions under the act. To expand county veteran service committees to aid all veterans, even if they did not serve in wartime. National Guard members also can receive assistance. City council members in cities of the metropolitan and primary classes may not increase their salaries or the salary of the mayor in excess of inflation as calculated by the Consumer Price Index plus 1%. City councils can raise such salaries in excess of this limit only with a public hearing, a two-thirds vote of the council, and approval of the voters in that city. Salaries cannot rise more frequently than once every 2 fiscal years. A similar limitation and process also mandated for metropolitan utility districts and counties. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1301: DeKay. Foreign individuals and companies that want to purchase NE land will face more scrutiny, if they are on the sanctions list maintained by the feds or determined by the Sec. of Commerce as engaging in a pattern of conduct significantly adverse to national security. To protect our NE real estate from ownership or control by nonresident aliens hostile to our national security or from holding a lease for longer than 5 yrs. Same restrictions for foreign governments and corporations. Citizens can report suspected foreign ownership of land by a restricted entity, and the state ag dept. will investigate suspected violations and refer them to the NE Att.-Gen. The Att.-Gen. or retained counsel can file an action for divestment and assign jurisdiction to district courts in the county where the property is located or Lancaster County district court. A state court can terminate a lease in violation of the law, and the Dept. of Administrative Services would sell the land under the bill divestment provisions. Up to 30% of such sale price then paid to the individual reporting such violation. The ACLU-NE opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1313: Dover. Health benefit plans sponsored by nonprofit ag groups that provide benefits with a self-funded arrangement not subject to insurance regulation, if the plan is self-funded and administered by a licensed third-party administrator. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1329: Murman. A school board or other governing body of a school district with 5,000 students or fewer can authorize the carrying of firearms by authorized security personnel, like retired law officers or off duty officers, on school grounds, in a school, in a school-owned vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event by adopting a written policy governing such conduct. Such written policy must include requirements for personal qualifications, training, appropriate firearms and ammunition, and appropriate use of force. A school district can use construction dollars for safety infrastructure. A public school board or a governing authority of a private, denominational, or parochial school in this state may vote to adopt a policy in accordance with this section to provide mapping data to public safety agencies for use in response to emergencies. Grants to schools providing mapping to first response agencies will help them find specific locations. Many rural school districts cannot afford to hire armed guards and are far away from law enforcement assistance. NE is only 1 of 7 states that do not permit individuals besides law officers to carry guns on school property. The State Board of Education and State Patrol jointly will create and advance a policy authorizing security personnel to carry firearms in schools. To make it easier for individuals with valid teacher certification outside of NE to teach in NE public schools, pending background checks, and create reciprocity among states for their issuance. To allow K-12 students to attend a public school outside their district. The state teacher's union opposed the legislation. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1368: Ibach. To eliminate an administrative fee imposed by the state Dept. of Natural Resources for permit applications, reducing administrative and accounting costs. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1370: Bostelman. To require electric suppliers to give written notice to the Power Review Board before beginning construction on or buying specific electric generation facilities or transmission lines located within a 10 mi. radius of a military installation. Retail suppliers exempted. The notice must certify that no materials or electronics manufactured by a foreign government or individual considered a foreign enemy under federal scrutiny are utilized. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1393: Hansen. To lower the state unemployment tax rate by 5% from 1-1-2025 to 12-31-2029. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1402: Linehan. To appropriate \$25 million annually to the State Treasurer to fund K-12 educational scholarships. The annual limit may increase as provided until it reaches \$100 million. Thereafter, no further increases allowed. These funds will go to third-party, non-profit organizations designated as scholarship-granting organizations to fund Opportunity Scholarships at private and parochial schools for 3 yrs. The bill outlines student eligibility requirements. Individual scholarships limited to 75% of the average General Fund expenditure for a public school student. The state treasurer will report annually to the governor and legislature regarding number of scholarships awarded, number of students on a wait list, and student demographic information. Participating schools must comply with federal anti-discrimination provisions and follow accreditation and approval requirements established by the State Board of Education. Students deserve a wide array of options for their K-12 education. Opponents included the teacher's union, OPS, and Lincoln Public Schools. GOOD BILL/PASSED

BAD BILLS.

