

2019 Nebraska Legislation Affecting Early Childhood



z Bill enacted into law o Included in the budget bill A Provisions/portions amended into different bill x Bill no longer active

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
First Five Nebraska's Legislation to Watch			
LB5CA	Tom Brewer	This proposed constitutional amendment states that no more than thirty-three percent of school funding shall come from property taxes.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
z LB60	Machaela Cavanaugh	This bill changes terminology relating to shaken baby syndrome.	03/13/2019 Approved by Governor, hearing on 03/12/2019
x LB66	Matt Hansen	This bill would require cities to assess the supply of quality licensed early childhood education programs and evaluate the availability and utilization of licensed child care providers as part of their comprehensive plans. The comprehensive plans shall also promote early childhood health and education measures that benefit the community	02/04/2019 Failed to Advance to E and R Initial
LB147	Mike Groene	This bill would allow teachers or school administrators to physically restrain a student if the student becomes physically violent towards another person or towards school property. The teacher or administrator shall not be subject to any legal or administrative action, so long as they were acting in a reasonable manner. This bill would also give teachers the authority to have a student removed from the classroom if the teacher can show the student has repeatedly interfered with the teacher's ability to communicate with other students and if the student has shown to have a disruptive or unruly behavior in the classroom.	02/04/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/11/2019
LB160	Dan Quick et al.	This bill would allow communities to direct some of their Local Option Municipal Economic Development funds (LB840) to develop or expand quality early childhood programs.	03/06/2019 Placed on Final Reading
LB165	Megan Hunt	This bill would require each school board to adopt a policy that would prohibit the suspension or expulsion of any early childhood education or kindergarten student unless the school principal determines that such student has caused or threatened serious bodily injury to a student or another person while in school, on school grounds, in a school-owned vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity.	02/14/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/26/2019
LB182	Kate Bolz	This bill would allow the school board of any school district to impose a local option income surtax for property tax reduction or building construction, remodeling, and site acquisition. This bill would also allow the school board, by majority vote, pass a resolution to place the issue of enacting a local option income surtax at any primary, general or special election.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB266	Brett Lindstrom	This bill provides language that fixes interpretation issues that led to self-employed child care providers and certain classifications of child care programs being ineligible for the School Readiness Tax Credit.	03/13/2019 Placed on General File
LB291	Lou Ann Linehan et al.	This bill amends sales tax provisions in order to enable the state to collect sales tax from online vendors.	01/24/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB294	Speaker Scheer	This bill is the mainline budget bill	02/14/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/26/2019
	at the request of the Governor		

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB303	Brett Lindstrom at the request of the Governor	Increases the amount of relief granted under the Property Tax Credit Act from \$224 M to \$275 M for tax year 2019 and each year thereafter.	02/20/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/27/2019
LB311	Sue Crawford et al.	This bill creates the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund to enable employees to take 12 weeks for their child during the first year of birth, adoption, or placement through foster care; 12 weeks due to serious illness of the employee; 6 weeks for care for a family member with a health condition; 6 weeks to care for a service member; 6 weeks for qualifying exigency leave. The bill also sets levels for the amount of wage replacement to be paid based on income level.	03/07/2019 Placed on General File
LB329	Kate Bolz	Moves family eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy from 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL) up to 165% FPL; removes the 24-month maximum for transitional child care assistance; makes transitional child care assistance available for families between 165% FPL and 200% FPL. Any fee for processing applications or background checks must not exceed the actual cost of processing and administration.	01/29/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB341	John Arch	Removes the 24-month maximum for transitional child care assistance; changes the income level at which you lose transitional child care assistance within an eligibility year from 185% federal poverty level (FPL) to 85% state median income (SMI); at the end of an eligibility period, the family will stay eligible for transitional child care if their income is below 185% FPL.	01/29/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB358	Lynne Walz et al.	This bill cleans up language related to TEEOSA and adds the early childhood allowance and community achievement plan allowance to the list of eligible deductions from a school district's general fund operating expenditures for fiscal year 2020-21 and each year thereafter. The bill also changes the state aid calculations related to early childhood students.	03/13/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/26/2019
LB431	Mike Groene	Changes the base limitation and local effort rate, as well as certification dates for distribution of aid, certification of budget limitations, and duties of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee.	03/01/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/12/2019
LB459	Health and Human Services Committee	Requires a person applying to be a licensed child care provider to undergo a national criminal history record information check for themselves and each child care staff member and prospective child care staff member at the applicant's expense. Each child care staff member must undergo a national criminal history record information check not less than once during a 5-year period and must submit a complete set of fingerprints to the Nebraska State Patrol.	01/29/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB544	Lou Ann Linehan	This bill would open a 529 savings account for every child in Nebraska. The state of Nebraska would appropriate \$100 for every child savings account opened. The purpose of this program is to promote access to postsecondary educational opportunities.	01/29/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB545	Justin Wayne	This bill amends current statute and would allow employers to contribute to an employee's educational savings plan trust. This bill also states that any government program that provides benefits or aid to an individual based on financial need shall not consider employer contributions	01/30/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB564	Kate Bolz	LB564 revises the definition of facilities eligible to receive grant funding under the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund to include child care, among other things.	01/29/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/05/2019
LB590	Tom Briese	Child care licensing staff will use the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System (NECPRS) to verify training levels for licensed child care providers. Licensed child care programs will maintain provider profiles and employees will report credentials and training levels in NECPRS.	03/14/2019 Placed on Select File
LB631	Adam Morfeld	Creates the Medicaid Expansion Implementation Task Force to facilitate the implementation process.	02/12/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/22/2019
LB634	Robert Hilkemann et al.	This bill would require vehicles used by schools or education units are required to have a 3-point safety belt system; there are a few restrictions that apply.	01/30/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB656	Justin Wayne	Provides state support for 48% of aggregate general fund operating expenditures of school districts; replaces TEEOSA with a new funding formula.	03/13/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/26/2019

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB662	Curt Friesen	Terminates the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) on July 1, 2022.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB668	Tony Vargas et al.	The State Board of Education will issue a teacher certification to individuals in good standing with a teaching certificate from another state. Temporary certificates will be offered to persons with a bachelor's degree that is enrolled in an alternate certification program.	03/07/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/18/2019
LB677	Mike Groene	Drops maximum levy from \$1.05 to 98.7 cents per \$100 of taxable valuation of property and changes how property tax relief is allocated to schools.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB679	Wendy DeBoer et al.	Creates a 20-member School Financing Review Commission to review and make recommendations on school financing, with reports in even-numbered years for the Governor, State Board of Education, and the Legislature.	03/07/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/19/2019
LB709	Machaela Cavanaugh et al.	Provides a location within the State Capitol Building to express breast milk, other than a bathroom, and shielded from view and intrusion by the public.	03/04/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/15/2019
LB710	Machaela Cavanaugh	Increases cigarette tax and adds vape products to tobacco products for taxation purposes; changes allocation of funds from cigarette tax, including 2% for the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System, 5% for K-12, and 2.5% for family and medical leave start-up costs.	02/20/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/28/2019
LB725	Lynne Walz et al.	Schools districts and Educational Service Units (ESUs) that designate an employee to serve as a community-based mental health liason can be reimbursed for 80% of mental health expenditures. Creates and funds the School Mental Health Resources Fund for the purposes of reimbursing school districts and ESUs.	03/13/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/25/2019

