

THE STATE CHAMBER

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE: HOW THEY VOTED 2013

August 2013

SUBJECT: Voting Record of State Senators on Key Business Issues
TO: State Chamber Members
FROM: Barry L. Kennedy, CAE, IOM, President

This document indicates how Nebraska's 49 state senators voted on nine select occasions during the 2013 session of the Legislature. All of these particular votes were related to legislative measures important to the Nebraska business community.

To provide a more comprehensive measure of voting history, we have included a column with each senator's percentage of support on selected business votes throughout his/her career in the Legislature.

These voting records do not indicate other legislative activities of interest to business, such as committee votes or bills introduced.

This document is not intended as an evaluation of any lawmaker, but is presented as a factual record of how votes were cast on selected issues of importance to the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

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2013 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD

Senator (Term Limited)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2013 %	Career +	Career -	Cum. %
Greg Adams (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	89%	50	6	89%
Brad Ashford (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	43	6	88%
Bill Avery (2014)	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	100%	46	8	85%
Dave Bloomfield (2016)	+	+	?	-	+	+	+	+	+	88%	24	1	96%
Kate Bolz (2020)	+	?	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	100%	6	0	100%
Lydia Brasch (2018)	+	+	?	-	+	+	+	+	+	88%	25	1	96%
Kathy Campbell (2016)	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	39	1	98%
Tom Carlson (2014)	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	100%	52	2	96%
Ernie Chambers (2020)	+	?	+	+	+	?	-	+	+	86%	6	1	86%
Mark Christensen (2014)	+	?	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	88%	48	3	94%
Colby Coash (2016)	+	?	+	-	+	+	?	+	+	86%	34	3	92%
Danielle Conrad (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	100%	39	13	75%
Tanya Cook (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	32	7	82%
Sue Crawford (2020)	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88%	7	1	88%
Al Davis (2020)	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	78%	7	2	78%
Annette Dubas (2014)	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	100%	43	10	81%
Mike Gloor (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	41	1	98%
Ken Haar (2016)	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	34	3	92%
Galen Hadley (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	40	1	98%
Tom Hansen (2014)	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	78%	52	4	93%
John Harms (2014)	+	+	+	-	+	+	?	+	+	88%	52	2	96%
Burke Harr (2018)	+	?	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	100%	21	0	100%
Sara Howard (2020)	+	?	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	100%	6	0	100%
Charlie Janssen (2016)	+	?	-	-	+	+	?	+	+	71%	35	3	92%
Jerry Johnson (2020)	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	100%	8	0	100%
Russ Karpisek (2014)	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	78%	46	10	82%
Bill Kintner (2020)	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	+	+	88%	7	1	88%
Rick Kolowski (2020)	+	+	+	-	+	+	?	+	+	88%	7	1	88%
Bob Krist (2018)	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	+	+	88%	28	1	97%
Tyson Larson (2018)	+	?	+	-	+	+	?	+	?	83%	22	1	96%
Steve Lathrop (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	49	6	89%
Scott Lautenbaugh (2014)	+	?	?	-	+	+	?	?	+	80%	39	2	95%
Beau McCoy (2016)	+	+	?	-	+	+	?	+	+	86%	38	1	97%
Amanda McGill (2014)	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	45	8	85%
Heath Mello (2016)	+	?	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	100%	35	3	92%
John Murante (2020)	+	+	?	-	+	+	?	+	+	86%	6	1	86%
John Nelson (2014)	+	+	?	-	+	+	+	+	+	88%	50	5	91%
Jeremy Nordquist (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	36	3	92%
Pete Pirsch (2014)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	89%	54	2	96%
Scott Price (2016)	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	+	?	100%	36	0	100%
Jim Scheer (2020)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	89%	8	1	89%
Ken Schilz (2016)	+	+	?	-	+	+	?	+	+	86%	35	3	92%
Paul Schumacher (2018)	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	24	1	96%
Les Seiler (2020)	?	+	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	100%	12	0	100%
Jim Smith (2018)	+	?	?	-	+	+	?	+	+	83%	22	1	96%
Kate Sullivan (2016)	+	+	+	-	+	+	?	+	+	88%	35	3	92%
Norm Wallman (2014)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	89%	46	9	84%
Dan Watermeier (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	100%	8	0	100%
John Wightman (2014)	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	+	100%	51	1	98%

KEY

- + Supported State Chamber position
- Opposed State Chamber position
- ? Did not vote

NOTE: If a senator did not vote on an issue, the issue is not counted when tabulating the yearly or cumulative percentages. Returning senators (e.g., Senators Ashford and Chambers) who were absent for one full term or more begin new cumulative records.

