



2016 Nebraska Military & Veterans' Legislation

Provided by the Nebraska
Department of Veterans' Affairs
May 2016

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Introduction

This guide is offered by the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs as a general overview of military and veterans' legislation that was passed by the Nebraska Unicameral in 2016. This guide is informational only and does not guarantee a grant of benefits and is not a definitive reference on Nebraska laws.

104th Legislative Summary 1st Session (2015) & 2nd Session (2016):

Number of Bills Introduced (excluding "A" bills), 104th Legislature:

1st Session: 664	2nd Session: 446	Total: 1110
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Number of "A" Bills Introduced, 104th Legislature:

1st Session: 59	2nd Session: 45	Total: 104
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Number of Resolutions Introduced, 104th Legislature:

1st Session: 377	2nd Session: 250	Total: 627
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Number of Bills to Become Law, 104th Legislature:

1st Session: 247	2nd Session: 214	Total: 461
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Number of Bills, Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments Indefinitely Postponed:

Total: 690

New bills are introduced for the first 10 days of each session.

The first session is 90 working days; the second session is 60 working days.

The 105th Legislature, first session will begin January 2017.

References:

Nebraska Legislature — <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

Nebraska Senators — http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php

2014-2015 Nebraska Blue Book — <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/about/blue-book.php>

LB 190 Change concealed handgun permit application provisions

Sponsor: Senator Bloomfield, District 17 & 36 Co-Sponsors

Committee: Judiciary

Timeline:

Introduced on January 12th, 2015

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 43-2-4 on February 5th, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on February 11th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agencies:

Nebraska State Patrol

Overview:

Currently, the Concealed Handgun Permit Act allows members of the United States Armed Forces assigned to a permanent duty station in Nebraska to be considered a resident for the purposes of the act. LB190 affords the spouse of the aforementioned service member this same privilege.

Additionally, LB190 affords aliens lawfully in the United States the right of application.

LB 677 Change a residency qualification and military service requirement for certain Veterans Service Officers

Sponsor: Senator Craighead, District 6

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Timeline:

Introduced on January 6th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 47-0-2 on March 31st, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on April 6th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agency:

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Overview:

LB 677 reduces the residency requirement for State Veteran Service Officers from five years to one continuous year immediately prior to assuming the position to reflect a more transient veteran population and ensures a larger pool of qualified applicants. LB 677 also clarifies which employees must be veterans within the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**LB 683 Change provisions relating to
homestead exemptions for surviving spouses**

Sponsor: Senator Craighead, District 6

Committee: Revenue

Timeline:

Introduced on January 6th, 2016

Designated as Senator Craighead priority bill on February 16th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 47-0-2 on April 12th, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on April 18th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agency:

Nebraska Department of Revenue

Overview:

LB 683 harmonizes Nebraska statute with federal law, regarding surviving spouses of veterans and the furnishing of benefits relating to dependency and indemnity of compensation, allowing a surviving spouse who remarries after the age of fifty-seven to retain his or her current homestead exemption status.

**LB 718 Change requirements for an application for a
waiver of college tuition and fees by a dependent of a veteran**

Sponsor: Senator Groene, District 42

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Timeline:

Introduced on January 6th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 47-0-2 on March 3rd, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on March 9th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agencies:

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Overview:

LB 718 removes the requirement that an application for a waiver of tuition by a dependent of a veteran be submitted through a recognized veterans' organization or a County Veterans Service Officer. Instead, the applications would be submitted on a form prescribed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

LB 718 also removes a requirement that a County Veterans Service Officer or recognized veterans organization determine eligibility and make a recommendation for action to the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs which duplicates efforts by the Department of Veterans' Affairs which maintains the data determining eligibility and already verifies status.

**LB 734 Change residency provisions relating to Nebraska
National Guard members for college tuition purposes**

Sponsor: Senator Watermeier, District 1

Committee: Education

Timeline:

Introduced on January 6th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 48-0-1 on March 3rd, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on March 9th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agencies:

State of Nebraska Public Colleges and Universities

Overview:

LB 734 allows non-resident members of the Nebraska National Guard to receive in-state tuition rates at state educational institutions.