LB 20: Wayne. To restore voting privileges to criminals after completing their felony sentences, parole, or probation. The current 2-yr. waiting period offers felons an incentive to stay out of trouble. Approximately 25% of felons commit new crimes after release and should not have voting rights. The state constitution states that convicted felons cannot vote again unless pardoned. Leftist Common Cause, Civic NE, and the ACLU-NE supported the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 62: M. Cavanaugh. To require the welfare dept. to provide coverage for translation and interpretation services for individuals eligible for welfare medical assistance, including illegal aliens. To require the dept. to submit an annual report on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program expenditures. The intent is to spend the maximum amount of available funds. Not all TANF expenditures designed to increase economic independence. Leftist NE Appleseed endorsed this bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 62A: M. Cavanaugh. To appropriate \$2,916,178 to fund LB 62. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 184: J. Cavanaugh. Statements made by a child defendant to a mental health professional during a criminal hearing process on a motion to transfer a case from juvenile court to adult court are inadmissible in subsequent proceedings in other criminal or civil proceedings. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 196: Bostar. To change the state patrol pension contribution rates. The member contribution reduced to 10% from the current 17% (for Patrol members hired after 7/1/26) or 16% (members hired prior to 7/1/16). Increases the State contribution from 17% to 24%. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 196A: McDonnell. To appropriate \$22,439,342 to fund LB 196. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 233: J. Cavanaugh. To exempt child support payments from considered income regarding eligibility for ADC monthly welfare payments. The leftist NE Appleseed supported the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 285: Walz. To require public and private schools with a high percentage of poor students to allow all students to eat free breakfasts and lunches without collecting financial information from households to prove eligibility. The state education dept. could waive the rule, if a district claimed inability to fund the program. Districts like OPS declare themselves impoverished in order to become eligible. The State Board of Education may implement rules to carry out this legislation. The leftist NE Appleseed supported the bill. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 307: Hunt. To allow local governments to permit private health organizations and pharmacies to dispense clean syringes to drug addicts. The bill would create health and safety issues such as dirty syringe litter on playgrounds and other public places. It would endanger minors because of no age restrictions. Such legislation elsewhere has not reduced illegal drug usage or the spread of diseases. Studies have shown that such legislation actually increases drug deaths and enables drug addiction. Planned Parenthood North Central States supported the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED/VETOED

LB 307ov: To override the gubernatorial veto of LB 307. VETO SUSTAINED

LB 358: Walz. To increase by 25% provider reimbursement rates for welfare dental services. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 358A: Walz. To appropriate \$3,054,187 in General Funds to fund LB 358. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 388: Linehan. The Gov. Pillen bill to raise the state sales tax by 1c per \$1. Omahans would pay 8c per \$1 sales tax. Sales tax would expand to several targeted services, like accounting services, pet services, and dry cleaning. Removes

sales tax exemptions for pop and candy. Increases taxes on cigarettes to \$1 dollar per pack, a 36c increase from the current 64c. Local governments could increase taxes to pay for needed law officers, firefighters, or prison officers. The NE Chamber of Commerce opposed the bill. BAD BILL/ KILLED

LB 388A: Linehan. To appropriate several million to fund LB 388. BAD BILL/ KILLED

LB 631: McKinney. To require the state parole board to have 1 member who was an incarcerated criminal and 1 member with experience in restorative justice and re-entry into society. Parole board members must have training in cultural sensitivity and implicit bias. State cannot deny parole for an inmate only because the prison did not offer or delayed offender programming. To create a bureaucratic Reentry Continuity Advisory Board. To prohibit a state agency or political subdivision from excluding someone from a program grant because of currently or previously being on parole or probation. To make taxpayer grants available to eligible parolees to support operation of their businesses. The ACLU-NE endorsed the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 631A: Wayne. To appropriate \$15,987,856 to fund LB 631. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 686: Walz. To require all 1st Class cities to provide 2 yrs. of health insurance benefits to retired firefighters, a massive unfunded mandate. \$31,807.93 cost to a city for FY 2026. This includes both the impact of expanding covered salary from base pay to total pay, also the increase in Lincoln contributions from 13% to 14% of pay. \$32,680.26 of additional cost for FY 2027, when Lincoln contributions increase from 14% to 15% of pay. This is in addition to the \$31,807.93 of costs for the first 1% increase in contribution rate, for a total FY 2027 cost of \$64,488.19 which is the ongoing annual cost for Lincoln. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 840: McKinney. No later than July 1, 2025, Omaha and Lincoln must establish and adopt a 5-year poverty elimination action plan. The cities must electronically submit a copy of the plan to the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature and the Clerk of the Legislature. Each city must reevaluate its poverty elimination action plan every 2 years and update its plan every 5 years to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Each city must update goals for eliminating poverty in high-poverty areas. Cities will have to add staff and hire consultants to comply with this legislation. The Urban Affairs Comm. could force a city to present a report at a public hearing. Cities with a population of at least 20,000 also must electronically submit a report to the Committee detailing efforts to eliminate poverty. Key components of the plan include needs assessment, community engagement, data analysis, education and job training, affordable housing, health care, access to social services, equity, and inclusion. Appointment of 9 commissioners and 3 resident commissioners for the Omaha housing agency. Commissioners will have a term of 4 years. To require appointment of county court-appointed attorneys for termination hearings and eviction proceedings for residents of public housing located in Omaha and require the city to pay for such attorneys. To increase workforce subsidized housing grant maximums to nonprofits from \$5 million to \$10 million and decrease the amount of matching funds required from an applicant from at least 50% to at least 25%. Leftist Legal Aid and ACLU-NE supported the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 856: Fredrickson. To exclude all earned and unearned income for child care workers when determining eligibility for a federal child care subsidy. Despite a sunset clause, this benefit probably will become permanent. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 857: Dungan. To create a prenatal welfare program to cover the cost of such programs for welfare mothers. Covered costs include up to 6 sessions of nutrition counseling, psych counseling, therapy, health education, breastfeeding support, and other case management services. Medicaid will pay enhanced rates for these services. The leftist Appleseed Center and ACLU-NE supported the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 857A: Dungan. To appropriate \$11,819,374 to fund LB 857. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 894 Amend. 2764: To allow illegal aliens to take jobs as NE law enforcement officers and carry firearms and ammunition. There is a federal prohibition against DACA illegal aliens possessing firearms. DACA illegals cannot truthfully take an oath of office requiring them to enforce our laws, because their presence here violates federal law. This provision would have exposed counties who hire DACA recipients to lawsuits. BAD AMENDMENT/ PASSED

