

Nebraska Association of County Officials Legislative Report



February 16, 2007

Valuation and Distribution Bills Sent to Floor

Assessors would be required to inspect and review all real property parcels every four years and adjust the value of all other real property by class or subclass under a bill that was advanced from the Revenue Committee on Thursday. A committee amendment to **LB 519** would eliminate a proposed requirement to inspect 25 percent of all property each year. The bill was intended to prevent sticker shock when valuations increase dramatically after a reappraisal. When funding is available, most counties already conduct valuations on a similar timeline.

The committee also advanced **LB 484**, which would require fire district and ag society funds to be distributed in the same time frame as distributions to cities, schools and educational service units. The committee killed two bills that would have revised the standard of review for the Tax Equalization and Review Commission, **LB 294** and **LB 332**.

Other committees took action on bills with county impact as well. Recall elections could be cancelled under a bill that was sent to the floor by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee this week. **LB 312** was introduced by Sen. Ray Aguilar at NACO's request in response to a resignation that occurred after a recall election had been scheduled. In addition, public officials resigning from office would need to follow procedures set out in the bill, including providing a written

resignation notice. The committee also advanced **LB 289**, a bill to require a record to be made of the registered voters attending meetings to exceed levy limits.

The Education Committee advanced **LB 219**, a measure to add deadlines to freeholder petition filings. **LB 630** and **LB 230**, which would have altered the student count and other requirements, were killed.

The Retirement Committee advanced three bills: **LB 665**, **LB 328** and **LB 370**. **LB 665** would give county employees who currently participate in the defined contribution plan an opportunity to join the cash balance plan that was adopted in 2002. **LB 328** is a cleanup bill that would create separate expense funds within the state administered plans and provide for re-enrollment of employees with a break in service of less than five years. **LB 370** would provide for an actuarial study of existing retirement plans for law enforcement officers across the state. The Legislature's rules require a study to be conducted before structural changes are made to public retirement plans. Two such proposals were offered this year. **LB 371** would create a retirement plan for law enforcement officers that is patterned after the state patrol plan. **LB 372** would create a separate cash balance plan for law enforcement officers.

Fence Viewing and Jury Summons Bills Advance to Final Round

Fence viewing panels would be eliminated by a bill that moved from Select File without debate on Thursday. **LB 108** was introduced at NACO's request by the Agriculture Committee to revise antiquated statutes requiring county clerks to administer the resolution of fence disputes. **LB 67**, which was introduced at NACO's request by Sen. Arnie Stuthman, was also advanced to

Final Reading. **LB 67** would allow the service of summons to prospective jurors by first-class mail. Existing law restricts service to certified or registered mail.

Senators began debate on **LB 307**, a bill to allow all-terrain vehicles to be operated on and across highways. Debate will continue on Tuesday.

2007 NACO Directories Are Now Available – Order forms are available at www.nacone.org

Selected Hearing Schedule for Weeks of Feb. 19 and Feb. 26

The following is a list of some of the bills with county impact that have been scheduled for public hearing next two weeks. Please check the Legislature's website (www.nebraskalegislature.gov) for a full listing. The Legislature will not meet on Monday, February 19 in observation of President's Day.

Tuesday, February 20

Agriculture Committee - Room 2102 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 515 - Change county planning commission provisions relating to livestock operations

Wednesday, February 21

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee - Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 233 - Provide a residency requirement for certain members of public building commissions
- LB 269 - Change provisions relating to county and museum board organization
- LB 348 - Change and eliminate provisions relating to the discontinuance of township organization
- LB 392 - Change provisions relating to municipal counties

Health and Human Services Committee - Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 292 - Provide for transfers of county funds for medicaid purposes
- LB 666 - Provide for eligibility for certain federal programs upon release from incarceration as prescribed

Thursday, February 22

Health and Human Services Committee - Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 616 - Eliminate a provision relating to regional behavioral health authorities
- LB 617 - Change provisions relating to children's behavioral health

Revenue Committee - Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 272- Provide for issuance of bonds by certain natural resources districts and a levy on taxable property
- LB 362 - Change budget limitations and require audits of joint entities
- LB 409 - Change tax levy authority of community colleges
- LB 569 - Change tax levy authority relating to hospital districts
- LB 628 - Change budget provisions and levy limitations for cities, villages, and counties

Friday, February 23

Appropriations Committee - Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 33 - Appropriate funds to fund the County Property Tax Relief Program

Judiciary Committee - Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 68 - Create the Office of Guardian ad Litem Services
- LB 75 - Provide powers and duties to the juvenile court regarding the placement and custody of juveniles
- LB 280 - Provide for jurisdiction over custody proceedings of juveniles as prescribed

- LB 556 - Change Juvenile Code provisions relating to counsel and guardian ad litem

Monday, February 26

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee - Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LR 28 - Provide the Legislature opposes enactment or enforcement in the State of Nebraska of the REAL ID Act
- LB 486 - Adopt the Local Community Rail Security and Employee Education Act
- LB 676 - Prohibit the blocking of railroad crossings for more than a specified time and to provide penalties

Tuesday, February 27

Appropriations Committee - Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 55 - Change provisions governing funding of home visitation, child, and parenting programs

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee - Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 182 - Change grant provisions under the public transportation assistance program
- LB 439 - Create the Highway Finance Task Force
- LB 447 - Require the Department of Roads to conduct a feasibility study for a Platte River bridge
- LB 276 - Rename the Department of Roads

Urban Affairs Committee - Room 1510 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 562 - Change provisions relating to the Community Development Law

Wednesday, February 28

Appropriations Committee - Room 1003 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 587 - Eliminate limitations on appropriations for county jail reimbursement assistance

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee - Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 477 - Change contribution levels for state and political subdivision employee health plans
- LB 252 - Change land surveyor application and registration fees

Judiciary Committee - Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 37 - Change the number of district court judges
- LB 38 - Change the number of separate juvenile court judges
- LB 377 - Reallocate district court judgeships
- LB 533 - Remove a requirement of consent and waiver of physical appearance for audiovisual court appearances

Natural Resources Committee - Room 1525 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 458 - Require vegetation management in certain streams

Revenue Committee - Room 1524 - 2:30 p.m.

- LB 502 - Change inheritance tax rates

Thursday, March 1

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee - Room 1507 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 686 - Provide for partisan ballots for unaffiliated voters at primary elections
- LB 528 - Change provisions relating to elections
- LB 646 - Change provisions relating to counting ballots
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Judiciary Committee - Room 1113 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 696 - Provide a fee increase and a waiting period for marriage licenses if marriage education requirements are not met
- LB 164 - Change provisions of the Relocation Assistance Act
- LB 104 - Change age of majority from nineteen to eighteen
- LB 112 - Provide for the judicial emancipation of minors

Revenue Committee - Room 1524 - 1:30 p.m.

- LB 416 - Exempt government retirement benefits from income tax

Friday, March 1 - Recess