

March 26, 2021

The Legislature concluded its work for the week on Thursday afternoon and will return on Monday to continue processing priority bills. Thus far, the body has advanced 23 of the 104 designated priority bills beyond the General File stage of debate. The initial “Consent Calendar” of the year is scheduled for Monday, with seven bills on the Agenda under this streamlined process.

## **NBA SUPPORTED BILLS PASSED**

The following bills of interest to the NBA, including two bills on the NBA Affirmative Legislative Agenda, have been given final approval by the Legislature:

**LB 66 – Public Funds Deposit Security Act:** LB 66, introduced by Senator Matt Williams (Gothenburg), on behalf of the NBA, makes a series of “technical” amendments to the Public Funds Deposit Security Act in recognition of the differences between the “dedicated” method and the “single bank pooled collateral” method of pledging for public funds by changing references from “custodial official” to “governmental unit,” where applicable. In addition, the bill provides for the manner in which a valid and perfected security interest is to be established in securities pledged for public funds under the “single bank pooled collateral” method of pledging for public funds. Finally, the bill clarifies that a bank, capital stock financial institution or qualifying mutual financial institution which is chartered by a foreign state agency as defined in **Neb.Rev.Stat.** Section 8-101.03(13) may serve as a qualified trustee under the “dedicated” and the “single bank pooled collateral” method of pledging for public funds.

**LB 94 – Online Notary Public Act:** Introduced on behalf of the NBA by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, LB 94 will clarify that (1) online notarial acts performed after April 2, 2020 and before July 1, 2020, pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order No. 20-13; and (2) legal instruments executed during this time period involving online notarial acts shall not be invalidated.

**LB 297 – Nebraska Protection of Vulnerable Adults From Financial Exploitation Act:** Introduced by Senator Brett Lindstrom (Omaha), LB 297 will authorize qualified persons (any broker-dealer, investment advisor, agent, investment advisor representative, or person who serves in the supervisory, compliance, or legal capacity for a broker-dealer or investment advisor) to notify Adult Protective Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Banking and Finance in any case in which the qualified person reasonably believes that financial exploitation of an eligible adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is occurring or been attempted. The bill would also allow qualified persons, upon such reasonable belief, to notify any third party previously designated by an eligible adult to receive notification and to delay transactions for a period of up to 15 business days. The broker-dealer or investment advisor would be required to immediately, but in no event more than two business days after the requested

transaction or disbursement, to provide written notification of the delay and the reason for delay to all parties authorized to transact business on the account.

## **BUDGET DEBATE JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

The Appropriations Committee is putting the finishing touches on the proposed state budget and is expected to advance its package of bills to the floor early next week.

The proposed budget includes allocations for:

- more funding for Property Tax Relief (\$630 million per year);
- additional money to the Cash Reserve (Rainy-Day Fund);
- fully funding the school funding formula (TEEOSA); and
- provider rate increases.

Lawmakers will also have \$210 million for other legislative “spending” priorities or to fund other tax relief proposals.

## **PROPERTY TAX TRANSPARENCY**

**LB 644 – Property Tax Request Act**: The Revenue Committee has advanced LB 644 to General File on a 7-0 vote. Introduced by Senator Ben Hansen (Blair), designated political subdivisions would be required to explain how much a property taxpayer’s bill would increase if the proposed tax increase were approved and hold a hearing on these tax increases after 6:00 p.m. to allow citizens to better participate in the process. As amended by the Revenue Committee, the measure would require counties, cities, school districts, and community colleges to comply with certain notice and hearing requirements prior to setting the property tax request in an amount that exceeds the property tax request for the prior year, accounting for allowable growth (growth and assessed value of property from the prior assessment year to the current assessment year) resulting from (1) annexation of property; or (2) development of property.