

LWVNE PRIORITY BILLS 2020

PORTFOLIO/ BILL #	Introducer	Committee Assignment/ Hearing date	Brief Summary	Support/Oppose	League Position
EDUCATION					
LB 996 - LEG DAY PRIORITY BILL	Brandt	Transportation & Telecommunications - hearing 2/3/20	Create the Broadband Data Improvement Program. Ensure that the State of Nebraska is accurately represented in federal broadband grant programs.	SUPPORT AS PRIORITY BILL FOR LEG DAY	LWVNE supports policies and programs to promote a quality education for all Nebraska children from early childhood through grade 12.
LB 998	Murman	Education - heard 1/27/20	Provide basic training for all school district employees for behavioral awareness & intervention training.	SUPPORT - letter send by Elwood	LWVNE supports policies & programs that promote safe school environments for all students & staff to exclusion of zero-policies that do not allow for common sense & individual mitigating circumstances.
LB 1202	Linehan	Revenue	Opportunity Scholarships Act: allows tax credits for organizations & individuals that contribute money for scholarships for private schools	OPPOSE	LWVNE opposes tax credits for families of children attending private elementary & secondary schools. LWVNE supports taxes for public education support.
LB 839	Wishart	Education - heard 1/28/20	Recognize American Sign Language as a separate language & authorize schools to offer courses in ASL.	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports ... programs to promote a quality education for all Nebraska children...
LB 965	McDonnell	Education - hearing 1/28/20	Establish a language assessment program for deaf & hard of hearing students; provide an advisory committee for the Commission of Deaf & Hard of Hearing & requires reports from the Commission.	SUPPORT	See above.
LB 1073	DeBoer	Education	Rewrites TEEOSA (state aid to education, lowers property tax on ag land with school aid formula, lowers local effort rate from 1.00 to 99, provides more equalization aid to schools, increases basic aid for each student as resource for all schools.	MONITOR OR SUPPORT	LWVNE believes in a public educational system financed by a combination of local and state revenues. Since state government has created the public schools by law, it has a responsibility to aid school districts in providing adequate & equitable school financing while maintaining local control.
GOVERNMENT					

LB1207 - LEG DAY PRIORITY BILL	McCollister	Executive Board	Establish procedures to divide the state of Nebraska into legislative districts by designative boundary lines based on population for federal & state level elective offices.	SUPPORT AS PRIORITY BILL FOR LEG DAY	LWVNE supports creating a redistricting process that is fair & unbiased; a process that includes the criteria for drawing district lines that are historical best practices adopted by most states. This will be explained further at Leg Day briefing. This bill is more likely to receive legislative support as it does not call for an Independent Commission, but leaves oversight in the hands of the Redistricting Committee of the Legislature.
LB 1005	McCollister	Government	Change provisions regarding nomination & election of certain partisan candidates, creating "open primaries," eliminating party affiliations for several offices.	SUPPORT	LWVNE has no specific position on open primaries, but LWVUS position "encourages all citizens to vote." This bill would make government more representative in uncontested elections. Civic Nebraska is supporting.
LB 1157	Wayne	Executive Board	For purposes of drawing boundaries for legislative & congressional districts, an individual who was a resident of Nebraska prior to being confined to a prison in Nebraska shall be counted as a resident of the county, city, or village in which the individual was a resident prior to being confined.	SUPPORT	LWVNE Redistricting Position re: equal distribution of population. Counting incarcerated persons as residents of a penal site rather than at a former home address gives districts with prison populations a skewed population count.
LR279CA	Scheer	Executive Board - heard 1/22/20	Constitutional amendment to authorize an increase the number of members of the Legislature to 55.	MONITOR OR SUPPORT	LWVNE is concerned about expense and necessity of such expansion. Each Nebraska senator represents only 37,000 constituents; the U.S. average is 156,000 per state senator and 57,000 per state representative.
LR280CA	Wayne	Executive Board	CA to change legislative terms limits to three consecutive terms.	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports four-year terms with no term limits for state legislators.

LR292CA	LaGrone	Government	CA to require verification of identify prior to voting	OPPOSE	LWVUS Position; "Public Advocacy for Voter Protections *2007); oppose state legislation that requires documentary proof of citizenship or picture ID to register to vote or to vote.
HEALTH					
LB 932 - LEG DAY PRIORITY BILL	Wishart	HHS - heard 1/29/20	Require expansion of the medical assistance program (Medicaid expansion) as prescribed no later than October 1, 2020.	SUPPORT AS PRIORITY BILL FOR LEG DAY	LWVUS: Promote a health care system...that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents....
LB 948	Crawford	Banking, Commerce & Ins - hearing 2/18/20	Would require insurance coverage of essential breast cancer screening services for certain groups of women	SUPPORT	LWVUS position with emphasis on "quality care."
LB 970	Wayne	Commerce, Banking & Ins - hearing 2/18/20	Limits amount an insured individual pays for prescription insulin drugs.	SUPPORT	LWVUS position with emphasis on "affordable access" to health care....
MENTAL/ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH					
LB 786	Lathrop	Judiciary - hearing 2/12/20	Require screenings of all Nebraska inmates for serious mental illness, developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries.	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports an adequately funded mental health care system which provides comprehensive and coordinated services for children & adults with mental disorders. LWVNE supports programs that provide for realistic & humane treatment of the accused & sentenced offender (Corrections).
LB 816	McCollister	Judiciary - hearing 2/21/20	Provide for information & training on firearm safety & suicide prevention	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports programs at all levels of the community & government that serve to prevent violence in the community.
LB 817	Stinner	HHS - heard 1/24/20	Adopt the Prescribing Psychologist Practice Act	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports an adequately funded mental health care system which provides comprehensive & coordinated services for children & adults with mental disorders.
LB 1001	Crawford	Education	Require suicide prevention phone numbers on student ID cards.	SUPPORT	See Mental Health position above (LWVNE).
NATURAL RESOURCES					

