Last Wednesday marked the 1st day of a sixty-day session for the 105th Nebraska Legislature. During the short sixty-day session, the Legislature will likely focus on the state budget shortfall (currently around $180 million), tax proposals and the corrections system. Because of the limited timeframe, Speaker Jim Scheer has indicated that they will not consider much more than budget and priority bills. Each senator can designate one priority bill, and each committee can designate two.

More than 200 bills have been introduced during the first three days of the new session. Senators have seven more working days to introduce legislation. All new legislation will be added to the pool of nearly 400 carry-over bills that remain from the 2017 session. Today, lawmakers are expected to begin consideration of permanent rules, as well as carry-over legislation.

Here are some of key dates in the 2018 legislative session.

- Jan. 8 – Carry-over bill debate begins.
- Jan. 10 – Governor’s State of the State Address at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 16 – Committee hearings begin on new bills.
- Jan. 18 – Last day to introduce bills.
- Feb. 14 – Deadline for requests on Speaker priority bills.
- Feb. 20 – Deadline for committees or senators to designate priority bills.
- Feb. 21 – Speaker announces his priority bills.
- Feb. 27 – Last day for public hearings on new bills.
- Feb. 28 – Full-day floor debate begins.
- Feb. 28 – Forecasting Board meets to update revenue projections.
- March 12 – “Late night” sessions could begin any time starting March 12.
- April 18 – Sine die adjournment (tentative).

We have begun logging bills of interest to credit unions and will be sending out the list of bills with summary for you to review. Each week, I will provide you with an update on the Legislature. Reminder that the NCUL’s 2018 “Jam the Unicam” conference will be held on Thursday, January 25th in Lincoln. I have attached the event brochure to this e-mail. I hope to see you there on the 25th!