

Category	Document	Primary Introducer	Status	Description	AAUW-NE Position
GG (Good Government)	LB216	Harr	Referred to Executive Board, Hearing held on January 30, 2017.	<b>Adopt the Redistricting Act.</b> This bill creates the Independent Redistricting Citizen's Advisory Commission for the purpose of assisting the Legislature in the process of redistricting in 2021 and thereafter. The proposed commission would develop new district maps for six governmental bodies: the U.S. House, Legislature, Public Service Commission, University of Nebraska Board of Regents, State Board of Education and Nebraska Supreme Court. Lawmakers would retain the final say-so over the districts. This bill is similar to one crafted last year by Senator John Murante of Gretna and then Senator Heath Mello of Omaha. The bill passed but was vetoed by Governor Ricketts. LB216 provides a means by which to reduce the incidence of oddly-shaped gerrymandered districts whose lines are drawn in such a way as to isolate citizens of one predominant political party or another. Iowa successfully uses an independent commission for redistricting that has met favor with Governor Branstad and both Democrats and Republicans.	Support
GG	LB290	Vargas	Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs (GMVA) Committee.	<b>Provide for voter registration upon application for driver's license, state identification card, or certain benefits.</b> Nebraskans applying for or renewing a driver's license would be automatically registered to vote under this bill. Currently, people can register to vote through the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles, but they must opt in to register to vote. LB290 would require people to opt <u>out</u> of registering to vote. Automatic registration to vote would also apply to anyone applying for or renewing applications for public assistance programs through the Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. Passage of LB290 has the potential to significantly increase the number of Nebraskans who cast ballots on election day.	Support

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GG	LR1CA	Murante	Referred to GMVA Committee. Wayne MO10 Indefinitely Postponed (IPP) pursuant to Rule 6, section 3(f) filed, January 13, 2017. Hearing scheduled for March 2, 2017.	<b>Constitutional amendment fo require voter identification.</b> At the November 2018 election, Nebraska voters would be asked to approve a constitutional amendment that would require each voter to present identification that contains a photograph or digital image of the voter before they could cast a ballot. The Nebraska constitution declares that elections "shall be free and there shall be no hindrance". Voter ID does nothing to preserve the relative power of each citizen's right to vote. Instead, it makes it harder for eligible citizens to vote by creating an unnecessary barrier to exercise the franchise in an effort to "solve a problem" that does <b>not</b> exist: voter fraud. This proposal would cost the state millions of dollars to implement and impose a significant cost on each county to put the amendment on the ballot. It will disenfranchise thousands of low income citizens, college students, people who don't drive or who move frequently, senior citizens, and people with disabilities--all of whom should be able to participate in our elections without charge for an ID. A similar constitutional amendment to require voter ID passed in Missouri as a result of the November 2016 election.	Oppose
HC/HI (Health Care/Health Insurance)	LB120	Schumacher	Referred to Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee. Hearing scheduled for March 15, 2017.	<b>Provide for Medical Assistance Act coverage for family planning services as prescribed.</b> LB120 would require a state plan amendment be submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the purpose of providing medical assistance for family planning services for persons whose family's earned income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level as permitted under the federal Social Security Act.	Support

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HC/HI	LB305	Crawford	Referred to the Business and Labor Committee. Hearing scheduled for February 6, 2017.	<b>Adopt the Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Act.</b> LB305 would provide paid family and medical leave for Nebraska employees who are currently covered by unemployment insurance. Qualifying employees would be required to pay into the program at a cost of less than \$2 per week. The program would provide workers with about 2/3 of their regular pay for up to 12 weeks of leave for their own health or the birth or adoption of a child and up to six weeks of leave for the care of a family member. The Nebraska Department of Labor would administer the program using the existing unemployment benefits system. The program would start in 2020.	Support
HC/HI	LB441	Morfeld	Referred to HHS Committee. Hearing scheduled for March 8, 2017.	<b>Change eligibility provisions under the Medical Assistance Act.</b> LB441 would expand Medicaid coverage to about 90,000 more Nebraskans that would include single adults and couples without minor children, as well as to parents and disabled people with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level. Current law provides at least 90% federal funding for the expanded coverage, higher than the typical federal share for Medicaid. Regardless of the Trump administration's focus on repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and replacing it with an as-yet-to-be-determined plan, Senator Morfeld believes the repeal will not take effect for a few years. He believes having a Medicaid expansion plan now would put our state in a good position to take full advantage of the promised replacement plan.	Support
CP (Crime and Punishment)	LB107	Crawford	Referred to Judiciary Committee. Hearing scheduled for February 8, 2017. McDonnell, Blood, and Hansen names added, January 25, 2017.	<b>Prohibit sexual assault of a patient, client, or student as prescribed.</b> LB107 criminalizes sexual assault of a patient, client, or student who is at least 16 years of age but less than 19 years of age punishable as a felony.	Support
CP	LB280	Crawford	Referred to GMVA Committee. Hearing scheduled for February 9, 2017, McCollister name added, January 17, 2017.	<b>Change provisions relating to the Address Confidentiality Act.</b> LB280 would allow victims of human trafficking to obtain address confidentiality through the Nebraska Secretary of State.	Support

