Hearing Date:February 27, 2017Introducer:Senator Pansing BrooksOne Liner:Change appropriations relating to the Nebraska Tree Recovery<br/>Program

<b>Proponents:</b>	Representing:
Senator Patty Pansing Brooks	Introducer
Chris Beutler	Mayor – City of Lincoln
John Wynn	City of Omaha
Lance Hedquist	South Sioux City
Lon Nutter	Nebraska Arborists Association
Marti Neely	Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association
Ervin Portis	City of Plattsmouth
Lyle Minshull	Nebraska Community Forestry Council
Opponents:	Representing:
<b>Neutral</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Scott Josiah	Nebraska Forest Service

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 71 appropriates \$3 million annually to the Nebraska Forest Service for the Nebraska Tree Recovery Program

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$3,000,000 G
FY18-19	\$3,000,000 G

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:March 8, 2017Introducer:Senator HarrOne Liner:Direct the Nebraska Tourism Commission to provide for certain<br/>uses of a fund

**Proponents**: Senator Burke Harr Lauren Martin

**Opponents**: Andy Pollock John Ricks

Neutral: Andrew Norman **Representing**: Introducer Maha Music Festival

**Representing**: Nebraska Travel Association Nebraska Tourism Commission

Representing: Hear Nebraska

# Statement of Intent:

Legislative Bill 115 provides funding of eighty-five thousand dollars from the State Visitors Promotion Cash Fund to enter into a contract for promotional and visitor activities related to the hosting by a city of the metropolitan class of community-based music festivals.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18 \$85,000 C FY18-19 \$0

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:February 21, 2017Introducer:Senator StinnerOne Liner:Provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator John Stinner	Representing: Introducer
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

# Statement of Intent:

The intent of LB150 is to provide a contingency in the event cash reserve transfers become part of the Appropriations Committee's budget recommendation. LB150 is a shell bill routinely introduced by the Appropriations Committee chair in odd numbered years. An amount to be transferred by this bill is indicated as "XXX million dollars" which can be amended to specify the amounts to be transferred.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18 \$0 FY18-19 \$0

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:	March 14, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Howard
One Liner:	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human
	Services for recruitment and retention of caseworkers

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Sara Howard Julie Rogers Mike Marvin Kim Hawekotte Julia Tse Sarah Helvey	Representing: Introducer Inspector General for Child Welfare NAPE/AFSCHME Local 61 Foster Care Review Office Voices for Children in Nebraska Nebraska Appleseed
Opponents:	Representing
Neutral:	Representing:

# Statement of Intent:

LB 189 appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of recruitment and retention of child welfare caseworkers and to ensure that caseload standards in Neb. Rev. Stat. 68-1207 are fulfilled.

# **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$500,000 G
FY18-19	\$500,000 G

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:	March 14, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Krist
One Liner:	Designate funds appropriated to the Department of Health and
	Human Services for state aid

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Bob Krist Debbie Salomon Dave Merrill Michael Chittenden	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Self Nebraska Association of Service Providers The Arc of Nebraska
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

# Statement of Intent:

LB 205 appropriates \$7 million to HHS to be used to reimburse Nebraska's community based developmental disability service providers for services rendered on or after October 1, 2016, and for which no federal funds were used in the rates paid to the providers by the state for those services because of an error the state made in its federal waiver.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$0	
FY18-19	\$0	

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:March 14, 2017Introducer:Senator KristOne Liner:Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human<br/>Services for developmental disabilities services

<b>Proponents</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Senator Bob Krist	Introducer
Debbie Salomon	Self
Alan Zavodny	Northstar Services
Michael Chittenden	The Arc of Nebraska
Opponents:	Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 206 appropriates funds to HHS to be used to increase provider rates by approximately 3% in FY2017-18 and FY2018-19 for community based development disability services.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$4,398,677 G; 4,871,455 F	(\$9,270,132)
FY18-19	\$8,929,314 G; 9,889,051 F	(\$18,818,365)

