

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM WORKSHEET:
GOOD & BAD BILLS IN THE 2021 LEGISLATURE.**

GOOD RESOLUTION.

LR 134: Redistricting Comm. Using population data from the census, to set criteria for redistricting of districts for Congress, Legislature, NE Supreme Court, Public Service Commission, State Board of Education, and University Board of Regents. Boundaries will follow county lines where practicable and define districts that are compact and contiguous, with similar populations. To allow for the preservation of cores of prior districts. GOOD RESOLUTION/ PASSED

GOOD BILLS.

LB 2: Briese. Ag and horticultural land valuation set at 44%-50% instead of 75% of actual value for public school taxes levied to pay for principal and interest on bonds approved by popular vote. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 4: Briese. To increase from 50% to 75% the percentage of tuition assistance benefits for Nebraska-based enlisted military reservists at state universities, colleges, and community colleges. This increased benefit applies to tuition for diploma, certificate, associate degree, and baccalaureate degree programs. The tuition benefit remains at 50% for graduate or professional degree programs. No lifetime limit on tuition credit for a qualifying member. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 26: Wayne. To remove sales tax from sale of or use in residential water utility bills. The sewer separation project in Douglas and Sarpy Counties has raised water bills in both counties astronomically. The state has no sales tax on bottled water and water used in manufacturing and agriculture. The League of NE Municipalities opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 58: Pahls. To simplify the process of notifying a property owner regarding a lien for special assessment imposed by a city or village. Currently, a city or village must send affected property owners a full publication of notice through the mail, sometimes 20 pages or more. In cases of smaller liens, the cost of postage often outweighs the value of the proposed assessment. Under **LB 58**, property owners will receive a notice including only the amount owed, the date due, and the date the board of equalization meets if an appeal. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 64: Lindstrom. To decrease state taxes on Social Security benefits, staggered for 5 years, starting at 5%, then 20%, eventually to 50% in 2025. Adjacent states Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri do not tax SS benefits. Only 13 states tax SS benefits. Retirees will have incentive to remain in NE. Average annual tax break will equal \$1,000. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 78: Gragert. To require individuals applying for special military license plates to first register with the state Veterans Dept., which has a registry, so that the state DMV can verify eligibility. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 83: Flood. To allow select political subdivision meetings by virtual conferencing and public input under the Open Meetings Act during declared emergencies. One elected official must be at each remote meeting site. All documents from such meetings must become available online with ability to discuss regular business. At least 1 site must be physically available for public input. Current requirement for advance notice still required. An exception to an address publication requirement in instances, if such address requirement may endanger personal security. More citizens, especially the elderly, disabled, and those living in isolated areas can log in to such meetings. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 92: Clements. To offer in-state college tuition to graduating students from high schools that choose to not meet accreditation standards, like home schools. These students now face discrimination in tuition costs, though they reside in NE. Public universities and colleges cannot discriminate against such students in awarding scholarships. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 93: Government Comm. To no longer require county clerks to report new marriages recorded in their counties to the state Dept. of Health & Human Services, an unfunded mandate. Electronic submissions make these reports obsolete. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 113: Albrecht. To allow the DMV to revalidate annually Restricted Commercial Driver License (RCDL) holders who wish to have the same seasonal permit period over the 5-year term of the RCDL without need to do an in-person revalidation. To now allow third party skills test examiners who also administer the CDL skills instruction to administer the RCDL skills test. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 139: Briese. To protect businesses, schools, churches, first responders, senior care facilities, medical facilities and their personnel, officers, and individuals against frivolous coronavirus-related lawsuits. Entities nationwide now are facing such lawsuits, many from people simply greedy for money. The bill will prohibit civil lawsuits, if organization or individual acted in compliance with federal public health guidelines. Safeguarded are entities that followed state laws, guidelines, or public health orders. Gross negligence or willful misconduct not covered. Does not alter standards for malpractice or professional negligence. The NE Association of Trial Attorneys and leftist AARP opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 147: Kolterman. To allow the state retirement system to manage the OPS retirement system, which local administration had bungled, causing an \$800+ million deficit. The OPS school board still will administer the system. The OPS pension plan has only 64% of funds necessary to meet future obligations. This plan will save the pension system about \$250,000 annually. The OPS pension plan must complete a compliance audit this year and annual audit. 70 years since this pension plan underwent a compliance audit. The current pension board of trustees must leave, allowing the school board to appoint an entirely new board. OPS must pay the costs for the management and transfer, and it remains responsible for the retirement system funding obligations. GOOD BILL/ PASSED/VETOED/VETO OVERRIDDEN