**LB 745 Change Game and Parks
Commission fee and permit provisions**

Sponsor: Senator McCollister, District 20

Co-Sponsor: Senator Johnson, District 23

Co-Sponsor: Senator Kolowski, District 31

Committee: Natural Resources

Timeline:

Introduced on January 6th, 2016

Designated as Senator McCollister priority bill on February 19th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 45-3-1 on April 12th, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on April 18th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agencies:

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Overview:

LB 745 increases specific fees, increases the caps on user fees, and increases the allowed growth rate for a variety of fees that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is authorized to charge for permits, stamps, and licenses. The proposed increases will fund the Commission's duties and activities related to hunting and fishing, and maintaining and operating Nebraska's park and recreation activities. LB 745 also adds fur harvesting to the disabled veteran fishing and hunting permit.

**LB 753 Extend protection under federal Uniformed Services
Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to Nebraska employees
serving in the National Guard of another state**

Sponsor: Senator Crawford, District 45

Co-Sponsor: Senator Bloomfield, District 17

Co-Sponsor: Senator Craighead, District 6

Co-Sponsor: Senator Garrett, District 3

Co-Sponsor: Senator Hansen, District 26

Co-Sponsor: Senator Hilkemann, District 4

Co-Sponsor: Senator Krist, District 10

Co-Sponsor: Senator Morfeld, District 46

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Timeline:

Introduced on January 6th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 48-0-1 on March 3rd, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on March 9th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agencies:

Nebraska Department of Labor

Overview:

LB 753 amends provisions in Nebraska's adoption of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act to add employment protections for National Guard members who are employed in Nebraska but called into active service by the Governor of another state.

LB 753 makes it unlawful to terminate the employment, health benefits, or pension benefits of such an employee because of the absence caused by her service. This protection is already granted to members of the Nebraska National Guard.

LB 754 Create the Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs and authorize summary discipline under the Nebraska Code of Military Justice

Sponsor: Senator Crawford, District 45

Co-Sponsor: Senator Bloomfield, District 17

Co-Sponsor: Senator Craighead, District 6

Co-Sponsor: Senator Garrett, District 3

Co-Sponsor: Senator Hansen, District 26

Co-Sponsor: Senator Krist, District 10

Co-Sponsor: Senator Morfeld, District 46

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Timeline:

Introduced on January 6th, 2016

Designated as Senator Crawford priority bill on February 18th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 47-0-2 on April 12th, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on April 18th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agency:

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Nebraska Military Department

Overview:

LB 754 establishes a Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs to help the State of Nebraska preserve and protect military installations across the state, attract new missions to the state's military installations, and serve Nebraska's military and veteran families. The Commission will have staff to coordinate and carry out the Commission's efforts.

LB 754 was amended with language from LB 764 to establish a Summary Article 15 under the Nebraska Code of Military Justice and outline the procedures for implementation and approved disciplinary punishments. The legislation gives National Guard commanders the option to address minor, noncriminal disciplinary violations through an administrative process rather than a criminal process. The process is under the control of commanders and handled at the unit level to increase transparency. The potential punishments under the legislation are administrative in nature and minor in severity.

LB 919 Change provisions relating to problem-solving courts

Sponsor: Senator Williams, District 36

Co-Sponsor: Senator Chambers, District 11

Co-Sponsor: Senator Coash, District 27

Co-Sponsor: Senator Ebke, District 32

Co-Sponsor: Senator Krist, District 10

Co-Sponsor: Senator McCollister, District 20

Co-Sponsor: Senator Mello, District 5

Co-Sponsor: Senator Morfeld, District 46

Co-Sponsor: Senator Pansing Brooks, District 28

Co-Sponsor: Senator Seiler, District 33

Committee: Judiciary

Timeline:

Introduced on January 12th, 2016

Designated as Senator Williams priority bill on February 17th, 2016

Passed by the Legislature with a vote of 47-0-2 on April 12th, 2016

Signed by Governor Ricketts on April 18th, 2016

Estimated effective date: July 21st, 2016

Implementing agency:

Nebraska Supreme Court

Overview:

LB 919 (amended to include language from LB 915) expands the use of problem-solving courts in Nebraska to include veterans, mental health, DUI, reentry, and other problem-solving programs. The bill also states the intent of the Legislature that problem-solving programs use evidence-based interventions, including medication-assisted treatment.