

NACO Legislative Report



March 27, 2026

Eight Days Remain, Budget Bills Advance

Monday, March 30 will be the 52nd day of the 60-day legislative [session](#). Roughly 100 hours are available for debate in the remaining days.

Bills that would impact counties are at various stages of debate. [LB596](#) on Select File would revise publication of meeting notices, increase marriage license fees, and clean up county clerks' duties. [LB834](#) on Final Reading would eliminate mobile home park permit fees and modernize other county practices. Amendments are pending that would allow assessors to enter onto property in the performance of their duties without risking prosecution for trespassing ([LB1019](#)) and harmonize 911 cell phone surcharges across the state with an emphasis on funding 911 center operations ([LB576](#)). Amendments are expected next week to [LB468](#), last year's bill to reduce inheritance tax collections that carried over on Select File. A companion bill, [LB714](#), that would provide replacement revenue through motor vehicle tax and fee revisions, was reported out of committee last week and is on General File.

As the Speaker prepares the daily agenda, he must weigh the priority status of each bill against the time expected for debate. Some bills will advance quickly through a consent calendar process; others may require a cloture vote at each round of debate. A cloture vote may be requested by the introducer after "full and fair debate" has been afforded to a bill. This is generally considered as eight hours of debate on General File, four hours on Select File, and one hour on Final Reading. If the issue is controversial or emotionally charged, the Speaker can cut those times in half. A two-thirds majority, or 33 votes, is required to invoke cloture. If a cloture vote is successful, a vote is taken to advance the bill.

Two unsuccessful cloture votes were taken before the Legislature advanced the mainline budget bill, [LB1071](#), from Select File on Thursday. It advanced after provisions on private school scholarship funds and increased childcare subsidies were removed from the bill. [LB1071](#) and [LB1072](#), a bill to sweep state agency cash funds and make transfers from the state's tax reserves, are expected to be scheduled for Final Reading next week. Any remaining budget shortfall will be made up through bills designed to generate revenue.

Pink Postcard Revision Debate Scheduled

First round debate on amendments to revamp the pink postcard notice of potential property tax increases is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on [Monday](#), March 30. The underlying bill, [LB803](#), is a Revenue Committee priority bill that was introduced as a shell bill for property tax legislation. The committee [amendment](#) incorporates provisions from [LB575](#) on the pink postcard/joint public hearing process, as well as correcting the treatment of

unused budget authority under the property tax cap ([LB1154](#)), authorizing first time homebuyer savings accounts ([LB938](#)), and expanding the time frame for cities to use sports arena funds ([LB1116](#)).

The amendment would repeal the existing process of mailing a postcard notice for a September joint public hearing of counties, cities, and school districts that exceed the prior year's property tax request plus growth. Instead, notice would be sent by June 1 with a side-by-side comparison of taxes levied against property for the prior year and the current year using the previous year's levy rate. The notice would inform taxpayers about how to protest their valuation and that information on budget hearings will be made available. By June 25, the Department of Revenue would send a postcard containing information about county website addresses that list the time and place of the first budget hearing for counties, cities, and schools and the time and place of the joint public hearing.

The bill would require political subdivisions to hold a hearing and pass a resolution by a two-thirds majority vote in order to increase the amount of taxes levied from the prior year. Until county tax askings were shifted to a property tax cap, a 75 percent majority vote of the county board was required to access a one percent increase in restricted funds.

An [amendment](#) has been offered to clarify that the new procedures would take effect in 2027.

Among the other bills that appear on Monday's General File agenda is [LB826](#) to allow late filing of homestead exemption applications when the delay is caused by late receipt of certification of disability status from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

A separate bill on homestead exemptions, [LB882](#), was sent to the floor by the Revenue Committee this week. It would eliminate requirements for 100 percent permanently disabled veterans to recertify their status in years divisible by five. Instead, homestead exemption application forms would require eligible veterans or their unremarried surviving spouses to affirm that remarriage could cause the spouse to become ineligible. An interim study resolution, [LR453](#), has been introduced to examine the effects of [LB126](#) (2024) that allowed homestead exemption recipients who become ineligible due to a valuation increase to retain the exemption.

Other bills on Monday's agenda include [LB952](#) to modernize named funds used by the Supreme Court and [LB1256](#) to add duties related to snow and ice removal and flood management to the definition of emergency management so that workers in these areas would be recognized as emergency management workers under the Nebraska Emergency Management Act.

Judiciary Committee Bill Advanced from First Round

One Judiciary Committee [priority bill](#) was advanced from the first round of debate this week and another was reported out of committee.

[LB935](#), as advanced from General File, incorporates several bills heard by the committee. Because the Judiciary Committee [amendment](#) contained bills on civil, criminal, and fee issues, the amendment was divided into eight sections and each was voted upon individually. [Provisions](#) from [LB1228](#) would create a new state docket fee to help fund an update to the Supreme Court's electronic case management system. The fee would be assessed in each civil cause of action and each traffic misdemeanor or infraction filed in district or county courts. Counties, cities and villages would be exempt from the state docket fee.