LB 159: Urban Affairs. To allow the printing or publishing of all city or village ordinances in electronic form in addition to book form. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 169: M. Hansen. To repeal locksmith registration requirements in Nebraska. Current law requires a Nebraska locksmith to obtain a registration certificate from the county clerk in the county in which a business located. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 181: Linehan. To address the problematic filing method that currently exists from LB 1107 (2020). To allow pass-through businesses to allocate the credit for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2021. Such would address the current filing season. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, the refundable credit now claimed at the entity level, rather than allocated to the shareholders, partners, members, or beneficiaries before Jan. 1, 2021. Allowance for an additional refundable credit equal to 6%, multiplied by the amount of school district taxes paid during 2020 by an eligible taxpayer. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 209: McDonnell. A deferred compensation retirement plan must be voluntary and available to all regular state and local government employees and elected officials. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 236: Brewer. To require a 4-month notice post card from the State Patrol, notifying when a concealed carry permit about to expire, and give a 30-day grace period after expiration to renew. To not prohibit carrying, transporting, or shipping firearms for lawful purposes in states where it is legal to carry such firearms, if firearms unloaded and stored in a case. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 285: Brewer. If the NE Sec. of State obtains shared and exchanged information to improve the accuracy and efficiency of a voter registration system, it is exempt from disclosure as a public record. The bill restricts the posting, display, and internet distribution of voter lists obtained through public records requests. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 297: Lindstrom. To allow financial advisers and brokers to delay financial transactions for up to 30 business days in suspected cases of exploitation of elderly individuals and vulnerable adults and alert family or relatives. Advisers must report suspicions to authorities. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 313: Sanders. Ability to file a late homestead exemption application, if it includes a copy of the death certificate of a spouse who died during the year in which exemption requested. Applicable only to current tax year and if filed before June 30. Delinquency and interest removed from the tax owed. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 324: Brandt. To help small NE processing plants handle more animals and allow consumers to buy meat directly from NE producers, who would establish livestock health and processing standards. Producer prices for beef and pork have sunk because of difficulty getting animals processed and to market during the pandemic. Some animals sadly euthanized. Consumers would buy a share of an animal or herd from a NE farmer or rancher who keeps records, obtaining beef, pork, or lamb. Consumers previously could not buy meat directly from farmers because of need for federal inspection. State inspections will allow sale directly to consumers. A herd share producer must provide the names and addresses of animal/herd share owners to the processor. This bill will increase state meat processing capacity and expand market access for small and mid-sized beef and pork producers. The Nebraska Cattlemen's Assoc. supported the bill. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 343: Friesen. To expand expedited motor vehicle inspections to all motor vehicle dealers and change the time of inspection to the time of sale instead of while vehicles are in inventory. Such will more efficiently title motor vehicles. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 363: Williams. That state-chartered savings associations have the same rights, powers, privileges, and immunities as federally-chartered savings associations doing business in Nebraska as of January 1, 2021. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 364: Linehan. To establish opportunity scholarships for poor students and provide state income tax credits up to 50% of state tax liability for individuals, corporations, estates, and trusts for contributions to nonprofits, so that kids can succeed in life outside of public schools. A \$5 million limit per year. The credits would pay for tuition and fees for NE residents only in accredited nonprofit K-12 private or parochial schools. The teacher's union opposed the bill. GOOD BILL/ GENERAL FILE

LB 369: Sanders. To allow state auditor access to all working papers and audit files regarding reports filed by subdivisions in his office within 3 weeks of request. The auditor also authorized to report a subdivision to the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy. Willful failure to comply with these requirements or willful obstruction of an audit added to the list of audit-related violations punishable as a Class II misdemeanor. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 372: Day. Individuals requesting compensation under the state crime victim reparations act need not sign an application before a notary public. An application submitted by or for a victim of sexual assault, domestic assault, child abuse, or sex trafficking no longer subject to the 3-day reporting requirement if prior to submitting the application the applicant or victim has reported such crime to the police, applicant or victim has obtained a protection order related to such incident or offense, or victim has undergone a forensic medical exam. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 387: Brewer. To exempt 100% instead of 50% of military retirement benefits from state income tax. 5 of 6 adjacent states offer full exemptions. The bill will help alleviate our skilled labor shortage and boost state revenue. This exemption partially determines where the military locates facilities. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 389: Sanders. State Board of Education will issue teaching certificates or permits to military spouses who hold valid certificates or permits from other states to teach or administer for at least 1 year, have no pending investigations or complaints, and meet criminal background check requirements. These certificates valid for 3 years in all areas in which endorsed to teach. Our state will become more friendly to military spouses and help schools by adding to the number of qualified teachers. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 390: Murman. The bill addresses the shortage of NE credentialed health care practitioners. To allow use of several health care provider professional credentials based on reciprocity with other states. To allow Nebraska to offer an equivalent credential to applicants applying for credentialing based on credentialing in another state. LB 390 would remove the residency requirement to obtain a temporary license in Nebraska. The state health dept. could determine the necessary credentialing level of an applicant and issue credentials. An applicant ineligible for a credential, if the applicant fails to submit required documentation, if the applicant had a credential revoked or voluntarily surrendered because of unprofessional conduct, if there is a pending disciplinary case for unprofessional conduct, or if there is a disqualifying criminal history. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 400: Arch. To permit established patients to receive audio telehealth for behavioral health services from any location. This bill would improve access to health care by making permanent several of the emergency measures implemented during the pandemic. LB 400 will allow a patient to give verbal consent during the consultation and provide written consent within 10 days of the consultation. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 405: Lowe. To allow village boards of trustees to combine or merge appointed or elected offices or duties. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 408: Briese. Total amount of property tax revenue raised by a local taxing authority in a fiscal year cannot be more than 3% more than that raised in the previous fiscal year. The total amount can exceed this limitation by a vote of a majority of legal voters. This formula not binding on bond issues. By a majority vote of a political subdivision governing board, the political subdivision could exceed the 3% limit for no more than 2 consecutive years. If this situation occurs, the property tax request of the subdivision must drop to ensure the increase in the property tax request does not exceed 9% over a 3-year period. A political subdivision that chooses not to increase its property tax request by the full 3% may carry forward one-half of its unused request authority to future years as carryover request authority. Carryover request authority can apply in future years to increase the political subdivision tax request above the 3% limit. This limit applies to property tax requests set from 2022 through 2027. GOOD BILL/ GENERAL FILE

LB 414: Wishart. To authorize political subdivisions to use design-build contracts and construction manager at-risk contracts for water, wastewater, utility, and sewer construction projects. Design-build contracts involve delivery of both design and construction services by a single firm. Construction management at-risk contracts represent a commitment by a construction manager to finish a project for a guaranteed maximum price. For a project authorized, a resolution will include a statement that a political subdivision has determined that the design-build contract or construction management at-risk contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) savings in cost or time, or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the design-build contract or construction management at-risk contract delivery system. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 432: Revenue Comm. To lower state corporate income tax rates to 7.25% from 7.81% and allow NE education savings accounts to pay for several apprenticeships. The corporate income tax rate on the first \$100,000 of income remains at 5.58%. This legislation will help NE compete for business investments and reduce the state reliance on tax incentive programs. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 452: McKinney/Slama. To require all public elementary and middle school students to take at least ½ credit class in personal finance or financial literacy, which includes knowledge and skills about budget and financial record-keeping, taxes, debt, savings, insurance, investment strategies, and establishing and maintaining credit. High schoolers must take at least a 5-credit course. The State Board of Education will adopt and recommend measurable academic content standards. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 466: Linehan. Whenever real property sold in Sarpy or Douglas Counties, the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located will prorate the property taxes due on such real property for the year in which the sale

occurred based on the number of days the buyer and seller owned the property during such year. All other NE counties do this already. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 487: Arch. Private health insurance plans must establish rates, reimbursement rates, terms, and conditions using telehealth or telemonitoring services for mental health services treatment the same as for regular services. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 500: Geist. To define venues for prosecution of specific offenses committed with electronic devices as county where crime committed or where victim victimized. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 501: Flood. Establishes a process for local courts to recognize judgements from other countries. Addresses recapture of medical assistance payments from estates. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 507: Bostelman. To prohibit use of treated seed corn to produce biofuel, if it results in a polluting byproduct and is unsafe for livestock consumption or land application. To extend hunting seasons for antelope and elk, if these animals are causing excessive property damage. GOOD BILL / PASSED

