

NACO Legislative Report



January 5, 2024

[Video Report](#)

Nebraska Legislature Convenes for 60-Day Session

The Nebraska Legislature convened on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 to begin a “short” 60-day session. Senators began bill introductions on the first day and will continue to introduce bills during the first ten days of the session. By the end of the third day, 214 bills and two constitutional amendments had been [introduced](#). Bills that were not passed or killed in 2023 have [carried over](#) to the 2024 session.

Senator Ray Aguilar was elected as chair of the [Executive Board](#) to replace former Senator Tom Briese, who resigned on October 31 and was appointed State Treasurer. Governor Jim Pillen appointed Fred Meyer of St. Paul to fill the vacancy in District 41.

Debate on the permanent [rules](#) for the session will begin on January 10 and continue through January 19, if necessary. After the rules are adopted, debate will begin on carry-over bills. Public hearings on new bills will begin on January 22 and continue each afternoon through the end of February. Full days of floor debate will begin on March 4. Adjournment is tentatively scheduled for April 18.

Legislative bills and a [portal](#) to offer written comments on each bill are available on the Legislature’s website. It also contains the daily agenda, [session calendar](#), [hearing schedules](#), and other information related to the session. In addition, [Nebraska Public Media](#) livestreams the proceedings each day.

The session is officially the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, Second Session and constitutes the second half of the biennium.

New Bill Introductions

Among the bills introduced this week were measures to update the County Purchasing Act ([LB938](#)), increase the allowable length of trucks on county roads ([LB900](#)), and require parcels to be at least five contiguous acres to receive special valuation ([LB877](#)). Other bills would expand the ability to provide assistance to veterans who served during peacetime ([LB869](#)) and require sheriffs to have completed the training academy before filing for office ([LB894](#)). Here are some of the bills that could affect counties.

County Operations

[LB936](#) (Bostar) Eliminate provisions relating to county regulation of certain recreation, entertainment, and amusement activities

[LB938](#) (Brandt) Change provisions of the County Purchasing Act

[LB940](#) (Dorn) Authorize certain actions by counties relating to facilities, programs, and services for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault

[LB951](#) (Linehan) Adopt the Public Officials on Private Boards Open Meetings Act

[LB963](#) (Wayne) Provide for powers and duties of county attorneys and deputy county attorneys to be performed by district attorneys and deputy district attorneys appointed by the Attorney General

[LB988](#) (Linehan) Provide, change, and eliminate provisions regarding elections for certain purposes

[LB1003](#) (Hansen) Change a requirement relating to child care licensing in cities, villages, or counties

[LB1028](#) (Clements) Require city-county health departments to obtain approval for directed health measures

Property Tax

[LB877](#) (Holdcroft) Change provisions relating to agricultural or horticultural land receiving special valuation

[LB949](#) (Linehan) Change provisions relating to inspection of real property by county assessors

[LB1019](#) (Holdcroft) Change provisions relating to the correction of assessment and tax rolls

Homestead Exemptions

[LB853](#) (Jacobson) Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions

[LB924](#) (McKinney) Provide a homestead exemption for residents of qualified census tracts

Roads

[LB900](#) (Brandt) Change provisions of the Nebraska Rules of the Road relating to the length of vehicles

[LB1030](#) (Bostelman) Change provisions of the County Bridge Match Program and provide for a transfer of funds from the Roads Operations Cash Fund

Law Enforcement/Courts

[LB894](#) (Ibach) Change law enforcement certification requirements for candidates for county sheriff

[LB996](#) (Wayne) Provide for the Department of Correctional Services to operate the county jails

[LB1021](#) (Cavanaugh, M.) Require programs for inmates related to compensation and employment and require minimum wage for inmates of jails and Department of Correctional Services facilities and state and political subdivision employees

Veterans

[LB869](#) (Bostar) Change provisions relating to services of the county veterans service committees

Noxious Weed Control

[LB828](#) (Blood) Change provisions of the Nebraska Apiary Act and provide for the Pollinator Task Force, the Nebraska Apiary Registry, and immunity for certain damages relating to bees

[LB831](#) (Blood) Change provisions of the Noxious Weed Control Act and provide for control of restricted plants

NACO Legislative Committee Meeting Set for January 19

NACO's Legislative Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. (CST) on Friday, January 19 to review and take positions on bills that have been introduced through the first eight days of the 2024 legislative session. The meeting will be conducted through Zoom. Each affiliate group has been asked to review the bills pertinent to their office prior to the meeting and select one of their members to speak to their recommended positions on bills. Register for the meeting [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The Committee will meet again on January 25 to take positions on bills introduced during the final two days of introductions. A webinar will not be held so comments on those bills should be provided to your NACO Board representative to share at the meeting.

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

1335 H Street None | Lincoln, NE 68508 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.