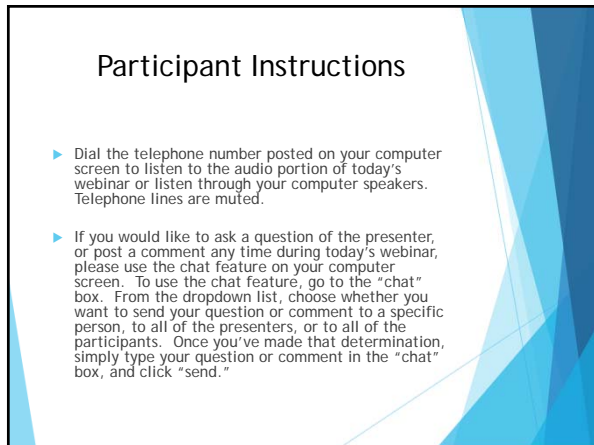




2020 Legislative Day Webinar
Thursday, February 13, 2020

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How a Bill Becomes a Law



- ▶ Be a Citizen Advocate
- ▶ Development and Process of Legislative Bills
 - ▶ Legislative Committees
 - ▶ General File
 - ▶ Select File
 - ▶ Final Reading
 - ▶ Governor's Approval
 - ▶ Veto

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2020 Legislative Composition and Priorities



- ▶ January 8th - Legislature convenes
- ▶ Jan. 23rd - deadline for new bill introduction
- ▶ April 23rd - anticipated adjournment date
- ▶ Major issues: property tax relief and Medicaid expansion funding

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Who is My State Senator?



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Tips for Talking with Senators

- ▶ Be polite/respectful
- ▶ Tell stories about how what you do impacts infrastructure for constituents. Tie in current Legislation when applicable to help Senators understand how a new bill may or may not impact what you do.
- ▶ Politely redirect
- ▶ Smile and be happy that you are meeting
- ▶ Success stories – how safe and efficient infrastructure is a cost savings to the state
- ▶ Invite the senator on a job site visit

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Lobbying Tips

- ▶ Be an Information Source
- ▶ Make a Specific "Ask"
- ▶ Know the Opposition
- ▶ Make your Connections Known

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Nowka & Edwards monitors bills that affect:

- ▶ Your business
- ▶ Infrastructure
- ▶ Workers' compensation and employee benefits
- ▶ Changes to the tax code

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Bills that NUCA of Nebraska Supports

- ▶ **LB242** - Adopt the Infrastructure Improvement and Replacement Assistance Act and provide for a turnback of state sales tax revenue.

Intent: Turn back portion of sales tax paid for potable water use in Nebraska cities and towns to municipalities for water and sewer main upgrades. Estimate \$23 million.
- ▶ **Talking points:** Future legislation like LB242 is needed to help ensure clean, safe drinking water and efficient and effective wastewater systems for constituents. It lays the groundwork for private investment and promotes economic development.
- ▶ **Bill status:** Carryover bill from 2019 session introduced by Senator Brett Lindstrom from District 18. The bill stalled during legislative debate on February 10th.

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Bills that NUCA of Nebraska Supports

LB720 - Adopt the Imagine Nebraska Act, Renewable Chemical Production Tax Credit Act, Customized Job Training Act, and Community Economic Opportunities Act and provide tax incentives

- ▶ **Intent:** Provide better investments, better jobs, more robust reports and more overall transparency; accelerate the value of the tax credit by simplifying the process; increase competitiveness of the program by increasing net present value of tax credits, help Nebraska to win more projects and opportunities for the state; build stronger relationships with businesses in order to encourage greater levels of current and future investment; and better understand the needs of businesses and the evolution of business thinking in real time via the Department of Economic Development (DED) application process and stronger relationships.
- ▶ **Talking points:** Legislation is needed that provides incentives for businesses to locate in Nebraska for economic development and promotes workforce development and public-private partnerships.
- ▶ **Bill status:** Carryover bill from 2019 and is Senator Kolterman's priority bill.

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Bills that NUCA of Nebraska Opposes

- ▶ **LB890** Provide for water, wastewater, utility, and sewer construction projects under the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act
- ▶ **Intent:** Expand the ability of political subdivisions in Nebraska to use design build and construction manager at risk contracting methods for sewer, water and utility projects.
- ▶ **Talking points:** Design build projects would greatly reduce the number of contractors that could provide proposals and favor larger companies while putting our smaller and midsize firms at a competitive disadvantage. Most of the contractors in the state fit into the small to midsize category and do not have the capital or resources required to undertake this type of project delivery method.

(continued on next slide)

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LB890 (continued)

- ▶ **Talking points:** Strengthen the decision-making process that any political subdivision must go through before they decide to use design build for a specific project. Require public comment to voice concerns before any decision is made on the contracting method. If a political subdivision does choose design-build for any given project, they must explain in writing why they chose this contracting method over the traditional design-bid-build process.
- ▶ **Bill status:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee hearing held January 23, 2020. Bill currently on General File

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Bills that NUCA of Nebraska Opposes

- ▶ **LB846** Change provisions relating to compensation under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
- ▶ **Intent:** Reduce the number of days to begin receiving benefits after a workplace injury or illness from seven days to three days. Reduce the number of days to start receiving retroactive benefits for those initial days away from work from six weeks to two weeks.
- ▶ **Talking points:** Oppose legislation that reduces workers' compensation benefits. This could increase workers' compensation fraud.
- ▶ **Bill status:** Business & Labor Committee hearing held January 27, 2020. Bill remains in committee

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Bills that NUCA of Nebraska Opposes

- ▶ **LB1129** Change evasion of law provisions and ensure certain coverage under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
- ▶ **Intent:** If a person, firm or corporation lets a portion of a contract to a contractor or subcontractor for work ordinarily done by employees of the person, firm or corporation without requiring the contractor or subcontractor to procure a policy or policies of insurance from an insurance company licensed to write such insurance to guarantee payment of compensation to injured workers.
- ▶ **Talking points:** The contractor would pay if a subcontractor is uninsured or underinsured. This is a liability that contractors shouldn't have to incur.
- ▶ **Bill status:** Business and Labor Committee hearing scheduled for February 24th

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How NUCA Members Help Nebraska

- ▶ Build, repair and maintain safe drinking water supply systems - PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
 - ▶ Example: Flint, MI
- ▶ Build, repair and maintain wastewater and stormwater systems, gas line installation, rural broadband, and electrical distribution industries - PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Federal and State RUS Funds
 - ▶ Example: Omaha CSO
- ▶ Work with state agencies to improve safety - PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
 - ▶ Example: State One-Call
- ▶ Promote skills-based education and provide good paying jobs - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - ▶ Example: HEO Program at CCC
- ▶ Advocate at the federal level (USDOT, EPA, USDA) for funding for state programs - PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION.
 - ▶ Examples: HTF, SRF and other funding/loan/grant programs.

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Networking Reception with State Senators
February 20, 2020
Bobby's Restaurant
1301 H Street, Lincoln, NE
6:30 p.m.

NUCA of Nebraska Legislative Networking Reception Logistics

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