Concepts from [LB876](#) would create a three-day no-contact order when a person is arrested for a domestic assault offense or sexual assault offense. [Provisions](#) from [LB1199](#) would expand the population threshold to qualify for student loan repayment for attorneys who practice in rural areas. The underlying bill, LB935, would allow political subdivisions to recover attorney fees and other litigation costs when subjected to frivolous lawsuits.

An [amendment](#) was offered and withdrawn to enact the State and Political Subdivisions Sexual Abuse Liability Act. It would create a cause of action for minors or individuals with developmental disabilities who are sexually

assaulted by an employee or person under the supervision of a political subdivision. The language was taken from [LB1097](#).

[LB965](#), which was reported out of committee but has not been scheduled for debate, would also incorporate a number of bills through a committee [amendment](#). Among these are provisions that would grant counties authority to hire or contract with outside legal counsel called a county conflict counsel to provide representation to indigent clients when the public defender is unable to do so ([LB859](#)). Provisions from [LB1123](#) would create procedures for prosecuting agencies to provide written notice to law enforcement officers of placement or potential placement on Brady-Giglio lists. These lists are used to impeach the credibility of law enforcement officers. The bill would also restrict the public release of officer's official photographs without consent.

Election Omnibus Bill Advanced from General File

[LB1075](#), the Secretary of State's annual election omnibus bill, advanced from General File on Monday. It includes provisions requested by NACO that would prohibit public inspection of personal information, such as drivers' license numbers and birth dates, that is provided on early voting or ballot applications. Other sections would change time frames to cure provisional ballots and send ballots for special elections conducted by mail.

A committee [amendment](#) was adopted that includes provisions from five other bills. [LB884](#) would prohibit any indication of the voter's political party affiliation on ballot envelopes for general or special elections and prohibit extra stops by election workers dropping off or making a midday collection of ballots.

Concepts from [LB969](#) would require the Department of Administrative Services to maintain a database of financial information from all counties and cities in the state. Counties and cities would be required to provide historical information dating back to 2016.

Language in the committee amendment taken from [LB1002](#) would increase fees for failure to file campaign finance reports. [LB1074](#) would revise tolling periods for certain unclaimed property filings and create a fund to hold liquidated proceeds from unclaimed property. [LB927](#) would prohibit the involvement of foreign nationals in ballot initiatives. Because some senators expressed concerns that the actual language does not express the stated intent, an amendment will be offered on Select File to change the wording.

A separate amendment was adopted to address electioneering near ballot drop boxes. [AM2654](#) would address concerns that petition circulators could inadvertently violate the electioneering law during early voting periods and sets a distance of 25 feet from the ballot box. The bill as introduced proposed a perimeter of 50 feet.

Branding Committee Changes Sent to Floor

The Agriculture Committee sent a branding bill to the full Legislature this week. [LB1187](#) would change livestock inspection fees under the Livestock Brand Act. Under existing law, a brand committee comprised of cattle producers administers the Act and establishes brand records, provides for inspections of cattle sold within the brand inspection area, investigates the theft of livestock, and other duties. To fund the committee, livestock producers pay a fee of \$1.10 per head for inspections, plus a mileage surcharge. A separate fee structure and some exemptions from inspections apply to registered feedlots.

[LB1187](#) as introduced proposed increasing the fees and revising the surcharge. A pending Agriculture Committee [amendment](#) would terminate the existing committee and add seats on a new committee for cattle feeders, a purebred breeder, and an owner and operator of a livestock auction market located in the brand area, as well as five cattlepersons. It would increase the maximum fee for brand registrations to \$400 and inspection fees to \$1.50 per head, with a mileage surcharge not to exceed \$30. Other sections address movement of cattle inside and outside of brand inspection areas and registered feedlot requirements.

[LB1258](#), a bill that would transfer the Brand Committee's responsibilities to the Department of Agriculture, remains in committee. It would rewrite branding laws and place additional enforcement and recordkeeping responsibilities on county sheriffs and treasurers.

Bills Advanced from General File

Five bills were advanced from General File through a consent calendar process on Monday and appear on the March 30 agenda for Select File debate. [LB1253](#), as introduced, states that tax sale certificates sold and issued between January 1, 2022 and May 7, 2025 would be governed by the laws in effect on May 7, 2025. As [amended](#) and advanced from General File, LB1253 provides that foreclosed tax sales certificates, regardless of the date of issuance, would be governed by the laws in effect on May 7, 2025.

[LB1195](#), as introduced, would outright repeal a 1903 requirement for county jails to have matrons to supervise female inmates 24 hours per day. A Judiciary Committee [amendment](#) was adopted that strikes the original bill and would instead require a female correctional officer to supervise female inmates in counties with a city of the metropolitan or primary class. All county and city jails would be required to comply with the rules and regulations of the Jail Standards Board regarding cross-gender supervision and cross-gender searches of inmates.

