



We Find The Way®

Legislative Update

Andy Pollock

2019 Nebraska Tourism Conference

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2019 Session Review



Budget

- \$9.3 billion, two-year budget
- Governor signed without line item vetoes
- Included \$550 million to the property tax relief fund



Business Incentives

- **LB 720**
 - Supported by the Chambers and business communities
 - Cloture Motion failed, 30 votes



Property Tax Relief

- **LB 289**

- Increase in state sales tax and would have expanded the base
- Three hours of debate without a vote



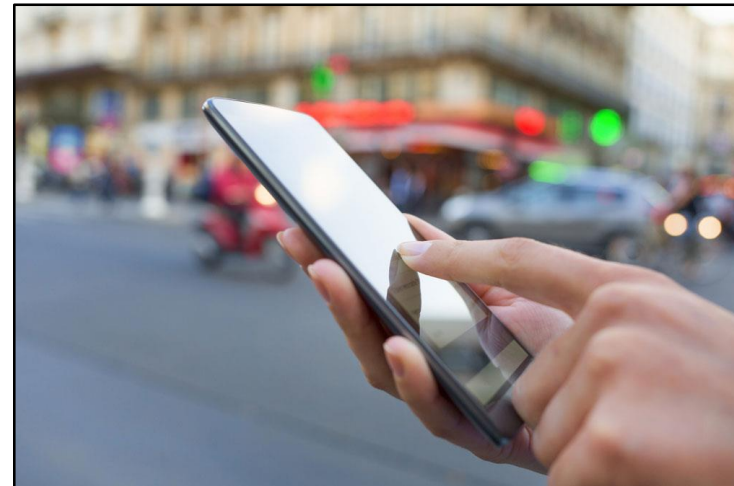
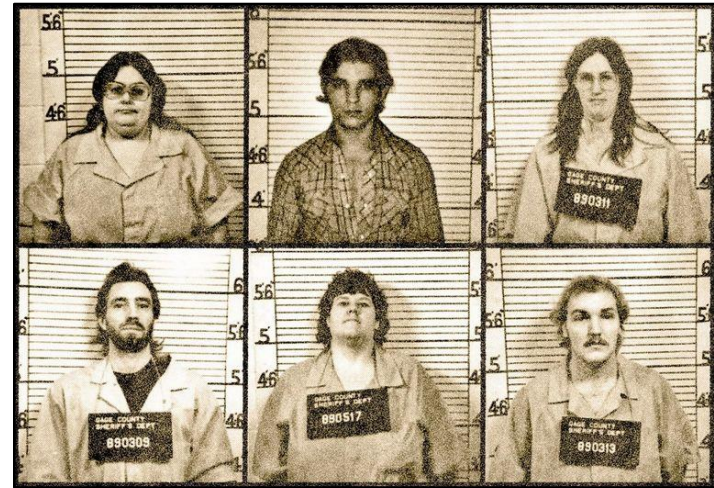
Property Tax Relief

- **LB 183**
 - Reduce valuation of farm and ranch land
 - Cloture motion failed with 23 votes

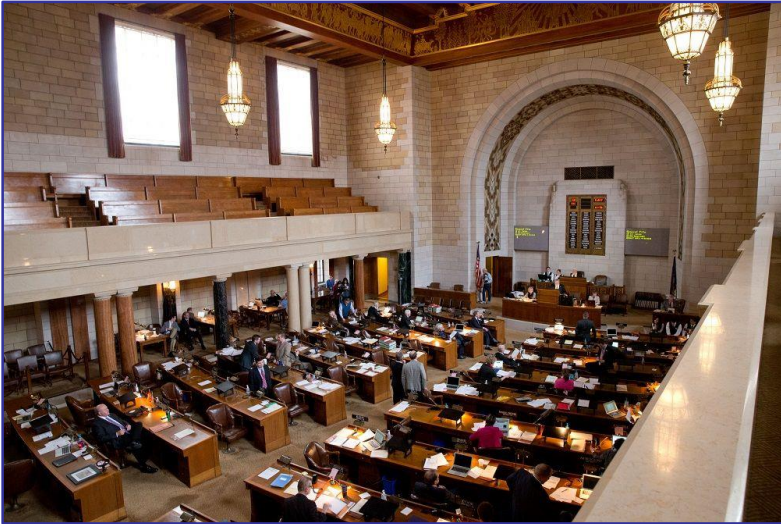


Other Major Bills of Note

- Beatrice Six –
 - Legislature overrode veto to allow counties to enact sales taxes when facing federal judgments over \$25 million
- Small Cell Wireless –
 - Became law after two years of disagreement between wireless providers and municipalities and other stakeholders