2013 NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE VOTES

- 1. AMT Repeal: LB308** was introduced at the request of the State Chamber and is expected to improve Nebraska's standing in national tax climate rankings. It repeals Nebraska's alternative minimum tax (AMT) – established in the 1960s to target very wealthy taxpayers. In recent years, the AMT had begun to threaten more middle class taxpayers who deduct expenses. Nebraska had been one of only nine states still imposing the tax. The State Chamber supported LB308. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 48-0. (May 29)
- 2. Carry-Forward for Business Operating Losses:** LB308 included another provision, **AM583**, similar to this year's LB457, which was introduced at the Chamber's request. This provision allows businesses and agriculture producers up to 20 years to spread their net operating losses on state tax returns, instead of only five years under previous law. Nebraska had been one of only five states with a five-year carry-forward limit. This change ensures state law is consistent with federal law and is especially helpful to start-ups and cyclical businesses. The State Chamber supported AM583. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. AMENDMENT PASSED, 34-0. (May 21)
- 3. Renewable Energy Development & Sales Tax Increase Repeal: LB104** promises to bring more wind energy – and possibly other renewable generation – to Nebraska. Specifically, LB104 extends sales tax refunds for significant investments in renewable energy projects by amending Tier 5 of the Nebraska Advantage Act. Nebraska currently ranks fourth in the nation in wind resources, according to experts, but lags behind neighboring states like Iowa in wind energy development. As amended, LB104 also repeals the local sales tax increase authorization approved by the Legislature in 2012, but only as it applies to the City of Omaha. The State Chamber supported LB104. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 38-2. (May 29)
- 4. Renewable Energy Development:** During the Final Reading debate on LB104 (see above), an amendment, **AM1494**, was offered to return the bill to Select File. LB104 had received thorough debate during first- and second-round consideration and was easily advanced by the full Legislature. This amendment would have threatened its enactment. A 'NO' vote on AM1494 was in accord with the Chamber's position. AMENDMENT FAILED, 21-17. (May 29)
- 5. Employee Stock Ownership: LB573** declares employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) as qualified corporations, allowing individual shareholders who utilize a one-time election to exclude dividends and capital gains from their taxable incomes. The measure is pro-business legislation since ESOPs give employees partial ownership in a business over time. A growing number of businesses are utilizing ESOPs as an incentive to retain employees and keep the business going years after the start-up phase. The State Chamber supported LB573. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 46-0. (May 29)
- 6. Nebraska Internship Program: LB476** improves Nebraska's internship grant program by allowing more flexibility for businesses, educational institutions and students. First- and second-year students are now eligible for the internships, as opposed to only juniors and seniors under previous law. Other changes include replacing minimum weekly and hourly requirements with a focus on quality internships in technical and professional areas to ensure the student gains valuable work experience and knowledge. Since the program's inception, nearly 230 businesses and 400 interns have participated in the InternNE program, according to DED data. More than half of those interns were offered full-time positions with the companies for which they interned. The State Chamber supported LB476. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 46-0. (May 10)
- 7. Angel Credit Expansion: LB281** would have amended Nebraska's Angel Investment Tax Credit Act of 2011 to increase the annual cap for credits from \$3 million to \$5 million for qualified investors. The angel credit is designed to stimulate investment in small, Nebraska-based startup companies by providing refundable tax credits to qualifying investors who provide capital to eligible businesses.

The State Chamber supported LB281. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL FAILED TO ADVANCE, 15-7. (April 19)

8. **Early Childhood Education: LB495** provides funds from the Education Innovation Fund to support early childhood education programs operated by school districts or educational service units for children between the ages of three and kindergarten eligibility. Research has shown that the early years in a child's life – when the brain is forming – represent a critically important window of opportunity to develop a child's full potential and shape key academic, social, and cognitive skills that determine success in school and in the workforce. The State Chamber supported LB495. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 47-0. (April 18)
9. **Nebraska Advantage Revisions: LB34** refines the Nebraska Advantage Act, the state's most important economic development tool, by clarifying definitions under the Act. The measure is expected to assist cities in meeting financial obligations without placing undue stress on their cash flows, while also permitting flow-through entities and cooperatives to qualify as taxpayers. LB34 makes several other business-friendly changes, including changing "taxable calendar year" to "calendar year" for purposes of calculating the county and Nebraska average weekly wage. The State Chamber supported LB34. A 'YES' vote was in accord with the Chamber's position. BILL PASSED, 46-0. (May 30)

