

2017 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z Bill enacted into law o Included in the budget bill A Provisions/portions amended into different bill x Bill no longer active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 Priority Legislation			
z LB22	Scheer	Introduced at the request of the Governor, LB22 sets forth reduced appropriations for the current biennium to address the shortfall (FY15/16). A \$200,000.00 cut to the Early Childhood Grant program (children aged birth-3) is included, reducing the appropriation from \$5M to \$4.8M.	2/15/2017 Approved by the Governor
z LB327	Scheer	Introduced by Speaker Scheer by request of the Governor, LB327 appropriates funds for the state government over the FY2017-18 and FY2018-19. This budget will address the nearly \$1B estimated shortfall for the stated fiscal years.	5/15/2017 Approved by the Governor with line-item veto
z LB335	Scheer et al. Health & Human Services Committee Priority Bill	Eliminates the market rate survey adjustment for child care providers in the state for the year 2017 only. The rate after 2017 will continue to be adjusted using the market rate survey.	5/12/2017 Approved by the Governor
LB484	Kolowski Kolowski Priority Bill	Creates a commission consisting of 20 members, with membership requirements listed in the legislation. The Commission will be tasked with examining an in-depth review of the financing of public schools, including; using income, sales tax, other states methods as a component of financing schools. Also included are examining financing as it relates to quality and performance in Nebraska schools, expansion of prekindergarten services, financing for college-readiness and career readiness programs, and examine the costs and resources necessary to educate poverty and limited English proficiency students.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Monday, March 06, 2017
LB521	Walz	For aid calculated for FY18-19 and after, state funding for qualified early childhood education will be calculated at 80% of the average daily membership of students who will be eligible to attend kindergarten in 1 of the 2 following school years. The current level is 60%. The bill also addresses calculation for early childhood education transportation costs as the number of miles traveled by vehicles owned, leased or contracted by a district/districts in a local system on a regular route exclusively for the transportation of early childhood education students.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, February 28, 2017
z LB645	Pansing Brooks et al.	Dyslexia will be added under special education in Nebraska Schools. Dyslexia will be defined as a specific learning disability that is neurobiological, characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition, poor spelling and decoding, and typically results from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is unexpected in relation to their cognitive abilities and effective classroom instruction.	5/10/2017 Approved by the Governor
Additional Legislation Affecting Early Childhood			
A LB6	Krist	Allows for the public release of a report issued by the Inspector General of Child Welfare if that report is determined to be in the public's best interest, as determined by the Chair of either the Health and Human Services or Judiciary Committees. Provisions or portions of LB6 were amended into LB207 by AM507.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB207

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
z LB10	Krist	Increases the number of judges of the juvenile court from 5 to 6 judges in counties that have a minimum of 400,000 residents.	5/22/2017 Approved by the Governor
x LB40	Hilkemann	Prohibits school bus operators in direct contract with pupils or parents, and not owned or contracted with a school district or non-public school from using any wireless communication device other than to dispatch communications while the bus is in motion.	3/9/2017 Indefinitely Postponed
LB41	Hilkemann	Increases the failure to use a child restraint system to a primary offense with a fine of \$50.00, instead of the previous secondary offense and \$25.00 fine. Multiple children not using restraint systems will not count as separate offenses.	2/2/2017 Notice of Hearing: Transportation & Telecommunications Committee Monday, February 27, 2017
LB42	Hilkemann	Requires Nebraska drivers use a restraint system which meets federal standards for all children up to 8 years of age and that the child occupies the rear seat of the vehicle if a back seat is available. All children up to 2 years of age will be required to use a rear-facing child seat until they outgrow the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.	2/2/2017 Notice of Hearing: Transportation & Telecommunications Committee Monday, February 27, 2017
LB44	Watermeier Watermeier Priority Bill	Applies state sales tax to online sales from sellers without a physical presence in Nebraska. Sellers qualify if the gross revenue produced by sales into Nebraska is more than \$100,000 or the services are more than 200 separate transactions.	4/12/2017 Placed on Select File
