

NACO Legislative Report



January 23, 2026

Bill Introductions Conclude, Hearings Begin

The introduction of [new bills](#) wrapped up on Wednesday, with a total of 545 bills and 12 constitutional amendments offered during this 60-day session.

After the holiday recess on Monday, senators advanced [LB384](#), a bill to revise attendance by elected board members and county assessors at “pink postcard” hearings, and debated [LB400](#), a bill to provide worker’s compensation to firefighters who develop certain cancers. After nearly five hours of first round debate, LB400 was passed over at the request of the introducer, Senator Dave Wordekemper. Senators began debate on [LB203](#), a bill to define the role of county health directors in issuing directed health measures. Amendments are pending that would revise the procedures used to obtain county board approval of such measures. Debate on LB203 will continue on Monday.

On Thursday, Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Jeffrey Funke presented his annual [State of the Judiciary](#) address. He outlined successful programs in the justice system, acknowledged the budgetary pressures hindering expanded access to problem-solving courts, and outlined updates to the 30-year-old electronic case management system.

“Pink Postcard” Hearing Attendance Revised

County assessors and an elected member of the governing board would be required to attend the “pink postcard” joint public hearing under first-round amendments adopted to [LB384](#). Counties, cities, and school districts that exceed their property tax request by more than an allowable growth percentage must participate in these hearings as part of the Property Tax Request Act, which was adopted in 2021. Notice of the joint public hearing is mailed to property owners on a pink postcard.

Existing law requires at least one elected official to attend the hearing, plus a designated representative from each entity. The same person can serve in both roles. As introduced, the bill would have required at least a majority of the members of the governing body to attend the hearing. A Revenue Committee [amendment](#) was adopted to change this requirement to one voting member of the governing body. Before the bill advanced from General File, an [amendment](#) was adopted to require the assessor of the county hosting the hearing to also attend.

Supporters said that some counties send the elected county clerk or treasurer to the hearings because they prepare the budgets. The bill is intended to ensure that an official who is directly responsible for voting on the budget attends the hearing.

A separate pink postcard bill, [LB575](#), is pending before the Revenue Committee. NACO continues to work on amendments for a more effective system to give taxpayers notice of valuation increases, property tax protest timelines, and budget setting-hearings.

Committee Hearings Next Week

General Affairs Committee

On Monday, the General Affairs Committee will hear a bill to increase the amount of keno taxes counties retain under the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act. Under [LB782](#), counties would retain two percent, rather than one percent, before remitting funds to the state.

The committee will also hear [LB1001](#), a bill to permit individuals 19 years of age or older to participate in keno at licensed racetrack enclosures in areas separate from casino gaming floors.

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

A Department of Motor Vehicles clean-up bill will be heard on Monday. [LB972](#) would make adjustments to single special interest license plates, provide for In Transit placards to be displayed in rear windows or rear side windows, and codify a guidance document on the registration of untitled trailers.

Agriculture Committee

[LB807](#), as introduced, would move administration of the Noxious Weed Control Act from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Water, Energy and Environment (NDWEE). It would state the intent to appropriate \$6 million beginning in FY26-27. An [amendment](#) has been offered to move only invasive species funding to NDWEE.

[LB947](#) would revise fees for programs administered by the Department of Agriculture. These bills will be heard by the Agriculture Committee on January 27.

Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee

[LB837](#) would address the shortage of pennies and authorize rounding for cash transactions for the sale of goods or services. Because county boards cannot “release, discharge, remit, or commute any portion of the taxes assessed or levied against any person or property” (Neb. Rev. Stat. § [77-1737](#)), counties cannot round taxes up or down. The bill will be heard by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee on Tuesday, January 27.

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Two bills on unclaimed property will be heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on Thursday, January 29. [LB869](#) would revise procedures for the publication of unclaimed property by the State Treasurer and [LB1074](#) would create a liquidation fund for use during a securities reconciliation and liquidation project by the state.

[LB1203](#), a bill to allow counties to write off uncashed checks rather than submitting them to the state as unclaimed property, was introduced by Senator Stan Clouse on NACO’s behalf. It has not been scheduled for a hearing.

Judiciary Committee

[LB984](#), which will be heard by the Judiciary Committee on January 29, would eliminate the authority for 17-year-olds to marry with parental consent. Instead, the minimum age to marry would be 18.

