

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## 105<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE-SECOND SESSION

Nebraska State Home Builders Association reviewed and monitored many bills this session. As is always the case, there are far too many bills to work through especially in a short session. On March 07<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the list of bills was narrowed down and a list was given to the attendees of the Legislative Dinner in Lincoln, Nebraska. The results of those bills are as follows:

**LB921** – Senator Lowe - This bill had to do with the State Electrical Act and defines “farm building” and creates a limited license exception for farm building construction. INDEFINITELY POSTPONED 4/18/18. NSHBA was opposing this bill as written.

**LB1090** – Senator Smith – This bill restores the \$134 personal exemption credit repealed by the federal tax law. It also establishes the Nebraska standard deduction as \$6,750 for single taxpayers and \$9,900 for head of household filers and \$13,000 for married households filing jointly. It also adjusts the individual income tax brackets. NSHBA was supportive of this bill. ENACTED.

**LB1023** – Senator Schumacher – This was a bill that would terminate the Nebraska Advantage Act, the Markets Job Growth Investment Act and More. NSHBA WAS OPPOSED TO THIS BILL because of the fact that we need economic incentives in order to compete with other states for business. This bill was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED 4/18/18.

**LB829** – Senator Steve Erdman – This bill represented a \$1.1 Billion tax shift. The bill would have been a shift in the tax burden and is now involved in a petition drive that has been launched to put this on the ballot for the November election. NSHBA DID NOT TAKE A FORMAL POSITION. INDEFINITELY POSTPONED 4/18/18

**LB947** – Senator Jim Smith – This bill was introduced by the governor and prioritized by Senator Smith. It was to lower the state’s top individual and corporate income tax rates which are a priority for the business community. NSHBA took no formal position. INDEFINITELY POSTPONED 4/18/18

**LB496** – Senator John Stinner and prioritized by Senator Matt Williams. This amends the Community Development Law by expanding the definition of “redevelopment plan” to include construction of workforce housing eligible for tax increment financing. It should help address the housing shortage by allowing for more projects. “Workforce Housing” is defined in the bill as a housing unit that costs no more than \$275,000 to build or rental housing units that cost no more than \$200,000 to build.. NSHBA supported this bill as Nebraska is in serious need of more housing. The bill was ENACTED ON APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>.

**LB767** – Senator Quick – This bill was to amend the State Building Code. The bill was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED ON APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2018.

**LB957** – Senator John Lowe – Prioritized by Speaker Jim Scheer – The bill was to modernize the payment methods available under the Nebraska Works’ Compensation Act. Through this bill, payment can be made by direct deposit, prepaid card or electronic payment. NSHBA was in support of this bill. The bill was ADOPTED AND ENACTED APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2018.

**LB994** – Rural Broadband Expansion – Senator Curt Friesen – The bill was introduced to assist in enhancing broadband telecommunications service to unserved and underserved areas in rural Nebraska. A task force will be formed and the results of the study by the task force will be reported no later than December of 2019. ADOPTED APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2018

As you are aware, NSHBA looked at numerous bills in the beginning of the session. Many bills do not move forward and are therefore, removed from the alert list. This year, due to the short session, a great number of bills were carried over, indefinitely postponed or died. NSHBA will continue to monitor those bills for the upcoming session.