LB52	Schumacher	Adopts the Modern Tax Act, which imposes a 5.5% tax on interest paid by a debtor.	1/11/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Wednesday, January 18, 2017
LB60	Lindstrom et al.	Requires any party who has been granted any parenting time to a child to provide written notice to others with custody rights before allowing a sex offender to reside in the party's residence or have unsupervised access to the child.	1/24/2017 Notice of Hearing: Judiciary Committee Thursday, February 09, 2017
LB69	Pansing Brooks	Beginning in 2019, increases the earned income tax credit for low income workers from ten, to 13%. In 2020 it increases to 17%, and 20% in 2021.	1/25/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Wednesday, February 01, 2017
LB73	Riepe	Any individual under the ages of 21, instead of the current 18 years of age, in Nebraska who uses any form of tobacco or alternative nicotine products would be guilty of a Class V misdemeanor.	2/3/2017 Notice of Hearing: General Affairs Committee Monday, February 13, 2017
z LB91	Hilkemann et al. Hilkemann Priority Bill	All infants born in Nebraska shall also be screened for inherited or congenital infant or childhood-onset diseases, and sets forth the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a program to provide food supplements and treatment to individuals that suffer from tested diseases. Also defines pharmaceutically manufactured foods. Provisions or portions of LB401 were amended into LB91 by AM331.	4/27/2017 Approved by the Governor
x LB106	Brasch	If a family includes a child who was conceived by the victim of a sexual assault, and the biological parent is convicted of said crime, that parent will not be considered a part of the child's family for purposes of requiring reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the family. If the parent is not found guilty, paternity of the child shall proceed.	1/23/2017 Bill withdrawn
LB108	Crawford	Establishes guidelines for police departments, state patrol, and county sheriffs to ensure child safety in the case of arrest of the guardian. Including procedures to inquire if arrestees have a minor or dependent, proper arrangement of temporary care, and education of police officers of effects of children witnessing violent crime. Also allows for phone calls during booking for guardians to arrange care of the minor or dependent.	1/24/2017 Notice of Hearing: Judiciary Committee Wednesday, February 08, 2017
LB109	Blood et al.	Military spouses with teaching certificates from other states may be granted a temporary license to teach in Nebraska for 6 months, in order to keep working. After the 6 months, the temporary license cannot be renewed.	1/13/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Monday, January 23, 2017

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB118	Hilkemann et al.	Sets an option to establish an Educational Savings Account for students, grades kindergarten through grade 12 for students attending public, private, and denominational or parochial schools in Nebraska. Savings may go towards tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, equipment, uniforms, extracurricular activities, computers, internet access, distance education, and college entrance exams. Contributions are limited to \$2,000 per contributor.	1/18/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Thursday, January 26, 2017
Z LB119	Groene et al.	Establishes June 1, 2017, and on or before March 1 thereafter for TEEOSA distribution calculations.	2/15/2017 Approved by the Governor
LB120	Schumacher	By September 1, 2017 the Department of Health and Human Services must submit a state plan to federal centers for providing family planning services for persons whose family income is at or below 185% of FPL. Provided services, not to include elective abortion services, are listed.	2/3/2017 Notice of Hearing: Health & Human Services Committee Wednesday, March 15, 2017
LB128	Groene	Persons with one or more felony convictions for possession or use of controlled substances or a person with one or more felony convictions involving sale or distribution will only be eligible for SNAP benefits if they are participating, or completed a state-licensed or nationally accredited substance abuse program, or voluntarily submits to drug testing.	2/3/2017 Notice of Hearing: Health & Human Services Committee Wednesday, March 22, 2017
LB129	Morfeld	Beginning before 2018, increases the earned income tax credit for low income workers from ten, to 11%. In 2019 it increases to 12%.	1/25/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Wednesday, February 01, 2017
LB144	Friesen Bostelman Priority Bill	For calculation of state aid, special valuation of agriculture land shall be set as FY2018-19 50%; FY19-20 40%; FY20-21 30%; FY21-22 20%. Prior to FY18-19, special valuation shall remain at 72% of actual value.	1/24/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Monday, February 06, 2017