On January 30, the committee will hear [LB1228](#) that would create a state docket fee on filings in civil cases, traffic misdemeanors and infractions to help fund electronic case management system updates and Supreme

Court Operations. Counties, cities, and villages would not be required to pay fees that are deemed uncollectible for any reason.

Revenue Committee

The taxable valuation of agricultural and horticultural land would be reduced from 75 percent to 50 percent of actual value under a bill that will be heard by the Revenue Committee on January 28. The change proposed in [LB814](#) would take effect on January 1, 2027.

At the same hearing, the committee will take testimony on [LB1094](#), the By-Right Housing Development Act, and [LB920](#) that would increase taxes on gaming machines to support child care.

On January 29, the committee will hear two bills on tax exemptions and a bill to reallocate documentary stamp taxes. [LB756](#) would expand motor vehicle registration and mobile tax home tax exemptions for disabled or blind veterans to their surviving spouses. [LB882](#) would eliminate a requirement for veterans with a 100 percent service-connected permanent disability to file a homestead exemption application in years divisible by five. The filing helps ensure that ineligible persons do not continue to receive the exemption after the recipient is no longer in the home. [LB1067](#) would increase documentary stamp taxes from \$2.32 to \$3.82 per thousand dollars of value on property transfers. The new funds would be allocated to rural workforce housing and middle income housing. The county share would remain at 50 cents.

Hearings Held This Week

Revenue Committee

Three NACO bills that would modernize and clarify county practices were heard by the Revenue Committee this week. [LB834](#) was introduced by Senator Kathleen Kauth to eliminate mobile home park permit fees. Other sections would specifically authorize assessors to appoint deputies and request emergency assessors exams for deputies, harmonize population references for counties over 100,000, and clarify that only counties and cities must include the cost of public safety services on tax statements. The bill would remove an unnecessary column for unreimbursed recreational tax credits on tax lists and allow delinquent real estate taxes on mobile homes to be extinguished after 15 years like other real property. NACO and county officials testified in support of the bill. There was no opposition.

[LB770](#) would clarify that counties collect a one percent commission for their role in nameplate capacity tax distribution, as well as codifying existing commissions on distributions to reclamation districts and agricultural societies. LB770 was introduced by Senator Dan Lonowski at NACO's request. Although it hasn't been scheduled for a hearing, [LB1021](#) would prohibit counties from collecting commissions on nameplate capacity taxes and grant the state a three percent commission. NACO opposes LB1021.

[LB900](#) would increase distress warrant fees collected by sheriffs from \$2 to \$20 and revise commissions to reflect inflation. The bill is part of an ongoing effort by NACO to modernize fees to cover the costs of providing services.

The committee also heard [LB868](#), a bill to exempt beneficiaries of homicide victims from inheritance taxes. Applications for the exemption would be filed with the Department of Revenue. NACO testified in conditional opposition and pointed out technical details that would improve implementation of the bill.

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Several bills impacting veterans were heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee this week. Under [LB767](#), persons who contract with veterans to assist them in obtaining benefits would be allowed to receive compensation for their services. The bill was introduced in response to last year's [LB693](#), that would prohibit such contracts as deceptive trade practices. These services are already available at no cost to veterans through county veterans service officers. NACO and veterans service officers testified in opposition to LB767.

[LB786](#) would redirect funds generated from Military Honor license plates to a fund for grants for needy service members and [LB787](#) would change reporting by the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs.

Another bill, [LB951](#), would allow persons residing in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality to vote in city elections. [LR283CA](#) would state that only U.S. citizens may be electors and [LR284CA](#) would allow 16-year-olds to vote.

Judiciary Committee

The Judiciary Committee heard three bills, [LB804](#), [LB755](#), and [LB816](#), to provide confidentiality of peer support communication. Peer support programs bridge a crucial gap by offering the ability to talk with colleagues who have walked the same path. The assurance of confidentiality encourages open communication between the peer support team and law enforcement officers who have experienced a critical incident, without concerns about disclosure of the discussion.

[LB727](#) would allow law enforcement agencies to obtain and use epinephrine autoinjectors.

Natural Resources

Counties and cities would assume regulatory authority over mobile home parks, swimming pools, recreation camps as part of [LB760](#) that was heard by the Natural Resources Committee. Local governments could adopt minimum requirements for the establishment, operation and maintenance of these facilities, including issuing licensing and imposing penalties for violations. The Department of Water, Energy and Environment would retain regulatory authority over drinking water, wastewater, minimum flood plain standards and other areas. The bill was intended to increase efficiency and responsiveness.

