

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM WORKSHEET;
HOW TO USE THE UNICAMERAL PORTAL TO LOBBY ON A BILL/RESOLUTION.

BACKGROUND. Active taxpayers have several options to contact their state senators about bills and resolutions. A percentage of taxpayers regularly or periodically testify personally at public hearings at the State Capitol. Other taxpayers take the time to write a meaningful letter to their state senator. And others prefer to call a state senator office and leave a message for their state senator. One also can send an email to a state senator office. A few years ago, the Legislature established a portal which a taxpayer may use to send emails to the chairman of the committee that hears a particular bill or resolution. The chairman or one of his staff members then distributes these emails, which support or oppose legislation, to all committee members. Using this option is a bit tricky, so NTF has originated a step by step procedure for our NTF members to use.

USE THIS EASY METHOD TO LOBBY FROM HOME.

Step 1: Look at our NTF worksheet listing Good & Bad Bills/Resolutions in the Legislature.

Step 2: Select the bill(s) on which you want to lobby your state senator.

Step 3: Access the Unicameral website at <https://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

Step 4: Type in bill or resolution number under Search Current Bills. You may wish to look at the actual bill under Text Copies or see the Statement of Intent, a bill summary, under Additional Info line, if it is available.

Step 5: Look under Action in middle of screen to note which committee is hearing the bill or resolution.

Step 6: On the line above committee, see the committee date for hearing the bill. NOTE: If there is no hearing date posted, the hearing date not yet set, so continue to check for a hearing date before proceeding.

Step 7: Click on Submit Comments for Bill tab.

Step 8: Read the Written Submission Note that appears on your screen.

Step 9: You must submit your comments BEFORE 8 AM on the date of the hearing.

Step 10: Decide if you want your statement to become part of the official record, which is open to public scrutiny.

Step 11: Fill in blanks carefully, particularly noting if you support or oppose a bill.

Step 12: Click on Find Your District tab, if you are not sure in which legislative district you reside.

Step 13: Note the 500-word limit on comments. You may want to copy and paste your comment to a .doc file to save it.

Step 14: Click on I am not a robot.

Step 15: Click on SUBMIT COMMENT.

Step 16: Immediately access your email to verify your comment.

Hint: Originate your comment as a Word Document, then set it aside for a while before proofreading it. Then copy and paste your comment into the Written Statement field.

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