Committee Action: Developmental Disabilities provider rate remains flat

#### Additional Note:

Governor veto – provider rates at 3% reduction

Hearing Date:	March 7, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Stinner
One Liner:	Change the transfer from a fund

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator John Stinner	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

# Statement of Intent:

LB221 is a shell bill introduced this year as a contingency in the event a bill would be needed to make fund transfers as part of the committee budget recommendation. This year there was some uncertainty that an additional bill would be available to this committee beyond LB23, a bill that was part of the Governor's expedited budget request early in the session. Subsequently, this committee did not use LB23, thus, either bill, LB23 or 221 can be used this session's budget recommendation, the remaining bill can be then carried over for the session in 2018. LB221 in its current form adjusts a transfer scheduled this fiscal year to the Water Sustainability Fund, an item included in the Governor's expedited deficit request and deferred by this committee in to the next fiscal year.

#### **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$0				
FY18-19	\$0				

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:	February 27, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Bolz
One Liner:	Appropriate funds for the recruitment of students who study to
	become behavioral health professionals

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Kate Bolz Martin Wetzel Spencer Gallner, MD Brent Khan	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Self UNMC Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

Appropriate \$598,803 for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to the University of Nebraska to develop, in coordination with the Department of Correctional Services, to establish clinical rotations in a corrections setting for students studying to be mental health professionals, and to provide stipends, supervision and other supports for those students.

# **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$598,803 G
FY18-19	\$598,803 G

**Committee Action**: \$400,000 General Funds each year for the University to partner with the Department of Correctional Services and/or Regional Centers to develop and offer programs for students studying to become behavioral health professionals

Hearing Date:March 7, 2017Introducer:Senator KolowskiOne Liner:Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Rick Kolowski Jeff Cole	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Beyond School Bells
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	<b>Representing</b> :

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 270 appropriates \$750,000 per year to the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act.

# **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$750,000 G
FY18-19	\$750,000 G

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:March 8, 2017Introducer:Senator QuickOne Liner:Appropriate funds to the Nebraska State Historical Society

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Dan Quick Kevin Andersen Jerry Johnson Michael Sothan Elizabeth Chase	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Main Street Network Board of Directors Main Street Main Street – Beatrice Nebraska Main Street Network
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 281 will appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund for FY2017-18 and \$100,000 from the General Fund for FY 2018-19 to the Nebraska State Historical Society. The purpose of the appropriation is to provide funding for the Nebraska Main Street Program. The appropriation shall only be used for such purpose.

#### **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$100,000 G	
FY18-19	\$100,000 G	

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:	February 27, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Crawford
One Liner:	State intent to appropriate funds for psychiatric and behavioral
	health medicine fellowships

<b>Proponents</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Senator Sue Crawford	Introducer
Michelle Buller	Self
Alys Seay	Self
Kurt Schmeckpeper	Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants
Opponents:	Representing:
<b>Neutral</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Michael Huckabee	Self

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 302 appropriates funds to create post-graduate fellowships for physician assistants in order to prepare the participants to provide advanced psychiatric and behavioral health care in rural and underserved communities, and help the State of Nebraska expeditiously recruit, retain, and increase the competence of the psychiatric prescriber workforce.

#### **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$271,320 G
FY18-19	\$271,320 G

Committee Action: No Action

Hearing Date:	February 27, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Crawford
One Liner:	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska to fund behavioral health internships

Proponents: Senator Sue Crawford Kaleigh Nelsen Anne Buettner Dr. Catherine Jones-Hazledine Dr. Joseph Evans	Representing: Introducer National Association of Social Workers Nebraska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Western Nebraska Behavioral Health UNMC
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 303 provides funds for master's level internships to improve access to behavioral health services for Nebraskans in rural and urban underserved areas by recruiting, training, placing and retaining behavioral health professionals to work in primary care medical practices.

