



107th Legislature, 2nd Session

YOUR 2021-22 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST
ON ALL BILLS NASB IS FOLLOWING
& DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY OF THE
'ADVOCACY HANDBOOK' UNDER
THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TAB

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KNOW YOUR DISTRICT'S DATA

UNDERSTAND THE DATA THAT WILL
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOUR NASB LEGISLATIVE TEAM

COLBY COASH, JOHN SPATZ,
MATT BELKA & LINDSEY WOOTON

SINE DIE - THE END OF THE 107TH LEGISLATURE ...

60 days are in the books. This session was marked more by what did NOT pass.

By the numbers, of the 85 bills NASB followed this Session ...
We testified in support to 22. Of those 5 were Approved by the Governor, 17 failed to advance. We testified in opposition to 24. Of those only 2 were Approved by the Governor, 22 failed to advance.

LB ### - Follow
LB ### - Support
LB ### - Oppose



WATCH: SINE DIE - Legislative Quick Wrap-Up 2022

<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/government-relations>

WHAT PASSED ...



LB 758 - Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act

Expands the farm to school program to early childhood education programs.

THEME: Student Programs



LB 852 - Require behavioral health points of contact for school districts

Requires a district to designate a behavioral health point of contact for each building who will coordinate access to community behavioral health services for students and families and report to NDE. The bill also requires NDE to establish a mental health first aid program for district employees. Does not require that districts take or pay for the training.

THEME: Student Well-being

LB 873 - Change provisions relating to corporate and individual income taxes, taxation of social security benefits, and property tax credits

This bill allocates significant dollars into future years and will impact school finance proposals moving forward. State support for K-12 will be impacted as these funds are "spoken for" in years to come. A down economy will make K-12 funding a target.

THEME: School Funding



LB 888 - Redefine multicultural education for school districts

Places a curriculum requirement on teaching the holocaust.

THEME: Curriculum Mandate



LB 902 - Adopt the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act

Places into statute a career scholarship program. This program provides scholarships to students who participate in an internship or work program for a specific underserved workforce sector.



LB 1112 - Adopt the Computer Science and Technology Education Act and provide and change graduation requirements and academic content standards

Despite our efforts, this bill puts an additional unfunded mandate on schools by way of a new graduation requirement related to computer science and technology. We thank the many Senators who stood up for local control.

THEME: Local Control, Curriculum Mandate

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LB 1165 - Change provisions of the Nebraska Budget Act

Clarifies the Budget Act to resolve ambiguity about the timing of levies resulting from bonds passed by a ballot initiative. This bill was brought as a result of challenges faced by both Ralston & Fremont Public Schools with regard to their experience with a bond passage.

THEME: School Funding



LB 1218 - Change provisions relating to certification of school employees and student loan forgiveness

An email was sent to NASB Members on 4/6/22 with video - <https://vimeo.com/689308186>

LB 1218 acknowledges and addresses the educator workforce shortage in Nebraska by enacting innovative changes that eliminate bureaucratic obstacles that have historically kept high quality teachers from joining Nebraska classrooms. It provides greater flexibility to approved colleges of teacher education and the State Board in making determinations of qualified applicants for admission to educator preparation programs. LB 1218 further creates the Teach in Nebraska Today Act that offers student loan repayment assistance for educators across the state. It commits an additional \$5 million annually to educator loan forgiveness and includes provisions allowing for repayment of loan debt directly to the applicant or directly to the lender or loan servicer, and also widens the scope of educators qualifying for loan forgiveness beyond existing teacher loan forgiveness programs.

THEME: Education Workforce

WHAT DID NOT PASS ...



LR 263CA - Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions as prescribed

THEME: Unfunded Mandate



LB 364 - Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide tax credits



LB 1237 - Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and the Nebraska Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act



LB 1240 - Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education to provide family-directed education recovery accounts for low-income children and families

Tax credits and federal appropriations for non-private schools. Once again there were attempts to utilize state dollars through tax credits to subsidize non-public education. These types of bills will continue to be brought forth in upcoming sessions.

