

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

## LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

108th Legislature, First Session

May 5, 2023 - Bulletin 18



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### ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MUNICIPALITIES

- State of Nebraska to hold broadband listening sessions
- The Legislature has spent most of its time this week working on the three budget bills.

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

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## State of Nebraska to hold broadband listening sessions

### Five sessions scheduled for May, additional sessions to be added

The State of Nebraska will be holding broadband listening sessions over the next few months. Below is the remaining schedule for the May sessions. More sessions will be scheduled throughout the State.

These sessions are very important for Nebraska so please attend and get the word out to as many local leaders as possible.

- May 8 at 5 p.m., Sidney, Cheyenne County Community Center, 627 Toledo St.
- May 9 at noon, Scottsbluff, Guadalupe Center, 1200 E. Ninth St.
- May 9 at 5 p.m., Chadron, Chadron State College, Scottsbluff Room, 1000 Main St.
- May 10 at 5 p.m., Alliance, Knight Museum, 908 Yellowstone Ave.
- May 11 at 5 p.m., Ord, Ord Learning Center 1514 K St.

Click on this link to register: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3wcyBInm9kuQIAEDjxHwsYxYenlUWTIFki\\_ukmu32F1UNUVMWjVXOF-hRMTZaRVIKNFBLSUc0TDVDVi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3wcyBInm9kuQIAEDjxHwsYxYenlUWTIFki_ukmu32F1UNUVMWjVXOF-hRMTZaRVIKNFBLSUc0TDVDVi4u). Registration is not required to attend

Below are some issues that you might think about so that you can provide meaningful input to the process.

Would improved broadband/internet speeds be beneficial to local businesses or businesses that might locate in your community? Specific stories would be helpful.

Do local internet speeds meet the expectation of advertised and promoted internet speeds?

Are there locations in your community where the internet is very difficult to obtain or too costly to obtain?

Are local internet speeds adequate to support distance learning, telehealth, working at home and other applications? For agricultural locations, are local internet speeds adequate to support precision agriculture?

Why is high-speed internet access/broadband important to your community?

While approximately 10% of Nebraska households

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## LEGISLATIVE SESSION



don't have any internet connectivity at home, approximately 22% additional Nebraska households have only home or mobile connectivity. How does having only home or only mobile connectivity limit a household's ability to access services (in particular municipal services) and participate in our increasingly digital society and economy?

Similarly, while approximately 7% of Nebraska households lack a digital device, nearly 14% of Nebraska households only have a mobile or larger screen device (such as a laptop, desktop or tablet computer). How does only having a mobile or larger screen device limit a household's ability to access services (in particular municipal services) and participate in our increasingly digital society and economy?

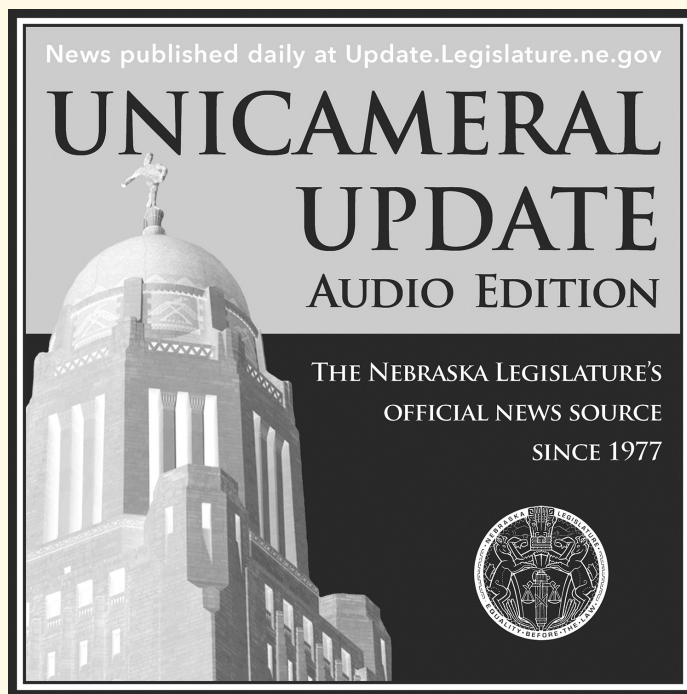
Does your local library have an adequate broadband connection and up-to-date computers for residents to use? Does the local library provide assistance to those who may lack technical skills?

The affordability of a high-speed internet connection is a significant barrier for many households. The [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) provides a discount of \$30 per month for internet connectivity for eligible households. Eligible households also can receive a one-time discount of \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers. A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#), or if a member of the household meets the criteria for a number of assistance programs.

Has your municipality and/or local organizations engaged in efforts to increase awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program? How could the program be better publicized? ■

**Want more Legislative news? Our friends at the Unicameral Update have you covered!**

The weekly newsletter is now also available online in audio form and can be found by searching Unicameral Updates on Apple Podcasts.



*Spring has arrived and the trees near the Capitol are blooming! Photo shared with permission from the Unicameral Update.*

**Mark your calendars for these League conferences:**

**Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference**

June 21-23  
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

**Annual Conference**

Sept. 27-29  
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln