



2019 NSHBA FINAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JUNE 19TH, 2019

The first session of the 106th Nebraska Legislature ended on May 31st, 2019. 739 bills were introduced and 294 bills were passed into Nebraska law. Nebraska State Home Builders Association monitored over 40 bills as we narrowed the intent of the bills which were closely associated with the home building industry. Some bills were passed and some did not make it out of committee. There are a few bills that will be held over until the next session in 2020 and we will be looking at those bills next year. This was a very busy session and one that had a definite impact on the building community of Nebraska. There were numerous other bills that would have impacted us, but with communication and testimony in “Opposition” with the state senators, those bills did not move forward.

BILLS THAT WERE ENACTED

LB65 – Groene – Authorize a licensing exception under the State Electrical Act – Governor Signed 3/12/2019 – NSHBA supported.

LB96 – Wayne – Change local building code provisions – Governor signed 5/21/2019 (See additional information on the website) – NSHBA testified “Neutral” as per the Government Affairs Committee.

LB103 – Linehan – Change the procedure for setting a political subdivision’s property tax request – Governor signed 3/13/2019

LB130 – DeBoer – Adopt radon resistant new construction requirements – Governor signed 5/08/2019 (See additional information on the website) – NSHBA testified in “Support” of this bill and this was

an extension of the original radon bill that NSHBA had we worked on for three years.

LB139 – Kolterman – Change provisions relating to a data base of contractors under the Contractor Registration Act – Governor signed 3/21/2019 – NSHBA testified in “Support” of this bill.

LB194 – Urban Affairs – Change provisions relating to the cities of the first class as prescribed – Governor signed 3/12/2019

LB284 – McCollister – Change sales and use tax provisions relating to out of state retailers and multivendor marketplace platforms. Governor signed 3/21/2019

LB302 – Hughes – Merge the State Energy Office with and rename the Department of Environmental Quality – Governor signed 3/21/2019

LB348 – Quick – Adopt changes to the state building code – Governor signed 4/18/2019 (See detailed information on nshba.org) – NSHBA testified “Neutral” on this bill as did others in the industry.

LB405 – Hunt – Adopt updates to building and energy codes – Governor signed 5/08/2019 (See detailed information on nshba.org) – NSHBA testified “Neutral” on this bill. Members were on both sides of the aisle on this one.

LB507 – Breise – Revenue Committee – Act of revenues and taxation to impose sales and use taxes on services. NSHBA testified in strong “Opposition” to this bill at the hearing. It did not move out of committee, but showed up again in LB289 which ended up stalled on the floor. Look for that to be back in some form.

A number of bills regarding taxation have been held over until next session. Several of those bills, we are opposed to and NSHBA will be watching as bills are brought back in January.

There were a number of bills that were harmful to our industry and bills that would add additional cost to housing. Unfortunately, we are having to deal with many more bills of this nature. With the turnover in State Senators, educating them about our industry is of great importance. The health of the building industry contributes to the

revenue that the state receives. The stronger the housing market, the more product sold, the more homebuyers that will qualify to buy a home, the more units for low income housing that can be built throughout the state. And last but not least, the more people that will be employed In our industry.

I want to thank all of you who served on the Government Affairs Committee and took your time to weigh in on several important bills. The letters sent in opposition to bills were also helpful.

As I have stated this year, the Nebraska State Home Builders Association is the “Voice of the Housing Industry” in Nebraska and the importance that we play in the state continues to grow.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Byrd

NSHBA Executive Officer

Cc: NSHBA Executive Officers

NSHBA Governmental Affairs Committee