

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

107th Legislature, Second Session

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ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MUNICIPALITIES

- **LB 1065:** Bill making changes to micro-TIF advances to next round
- **LB 1273:** League-supported bill to provide increased benefits for law enforcement officers advanced to Select File after adoption of committee amendment incorporating LB 1272
- **LB 1039:** League supports bill to appropriate state funds to State Fire Marshal to reimburse municipalities that provide benefits pursuant to Firefighter Cancer Benefits Act for the annual cost of premiums
- **Committee hearings for the 2022 legislative session end**
- **Check the Legislature's web site** for more information about your state Senators and the session. The web site address is <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/home>.

**NOT ALL ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE INCLUDED ON THIS LIST.
ALSO SEE THE REMAINDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN.**

LB 1065: Bill making changes to micro-TIF advances to next round

On a vote of 40-0, **LB 1065** advanced from the first round of debate on Wednesday. LB 1065 changes provisions of the Community Development Law relating to redevelopment plans receiving an expedited review (micro-TIF). The bill increases the dollar amount for projects eligible for expedited review; clarifies that expedited review projects be in the corporate limits of the city; allows a vacant lot to qualify in certain circumstances; and changes the length of indebtedness for micro-TIF from 10 to 15 years.

The Urban Affairs Committee adopted an amendment that makes several changes to the bill including: striking the increase in the maximum assessed value of property involving the revitalization of a structure included in the National Register of Historic Places that receives an expedited review; reducing the increase in the maximum assessed value of property within a redevelopment project involving a multi-family residential structure

or commercial structure to \$1.5 million; increasing the maximum assessed value of property involving a single family residential structure to \$350,000; and clarifying that a municipality may declare a portion of an area as substandard and blighted following a substandard and blighted study or analysis.

There was lively debate on the floor of the Legislature regarding this bill and TIF in general. Sen. Briese requested that an amendment requiring the “but-for” test for micro-TIF be discussed between the first and second rounds of debate. Both the Urban Affairs Standing Committee Amendment and the bill passed with strong support.

Other bills of interest that were advanced to the next round of debate include **LB 840**, introduced by **Sen. Tom Brewer**, which increases the maximum prices newspapers can charge for providing legal advertising space. It also removes the prohibition of publishing legal notices in Sunday newspapers. Finally, **LB 998**, introduced by **Sen. Justin**



Sen. Justin Wayne

Wayne, advanced to the second round of debate. LB 998 makes changes to the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act, including allowing a non-profit economic development corporation to apply directly to the Department of Economic Development for the designation of an inland port authority if the city or county has not taken steps to create one. That bill advanced on a 41-0 vote.

What is the difference between a bill and a resolution?

A bill changes the Nebraska Statutes and must go through the law-making process from introduction to Final Reading. A resolution, however, pertains to an internal rule of the Legislature, official declaration, interim study, ballot initiative or a constitutional amendment.

Committee hearings end; full days in legislative chamber begin

Committee hearings for the 2022 session ended this week and lawmakers will begin working full days in the legislative chamber next week.

Speaker Mike Hilgers issued a

memo March 3 with a schedule of specific dates, beginning March 15, that Senators will be working into the evenings. Tentatively, the Legislature is slated to adjourn sine die April 20.

LB 1273: League-supported bill to provide increased benefits for law enforcement officers advanced to Select File after adoption of committee amendment incorporating LB 1272

Thanks to **Sen. Eliot Bostar** of Lincoln for introducing **LB 1273**, which would allow a retired certified law enforcement officer to deduct the cost of health insurance premiums for Nebraska income tax purposes; such individuals must have served full-time for at least 20 years and must be at least 60 years of age to qualify for the deduction. The deduction would take effect for tax years beginning or deemed to begin on or after Jan. 1, 2023. The **League**, **NACO** and statewide organizations representing law enforcement support **LB 1273** and **LB 1272**.

On March 3, the Legislature adopted Revenue Committee Amendment **AM2005** during General File debate to add the language from **LB 1272**, introduced by Hastings **Sen. Steve Halloran**, to increase the tuition waiver for law enforcement officers from 30% to 100% of the resident tuition charges of any state university, state college or community college. **AM2005** was adopted with 33 ayes; the bill was advanced to Select File with 41 ayes, 0 nays and 4 not voting.

In addition to **LB 1273** as amend-

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ed, the League strongly supports **LB 1241** relating to law enforcement reciprocity and the \$47.7 million of **ARP Act** funds the Governor included in his proposed budget.

LB 1039: League supports bill to appropriate state funds to State Fire Marshal to reimburse municipalities that provide benefits pursuant to Firefighter Cancer Benefits Act for the annual cost of premiums

On March 3, the Revenue Committee heard testimony on **LB 1039**, introduced by **Sen. Mike McDonnell** of Omaha, to amend Section 35-1002 of the Firefighter Cancer Benefits Act passed in the 2021 session (**LB 432**). The **League** joined the **Nebraska Volunteer Firefighters Association** and the **Nebraska Professional Firefighters Association** in supporting **LB 1039**; there was no opposition to the bill. The League opposed **LB 432** in 2021 because it was an unfunded mandate on cities and

villages; the League appreciates **Sen. McDonnell** introducing **LB 1039** to provide as follows:

“(1) The State Fire Marshal shall reimburse any rural or suburban fire protection district, airport authority, city, village, or nonprofit corporation that provides enhanced cancer benefits pursuant to the Firefighter Cancer Benefits Act for the annual cost of premiums for such enhanced cancer benefits.

(2) To qualify for reimbursement, an entity described in subsection (1) of this section shall submit information

regarding the total annual cost of such premiums in a manner prescribed by the State Fire Marshal.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate to the State Fire Marshal the funds necessary to carry out this section.”

A League representative testified that the actual Firefighters Cancer Benefits Act should be implemented and controlled by the State Fire Marshal’s office to ensure that the premiums paid are reasonable and prevent what has occurred in at least one other state.