A LB175	Morfeld	If passed, will disallow operators of webpages, applications or web services from engaging in targeted advertising, using information gathered from the site, application or service to amass a profile about a student; or sell or rent a student's information, based on any information the operator has acquired because of the use of that operator's site, service, or application for elementary, middle, or high school purposes. Provision or portions of LB175 were amended into LB512 by AM724.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB512
A LB188	Howard et al.	If a family includes a child who was conceived by the victim of a sexual assault, and the biological parent is convicted of said crime, that parent will not be considered a part of the child's family for purposes of requiring reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the family. If the parent is not found guilty, paternity of the child shall proceed. Provisions or portions of LB188 were amended into LB289 by AM599.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB289
LB189	Howard et al.	Appropriates \$500,000 in both FY17-18 and FY18-19 to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Program 33, specifically for recruitment and retention of child welfare case workers, in order to maintain caseload standards set forth by state statute.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Appropriations Committee Tuesday, March 14, 2017
A LB191	Pansing Brooks et al.	Any victim of domestic abuse may renew a protection order if a petition and affidavit for renewal is filed on or after 30 days before the expiration of the existing order. Orders will stand for one year. Provisions or portions of LB191 were amended into LB289 by AM599.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB289
LB198	McCullister	Eliminates the Crimes Against Children Fund and transfers any money in said fund to the State General Fund. This fund is established to reduce the costs incurred by county attorneys in consulting and retaining expert witnesses among other expenses in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children.	2/14/2017 Placed on General File
Z LB203	Kuehn Business & Labor Committee Priority Bill	Establishes limits on annual unemployment benefits available to Nebraskans based on weekly benefit amounts and wages from previous employment. Provisions or portions of LB301 were amended into LB203 by AM350. Provisions or portions of LB273 were amended into LB203 by AM350.	3/29/2017 Approved by the Governor

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB205	Krist	Distributes \$7,081,564 of state general funds to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Program 424 (Medicaid) for services rendered on or after October 1, 2016 for which no federal funds were used.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Appropriations Committee Tuesday, March 14, 2017
Z LB207	Krist Executive Board Priority Bill	Adds language under Inspector General of Child Welfare investigations to include injury or death to a child that the office determines to have occurred not by chance, as well as including protections for those who disclose information to the office regarding evidence of wrongdoing under the office of Inspector General of Child Welfare. Provisions or portions of LB6 were amended into LB207 by AM507.	4/27/2017 Approved by the Governor
LB214	Halloran et al.	Eliminates the Master Teacher Program under the Nebraska Department of Education after July 1, 2017. The program provides for bonus pay statewide up to \$1m evenly distributed among the teachers in the program. Those accepted into the program do so by applying to a credentialing organization recognized for their master requirements by the Department of Education.	1/23/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, January 31, 2017
LB224	Crawford et al.	Family net worth limitations update for eligibility for state public assistance under Nebraska guidelines under 392 N.A.C. 3-006, or \$1m in total net worth.	2/3/2017 Notice of Hearing: Health & Human Services Committee Thursday, March 02, 2017
Z LB225	Crawford et al. Crawford Priority Bill	Change provisions relating to alternative response to a report of child abuse or neglect and provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services, requiring a briefing to the commission by November 15, 2018. Alternative response may be used until the end of 2020, when any further use must be approved by the Legislature. The bill also includes the Child Advocacy Center as an investigator provided with all reports regarding a case of abuse or neglect. Provisions or portions of LB297 were amended into LB225 by AM611. Provisions or portions of LB298 were amended into LB225 by AM611. Provisions or portions of LB336 were amended into LB225 by AM611.	4/27/2017 Approved by the Governor
A LB235	Walz	Funds to the Summer Food Service Program may be expended up to the full cost of a qualifying expense incurred by a provider of the service, and if those funds are solely for the benefit of child nutrition programs administered. Provisions or portions of LB235 were amended into LB512 by AM724.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB512
LB240	Baker	Meetings held by any school board may be held via videoconferencing or telephone conference call, as long as they are in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.	1/18/2017 Notice of Hearing: Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee Wednesday, January 25, 2017
LB242	Bolz	Provides for \$595,803 to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to be used for the recruitment of students that choose to become behavioral health professionals, by using said funds to develop and offer clinical rotations at state correctional facilities, and provide stipends, clinical supervision, coordination, and other recruitment services for students.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Appropriations Committee Monday, February 27, 2017
LB246	Morfeld	For districts with more than 1,000 students, up to \$100,000 dollars, and for districts with 1,000 or fewer students \$50,000 will be provided for expanded learning opportunity programs as defined in statute, or for school based or school linked activities that utilize school-community partnerships to expand opportunities for students to participate in educational activities outside the normal classroom.	3/22/2017 Placed on General File
LB247	Morfeld	Allows for additional property tax levy for specific projects, now to include addressing cybersecurity vulnerability. Also allows for these funds to be used for existing schools or administration buildings.	2/7/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, February 14, 2017
LB248	Harr Harr Priority Bill	Offers training services that encourage young people to identify individual abilities and interests by exposing them to potential employment opportunities within Nebraska, with the goal of teaching young people the soft skills necessary to succeed in employment, identifying demand occupations, and assessing the required skills.	2/28/2017 Placed on General File

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB260	Hansen	Appropriates \$150K to the Department of Agriculture to establish and administer a state food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program. Such program may award state grants to grantees under the federal food insecurity nutrition incentive grant program established under the federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.	1/20/2017 Notice of Hearing: Agriculture Committee Tuesday, February 07, 2017
LB265	Friesen Briese Priority Bill	Adjusts the state aid distributed to local systems as follows: \$1,500 per formula student in FY18-19, \$2,500 in FY19-20, \$3,500 in FY20-21, \$4,500 in FY21-22, and \$5,500 in FY22-23 and for each school fiscal year thereafter.	1/24/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Monday, February 06, 2017
LB266	Friesen	The valuation of agriculture land, starting in 2018 would be valued at 50% of its special valuation, reducing to 40% in 2019, and 30% in 2020 and after.	2/7/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Thursday, February 16, 2017
LB270	Kolowski	Appropriates funds for FY17-18 and FY18-19 to the Nebraska Department of Education of \$750,000 in order to carry out the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Appropriations Committee Tuesday, March 07, 2017
LB279	Hilkemann et al.	For each seat on a school bus built on or after the bill goes into effect, and purchased on or after January 1, 2018 will be required to be equipped with lap-shoulder belts, with one belt per child. This applies to those buses used for the transportation of public school children in Nebraska.	2/2/2017 Notice of Hearing: Transportation & Telecommunications Committee Monday, February 27, 2017
A LB282	Riepe et al.	Strikes current language that prevents behavioral health services to be provided by telehealth for children. Currently those services are only covered if the child lacks access to comparable service within 30 miles of his or her residence. Provisions or portions of LB282 were amended into LB92 by AM609.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB92
LB284	Riepe et al.	For those applying for a Child Care license with the state of Nebraska, national criminal background checks are required, at the applicant's or licensee's expense.	1/13/2017 Notice of Hearing: Health & Human Services Committee Friday, January 20, 2017
LB285	Linehan et al.	Those practicing obstetrics attending to pregnant women in Nebraska shall test the patient's blood for presence of human immunodeficiency virus infection, unless the patient has given written consent that she does not choose to be tested.	3/1/2017 Placed on General File
A LB287	Wishart	Allows for the Maternal Death Review Team to enter into written agreements with qualified entities to provide for the secure storage of electronic data containing information and records collected by the team. Provisions or portions of LB287 were amended into LB506 by AM851.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB506