LB 528: Walz. The purchase of computer technology and equipment and Internet access now qualified under the college savings plan. Every public school district must issue a statement telling taxpayers how to access information about district and statewide receipts by source and expenditures classified by functions, comparison of cost per pupil, and comparison of academic performance. School districts must include a website internet address on budget hearing notices and offer access to data. The state education dept. must establish and maintain a website for such information and state and local school financial data and performance data like student graduation rates. The state commissioner of education must grant a temporary teaching certificate to applicants who completed a teacher ed program at a university, have a teaching certificate from another state, and pass appropriate subject area examination as designated by the State Board of Education. Such issuance of a temporary certificate subject to a criminal history background check in compliance with current statute, payment of required fees, and compliance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Education. To remove the requirement that lease sales of school lands must happen in the office of the county treasurer and allow the transaction to take place elsewhere in the respective county. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 532: Lowe. To allow easier disposition of unclaimed property. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 572: Halloran. To allow the NE Brand Committee to permit electronic inspection of cattle identified by approved nonvisual identifiers, including retinal scans and DNA matches. The physical brand inspection fee will drop to 85c, matching the new electronic inspection fee. A Class III felony to willfully or knowingly remove, damage, or alter a nonvisual identifier, if done to steal or falsely claim ownership. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 616: Hughes. To require State Patrol to notify owners of towed abandoned vehicles and ATVs within 15 days, so that cars do not sit for a long time in towing lots, costing lot owners. Provision also relates to all law enforcement agencies for vehicles towed for investigative purposes. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

LB 644: B. Hansen. To require counties, cities, school districts, and community colleges to participate in a joint public hearing and pass a resolution or ordinance before increasing the property tax more than the allowable growth percentage. The hearing must be open to public testimony, its agenda listing only the proposed tax hike. Taxpayers would receive information about how their valuation increases affected their property taxes. Political subdivisions must provide in their next budget to pay refunds of property taxes. Interest on refunds accrues at a rate of 9%. GOOD BILL/ PASSED

BAD BILLS.

LB 17: Kolterman. To double court fees for judge pensions, from \$6 to \$12, increasing each year until July 1, 2025. To add a 5 % state contribution to judicial retirement plans beginning July 1, 2023. Higher costs for taxpayers. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 44: M. Hansen. To force cities to allow cheap subsidized housing in established neighborhoods despite current zoning disallowing it. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 51: Lathrop. To force all NE sheriffs and other law officers to take 32 hrs. of continuing education to remain certified and force them to undergo 8 hours of anti-bias and implicit anti-bias training and hrs. of de-escalation training, burdensome and expensive for small departments. To require psychological testing before an officer hired. To restrict ability of law officers to physically restrain violent criminals. To force every NE law enforcement agency 4 times each year to give to a state law enforcement commission detailed records on disciplinary action taken against every law officer, even if disciplinary action erased by appeal. Internal police investigations can become exposed. Requires certification of all police agencies by the NE Crime Commission. Unaccredited law enforcement agencies cannot receive loans, grants, or donations from the commission until accredited. This bill is a liberal response to the summer of 2020 riots across NE. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 51A: Lathrop. To appropriate \$322,889 from the General Fund for FY2021-22 and \$260,768 from the General Fund for FY2022-23 to the Nebraska Comm. on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice to fund LB 51. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 88: Morfeld. To prohibit school districts and post-secondary institutions from censoring student newspaper publications. Student media advisors could not face discipline for content because of due process. The bill circumvents school district rights as a publisher. It would allow such newspapers to resemble social media, without district control over content, and lead to lawsuits. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 101: Walz. To delay for 2 years adding long-term care services and supporting nursing facilities to the economical Medicaid Managed Care program. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 108: McCollister. For food stamp recipients, eligibility increases the gross income limit to 165% of the federal poverty guideline from 130% until 9-30-2023. The typical family of 4 would become eligible at a \$43,725 limit, up from \$34,450. Expanding this benefit will entitle thousands more to food stamps and nullify incentive to seek work, and the pandemic has ended. NE taxpayers will fund this extra cost after federal subsidies end. BAD BILL/ PASSED/VETOED/

