

January 10, 2020

2020 SESSION COMMENCES

The gavel fell at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, marking the beginning of the second session of the 106th Legislature. The first two days of the short, 60-day session, consisted primarily of bill introductions, with 163 new bills dropped into the hopper. Combined with nearly 480 bills carried over from the 2019 Legislative Session, lawmakers will face a healthy slate of issues once again this session.

Bill introductions will continue during the first 10 legislative days, with General File debate of bills carried over from the 2019 Session to commence on January 13. Committee hearings will begin on January 21 and run through the end of February. The Governor will present his State of the State Address on January 15.

The 2020 Legislative Session will be the last for Senators Sara Howard (Omaha), Rick Kolowski (Omaha), Ernie Chambers (Omaha), Sue Crawford (Bellevue), Kate Bolz (Lincoln), and Speaker of the Legislature Jim Scheer (Norfolk) due to term limits, the constitutional provision limiting senators to serving two consecutive four-year terms in office.

Major issues expected to be addressed this session, include property tax, economic development incentives and corrections reform.

This session, the NBA will be promoting a legislative agenda consisting of four (4) bills to be introduced on behalf of the Association. These bills cover the following subjects:

1. Elder Abuse-Transaction Holds
 2. Direct Borrowing by Cities and Villages
 3. Uniform Power of Attorney Act-Immunity
 4. Public Funds-Single Bank Pooled Collateral
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CARRYOVER LEGISLATION

Set forth below is a brief description of the carryover bills on the NBA affirmative legislative agenda:

LB 257 – Collateral Insurance/Loss Payee: LB 257, introduced by Senator Mark Kolterman (Seward) would provide additional protection to lenders named as “loss payees” under policies insuring the collateral for their loans. The bill would require insurers issuing checks for payment of damages to automobiles in excess of \$2,500 and to homes or commercial buildings in excess of \$7,500 to be made payable to the insured and to the loss payee or repair person.

LB 453 – Credit Union Field Of Membership/Notification Requirements: LB 453, introduced by Senator Robert Clements (Elmwood) would require state-chartered credit unions to provide notice to the state bankers associations when making application to amend their bylaws or articles of association for the purpose of expanding their field of membership.

2020 STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FORUM

You are encouraged to sign up for the annual NBA State Government Relations Forum which will be held on January 30, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln. Headlining the program will be Governor Pete Ricketts. In addition, a legislative briefing will be provided by NBA General Counsel Bob Hallstrom and Nebraska Department of Banking Director Mark Quandahl will discuss Department initiatives. Walter “Ted” Carter, Jr., UNL President and Tony Goins, Director of the Department of Economic Development will also be featured on the program.

The State Government Relations Forum presents an opportunity to meet personally with your state senator during lunch to discuss issues of importance to the banking industry and to your institution and community. We look forward to seeing you on January 30.