LB295	Smith et al.	Provides for a tax credit against income tax due for any individual taxpayer that contributes to a scholarship-granting organization as defined by the bill as non-public elementary and secondary schools.	5/23/2017 Placed on General File
A LB297	McCollister	Creates and appoints members to a Children and Juveniles Data Pilot Project. The project will meet at least twice a year in order to manage and discuss data-related items, including the technological and system issues of each member agency's current data system, specific barriers that impact the implementation of a data warehouse, and steps necessary to establish and sustain a data warehouse. Included is the Information-Sharing subcommittee to manage and discuss regulatory barriers to establishing such warehouse and to identify solutions. Provisions or portions of LB297 were amended into LB225 by AM611.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB225
z LB300	Krist et al. Scheer Priority Bill as Speaker	Removes the statute of limitations for bringing actions for injury or injuries suffered by a victim of sexual assault. Current statute limits actions to twelve years after the plaintiff's 21st birthday.	5/9/2017 Approved by the Governor

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB302	Crawford	Appropriates General Fund dollars in FY17-18 and 18-19 to the University of Nebraska to provide for one-year post grad psychiatric and behavioral health medicine fellowships for physician assistants to prepare the participants to provide advanced psychiatric and behavioral health care in order for Nebraska to recruit, retain, and increase the competence of the psychiatric prescriber workforce.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Appropriations Committee Monday, February 27, 2017
LB303	Crawford	Appropriates funds in FY17-18 and FY18-19 to the University of Nebraska to provide funds for 12 one year behavioral health master's level internships to take place in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Appropriations Committee Monday, February 27, 2017
LB305	Crawford	The Commissioner of the Department of Insurance will administer the Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Fund. The fund shall consist of contributions from covered individuals. Contributions will be collected by covered employers as payroll deductions from individuals.	1/27/2017 Notice of Hearing: Business & Labor Committee Monday, February 06, 2017
Z LB307	Brasch et al.	In cases of mediation proceedings, a fee of \$50 and a civil legal fee of \$15 will be collected by the clerk of the county or district court in any proceeding by a party subsequent to the paternity filing to award child support or to establish or modify custody, parenting time, visitation, or access. \$25 will be collected and distributed to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund.	5/12/2017 Approved by the Governor
LB308	Brasch	Requires that Nebraska school boards currently required Committees on Americanism meet at least three times per year, with at least one meeting allowing public testimony, with minutes of meetings being kept. Any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee must be made accessible to the public, and contains a reference to the statute requiring it.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Monday, March 20, 2017
LB326	Kolowski	Any school district that has disbursements that are below the statewide median of that disbursement divided by their daily membership, may levy up to an additional three cents per \$100 of taxable valuation of property, so long as that levy is approved for each fiscal year by 2/3rds majority vote of the school board after a public hearing.	2/14/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Thursday, March 02, 2017
X LB334	Scheer et al.	Allows the Department of Health and Human Services to end contracts using the Family Finding model. Currently under the project, a portion of all cases involving children who are wards of the state in foster care or in the Bridge to Independence program are referred to the project in order to locate family members or wards, engage and empower family members, and create a plan to achieve a safe, permanent legal home for the ward when possible.	3/13/2017 Indefinitely Postponed
A LB336	Scheer et al.	The Department of Health and Human Services may charge a fee, set by the department, to recover expenses in carrying out central registry records checks. The fee can be no more than three dollars, and the department may waive the fee if the requesting party shows the fee would be an undue financial hardship. Provisions or portions of LB336 were amended into LB225 by AM611.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB225
LB337	Smith Lindstrom Priority Bill	Establishes new income tax rates for the top income bracket in Nebraska. New rates will be implemented only if growth in the General Fund receipts from a current fiscal year meet percentage increase goals. If the goals laid out in this plan are not met, the increase is deferred until the receipts grow by the required percentage. The top rate, if all growth requirements are met, will drop from 6.84% to 5.99% between January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2027.	1/25/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Wednesday, February 08, 2017