LB 108ov: VETO OVERRIDDEN

LB 108A: McCollister: To appropriate about \$610,000 from the General Fund to fund LB 108. BAD BILL/ PASSED/ VETOED

LB 108Aov: VETO OVERRIDDEN

LB 131: Hunt. To expand the tax increment financing law. To allow cities that own or operate municipal natural gas plants to apply for grants that would pay for 80% of the costs incurred from extreme weather events and fund grants with \$4 million of General Fund dollars. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 131A: Wayne. To transfer \$4,000,000 from the General Fund for Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance Fund grants. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 132: De Boer. To create a 21-member school finance review commission, heavily weighted with school administrators, teachers, and school board members who will recommend additional state school funding with a different tax formula. The commission will issue a report to the Legislature by 12-1-2021. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 132A: DeBoer. To appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund for FY2021-22 and \$100,000 from the General Fund for FY2022-23 to fund LB 132. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 154: Wayne. To force the State Dept. of Education to implement a statewide system to track individual student discipline by type and by demographics, including race, poverty, attendance, disability, and lack of English proficiency. The state board of education will require school districts to report all students suspended, expelled, assigned to an alternative school, fighting, or restrained. Districts also must record students reported to law officers at school or outside of school and school- related arrests and citations. It requires the designation of a data coordinator in each school responsible for gathering and reporting the discipline data. To add student discipline as a required indicator of performance of individual public schools and school districts under an accountability system established by the State Board of Education. This bill is an unfunded state mandate and violation of personal privacy. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 215: Hughes. To allow Douglas Co. to raise its 911 surcharge from 50c to \$1 per month and raise the cap on 911 fees for wireless service in Douglas Co. from 50c to 70c monthly. Douglas County residents already pay among the highest telecommunications fees nationally. BAD BILL/ GENERAL FILE

LB 241: Vargas. To force all NE meatpacking plants to install expensive and unnecessary materials and provide new masks daily, gloves, and equipment to counter the coronavirus pandemic, with 6' distances in common areas like lunchrooms. Employees screened for the coronavirus at the beginning of each shift, filling out a written questionnaire and submitting to oral questions, holding up production. Workers who even suspect that they are infected could leave work. Paid sick leave for the virus would not count against regular sick leave time. An employer must permit a worker to leave the meatpacking operation premises in order to receive a COVID-19 vaccine on paid work time. Meatpackers must document and track all virus-related deaths and positive cases by race and ethnicity and submit weekly reports to the State Dept. of Labor, HHS, and the Legislature. The bill would slow production lines, reduce capacity, and result in fewer cattle processed, slowing the supply chain from producer to consumer. Plant managements already had taken sufficient preventive measures for employee safety. Plants would have to apply for an OSHA waiver and obtain an approved OSHA plan, which could take 6 months, because federal law preempts state regulations. Illegal aliens working in these plants are a main source of spreading this virus. The NE Chamber of Commerce opposed the bill. The administrative penalty set at not less than \$5,000 for a first violation and not less than \$50,000 for a second or subsequent violation. Vargas projected a possible petition drive to enact such legislation, after senators killed this bill for this session. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 258: Vargas. To force employers of 50 or more employees to offer additional days of sick and safe leave because of domestic violence or abuse or stalking to employees. Employees would accrue a minimum of 1 hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked. An administrative penalty of not more than \$500 for a first violation and not more than \$5,000 for a second or subsequent violation. The NE ACLU and teachers' union supported the bill. BAD BILL/ GENERAL FILE

LB 260: Hunt. To allow caregivers for spouses, parents, kids, grandkids, siblings, or in-laws with serious health conditions access to unemployment benefits after voluntarily leaving work. This bill will add enormously to business costs and unemployment tax rates paid by all employers. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 298: McDonnell. To allow illegal aliens to collect state unemployment benefits. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 306: Brandt. To allow those earning up to 150% of the federal poverty income level to receive home energy subsidies. The welfare dept. must allocate at least 10% of funds for this energy aid for weatherization assistance. Additional cost at \$424,045 for additional staff but could rise to \$18 million, if the state decides to factor in additional expenses. Federal dollars will pay for this additional largesse temporarily; then state taxpayers will pay. The liberal Learning Community endorsed the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED/VETOED

LB 306ov: VETO OVERRIDDEN.