#### **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$450,000 G
FY18-19	\$450,000 G

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:March 6, 2017Introducer:Senator McCollisterOne Liner:Appropriate funds to the Department of Correctional Services

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator John McCollister Doug Koebernick	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Inspector General for Corrections
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

# Statement of Intent:

LB 378 would establish a program, in which the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services would contract with local counties to house inmates in their local jails. The inmates would have to be classified as community corrections inmates and would be sent to jails in the general area in which they would be paroled or released. While in the county jails, the inmates would participate in a work release program. The Department and the Board of Parole would be required to provide quarterly reports to the governor and the legislature regarding the program.

# **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18 \$5,000,000 G FY18-19 \$0

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:	March 8, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Harr
One Liner:	Create the Willa Cather Historical Building Cash Fund and provide
	for a transfer of funds

<b>Proponents</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Senator Burke Harr	Introducer
Ashley Olson	Willa Cather Foundation
Andrew Jewell	Professor – University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Charles Johanningsmeier	Professor – University of Nebraska-Omaha
<b>Opponents</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Andy Pollock	Nebraska Travel Association
John Ricks	Nebraska Tourism Commission
Neutral:	Representing:

# Statement of Intent:

Legislative Bill 379 creates the Willa Cather Historical Building Cash Fund to preserve and restore Will Cather-related properties, specifically the Cather House and the Antonia Farmhouse. The Fund is to be administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$0
FY18-19	\$55,238 G

#### Committee Action: No action

#### Additional Note:

Provision to transfer \$300,000 from the State Visitor Promotion Cash Fund to the Willa Cather Historical Building Cash Fund once the private source matching funds were received. No fiscal impact.

Hearing Date:	February 24, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Vargas
One Liner:	Appropriate funds to the Department of Labor and make changes to
	uses of the Employment Security Administration Fund

Proponents: Senator Tony Vargas Steven Mulcahy Kenneth Ostronic Jasel Cantu	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters IBT Teamsters Local #554 Latin American Commission
Opponents:	Representing:
<b>Neutral</b> : John Albin	<b>Representing</b> : Department of Labor

#### Statement of Intent:

The Employee Classification Act was passed in 2010 with the intent to help address the problem of employee misclassification. Employee misclassification occurs when a worker is improperly paid by an employer as an independent contractor rather than as an employee. This means that the worker is then ineligible for employer provided health insurance, unemployment and workers' compensation benefits, and labor law protections, among other problems. Unfortunately, this type of misclassification still happens far too often, especially to workers who do not speak English as their first language. The Department of Labor does not currently have the resources it needs to address this problem and fully enforce current law. LB416 would provide funding in the amount of \$250,000 from the Employment Security Special Contingent Fund for each fiscal year of the biennium for the Department of Labor to employ bilingual investigators to fully enforce the Employee Classification Act.

# **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$250,000 C
FY18-19	\$250,000 C

# Committee Action:

FY17-18: \$125,000 C FY 18-19: \$125,000 C

# Additional Note:

Vetoed by Governor

Hearing Date:March 7, 2017Introducer:Senator WatermeierOne Liner:Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education

#### Proponents:

Senator Dan Watermeier Dr. Darci Karr Ricardo Diaz Shawna Garland Keely Reinert Emilee Knutzen Samantha Redfern Terri Tiedeman Easan Selvan Ramona Schoenrock

#### **Opponents**:

Neutral:

Introducer Hastings Public Schools Hasting High School Bruning-Davenport Unified School York Public Schools York Public Schools York Public Schools Southeast Community College Microsoft Nebraska Microsoft IT Initiative

# **Representing**:

**Representing**:

**Representing**:

# Statement of Intent:

LB 465 would appropriate \$500,000 in each year of the biennium to the Department of Education for the Nebraska Information Technology Initiative under the Center for Student Leadership and Expanded Learning Act. The Nebraska Information Technology Initiative (IT) is a partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Career and Technical Education, Microsoft and Certiport. Currently, 85 Nebraska high schools and 12 community colleges are participating in the Initiative. The Nebraska IT Initiative provides students with information technology skills that they will need for entering a post-secondary institution or the workforce. The number of students certifications under the Nebraska IT Initiative more than tripled from the first year of the program to the second year and is on pace to increase even further this year. There is currently a waiting list of schools that would like to participate in the Initiative.