THEME: School Funding/Tax Credits



LB 890 - Change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

The debate and failure of LB 986 (Briese) was a driving factor in the filibuster mounted on LB 890 in the subsequent days. Sen. Walz asked to hold the bill after coming to the conclusion that a compromise could not be reached. There was no further debate on school finance this session.

THEME: School Funding



LB 1077 - Prohibit public schools, public postsecondary institutions, and governmental entities from training or teaching certain concepts relating to race and sex and provide for withholding of state funds

This bill prohibited teaching certain concepts related to race and sex. We opposed this bill as it took control away from local school boards to dictate curriculum.







THEME: Local Control, Curriculum Mandate

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-  **LB 1078 - Prohibit possession of personal electronic devices by students in public school classrooms**
This bill eroded local control once again by prescribing how cell phones are to be handled in the classroom.
THEME: Local Control
-  **LB 1143 - Require approval by the voters of a school district or educational service unit for the issuance of certain bonds under the Interlocal Cooperation Act**
LB 1146 - Change provisions relating to the Interlocal Cooperation Act
Interlocal agreements: These bills would have eliminated or significantly hampered the ability of school districts to engage in Interlocal Cooperation Agreements.
THEME: Local Control, School Funding
-  **LB 1170 - Require schools to allow certain youth organizations to provide information, services, and activities**
THEME: Unfunded Mandate
-  **LB 1200 - Adopt the State and Political Subdivisions Child Sexual Abuse Liability Act and exempt actions from the State Tort Claims Act and Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act**
This bill would have significantly increased the cost of liability insurance by creating new liability against political subdivisions and removing caps for damages.
-  **LB 54 - Change immunity for intentional torts under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act and the State Tort Claims Act**
Like LB 1200, this bill would have significantly increased the cost of liability to political subdivisions.
-  **LB 1211 - Change provisions relating to option enrollment for students**
This bill would have changed the option enrollment process by removing district discretion on students who option in.
THEME: Local Control, Option Enrollment

WHAT IS COMING ...

Curriculum and graduation requirements will continue to be of interest to Senators.
We must continue to work with our Senators about the role of school boards in these decisions.

LOOKING AHEAD - MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

NASB Member Virtual - 2022 Legislative Session Recap & Look Ahead - May 3 - 12:00 PM CT

Look for Legislative Candidate Meet & Greets this Summer

NASB School Leaders & Law Conference will be June 22-23 in Kearney

Call for 2023 Legislative Proposals due July 1 - <http://www.nasbonline.org/registrations/ProposedResolution.aspx>

Congressman Bacon Meet & Greet - July 7 - 9:30 AM - More info to come!

Area Membership Meetings - August through September

NASB Annual Delegate Assembly - Friday, November 18

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INTERIM STUDIES ...

LR 359 – Interim study to examine whether section 79-458, which authorizes certain property holders to attach their property to a different school district through a freeholder petition, should be updated or eliminated

https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=48697

LR 373 - Interim study to examine the feasibility of developing a policy and implementing a statewide process for awarding college credit in specific programs of study across all public educational institutions for military education and training

https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=48944

LR 420 - Interim study to examine the education process and procedures for serving students with special needs

https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49213

LR 414 - Interim study to examine programming, opportunities, and interventions for students attending an alternative school, class, or educational program in Nebraska

https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49226

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE MAY 10 PRIMARY ELECTION ...

There will be at least 13 new faces in the Legislature in 2023 as Senators Curt Friesen, Tim Gragert, Matt Hansen, Robert Hilkemann, Dan Hughes, Mark Kolterman, Steve Lathrop, Brett Lindstrom, John McCollister, Adam Morfeld, Patty Pansing Brooks, John Stinner and Matt Williams all said their goodbyes this Session. Here are who all will be running for the 24 open seats in May, with the top two vote getting advancing to the general election in November. (* marks the incumbent). The names and order listed are based off of the most recent Statewide Candidates Lists from the Secretary of State on March 15.