LB 306A: Brandt. To appropriate \$233,547 from the state General Fund to fund LB 306. BAD BILL/ PASSED/ VETOED.

LB 306Aov: VETO OVERRIDDEN

LB 307: Pansing Brooks. To make it more difficult for juveniles charged with felonies to waive right to a lawyer and to ban removal from home. The bill also will require the State Supreme Court to provide before July 1, 2022 a rule for a process to provide juveniles the opportunity to consult with an attorney to assist the juvenile in making the decision to waive counsel. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 320: J. Cavanaugh. To repeal a current law that forbids judges from granting a continuance in eviction proceedings unless special cause shown and back rent paid. To allow tenants to easily claim domestic abuse to void a rental contract if a restraining or protection order current. Eviction proceedings not always based on rent nonpayment; they could regard criminal or destructive conduct. This bill would allow tenants to live rent free. To complicate management by landlords by eliminating alternative eviction notice requirements. Bad tenants could delay eviction proceedings indefinitely. To force landlords to give tenants 24-hr. written notice of intent to enter, anticipated time of visit, and obtain consent before entering. The bill also adds a requirement that a possession action under the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act specify the statutory authority. To force the NE Supreme Court to give a biannual report to the clerk of the legislature with detailed information about eviction proceedings, data categorized by county. The report must contain the following: number of eviction proceedings initiated, number of landlords and tenants represented by attorneys, number of evictions granted (or by default), and the number of evictions granted by the statutory authority claimed. Information would include reasons for eviction. Leftist Legal Aid of NE supported the bill. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 320A: Appropriations to fund LB 320. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 323: Walz. To *not* reduce state aid to some school districts, although the pandemic caused reduced hours. School costs dropped during the pandemic, and districts received monies from the federal coronavirus relief fund. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 376: M. Cavanaugh. To require the state to apply for a 3-yr. Medicaid waiver to begin a family support program for developmental disability services, disregarding parental income. To change the amount available to families at \$10,000 and limit participants to 850 individuals or families. The bill creates a 2nd waiting list for services. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 376A: M. Cavanaugh. To appropriate \$5,563,860 from the General Fund for FY2021-22 and \$11,127,721 from the General Fund for FY2022-23 to the Dept. of Health and Human Services to fund LB 376. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 380: Hilgers. To appropriate \$1 million in each of the next 2 fiscal years for creative districts established by the NE Arts Council. To appropriate \$7.5 million to the Museum of NE Art in Kearney. To appropriate \$100,000 every fiscal year for cultural district grants. To appropriate \$1.5 million in FY 2021-2022 and \$3 million in FY 2022-2023 to local public health departments, though they have adequate funds. To appropriate \$17 million in FY 2021-22 and \$17 million in FY 2022-23 in order to add additional individuals qualifying for developmental services. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 384: Hilgers. To transfer an amount not to exceed \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Nebraska Cultural Endowment Fund on 12-31-2021 and 12-31-2022 respectively. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 386: Lathrop. To raise salaries for the Chief Justice and Justices of the state supreme court from \$187,035 to \$198,426. Based on this percentage, district, county, juvenile, appellate, and worker compensation court judges also will receive a raise. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 386A: Lathrop. To appropriate \$4,771,040 to fund LB 386. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 423: Lathrop. To force home inspectors to register with the state, pay a fee of up to \$300, and have liability insurance of not less than \$250,000. Violations will earn a Class IV misdemeanor. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 451: McKinney. To prohibit employers from discriminating against prospective employees who wear braids, dreadlocks, and twists. This law will force employers and employees to accept a grooming code objectionable to them and their clientele. Exemptions only for law enforcement agencies and the NE National Guard. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 474: Wishart. To legalize the production, processing, and distribution of medical marijuana. Weed smokers could claim a variety of ailments to access it. Medical science has proved that marijuana use harms cognitive ability and alters the chemical makeup in brains, sometimes leading to suicide and addiction. Marijuana use leads to use of more dangerous drugs. Individuals market other kinds of marijuana mimicking medical marijuana. States that permit medical marijuana sales have problems with sales to the unqualified and higher crime and incarceration rates. The bill illegally pre-empts federal prohibition. BAD BILL/ GENERAL FILE