Other bills on the consent calendar would identify the specific year of governmental accounting standards used by the State Auditor ([LB829](#)), recognize military protection orders ([LB753](#)), and clarify the filing location for lobbyist reports for representatives of Chinese military companies ([LB904](#)).

Other bills advanced from General File through the standard agenda process.

[LB905](#) would clean up inconsistencies in last year's bill to combine boards and commissions, including harmonizing language moving the Board of Examiners for County Highway and City Street Superintendents to the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards.

[LB921](#), a bill on worker retraining and requiring notice to workers before a major layoff, was [amended](#) and advanced from General File. One of the bills included in the Business and Labor Committee amendment is [LB1170](#) that would allow counties where Department of Corrections facilities are located to file more than one claim for state payment related to a single incident after the initial threshold of expenditures exceeding 2.5 cents of levy authority has been met. Under existing law, Johnson County, which is the site of the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution, has only been allowed to file one claim for ongoing expenses related to a riot at the prison. Other provisions taken from LB1170 would revise the presumptions of injury that result in a public safety officer's death under the Line of Duty Compensation Act.

[LB852](#) would allow counties and cities to recapture certain funds appropriated through the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act. Under this program, much of the sales tax revenue collected by hotels and retailers within a certain distance of a convention center are turned back to political subdivisions to pay off debt for the facilities. The bill would require fund recipients that are located in high-poverty areas to maintain their principal place of business or primary operations within the area for at least three years following receipt of the funding. If the entity fails to do so, counties could recapture a pro-rata amount of the funding and either return it to the fund or place it in a development fund administered by the county.

[LB525](#) would prohibit the disclosure of agricultural data without written consent of the producer. [LB1185](#) was [amended](#) into the bill to create safeguards for minors and require disclosures that artificial intelligence chatbots are not human.

[LB1165](#) would give business incentives to large companies.

Bills Advanced from Select File

Five bills were advanced from Select File through a consent calendar process. [LB784](#) would allow elected county sheriffs to reside in an adjoining county. Existing law allows sheriffs who are appointed to fill a vacancy to reside in an adjoining county. The new provisions would be limited to counties without a city of the metropolitan, primary or first class. The bill would change law enforcement continuing education requirements from 32 hours per year for officers in all counties, to 24 hours for agencies with less than 25 full-time officers. In addition, sheriffs

would be granted flexibility in selecting patrol and dress uniforms for deputies. An amendment proposed by county sheriffs was adopted on Select File to further refine the uniform language.

[LB977](#) would require drivers to exercise caution and yield the right of way when approaching or passing a person who is herding livestock along a roadway. The bill is modeled after Oregon law.

[LB1055](#), as advanced, would require new employees of the Department of Health and Human Services who develop and implement adult protective services to complete at least one hour of Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related training.

[LB913](#) would require the Department of Health and Human Services to appoint a dementia services coordinator.

[LB788](#) would move administrator on the Financial Fraud Victims' Reimbursement Fund from the Attorney General to the Nebraska State Patrol.

Interim Studies Introduced

Senators introduced their final interim study resolutions this week. Committee can introduce one additional resolution prior to adjournment. Each resolution is assigned to a committee for prioritization, including a determination of whether a hearing will be held. Following is a partial listing of interim study resolutions that will be examined during the coming months. This listing represents only those studies of significant interest and importance to county government.

[LR372](#) (Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee) Interim study to examine the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board

[LR373](#) (Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee) Interim study to carry out the provisions of section 13-2402, which requires the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions

[LR374](#) (Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee) Interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim

[LR385](#) (Sanders) Interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature that may arise in the interim

[LR386](#) (Moser) Interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature

[LR415](#) (Conrad) Interim study to examine current practices under Nebraska law related to the designation of real property as blighted and substandard

[LR418](#) (Urban Affairs Committee) Interim study to examine inland port authorities, how inland port authorities currently operate, and the progress of inland port authorities in developing land, infrastructure, and opportunities in the areas of the authorities

[LR429](#) (Clouse) Interim study to evaluate the compensation of members of the governing bodies of political subdivisions

[LR430](#) (Clouse) Interim study to examine the different forms of county government used throughout the United States

[LR448](#) (Holdcroft) Interim study to review the quality and availability of assistance to Nebraska veterans and their families

[LR449](#) (DeKay) Interim study to examine state resources and programs to assist with recovery and restoration of agricultural lands that have suffered from devastating wildfires within the state

[LR453](#) (Hallstrom) Interim study to review the impact on homestead exemptions of LB126, One Hundred Eighth Legislature, Second Session, 2024

[LR459](#) (Dover) Interim study to examine the assessment of agricultural land value based on potential income and determine whether such method of assessment is the best way to properly assess agricultural land

[LR464](#) (Conrad) Interim study to explore the potential for a de minimis personal property tax exemption

[LR470](#) (Ballard) Interim study to streamline and improve wireless connectivity for residents, families, and businesses, specifically by examining policies to address unreasonable fees and other costs for wireless deployments

[LR473](#) (Clouse) Interim study to examine opportunities for countywide local option sales taxes

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