LB338	Brasch Brasch Priority Bill	Agriculture and horticultural land will be valued at agricultural use value, or the income-producing characteristics of the land, instead of the current percentages of assessed value, which relies on market values.	1/25/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Wednesday, February 08, 2017
LB347	Geist	Removes the requirement for a special operators permit for school buses under the Department of Motor Vehicles. Those wishing to operate a school bus would still be required to be examined by a licensed physician as to meeting the physical and mental standards established. The bill also strikes the DMV fees for the special operators permit, specifically for school bus drivers.	2/10/2017 Placed on General File

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
X LB358	McCollister et al. McCollister Priority Bill	Will increase the gross income eligibility limit to 158% of the Federal Office of Management and Budget income poverty guideline for FY17-18, and to 185% in FY18-19 and after. This will not increase the net income eligibility limit.	4/11/2017 Failed to advance to E&R Initial
LB361	Kolowski	Adopts a sales tax holiday between 12:01am the first Friday of August and 11:59pm the following Saturday. Clothing \$100 or less, and footwear \$150 or less will not be subject to state sales tax.	3/1/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Friday, March 17, 2017
LB372	Crawford	Adds family care responsibilities to the list of discrimination rights for employees, along with those currently in statute: race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.	1/27/2017 Notice of Hearing: Business & Labor Committee Monday, February 06, 2017
A LB401	Hilkemann	Adds X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD) and mucopolysaccharidoses type 1 (MPS-1) and Pompe disease to the required list of screenings required to all infants born in the state of Nebraska. Provisions or portions of LB401 were amended into LB91 by AM331.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB91
Z LB409	Groene et al. Education Committee Priority Bill	For FY17-18 and 18-19, the base limitation for Nebraska school districts would be decreased from 1.5% to 0%. The base limitation is the budget limitation rate applicable to districts and the limitation on growth of restricted funds by a supermajority of the governing board of the district.	5/10/2017 Approved by the Governor
A LB428	Vargas et al.	Beginning May 1, 2018, each district in Nebraska will adopt a written policy to begin the following school year (2018-2019) which gives guidelines to accommodate pregnant and parenting parents. These policies will include methods to keep these students in school by allowing coursework at home, tutoring visits, online courses, lactation accommodation, identifying local child care providers or a staff person to assist student parents in placing their children in child care facilities, and training for teachers, counselors, and administrators on the policies. Provisions or portions of LB428 were amended into LB427 by AM739.	5/23/2017 Provisions/portions amended into bill: LB427
LB438	Howard et al.	The tax on cigarettes would increase to \$2.14 per pack, instead of the current \$.64 per package, and 65% of purchase price for tobacco products other than snuff. \$1.Funds of \$61,250,000 will be placed in the Health Care Cash Fund by the state treasurer each year. \$1.24 of the funds collected will be placed in the state General Fund, unless the full \$61,250,000 requires a portion of that \$1.24 in order to be met. The funds from the Health Care Cash Fund shall be distributed as laid out in the bill, including: \$2m for the University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute of Neurobehavioral Clinic program to study and improve methods for intervening early in the lives of children with behavioral and mental health problems; \$5m for the Nebraska paid-family-medical-leave program; \$1, 100,000 for the Division of Children and Family Services for evidence-based early intervention home visitation programs; and \$1,150,000 for other early childhood programs (not program-specifically assigned in the bill).	3/1/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Friday, March 17, 2017
LB443	Bolz	Allows for any qualified employer to receive a tax credit of up to 50% of the total amount they reimburse an employee for student loan payments, up to \$1800, over a calendar year by applying through the Nebraska Department of Revenue. Qualified employees will have attended a 2 or 4 year college or university that is accredited by the United States Department of Education, has earned a degree from said college or university, and has been employed by the employer for at least 480 hours in Nebraska during the calendar year of the credit application. Any employer that is an individual, partnership, limited liability partnership or company, association, corporation, business trust, legal representative will be eligible for the tax credit.	2/14/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Wednesday, March 08, 2017