LB 485: DeBoer. To increase eligibility for state child care subsidies for families from 130% of the federal poverty level to 185%. Also, welfare payments for those beginning work. Under LB 485, after a family is no longer eligible for cash assistance, it may still receive work-related child care expenses on a cost-share cash basis, if the family income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. The bill will add about 10,800 kids to the program, forcing the welfare dept. to hire 21 new employees at \$29.7 million eventual cost. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 485A: DeBoer. To appropriate \$687,072 in initial state funding for LB 485. BAD BILL/ FINAL READING

LB 527: Walz. To force every public school district to provide disabled students from age 14 instead of 16 with special education transition services, like vocational training, continuing education, employment information, and independent living options, another unfunded mandate. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 527A: Walz. To appropriate \$140,862 from the General Fund for FY2021-22 and \$146,496 from the General Fund for FY2022-23 to the State Department of Education to fund LB 527. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 529: Walz. To allocate millions for annual behavioral awareness and intervention training for teachers in FY 2021-22. Beginning in school year 2023-2024, each school district required to ensure that each administrator, teacher, paraprofessional, school nurse, and counselor receive behavioral awareness training, along with a review at least once every 3 years. Each district must designate at least 1 behavioral awareness point of contact for each school building. Such person must receive training in behavioral awareness and have knowledge of community service providers and other resources available for students and families in the school district. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 529A: Walz. To appropriate \$23,162,883 to fund LB 529. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 533: Day. Allowance for taxpayer-subsidized child care programs and other welfare programs exclusion of income not to exceed \$4,000 annually for a maximum of 8 years instead of 4 years. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 544: Wayne. To give \$8 million in state tax dollars to North Omaha and primary city redevelopment programs that have failed in the past. Tax credits for businesses that invest at least \$150,000 in property, hire at least 5 new employees, and pay at least 70% of the state average wage. Tax credits in a second tier for those who invest \$50,000. The amount of the investment credit is \$2,750 for \$50,000 of increased investment. If a taxpayer adds only investment and no employees, the credit is 5% of the investment. Areas must have unemployment at least 150% of the state average and average poverty rate 20% or more. Business ventures will receive \$3,000 per new employee or \$4,000 if employee lives in a poor area. Once the attainment levels achieved, the taxpayer may receive a refund of property taxes paid for real property at the qualified location acquired after the date of application. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 544A: Wayne. To appropriate \$942,170 to fund LB 544 for the next 2 fiscal years. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 566: McDonnell. To provide matching grants from \$30 million in General Fund money for qualifying sports complexes and nonprofit groups related to arts, humanities, or culture. Grants awarded on a 50-50 match basis from private sources. For projects with an estimated cost of less than \$5 million, a grant cannot exceed \$1.5 million. For projects costing \$5-\$25 million, a grant cannot exceed \$5 million. For projects costing \$25-\$50 million, a grant cannot exceed \$10 million. For projects greater than \$50 million, a grant cannot exceed \$15 million. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 566A: McDonnell. To appropriate about \$30 million to fund LB 566. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 568: Pansing Brooks. To gut the court system pertaining to truant juveniles and replace it with an expensive state bureaucracy. To increase appropriations to the Juvenile Services Aid Program from \$5 million to \$8.5 million. The bill creates a new bureaucratic position in the NE Crime Commission to develop regulations for diversion programs. The NE County Attorneys Association opposes the bill. BAD BILL/ SELECT FILE

LB 630: Bostar. To force the Education Dept. to develop and implement a 2-yr. pilot program to study the worth of commercial air filters to remove air pollution from classrooms and their impact on student performance and behavior. The voluntary program would include 50 schools, with 6 classes in each school, from Grades 3-8. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 630A: Bostar. To appropriate \$678,403 to fund LB 630. BAD BILL/ PASSED

LB 639: Day. To force public, parochial, and private schools to offer training and individual health plans regarding student seizures. Each school must designate 1 employee who could respond and administer or help a student administer rescue medication. Each designated school employee must review seizure disorder materials at least once every 2 years. The state board of education must develop requirements for training programs and plans. Another unfunded mandate on local school districts that will lead to possible lawsuits. The state does not require training or plans for other student medical issues. BAD BILL/ PASSED