# **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$500,000 G
FY18-19	\$500,000 G

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:March 14, 2017Introducer:Senator KristOne Liner:Appropriate funds to maintain the Network of Care

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Bob Krist Bruce Bronzan	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Trilogy
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

# Statement of Intent:

LB 493 seeks to appropriate \$85,500 in FY2017-18 and FY2018-19 to cover a portion of the Network of Care. The Network of Care is a website that combines local, state, and national services for Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, Public Health, and Veterans all in one place. Nebraska has invested over \$1 million to date. LB 493 will ensure that the investment is realized by keeping all four portals in place.

# **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$85,500 G
FY18-19	\$85,500 G

**Committee Action**: Intent language – provide general funds in amount of \$85,500 each fiscal year to maintain Network of Care for Veterans

Hearing Date:March 13, 2017Introducer:Senator HilkemannOne Liner:Appropriate funds to provide a base rate increase for certain<br/>hospital services as prescribed

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Robert Hilkemann Mel McNea Jeffrey Francis	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Great Plains Health/Neb. Hospital Assoc. Neb. Hospital Assoc./Neb. Methodist Health System
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

Legislative Bill 513 is intended to direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care to provide for an increase in base rates paid for inpatient hospital services provided under a Medicaid prospective payment system. Generally, Nebraska hospitals with 25 or more beds are paid under a prospective payment system of reimbursement for services provided to Nebraska's Medicaid population. In 2014, DHHS implemented a new prospective payment mechanism called the All-Patient Refined Diagnosis-Related Group (APR-DRG). At the time of the transition to the new system, Medicaid and the impacted hospitals agreed this conversion would be a budget neutral transition. However, the base rates adopted inadvertently lowered aggregate payments by 6.03%. While the Department indicated an internal fix would be made to correct the base rates to achieve budget neutrality as originally intended, that has not happened. Legislative Bill 513 would provide legislative direction for this correction so these providers of Medicaid services can be correctly paid for the services they provide.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$6,240,000 G; \$6,760,000 F
FY18-19	\$6,240,000 G; \$6,760,000 F

**Committee Action**: Restore half of hospital base reduction in LB 327, the mainline budget bill

# Additional Note:

\$2.6 million per year for 27 hospitals in FY17-18 and FY18-19

Hearing Date:	February 27, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Bolz
One Liner:	State intent to appropriate funds for a Justice Reinvestment
	Initiative Coordinator

<b>Proponents</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Senator Kate Bolz	Introducer
Corey Steel	Nebraska Supreme Court
Opponents:	Representing:
<b>Neutral</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Ryan Spohn	University of Nebraska

#### Statement of Intent:

Appropriate \$100,000 for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the purpose of funding the position of Justice Reinvestment Initiative Coordinator.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18	\$100,000 G
FY18-19	\$0

## Committee Action:

Increased personal service limit - no additional dollars

FY17-18	\$100,000 PSL
FY18-19	\$100,000 PSL

#### Additional Note:

Approve PSL; add intent language – Fund the position of Justice Reinvestment Implementation Coordinator in the Department who reports directly to the Director of Correctional Services

Hearing Date:March 17, 2017Introducer:Senator WalzOne Liner:Appropriate funds to supplement financial assistance from the<br/>Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund

<b>Proponents</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Senator Lynne Walz	Introducer
Johnathan Hladik	Center for Rural Affairs
Opponents:	Representing:
<b>Neutral</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Tim Schram	Neb. Public Service Commission

#### Statement of Intent:

LB524 would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund for FY2017-18 and \$100,000 from the General Fund for FY2018-19 to the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund. The Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund is critical to improve access to high-speed broadband to communities throughout the state.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18 \$100,000 G FY18-19 \$100,000 G

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:	March 6, 2017
Introducer:	Senator Wishart
One Liner:	Appropriate funds for Legal Education for Public Service and Rural
	Practice Loan Repayment Assistance

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Anna Wishart Thomas Maul Milo Mumgaard Richard Moberly Paul McGreal Jeff Pickens	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Nebraska State Bar Association Legal Aid of Nebraska University of Nebraska College of Law Creighton University School of Law Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 538 appropriates \$151,500 from the General fund for both FY2017-18 and FY2018-19 to the Commission on Public Advocacy, for Program 430, the Legal Education for Public Service and Rural Practice Loan Repayment Assistance aid.

