



## **UNICAMERAL UPDATE**

**January 30, 2018**

**Bob Hoppe**, Legislative Committee Chairman \* **Vincent Christensen**, InsurPac/IANPAC Chairman  
**Carol McClelland**, CEO \* **Jim Cavanaugh**, Legislative Representative

**FROM: James P. Cavanaugh**  
**RE: Nebraska 2018 Legislative Session, Week ending January 26, 2018**

### **WEEK IN REVIEW**

Friday was the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the 60-day 2017 Legislative Session. Bill introduction concluded on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. A total of 469 new bills were introduced this year, in addition to 400 bills carried over from the 2017 session. Last week the Legislature conducted half-day floor debate on 2017 carry-over legislation and continued committee hearings.

With only 44 working days remaining in the session, standing committees will hold afternoon hearings on new bills through February 27. Senators and committees have until February 20 to designate their priority legislation. Speaker Jim Scheer will announce his priority bills February 21. Full day debate will begin February 28, the same day that the forecasting board meets to revise state revenue projections.

### **2018 BILLS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST**

IAN's Legislative committee met on January 22, and determined positions on bills of interest introduced this year.

[Refer to IAN Watch List](#) for information on bills and IAN's position.

**On January 16, I testified in support of LB 743** at the bill's hearing before the Banking, Commerce & Insurance Committee, along with PIA, NAIFA, NIIS (Nebraska insurance companies), and the Platte Institute. Testifying opposed was the American Association of Public Insurance Adjusters. IAN leaders met with Insurance Department officials in November to provide input on the provisions of LB 743, which would adopt the Public Adjusters Licensing Act, eliminate the pre-licensing education requirement for insurance producers, and require course providers to file for re-approval of approved continuing education courses every four years.

Refer to the Nebraska Legislature home page <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov> for links to one-liners for the introduced legislation so far this session. You'll also find current committee assignment listings, and an updated list of senators and their contact information. The latest issue of the legislature's weekly Update can be found at: <http://update.legislature.ne.gov/>.

Please call or e-mail me at any time if you have any questions. My contact information is:  
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## 2017 SESSION WRAP-UP

IIAN took positions on or monitored 28 bills affecting the insurance industry last year. Of the five bills IIAN supported, two were passed, and three were held over to the 2018 “short session”.

### Three Insurance Department bills passed:

**LB 137** to adopt the Unclaimed Life Insurance Benefits Act;

**LB 231** to authorize disciplinary action under the Insurance Producers Licensing Act for failing to maintain a license in good standing (**IIAN supported**);

**LB 241** to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement under the Privacy of Insurance Consumer Information Act (**IIAN supported**). Provides an exception to the requirement that licensees of the Department are to provide an annual privacy statement. Current Nebraska law requires licensees to provide annual privacy notices and closely follows the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. However, in late 2015 Congress amended Gramm-Leach-Bliley to provide an exception to the annual notice requirement if a company provides personal information with non-affiliated third parties only as outlined in law and has not changed its policies disclosed in the most recent disclosure to the consumer. LB241 amends Nebraska law to relax the annual disclosure requirement if the licensee meets the criteria outlined in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act.

Also passed: **LB 406**, which amends certain statutes to provide that certain notices (for automobile liability policies) of cancellation or nonrenewal may be mailed by first-class mail using intelligent mail barcode or similar tracking method, in addition to registered or certified mail.

### IIAN's two major issues were not advanced for debate last year by their respective committees of jurisdiction, and were carried over to the 2018 session:

**LB 553**, to address the continuing problem of **independent contractors who do not insure themselves for workers' compensation** (Business & Labor Committee). IIAN developed a compromise amendment to address specific concerns expressed by insurance company groups; however, they have indicated they will not drop their opposition and will not offer alternative amendment language that would be acceptable to them; we will work to have LB 553 advanced to the floor early in the 2018 session; and

**LB 643**, which would **double the current minimum auto financial responsibility limits** (Banking, Commerce & Insurance Committee).

**IIAN also supports [LB 486](#)**, which was advanced for first-round floor consideration (General File) by the Banking, Commerce & Insurance Committee on March 8, 2017, and was held over to the 2018 session. LB 486 would allow up to 6 CEUs (out of 24 every 2 years in Nebraska) for "active participation in a professional insurance association" - by attending a formal meeting of the association; active service on a board or committee; or participation in industry, regulatory, or legislative meetings. **NOTE: Advanced to Select File (second round of voting) on January 24, 2018 – looks like it will pass this year.**