Travel Legislation



What We Watch

- Travel Bills
 - Tourism Commission
 - Lodging
 - Food & Beverage Service
 - Recreation
 - Arts
 - History
 - Highways



What We Watch – NETA Tracking Chart

Nebraska Travel Association							
Bill No.	Description	Sponsor(s)	Committee	Client Position	Hearing Date	Current Status	Notes
LB41	Change provisions relating to transfers and uses of certain gaming taxes	Hilkemann	General Affairs		19.02.04 RM 1510 1:30 PM	General File w/AM244	Albrecht Name Added; Hunt Name Added; General Affairs AM244 Filed
LB46	Eliminate provisions relating to the hunting of mountain lions	Chambers	Natural Resources		19.02.21 RM 1525 1:30 PM		
LB57	Prohibit regulation of short-term rentals and provide for taxation agreements	Morfeld	Urban Affairs	Support	19.01.29 RM 1510 1:30 PM	Passed on Final Reading 46-0-3 Approved by Gov 19.03.07	Nick testified in Support at Jan. 29 hearing; Wayne Explanation of Vote: would have voted Aye
LB75	Change terms of members of the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board	Williams	General Affairs		19.01.28 RM 1510 1:30 PM	Passed on Final Reading 45-0-4 Approved by Gov 19.03.07	Wayne Explanation of Vote
LB97	Change provisions relating to highway funding	Wayne	Revenue		19.03.27 RM 1524 1:30 PM		
LB100	State intent relating to an appropriation to the Nebraska State Historical Society	Wayne	Appropriations		19.03.01 RM 1003 1:30 PM		

2019 Travel Legislation



LB 57

- Prohibits city ordinances that do not allow short-term rentals of residential property
- Ensures that online hosting platforms for short-term rentals pay local taxes
- Passed 46-0 and signed by Governor



LB 187

- Would have expanded the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act to allow for the funding of sports complexes
- Revenue Committee did not advance the bill
- NETA supported this legislation



LB 289

- Portions from LBs 497, 314, 507, and 508
- Property tax relief package
 - Allowed relief by removing current sales tax exemptions
- NETA opposed
- Filibustered on General File and did not advance



LB 637

- Authorizes the Nebraska Tourism Commission to develop and sell promotional products
- Passed 49-0 and signed on April 24



Budget

- Tourism Commission received sizable increases to its biennial budget
 - Year 1 – 9.1% increase
 - Year 2 – 2.2% increase
- Major victory for the tourism industry



Elections

- 6 Open Seats
- Term Limited Senators:
 - Bolz (Lincoln)
 - Chambers (Omaha)
 - Crawford (Omaha)
 - Howard (Omaha)
 - Kolowski (Omaha)
 - Scheer (Norfolk)
- 1 Chairpersons and 1 Speaker
- 19 Incumbent Seats
 - Odd numbered districts
 - Includes 5 Committee Chairs



2020 Session Preview



General 2020 Facts

- 60-Day Short Session
- 481 carryover bills and 11 carryover resolutions
- New bill introduction during first ten working days



Business Incentives

- Nebraska Advantage Act expires in 2020
- Bill faces significant opposition, particularly from key rural senators



Property Taxes

- Discussions amongst senators and administration
- Ideas continue around adjusting



Rural Broadband Task Force Recommendation

- Recommendations from the Task Force will be delivered to the Legislature by November 1st
- This most likely will result in legislation



Travel Legislation



Any Questions?



How Can I Learn More?



Andy Pollock

Rembolt Ludtke

apollock@remboltlawfirm.com

(402) 473-2154



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