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB456	Briese et al.	For parents who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, or handicapped, support services assisting said parent or disabled prospective parent in the effective use of alternative methods to enable the parent to discharge their parental responsibilities as successfully as a parent who is not disabled. A parent's disability will not serve as a basis for denial or restriction of visitation or custody, denial for public or private adoption when the adoption is otherwise to be in the best interest of the child, or denial for foster care.	1/24/2017 Notice of Hearing: Health & Human Services Committee Wednesday, February 08, 2017
z LB464	Watermeier et al.	When legislation is enacted requiring adoption or change in agency rules or regulations, or when the agency proposes a change, the agency shall adopt and promulgate the rules/ regulations within one year after the public hearing. If after 3 years the rules and regulations have not been adopted, the legislative committee with jurisdiction over the agency shall hold a public hearing to determine why.	5/10/2017 Approved by the Governor
LB511	Education Committee	For any ward of the state in a school district, the Department of Health and Human Services will be required to pay the cost for that child's education and any required transportation associated with education, so long as that child does not reside in a foster home that is licensed or approved by the Department.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, February 28, 2017
z LB512	Education Committee Education Committee Priority Bill	Annual bill from the Nebraska Department of Education that is known as the technical clean-up bill. Provisions or portions of LB123 were amended into LB512 by AM724. Provisions or portions of LB175 were amended into LB512 by AM724. Provisions or portions of LB235 were amended into LB512 by AM724. Provisions or portions of LB398 were amended into LB512 by AM724. Provisions or portions of LB457 were amended into LB512 by AM724.	5/22/2017 Approved by the Governor
LB515	Bolz	Establishes the Nebraska Integrated Education and Training Program, which will provide grants to community colleges in order to develop and implement local programs of integrated education and training. The committee will develop the program, grant applications, procedures, and guidelines. Grants will be up to 3 years in duration to a community college after an application from said college.	3/3/2017 Placed on General File
z LB518	Williams et al. Business & Labor Committee Priority Bill	For Nebraska census tracts with fewer than 100,000 residents, 30% or higher than the statewide average rate and has a per capita income 30% below the statewide average, and has had a population decrease of 20% between census decennials are allowed to receive funds from a workforce housing grant established by a nonprofit and distributed by the Department of Economic Development. Housing may not already receive federal or state low-income housing tax-credits, community development block grants, HOME funds, or funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.	4/27/2017 Approved by the Governor
LB525	Morfeld	Beginning in FY17-18, 1% of funds from the Expanded Opportunity Grant Fund to the Department of Education Innovative Grant Fund (17% total) will be allocated to the Master Teacher Program Fund.	2/7/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, February 14, 2017
LB537	Hughes	Applicants for cash assistance programs that test positive for drugs will be ineligible for said assistance. If the individual does test positive for substances not prescribed by a physician, that person must complete a substance abuse treatment program and job skills program, failure to do so will ban the individual from benefits for a 12 month period, or until the programs have been completed. If the applicant is the parent or guardian of a minor child, the department may approve a protective payee, recommended by the parent/guardian to receive the payments for the child's benefit.	2/3/2017 Notice of Hearing: Health & Human Services Committee Thursday, March 02, 2017
LB552	Walz et al.	Establishes the Children's Connection program in each of the behavioral health regions, which shall be a partnership between the region and Nebraska schools serving children k-8th grade. The program will identify children with social and emotional challenges, and work with the child's parents, school, and health care provider(s) to provide family-centered services in order to prevent child welfare or juvenile justice system involvement.	2/3/2017 Notice of Hearing: Health & Human Services Committee Friday, March 17, 2017