#### **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$151,500 G	
FY18-19	\$151,500 G	

# Committee Action: No action

# Additional Note:

Requested Funds: Of this amount, \$150,000 would be used for loan forgiveness repayment assistance (aid). The remainder \$1500 would be used for agency operations.

Hearing Date:March 3, 2017Introducer:Senator WatermeierOne Liner:Provide for fund transfers relating to the Property Tax Credit Cash<br/>Fund

Proponents:
Senator Dan Watermeier
Merlyn Nielsen
Dennis Schuster

**Representing**: Introducer Ag Leaders Working Group Farmer

**OpenSky Policy Institute** 

**Opponents**: Renee Fry

Neutral:

Representing:

**Representing**:

# Statement of Intent:

LB 545 would increase the transfer from the General Fund to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund by \$200 million per year in each of the next three years. The property tax relief offered through this fund appears as a credit on taxpayers' property tax statements. Under the bill, the current transfer of \$224 million would increase to \$424 million for tax year 2018, \$624 million for tax year 2019, and \$824 million for tax year 2020. LB 545 states that it is the intent of the Legislature that the fund be funded at a minimum of \$824 million in following years. Property taxes account for approximately 48% of the total combined revenue from the property tax, income tax, and sales tax. LB 545 is projected to lower the share of the tax burden from property taxes to approximately 40%.

# **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18 FY18-19 see "Additional Note"

Committee Action: No action

# Additional Note:

LB 545 would transfer the following amounts from the General Fund to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund:

For tax year 2018: \$424,000,000 For tax year 2019: \$624,000,000 For tax year 2020: \$824,000,000

The bill also states that it is the intent of the Legislature to fund the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund at a minimum of \$824,000,000 for tax year 2020 and each tax year thereafter.

Hearing Date:March 1, 2017Introducer:Senator McDonnellOne Liner:Appropriate funds for the Office of Violence Prevention

<b>Proponents</b> :	<b>Representing</b> :
Senator Mike McDonnell	Introducer
Ken Kanger	Omaha Police Department
Scott Hazelrigg	Northstar Foundation
Christy Abraham	League of Nebraska Municipalities
Willie Hamilton	Black Men United
Opponents:	Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

To appropriate funds for the Office of Violence Prevention to expand the program across the state.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18 \$1,050,000 G FY18-19 \$0

**Committee Action**: Transfer \$25,000 from the Department of Motor Vehicles Ignition Interlock Fund to the Violence Prevention Cash Fund in both FY18 and FY19; increase Cash Fund appropriation by \$25,000 in both FY18 and FY19

Hearing Date:March 8, 2017Introducer:Senator WayneOne Liner:Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Justin Wayne Chris Callihan	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer IBEW Local 265-Lincoln Electrical Training Alliance
Opponents:	Representing
Neutral:	Representing:

#### Statement of Intent:

LB 620 will appropriate \$1,000,000.00 to the Department of Economic Development for the Nebraska Developing Youth Talent Initiative, which will provide training through apprenticeships in the manufacturing, information technology, and construction trades. One apprenticeship industry partner will be selected each year, both must be certified and approved by the Department of Labor.

#### **Requested Funds:**

FY17-18 \$1,000,000 G FY18-19 \$1,000,000 G

Committee Action: No action

Hearing Date:March 17, 2017Introducer:Senator WayneOne Liner:Appropriate funds to the Public Service Commission

<b>Proponents</b> : Senator Justin Wayne Tim Schram	<b>Representing</b> : Introducer Neb. Public Service Commission
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

**Statement of Intent**: LB621 will appropriate funds to the Public Service Commission to hire a track inspector.

# **Requested Funds**:

FY17-18	\$180,000 G
FY18-19	\$180,000 G

Committee Action: No action