Additional Legislation Affecting Early Childhood

LB10	Jim Scheer	This resolution recognizes the hard work of all school board members across the state.	01/18/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB59	Machaela Cavanaugh	This bill would amend statute 71-1936 and require the Department of Health and Human Services to review all complaints of child abuse or neglect received pursuant to section 28-711. It would require the Department to determine whether it should investigate within five working days after receiving the complaint. Finally, if there is an investigation, a report must be issued within thirty days.	02/27/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/06/2019
LB73	Steve Erdman	Each classroom or each school building must display "In God We Trust" in English and the Attorney General must defend any school board or other party if anyone seeks to invalidate this law in court.	01/15/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB104	Lou Ann Linehan	This bill changes the distribution of funds from the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund for fiscal years 2021-2022 through 2026-2027. 62% of revenue in this fund will go to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund, with the rest remaining in the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund until the Legislature otherwise directs.	02/22/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/04/2019
LB120	Sue Crawford	This bill expands the focus of suicide awareness and prevention training taken by school personnel and overseen by the state school security director to include behavioral and mental health. If passed it would take effect immediately.	02/22/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/04/2019
LB136	Justin Wayne	Creates the Density Bonus and Inclusionary Housing Act, which outlines incentives and concessions for development projects that include a certain number of low-income housing. Development projects may also include a non-family home child care facility, so long as this child care facility serves a percentage of low-income children equal to or greater than the percentage of low-income housing units necessary to receive the density bonus.	01/25/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB140	Rick Kolowski	This bill defines phototherapy and makes it illegal for any person under the age of eighteen to use tanning equipment.	01/17/2019 Notice of Hearing

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB161	Steve Erdman	This bill would eliminate learning communities in Nebraska.	02/12/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/19/2019
LB168	Megan Hunt	This bill defines conversion therapy and states that a person commits child abuse if he/she intentionally or negligently allows a minor to be placed in a situation to be subjected to conversion therapy.	01/30/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB241	Kate Bolz	This bill changes the guidelines for the teacher mentoring program. It also stipulates that funds from solar and wind agreements on school lands will be used to fund teacher mentoring program grants.	01/18/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB249	Sara Howard et al.	This bill ensures that there is no statute of limitations for civil action against an individual or individuals in cases of sexual assault or sexual assault against a child.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB251	Lynne Walz et al.	Students eligible to receive reduced-price breakfast or lunch will be provided these meals at no cost to the student. The State Department of Education will reimburse schools for the amount they would have charged. The Legislature will appropriate the funds from the General Fund.	01/18/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB255	John McCollister et al.	SNAP (nutrition assistance) eligibility will be increased to 140% of the federal Office of Management and Budget income poverty guidelines.	01/29/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB281	John McCollister	Public schools may post a clearly-visible, toll-free number established by the Department of Health and Humans Services to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. Schools may also post a link to the poster on their website. The Department of Education may contract with an appropriate entity to create the poster and will make it available to schools.	02/27/2019 Placed on General File
LB288	Lou Ann Linehan	This bill changes state income tax rates.	02/13/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/20/2019
LB290	Lou Ann Linehan	This bill changes the state sales tax rate.	01/24/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB295	Speaker Scheer	This bill is a budget bill. It provides funding for the salaries for members of the Legislature	02/14/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/26/2019
LB296	Speaker Scheer	This bill is a budget bill. It provides funding for the salaries for of constitutional officers.	02/14/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/26/2019
LB328	Kate Bolz	The Nebraska Family First Act is to utilize best practices in supporting children at risk of or who have experienced abuse or neglect. It lays out an array of interventions and services, with an emphasis on prevention, that can best support families to keep them together while keeping child safety the top priority.	02/27/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/07/2019
LB330	Kate Bolz	Changes the required membership on the Nebraska Children's Commission and updates its responsibilities to include 3-5 research or policy priorities per biennium, an annual report to the governor and the HHS Committee, among other things.	02/12/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/20/2019
LB343	Steve Halloran et al.	Grants authority to schools to allow approved employees to carry a concealed handgun.	02/11/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/28/2019
LB346	Anna Wishart	Increases the special education reimbursement percentage.	02/14/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/26/2019
LB350	Adam Morfeld	Adds expanded learning programs such as community learning centers to the list of exceptions for which schools may exceed their budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures.	03/07/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/19/2019
LB351	Adam Morfeld	School boards may determine that an additional property tax levy is necessary to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities or for violence prevention.	03/07/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/19/2019
LB388	Sara Howard	This bill would give foster parents priority if the child has stayed with the foster parents for more than twelve months and has shown to have an emotional bond with them. This bill also outlines the duties and obligations of any newly appointed guardian of a child.	01/30/2019 Notice of Hearing

