

Nebraska Association of County Officials Legislative Report



January 15, 2010

Legislature Convenes on January 6, 2010

The 101st Legislature, Second Session convened last week for a “short” 60-day session. Bills that were not advanced or killed in 2009 were carried over to the 2010 session. By the end of the seventh day, 288 new bills and constitutional amendments had been introduced. More than 500 bills carried over from last year.

Wind energy, road funding and the state budget are issues that will likely affect county government this year. Appropriations Committee Chair Lavon Heidemann suggested to the body that consideration of bills with fiscal notes should occur earlier in the process this year due to reports of reduced revenue subsequent to this fall’s budget-cutting special session. Typically bills with a fiscal impact are advanced through the first two rounds of debate and held for final consideration until the budget is developed. He noted that under calculations using certain global percentages, rather than specific Nebraska projections, the state could face shortfalls approaching \$1 billion next year.

In light of this, during the first three days of debate, several carryover bills with a fiscal impact failed to advance or were withdrawn. One of these bills, **LB 544**, would have required the Secretary of State to develop guidelines for election workers.

Another election bill **LB 325**, which addresses the use of provisional ballots when a voter moves within his or her precinct, was advanced to the second round of debate but will be amended.

These bills, as well as the calendar, daily agenda, hearing schedules, and more can be viewed on the Legislature's website at www.nebraskalegislature.gov. A BillTracker link located under the For Citizens tab enables users to sign up to receive regular email updates on up to 15 bills. Other legislative information is available through the following sources:

- Clerk of the Legislature - information about state senators, hearing schedules, speaker's daily agenda. Phone: (402)471-2271
- Legislative 24-Hour Request Line - individual copies of bills or Unicameral Update subscriptions. Phone: (402)471-2877
- Hotline - answers to questions about the status of bills or other information. Phone: (402)471-2709; Outside Lincoln (800) 742-7456

Following a recess day on Jan. 15 and a holiday break in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, committee hearings are scheduled to begin on the afternoon of Jan. 19. Adjournment is tentatively scheduled for April 14.

Second NACO Legislative Committee Meeting Set for January 22

NACO's Legislative Committee met on Jan. 15 and will meet again on Jan. 22 to review and take positions on 2010 legislation and address carryover legislation, if necessary. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) Building (605 S. 14th Street) in Lincoln. The NSEA Building is located directly north of the NACO office.

All county officials are invited to attend these meetings. Because lunch will be provided, please notify the NACO office at (402)434-5660 or leslie@nacone.org if you plan to attend. Parking is not permitted behind the NSEA Building and parking

behind the NACO office is very limited. Because the Legislature is in session on Jan. 22, parking around the Capitol may be limited. Parking is available at the Cornhusker Hotel.

After brief introductory remarks, affiliate groups will meet for discussion of bills pertinent to their membership. After the groups have met, the NACO Legislative Committee will convene as a whole to review and take positions on the entire list of bills. All county officials are encouraged to attend or discuss areas of concern with their NACO Board representative prior to the meeting.

Legislative Report Available on NACO's Website

If you received a hard copy of this report through the mail and would prefer to read it electronically, please send a request via email to beth@nacone.org. Each Friday morning you will receive an email notice with a link to the updated weekly report

on the NACO website at www.nacone.org. Paper versions of the weekly report will continue to be mailed to officials who have not provided NACO with an email address.

NACO Scholarships Available

The NACO Board of Directors voted in December to make 12 scholarships of \$1,000 available to children, stepchildren and grandchildren under the legal guardianship of county officials and employees. Students must be seniors attending a Nebraska

high school and plan to further their education within the state. The deadline for applications is March 1. Application forms are available on the NACO website under the Services tab or by calling the NACO office at 402-434-5660.

Selected Hearing Schedule

The following is a list of some of the bills with county impact that have been scheduled for public hearing. Please check the Legislature's website for a full listing.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

Room 1113 1:30 p.m.

- LB 688 - Change provisions for abandoned vehicles
- LB 705 - Remove a limitation on issuance of disabled veterans license plates
- LB 749 - Designate certain roads as state recreation roads
- LB 782 - Change provisions relating to the issuance of distinctive license plates for governmental units

Agriculture Committee

Room 2102 1:30 p.m.

- LB 731 - Change provisions relating to noxious weed control funds

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Revenue Committee

Room 1524 1:30 p.m.

- LB 698 - Eliminate certain insurance premium tax provisions
- LB 724 - Change provisions relating to use of tax proceeds for tourism promotion
- LB 804 - Provide an exemption from the documentary stamp tax

Natural Resources Committee

Room 1525 1:30 p.m.

- LB 798 - Extend the termination date of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act

Thursday, Jan. 21

Revenue Committee

Room 1524 1:30 p.m.

- LB 877 - Change property assessment and tax provisions
- LB 878 - Change and eliminate tax provisions relating to electronic fund transfers, withholding, and overpayments
- LB 879 - Change revenue and taxation provisions

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Room 1507 1:30 p.m.

- LB742 - Provide requirements for settlement agreements involving public entities and provide that such agreements are public records
- LB 714 - Change requirements for disclaimers on political material

Thursday, Jan. 21 (con't.)

Judiciary Committee

Room 1113 1:30 p.m.

- LB 746 - Change provisions relating to racial profiling
- LB 784 - Change admission provisions relating to law enforcement training
- LB 844 - Change provisions relating to Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center tuition, fees, and expenses

Friday, Jan. 22

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Room 1507 1:30 p.m.

- LB 686 - Change fees received by clerks and registers of deeds
- LB 768 - Provide for the termination of township boards as prescribed
- LB 826 - Adopt the County Consolidation Act

Judiciary Committee

Room 1113 1:30 p.m.

- LB 769 - Provide for immunity from liability for county clerks regarding incorrect or false marriage license application information
- LB 824 - Change provisions relating to master jury lists
- LB 915 - Provide for use of motor vehicle operator license numbers and state identification card numbers in compiling jury lists

Revenue Committee

Room 1524 1:30 p.m.

- LB 823 - Provide for appointment of county assessors

Monday, Jan. 25

General Affairs Committee

Room 1510 1:30 p.m.

- LB 825 and LR277CA - Provide for parimutuel wagering on horseraces at satellite wagering facilities

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

Room 1113 1:30 p.m.

- LB 719 - Change provisions relating to use of a rotating or flashing amber light on a motor vehicle