

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP 2021

The 90-day session, which really was 86-days in length, recently adjourned. The news media has highlighted the stats: 684 bills introduced, 104 bills prioritized, and 197 bills passed into law. Also, media attention has been given to the general interest bills and those that apply to all business and industry.

Here is a one-minute overview of what passed from the Building Chapter 2021 agenda:

- [LB39](#) expands the definition of sports arena to include other areas of operational facilities and multipurpose fields. Also, broadens definition of new sales tax revenue to finance. This was signed by Governor with emergency clause (meaning it becomes law when signed by Governor) on May 25th.
- [LB40](#) will provide up to \$10 million per year for a matching program to be used for economic development projects in qualified rural location. This was signed by Governor on May 24th.
- [LB81](#) will allow SIDs to own, construct, and maintain public parking facilities. Passed with emergency clause on May 26th.
- [LB181](#) adds the funding of nearby parking structures to the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act. Passed with emergency clause on May 5th.
- [LB414](#) changes the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act to include NRD's now. Also, Political Subdivisions will now be allowed to use CMR and Design-Build contracts for water, wastewater, utility, and sewer construction. This was signed by Governor on April 23rd.
- [LB566](#) provides grant funds to qualifying non-profits with shovel-ready construction projects that were put on hold due to Covid-19. This bill has passed with emergency clause on May 25th. Note: the grant period for non-profits seeking the funds will be July 1-15, 2021.
- [LB432](#) is a much-noted Revenue bill that passed on May 26th that will benefit many Nebraskans. Amended deep in that bill is another bill that is IMPORTANT TO NOTE FOR OUR INDUSTRY. This bill also changes the definition of qualified higher education expenses to include apprenticeships (approved under 29 U.S.C. 50) under the Nebraska Education Savings Plan Trust.

Contact Jean by phone or text, 402-641-3855 if you have questions.