

# NACO Legislative Report



January 24, 2025

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## Bill Introductions Continue, Debate Begins

Bill [introductions](#) wrapped up this week with a total of 715 bills and 18 constitutional amendments offered this session. Topics affecting counties range from property taxes to zoning to juvenile justice and motor vehicles. [Here are some of the bills introduced this week that affect counties.](#)

Senators debated proposed changes to the Legislature's permanent [rules](#) and adopted revisions to the calculation of "present not voting" thresholds during cloture votes on Final Reading. A proposal to remove the 20-bill cap on introductions by individual senators was debated but not adopted. The limit on bill introductions was adopted last year.

Next week senators will begin floor debate on bills that have been advanced by committees. On January 28, Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Jeffrey Funke will present the annual State of the Judiciary address.

## Committee Hearings Begin

On Wednesday, the Legislature's standing committees began holding public hearings on bills introduced during this session. Hearings will conclude on March 28 and full days of floor debate will begin on March 31.

### Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

The call period for county bonds could be extended and outdated lien language would be repealed under two bills heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee this week. Both bills were introduced at NACO's request. [LB58](#) would repeal an antiquated process for jewelers, silversmiths and clock and watch repairers to file a lien on items left in their care and eventually dispose of them under Uniform Commercial Code provisions. [LB126](#) would allow counties that sell their bonds through a competitive process to extend the call period beyond five years. Currently, ten years is the national standard for bonds sold competitively. For counties using a negotiated sale process, the call period would remain at five years. No opponents testified on either bill.

On Thursday, the committee heard testimony on [LB166](#) that would require the residential addresses of law enforcement officers, judges, and certain National Guard members to be protected from disclosure in county treasurers' records in the same way they are protected in records of county assessors and registers of deeds. Under existing law, eligible officers and judges submit a form showing their residential address to the assessor, who shares the information with the register of deeds. LB166 would require distribution of the requests to the county treasurer as well. Protected records could be obtained through a written request. NACO testified, noting that much address information is available through other online search tools.

## Revenue Committee

The Revenue Committee heard the first of several bills on homestead exemptions for veterans on Thursday. [LB209](#) would clarify that disabled veterans assigned a total disability rating under federal code would be eligible for a full exemption. It would also clarify the property tax exemption for certain nursing and long-term care facilities. Two other veterans homestead exemption bills will be heard on January 29. [LB272](#) and [LB425](#) would allow homestead exemptions in an amount equal to the veteran's disability percentage.

## Judiciary Committee

Persons under 19 years of age would be exempt from certain court costs and fees under [LB65](#) that was heard by the Judiciary Committee on Friday. Some of these funds are earmarked for the Public Advocacy Commission, training, court automation, and other services. The bill is similar to last year's [LB1089](#) which came out of committee but was not debated. The committee also heard bills on the discovery of digital evidence on cell phones and other electronic devices ([LB93](#)) and a re-write of protection order laws ([LB80](#)).

## Hearings Scheduled For Next Week

Bills on tax sales, riparian vegetation management, titling all-terrain vehicles, and tax increment financing will be heard next week.

On Thursday, the Revenue Committee will hear [LB458](#) that would clarify the process for tax sales of delinquent property. Legislation enacted in 2023 created notice and administrative fee provisions for purchasers of tax sale certificates but generated technical questions as treasurers implemented the new laws. A hearing date has not been set for [LB679](#), a bill to allow for bulk sales of tax sales certificates negotiated by county boards.

The Agriculture Committee will hear a bill to increase funding for the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Assistance Fund from \$3 million to \$6 million. [LB145](#), which will be heard on Tuesday, would help with the management of vegetation within the banks or the flood plain of a natural stream. Riparian weed management, such as removal of phragmites, helps improve flow conveyance and reduce flooding.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee will hear bills related to all-terrain (ATVs) and utility-type vehicles (UTVs) on Tuesday. [LB98](#) would strike weight limits from the definitions of ATVs and UTVs that prevent larger vehicles from being titled. [LB337](#) would provide for the registration of such vehicles. [LB196](#) would allow them to be operated during daylight hours for snow removal in cities and villages.

On Tuesday, the Urban Affairs Committee will hear [LB240](#), a bill to move the deadline for notices of tax increment financing projects to be provided to county assessors to July 1. The existing deadline is August 1.

[See a schedule of selected hearings of interest to counties.](#) The full hearing schedule is available [here](#).

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