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CP	LB289	Pansing Brooks	Referred to Judiciary Committee. Hearing scheduled for February 23, 2017. Blood name added, January 13, 2017, McCollister name added, January 17, 2017, McDonnell name added, January 26, 2017. Albrecht name added, February 6, 2017.	<b>Change provisions and penalties relating to pandering, human trafficking, labor trafficking, and sex trafficking and prohibit solicitation of a trafficking victim.</b> LB289 increases penalties for sex trafficking to a minimum of one year in prison and a maximum of 50 years. It would apply to those who engage in trafficking as well as those who hire people forced into prostitution. It calls for harsher penalties for those who involve minors in sex trafficking.	Support
PE (Public Education)	LB427	Vargas	Referred to Education Committee. Hearing held on January 30, 2017.	<b>Require breastfeeding accommodations for student-parents.</b> LB427 provides that a student mother may breastfeed her child in a public, private, denominational, or parochial day school. School shall provide for facilities or accommodation for milk expression and storage.	Support
PE	LB428	Vargas	Referred to Education Committee. Hearing held on January 30, 2017.	<b>Require schools and the State Department of Education to adopt policies relating to pregnant and parenting students.</b> Pregnant, breastfeeding and parenting students face more difficult challenges than do other students. As a result, more pregnant, breastfeeding and parenting students drop out of school at a higher rate than do other students. This has an adverse academic effect on the student who drops out as well as on the child or children who make up their family. More flexible school policies regarding illness and attendance would help to support parenting students and keep them in school.	Support
PE	LB608	Linehan	Referred to Education Committee. Hearing scheduled for February 13, 2017.	<b>Adopt the Parental Choice Scholarship Program.</b> Any student residing in the attendance area of a school at the lowest performance level established by the State Board is eligible for a scholarship to attend a private school that complies with the Parental Choice Scholarship Program. The resident district will pay 75% of their calculated revenue per student to the participating private school as tuition, books and uniforms. Transportation for the student to the participating private school is provided by the resident district. The remaining 25% of the revenue per student would be transferred into a property tax relief fund.	Oppose

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PE	LB630	Larson	Referred to Education Committee.	<b>Adopt the Independent Public Schools Act.</b> LB630 creates a new category of public schools referred to as independent public schools (IPS) under the authority of a newly created commission outside of the Nebraska Department of Education. An IPS would be exempt from all state laws that otherwise apply to schools. There is nothing in the bill that would require a teacher in an IPS to hold a certificate to teach.	Oppose
SEJ (Social and Economic Justice)	LB173	Morfeld	Referred to Judiciary Committee. Hearing scheduled for February 22, 2017.	<b>Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity.</b> LB173 would ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in Nebraska. Senator Morfeld introduced a similar measure two years ago with the backing of several business leaders, but it was killed by opponents. They argued the measure was unnecessary and could interfere with the religious rights of employers. Morfeld continues to bring the measure back because he believes it is the right thing to do.	Support
SEJ	LB194	Vargas	Referred to Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. Hearing scheduled for February 21, 2017, Albrecht and Blood names added, January 19, 2017.	<b>Change provisions of the Credit Services Organization Act, Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act, and Nebraska Installment Loan Act.</b> LB194 would cap interest rates on payday loans at 36%, down from the current effective annual rate of 460%. It would set maximum monthly payments at 5% of a borrower's gross monthly income and set maximum allowable charges at 50% of the loan principal over the life of the loan. It would also maintain the current \$500 loan limit.	Support

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SEJ	LB211	Hansen	Referred to Business and Labor Committee, Hearing scheduled for February 27, 2017.	<b>Change the minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities.</b> LB211 would increase the minimum wage for waiters, waitresses and others who receive tips in two steps. The first increase would push the wage up from the current \$2.13 per hour to \$3.60, or 40% of the minimum wage for all other jobs, by August 1, 2017. The second step would push it to \$4.50 hourly, or 50% of the general minimum wage, by January 1, 2018. In 2014, voters approved an increase in the minimum wage in Nebraska to \$9 an hour. LB211 would make wages for our citizens working in the service industry more comparable to their colleagues who are earning the minimum wage.	Support
SEJ	LB354	Kolowski	Referred to Business and labor Committee, Hearing scheduled for February 27, 2017.	<b>Adopt the Wage Disclosure Act.</b> LB354 delineates further protections for employees regarding disclosure of their current or prior wages for those who work for an employer who employs four or more workers. Any employer who violates the Wage Disclosure Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor. Prohibiting employers from asking job applicants for their wage history would disrupt cycles of underpaying, a contributor to wage inequality. Enactment of LB354 would add to those protections that became law in 2016 when LB83, sponsored by then Senator Tanya Cook, passed and was signed into law by Governor Ricketts.	Support