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LB389	Sara Howard	This bill states that an individual may lose his/her parental rights if he/she commist a sexual assault of a minor, labor or sex trafficking of a minor, or the use of alcohol or narcotics for such a duration that makes them unable to care for the child. This bill also states that the court can terminate parental rights if they find by clear and convincing evidence that it is in the best interest of the child.	01/30/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB390	Patty Pansing Brooks	This bill would require the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice to develop a memorandum of understanding between all law enforcement or security agencies and school officials.	02/26/2019 Placed on General File
LB391	Matt Hansen	This bill states that if a peace officer takes a juvenile into custody, the peace officer will immediately contact the student's guardian to tell him/her that the student is in custody, the student's current location and the reason why the student was taken into custody. Also, prior to any custodial interrogation, the peace officer will read aloud and provide the juvenile a written statement outlining his/her rights while in custody.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB398	Wendy DeBoer	This bill removes language that states that not more than ten percent of such levy may be used for learning center employees. This bill also removes certain diversity plan requirements for each learning community.	02/12/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/19/2019
LB399	Julie Slama	This bill would require school boards of each school district to appoint a three-person committee known as American Civics. The committee will hold public hearings and review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it teaches and provides a foundation in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography.	03/13/2019 Placed on Final Reading
LB416	Curt Friesen	This bill would change the distribution of funds from the temporary school fund and fines and licenses. This bill states that the remainder of the funds shall be apportioned to school districts proportionally based on the average daily members for each school district.	02/22/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/04/2019
LB423	Sara Howard	This bill removes language regarding providers providing health services to adolescents at school-based health centers under the Medical Assistance Act.	02/07/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB426	Wendy DeBoer	This bill would allow two adult persons, regardless of their marital status, to adopt a child or an adult child.	01/30/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB427	Sara Howard	This bill would change terminology relating to legitimacy of children.	02/11/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/14/2019
LB430	Mike Groene	Changes the determination and certification dates for the distribution of aid through the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Act (TEEOSA); removes "learning community" from the process of certifying the amounts distributed to school districts.	03/01/2019 Approved by Governor, hearing on 02/28/2019
LB458	Steve Lathrop	Adds and clarifies definitions for trafficking and other types of abuse and neglect; clarifies duties for the Department of Health & Human Services, child advocacy centers, attorneys and it directs investigations and treatments to be done by multidisciplinary teams.	02/11/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/15/2019
LB460	Health and Human Services Committee	Requires individuals 18 or older, employed by a Children's Residential facility, to undergo a national criminal history record information check for themselves and each child care staff member and prospective child care staff member at the applicant's expense. Each child care staff member must undergo a national criminal history record information check not less than once during a 5-year period and must submit a complete set of fingerprints to the Nebraska State Patrol.	02/27/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/07/2019
LB478	Tony Vargas et al.	Consent cannot be used as a defense to mitigate damages or liability in a civil action arising from a sexual assault in which the victim was under 18 and the perpetrator was an adult in a position of authority over the minor.	02/11/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/13/2019
LB485	John Lowe	This bill appropriates \$2 M from the General Fund to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney to provide a fence around the facility.	03/14/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/26/2019

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB488	Sara Howard	This bill would require each school district to incorporate an age-appropriate mental health education and an age-appropriate comprehensive drug awareness and prevention education into the school program for students in each grade. This requirement would start with school year 2020-21.	03/13/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/25/2019
LB495	Justin Wayne	This bill would require the State Board of Education to implement a statewide system for collecting data on school disciplinary measures and law enforcement referrals.	02/04/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB497	Curt Friesen	This bill would reduce property taxes and increase the tax on a gallon of beer.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB510	John McCollister	This bill would exempt an out-of-state individual from registering as a sex offender, if, as a juvenile, their case was adjudicated, and had such adjudication occurred under the laws of this state, there would be no requirement to register on the Sex Offender Registration.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB511	Tom Brewer	This bill would allow the agency head or some other management personnel designated by the agency head to adjust the work schedule of a state employee by up to one hour per week to allow that state employee to participate in an approved youth mentoring program.	03/13/2019 Placed on General File
LB513	Tom Briese	This bill states that if the property tax valuation of the school district is seventy-five percent or more of agricultural and horticultural land, then a school bond shall be issued.	01/28/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB514	Adam Morfeld	This bill states that if a person issues a check for child or spousal support and if he/she does not have enough funds for the payment of the check, then that person would commit the offense of issuing a bad check.	03/12/2019 Placed on General File
LB515	Tony Vargas	This bill defines some terms, protects student and family rights, and lays out duties of schools and school officials when disciplinary actions involve suspension, expulsion, and mandatory reassignment.	02/04/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB516	Patty Pansing Brooks	This bill states that a person commits child abuse if he/she knowingly or negligently causes a minor to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking. This bill also requires that once the Department of Health and Human Services is notified of any child abuse, the department must immediately conduct an investigation coordinated with the necessary law enforcement agencies.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB568	Adam Morfeld	This bill would require the State Department of Education to develop a mental health first-aid training program for teachers and other personnel employed by a school district or an educational service unit.	03/07/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/18/2019
LB575	Tom Brewer	This bill would require school boards to adopt a policy that provides directory information on high school students for military recruiters to access. This bill also states that a parent or guardian may request that the student's information not be released without written consent.	03/12/2019 Placed on Final Reading
LB588	John Stinner	This bill changes the local effort rate for school aid.	
LB589	Ernie Chambers	With some exceptions, peace officers cannot serve as school resource officers.	02/05/2019 Notice of Hearing
LB619	Rick Kolowski	Provide insurance coverage for mental health services that are delivered in a school or other educational setting.	03/13/2019 Placed on General File
LB647	Justin Wayne	Includes virtual school students in the calculation of aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA).	03/07/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/19/2019
LB650	Justin Wayne	Creates the Teach for Nebraska Fund and funds the Teach for Nebraska Summer Program and post-secondary scholarships to pursue a degree in a teacher education program.	02/22/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/04/2019
LB653	Justin Wayne	Requires tests for lead-based hazards and disclosures to buyers and tenants.	02/27/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/15/2019
LB671	Lou Ann Linehan	Sparsity aid will be provided to schools who have less than 390 formula students at \$5,000 per student.	02/22/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/05/2019

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB674	Lou Ann Linehan	This bill changes the base limitation rate for school districts from one and one half percent to the inflation rate plus the student growth rate.	02/22/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/05/2019
LB675	Mike Groene	This bill changes provisions relating to special education and removes language allowing Educational Service Unit's or cooperatives to be eligible for grants to provide special education services for children who are less than five years of age.	02/14/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/26/2019
LB676	Mike Groene	This bill changes provisions relating to the reorganization of school districts.	03/13/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/25/2019
LB690	Machaela Cavanaugh	Limits use of restraints on incarcerated women who are pregnant, in labor, delivering, in post-partum recovery, or during transport to a medical facility or birthing center.	02/11/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/06/2019
LB720	Mark Kolterman (Kolterman Priority Bill)	This bill would create the ImagiNE Nebraska Act, a new business development tax-incentive program that will eventually replace the Nebraska Advantage Act.	02/26/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 03/06/2019
LB727	Lynne Walz et al.	The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, will provide school districts a registry of mental health resources in their area; school districts will designate a mental health point of contact.	02/12/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/19/2019
LB728	Lynne Walz	Directs the Department of Education to create uniform lunch policies and sets parameters for how schools collect lunch debt and serve lunch to students who have incurred a debt.	02/12/2019 Notice of Hearing, hearing on 02/19/2019