LB 283 LEG DAY PRIORITY BILL	Pansing Brooks	Executive Board	Provide for Climate Change Study	SUPPORT AS PRIORITY BILL FOR LEG DAY	LWVUS Position: League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for ... communities; governments must continue address this issue....
LB 283 FISCAL NOTE			\$250,000 (\$125,000 for each fiscal year 2019-20 and 2020-21)		
AM 2116	Vargas	Executive Board	Pending amendment to LB 283; replaces original section of LB 283 with reference to “extreme weather events” and possible funding source. States that the report Understanding & Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska (UN-L) provides a fundamental basis for understanding the impact of extreme weather events or climate change for our state.	MONITOR/SUPPORT	LWVUS position supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.
LR 294	Kolowski - cosigned by Bolz, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Chambers, Crawford, Hunt, McCollister, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Quick, & Wishart	Natural Resources	Review various climate-related findings and acknowledge anthropogenic (human caused) climate and ecological crisis. Introduced on behalf of Prairie Hill Learning Center students.	SUPPORT	See above.

SOCIAL POLICY					
LB 753	Blood	HHS - heard 1/22/20	Adopt Audiology & Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact	SUPPORT	Promote a health care system...that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents.
LB 1049	Bolz	HHS	Provide for participation in federal Child Care Subsidy; raises poverty level to 130%	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports policies & programs that ... promote the well-being & insure the safety of Nebraska's children.
LB147	Groene	Education - heard 2/11/19 carryover bill	Provide for use by teacher or administration of necessary physical contact or restraint; provide procedures & grounds for removal from a class in response to student behavior.	MONITOR - at least 10 amendments pending, all introduced 1/13/20.	LWVNE supports policies & programs that promote safe school environments for all students and staff to the exclusion of those zero-tolerance policies that do not allow for common sense and individual mitigating circumstances.
LB 915	Hunt	Business & Labor - hearing 2/3/20	Changes the minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities.	SUPPORT	LWVUS supports programs & policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.
LB 941	Hunt	Judiciary - heard 1/30/20	Creates Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights; provides youth in care with a list of rights related to services, connection to family, transition planning, & grievances. Also ensures youth in care are expressly informed of these rights.	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports policies & programs that respect the rights of, and promotes the well-being & safety of Nebraska's children.
LB 230 carryover	Pansing Brooks	Judiciary - passed on Final Reading 1/27/20	Bans unnecessary use of room confinement for juvenile offenders; specifies conditions of room used for confinement.	SUPPORTED & TESTIFIED AT HEARING IN 2019	LWVNE supports a correctional system that provides for realistic and humane treatment of the accused and sentenced offender, both juvenile and adult....
LB 849	Pansing Brooks	HHS - heard 1/31/20	Supports former state wards in transitioning to adulthood.	SUPPORT	LWVNE supports policies & programs that respect the rights of, and promotes the well-being and safety of Nebraska's children.

LB 1020	Vargas	Judiciary - heard 1/29/20	Changes provisions regarding discrimination under the Nebraska Fair Housing Act (income-based discrimination)	SUPPORT	LWVUS supports policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family.
VOTERS SERVICE					
LB 163 CARRYOVER	Hunt	Government - heard 3/6/19	Removes arbitrary population cap of 10,000 in counties. Currently only election commissioners & county clerks in counties with populations of less than 10,000 may request an automatic Vote by Mail ballot for voters in the county or for an individual precinct within their county.	SUPPORT	LWVUS supports protecting the right of all citizens to vote and encourages all citizens to vote. A more fair and equal access to the ballot would potentially be valuable to over 1.2 million voters in Nebraska. The 66 counties that have the ability to apply for Vote by Mail or have already implemented automatic Vote by Mail account for approximately just 350,000 electors, which gives an unfair and unequal access to the ballot to this tiny demographic of only 18 percent of Nebraska voters.
			While removing the 10,000 cap, the bill still requires each election commissioner/county clerk to submit an application citing justification for transition to automatic Vote by Mail for approval by SOS.		For example, Garden County's Vote by Mail pilot in spring, 2018, boosted turnout from a typical 24% to 58.7% for the May 2018 primary, followed by a 76% turnout for November 2018 general election. Advantages include voter convenience and voting at home is more secure. For example, Oregon's experience with Vote by Mail shows that of more than 100 million ballots cast since 2000, only a dozen cases of proven fraud or less than 0.000012% have resulted. There are also significant financial savings for the state and counties.

WOMEN'S HEALTH/ REPRO- DUCTIVE HEALTH					
LB 851	McCollister	HHS - heard 1/29/20	Extend Medicaid coverage to children age 19.	SUPPORT	LWVUS position on access to basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents.
LB 872	Hunt	Judiciary - hearing 2/21/20	Eliminate requirements for the provision of information & materials regarding finding medical assistance & continuing a viable pregnancy after taking mifepristone.	SUPPORT	LWVUS supports the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.