Public health directors and environmental health workers testified in a neutral position, noting that the role of health directors isn't clearly defined in the bill and fragmentation of regulations might not create efficiency.

The committee also heard [LB759](#) to make technical corrections in last year's merger the Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Natural Resources. The bill would eliminate an annual meeting to determine the percentage distribution of grants from the Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund. Other sections would exempt entry onto property for geotechnical and other work related to the Perkins County Canal project from consideration as trespassing. Committee members questioned the impact on private property rights and whether notice would be provided to property owners.

Selected Committee Hearings

Following are selected hearings that are of interest to counties. The full list of hearings is available [here](#).

Monday January 26, 2026

General Affairs Committee

Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

[LB782](#) (Riepe) Change the percentage of the tax on gross proceeds submitted to the Department of Revenue under the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act

[LB1001](#) (General Affairs Committee) Change and eliminate provisions relating to licensed racetrack enclosures, licenses and wagering on horseracing, assistance to problem gamblers, the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue, keno at licensed racetrack enclosures, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee

Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

[LB972](#) (Fredrickson) Change provisions relating to parking spaces for handicapped or disabled persons, the State Boat Act, the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act, the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act, and the Nebraska Rules of the Road

Tuesday January 27, 2026

Agriculture Committee

Room 1023 - 1:30 PM

[LB807](#) (Ibach) Change the administration of the Noxious Weed Control Act from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and change provisions of the Noxious Weed Control Act and the Water Resources Cash Fund

[LB947](#) (Agriculture Committee) Change fees under the Plant Protection and Plant Pest Act and the Pesticide Act, change provisions relating to the Weeds of the Great Plains book, and change, eliminate, and terminate certain funds

Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee

Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

[LB837](#) (Jacobson) Provide for rounding of certain cash transaction amounts

[LB783](#) (Hallstrom) Adopt the Uniform Assignment for Benefit of Creditors Act and provide an exemption to the documentary stamp tax

Wednesday January 28, 2026

Judiciary Committee

Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

[LB965](#) (Bostar) Prohibit sexual abuse of a probationer or problem solving court participant; prohibit sexual abuse by a conservator, guardian, guardian ad litem, or child welfare service provider; provide for administration of naloxone by probation employees; and change conduct constituting the offense of incest

[LB889](#) (Clouse) Change a penalty in the State Electrical Act

[LB1090](#) (Murman) Provide requirements for petition circulators and provide a penalty

[LB1080](#) (DeBoer) Provide for use of unsworn declarations in civil proceedings, change related criminal provisions, and change provisions of the Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act

Revenue Committee

Room 1524 - 1:30 PM

LB814 (Brandt) Change provisions relating to the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land

[LB1094](#) (Ballard) Adopt the By-Right Housing Development Act and the Permitting Approval Timeliness Act

[LB920](#) (Spivey) Change provisions relating to the advertisement, operation, use, and taxation of cash devices, the distribution of tax proceeds, and violations under the Mechanical Amusement Device Tax Act and create the Nebraska Child Care Aid Fund

Thursday January 29, 2026

Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

[LB1074](#) (Sanders) Change provisions relating to unclaimed property proceeds and funds and a statute of limitations

Judiciary Committee

Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

[LB984](#) (DeBoer) Require both parties to be eighteen years of age or older for a marriage license

Revenue Committee

Room 1524 - 1:30 PM

[LB756](#) (Wordekemper) Change a motor vehicle tax exemption and a property tax exemption relating to certain disabled veterans

[LB882](#) (Andersen) Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions for certain veterans and surviving spouses

[LB1067](#) (Hallstrom) Change provisions relating to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the rate and disbursement of the documentary stamp tax, the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Fund, and the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Fund

Friday January 30, 2026

Health and Human Services Committee

Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

[LB860](#) (Bostar) Require the Department of Health and Human Services to create a program to provide behavioral health care services to individuals under twenty-one years of age

[LB866](#) (Ballard) Change distribution of the Nebraska Opioid Recovery Trust Fund, create a fund, and provide for drug detection activities

Judiciary Committee

Room 1525 - 1:30 PM

[LB1228](#) (Holdcroft) Provide for a state docket fee and create funds for court purposes

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