District 2	Robert Clements*	Sarah Slattery	Janet Chung	Schuyler Windham
District 4	Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek	Brad von Gillern		
District 6	Machaela Cavanaugh*	Christian Mirch	Elizabeth Hallgren	
District 8	Megan Hunt*	Katie Opitz	Marilyn Arant Asher	
District 10	Wendy DeBoer*	Lou Ann Goding		
District 12	Haile Kucera	Robin Richards	Merv Riepe	Bob Borgeson
District 14	John Arch*	Cori Villegas	Rob Plugge	
District 16	Ben Hansen*	Connie L. Petersen		
District 18	Christy Armendariz	Clarice Jackson		
District 20	John Fredrickson	Stu Dornan	Julie Fredrickson	
District 22	Mike Moser*	Mike Goos	Roy M. Zach	
District 24	Jana Hughes	Patrick Hotovy		
District 26	George Dungan	Bob Van Valkenburg	Russ Barger	Larry Weixelman
District 28	Jane Raybould	Roy A. Christensen		
District 30	Myron Dorn*			
District 32	Tom Brandt*			
District 34	Loren Lippincott	Michael Reimers	Arron Kowalski	

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District 36	Rick Holdcroft	Angie Lauritsen		
District 38	Dave Murman*	Tyler Cappel		
District 40	Barry DeKay	Keith F. Kube	Mark Patefield	Robert E. Johnston
District 42	Mike Jacobson*	Brenda K. Fournier	Chris Bruns	
District 44	Edward Dunn	Teresa J. Ibach		
District 46	James Michael Bowers	Danielle Conrad	James A. Herrold	
District 48	Don L. Lease II	Brian Hardin	Talon Cordle	Scott Shaver
	Jeremiah Jake Teeple			

OTHER KEY RACES FOR THE MAY 10 PRIMARY ELECTION ...

State Board of Education

District 5	Kirk Penner*	Helen Raikes	
District 6	Sherry Jones	Danielle Helzer	
District 7	Robin Stevens*	Pat Moore	Elizabeth Tegtmeier
District 8	Deborah Neary*	John Sieler	Marni Hodgen

Governor

Michael Connely (R)	Brett Lindstrom (R)	Donna Nicole Carpenter (R)	Lela McNinch (R)
Theresa Thibodeau (R)	Jim Pillen (R)	Troy Wentz (R)	Charles Herbster (R)
Breland Ridenour (R)	Carol Blood (D)	Roy A. Harris (D)	Scott Zimmerman (L)

US House 1

Jeff Fortenberry (R)*	Curtis D. Huffman (R)	Thireena Yuki Connely (R)	John Glen Weaver (R)
Mike Flood (R)	Patty Pansing Brooks (D)	Jazari Kual Zakaria (D)	

US House 2

Don Bacon (R)*	Steve Kuehl (R)	Alisha Shelton (D)	Tony Vargas (D)
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US House 3

Adrian Smith (D)*	David J. Else (D)	Daniel M. Wik (D)	Mark Elworth Jr. (LMN)
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Auditor

Mike Foley (R)	Larry Anderson (R)	Gene Siadek (L)	L. Leroy Lopez (LMN)
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Attorney General

	Jennifer Hicks (R)	Mike Hilgers (R)	Larry Bolinger (LMN)
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Secretary of State

	Bob Evnen (R)*	Rex Schroder (R)	Robert J. Borer (R)
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State Treasurer

	John Murante (R)*	Paul Anderson (R)	Katrina Tomsen (L)
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<https://sos.nebraska.gov/sites/sos.nebraska.gov/files/doc/elections/2022/Statewide-Candidate-List.pdf>

BE HEARD! CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS DUE JULY 1

Have something that you feel "... ought to be a law" regarding public education in Nebraska? Now is the time for you and your board to think of items you might like added, amended or addressed in 2023.

Submit your legislative proposals at:

<http://www.nasbonline.org/registrations/ProposedResolution.aspx>