LB 904: DeBoer. To provide individual state grants to pay for child care in nursing and assisted care facilities certified for Medicare or Medicaid. The leftist AARP endorsed the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 904A: DeBoer. To appropriate \$300,000 to fund LB 904. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 905: Riepe. To require the state welfare dept. to obtain Medicaid waivers in order to designate 2 respite medical facilities for homeless individuals, one in Omaha and one in Lincoln, adding to Medicaid costs. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 905A: Riepe. To appropriate \$747,200 to fund LB 905. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 937: Bostar. To offer nonrefundable state income tax credits to employers who hire the mentally disabled, eventually costing \$2 million in tax credits annually. To discharge medical debt for NE residents whose income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty line or with debt equal to or at least 5% of individual household income. To exempt diapers from state sales tax. To provide up to \$1 million in food donation tax credits. To offer a sales and use tax credit for the sale of qualifying sustainable aviation fuel. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 937A: Bostar. To appropriate \$1,445,827 to fund LB 937. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1087: Jacobson. To require every NE hospital to pay an assessment fee based on quarterly net patient revenue. This fee would bring in federal matching funds for Medicaid payments. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1102: Conrad. To recognize a special day for Malcolm X, who preached against White people, and hold suitable celebrations in our public schools in recognition. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1195: Conrad. \$1.5 million in taxpayer grants awarded to statewide legal service providers that provide direct free legal services to those who cannot pay their rent. To raise from \$60,000 to \$120,000 the amount of homestead exemption untouchable for liens and forced sale. To prohibit assisted-living facilities from requesting or requiring a third-party guarantee of payment as a condition of admission or continued stay in the facility. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1284: Walz. The Special Educators of Tomorrow Act provides eligibility for scholarships or loans to individuals with at least 2 years of direct support professional experience and enrolled or planning to enroll in an eligible institution for special education teaching. From the 2024-25 to the 2029-30 school years, eligible students can annually apply for scholarships of up to \$2,500 and loans not exceeding \$4,000 per year, with specific conditions for repayment outlined in a contract. To give college students forgivable tuition loans for up to 5 yrs., if they promise to teach special ed at a NE elementary or secondary school. The Nebraska Career Scholarship, overseen by the Board of Regents, offers financial support to university students in designated programs, including special education. The scholarship covers tuition, fees, and related expenses, renewable annually for up to 4 years. Eligible programs include those in math, engineering, health care, computer information systems, and, starting in 2024-25, those designated by the Dept. of Economic Development. To increase the maximum grant from \$5 million to \$10 million for the Teach in NE Today Act for those who teach in their area of expertise. The bill aims to attract individuals to the teaching profession through student loan repayment assistance or grants for classroom service. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1284A: Walz. To appropriate \$16,825,412 to fund LB 1284. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1363: McDonnell. To raise the documentary stamp tax from \$2.25 per \$1,000 of real estate value to \$2.60, making homes less affordable. The increased revenue from the stamp tax would reach \$17.6 million in FY 2025-2026. BAD BILL/ FINAL READING

LB 1363A: McDonnell. To appropriate \$5,854,831 to fund LB 1363. BAD BILL/ FINAL READING

LB 1412: Arch. To appropriate funds for the Dept. of Education to hire 2 additional personnel. The bill will allow the University to partner with youth rehabilitation and treatment centers and county correctional facilities, in addition to the Dept. of Correctional Services and the regional centers, to develop programs for students studying to become behavioral health professionals. Such programs include clinical rotations, clinical supervision, stipends, and student coordination and recruitment services. \$400,000 in General Funds for FY 2023-2024 and \$400,000 in General Funds for FY 2024-2025 meant to increase our behavioral health workforce in Nebraska. To appropriate \$900,000 from the General Fund for FY 2023-2024 and \$900,000 from the General Fund for FY 2024-2025 to HHS for evidence-based early intervention home visitation programs. State aid to schools, projected to drop by \$28 million in FY 2024-2025, instead will increase by \$65 million, the biggest budget increase. \$500,000 for a PTSD pilot program for poor Omaha children. \$600,000 for court interpreter pay hikes. To require unspent funds appropriated to the Developmental Disability Aid program distributed to providers at year end instead of returning to the General Fund. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 1413: Arch. To appropriate \$500,000 to the UN-L Law School to provide free legal services to poor families facing eviction. To create the Commission on African American Affairs Cash Fund. BAD BILL/ PASSED

