

Colleagues,

The legislative session is now well under way and last week marked an important milestone with the last day for bill introduction. Our policy priorities for this session align closely with the agenda Governor Pillen laid out in his [State of the State speech](#) with an emphasis on sound fiscal discipline and effective and efficient government operations.

The most important bill DAS is advocating for and supporting is [LB 461](#), introduced by Speaker Arch last year. LB 461 represents comprehensive procurement reform for Nebraska and builds on administrative reforms we have already undertaken. The bill incorporates the recommendations of the [Ikaso consulting report](#) that our agency sponsored in the fall of 2022. This legislation is the result of unrelenting hard work by Amara Block, Adam Kauffman, and Sarah Skinner. Speaker Arch made LB 461 his priority bill for this session, and it advanced from General File debate to Select File this week with a vote of 45-0. During floor debate, DAS' procurement reform efforts were acknowledged by legislators who understand the impediments of existing procurement law.

In terms of new legislation, DAS worked with Senator Erdman to introduce [LB 1169](#). This bill advances the Governor's priority of government accountability by converting the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) to a code agency to provide proper financial oversight. The Historical Society has recently suffered from mismanagement and financial malfeasance, and this bill will restore public confidence in the agency through greater accountable, stricter reporting requirements, and preventing conflicts of interest.

We will also be supporting several initiatives that help [improve job opportunities by supporting veterans](#) and [reducing occupational licensing burdens for accountants](#).

Finally, we will be supporting Governor Pillen's historic push for property tax relief through our own sound fiscal stewardship, including a revised budget that provides savings to taxpayers.

I want to conclude by acknowledging the leadership of Ann Martinez, Jennifer Sommars-Link, and the Central Finance team for their efforts to review fiscal notes on all the legislation that is introduced. This work is critically important to ensure that policy makers know the fiscal impact to their proposals.

A big thank you to our entire legislative team!

Regards,

Jason Jackson

Director, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services