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB554	Smith	The Nebraska State Board of Education will issue a request for proposals to create a web site that translates the expenditures for each of the major categories of expenditures for schools, school districts, and ESUs into a format that is readable by a layperson. The board will also establish a financial policies and procedures advisory committee to work with the Department of Education and the company awarded construction of the site to ensure that it is layperson friendly. This site must be made available by July 1, 2018 and updated each year.	1/24/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, February 07, 2017
LB568	Erdman et al.	A temporary teach certificate, valid for 5 years may be given to any candidate that meets the following: 21 years of age or older, possess a high school diploma, completes 24 hours of in-service training, 10 hours of classroom observation in elementary or early childhood, middle, and high school, completes a course and exam with a score of at least 80% on both the U.S. and Nebraska Constitutions, submits to fingerprints for a criminal history, completes an application for the certificate, and submits a fee of no more than \$80 for residents of at least two years, or \$100 for any other applicant.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, March 14, 2017
LB571	Friesen	For FY18-19 and after, the amount of assistance paid to a local system will be an amount equal to 20% of the aggregate statewide income tax liability of all residents in the district, using data certified by the Tax Commissioner.	1/24/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Monday, February 06, 2017
LB576	Brewer et al.	Limits the increase an owner's property tax bill for 2017 and 2018 shall not exceed the tax bill the owner had for 2016.	2/14/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Thursday, March 09, 2017
LB595	Groene Groene Priority Bill	Under the Student Discipline Act, a teacher or administrator may use physical restraint to subdue any student exhibiting destructive behavior towards school property until the student ceases such behavior or is removed from the classroom. Any action by the teacher or administrator will not be considered corporal punishment, and will not be subject to legal action or administrative discipline. Teachers may remove a student if he/she determines the student to be unruly, disruptive, or abusive.	3/16/2017 Placed on General File
LB602	Erdman et al.	Agriculture and horticultural land will be valued based on the net earning capacity.	2/7/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Friday, February 24, 2017
LB633	Kolowski	Allows schools districts, with a 2/3rds majority vote of the school board to levy a maximum of \$0.01 on every \$100.00 of taxable property to establish a school security fund, and/or a student technology fund for use on student security or student technology expenditures only.	2/14/2017 Notice of Hearing: Revenue Committee Thursday, March 02, 2017
LB634	Wayne	For the year-end reports required for submission by each superintendent to the Commissioner of Education on annual statistics, including the number of classes a student is required to enroll in for full-time enrollment per grade level, the definition of a class used by the district for determining full-time and part-time, and the number of classes completed by each virtual student.	4/5/2017 Placed on General File
LB650	Linehan et al.	Any individual that is: awarded a doctoral degree from a postsecondary institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency; any individual holding a teaching certificate issued by a national or regional educator credentialing agency approved by the board of education and who annually completes requirements to maintain said certificate; any person that possesses a certificate from another state and annually completes requirements to maintain; and to any person who has at least two years of postsecondary teaching experience, will be granted a teaching certificate.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, March 14, 2017
LB651	Linehan Linehan Priority Bill	School districts in Nebraska shall offer an accelerated reading intervention program for the purpose of ensuring that students can read at or above grade level at the end of 3rd grade. The program will: be provided to all kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd grade who are identified as having a reading deficiency; provide development in phonics, fluency, vocab, and reading comprehension; monitor reading progress in students; be implemented during regular school hours.	5/2/2017 Placed on General File

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
LB662	Linehan	On or before August 1, 2020 the State Board of Education will establish an accountability system with a scale measuring performance for schools and districts based on a A, B, C, D, E, F grading system. The grades will be a combination of: percent of students scoring proficient or higher on statewide assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science; and the number of students earning a high school diploma in four years, among other requirements.	2/16/2017 Notice of Hearing: Education Committee Tuesday, March 07, 2017