



# Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

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ASHRAE Society President, 2026-2027

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October 1, 2026

The Honorable Sen. Terrell McKinney  
Chair  
Urban Affairs Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
1445 K St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Chair McKinney, Vice Chair Clouse and Members of the Urban Affairs Committee,

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. The Society and its more than 55,000 members focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today. As one of the premier subject matter experts on the built environment, and on behalf of our 400 members in the state of Nebraska, ASHRAE would like to convey the following comments for the Committee's consideration regarding Legislative Resolution 441.

LR 441 would create an interim study on the residential and commercial building codes, as well as study the implications of enacting LB 1227. LB 1227 would require localities—including counties, cities, or villages—to determine, prior to adopting a new energy code, whether that code is cost efficient within five years. **This specific approach in LB 1227 does not fully or accurately capture the cost-effectiveness of energy codes, and ASHRAE recommends utilizing a more comprehensive analysis of the relevant costs and benefits.**

Nebraska's commercial energy code is based on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which includes ASHRAE's energy efficiency standard for commercial buildings, Standard 90.1, [\*Energy Standard for Sites and Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings\*](#). These codes and standards are updated every three years, and each new edition delivers greater energy savings while staying cost-effective.<sup>1</sup> ASHRAE's standard development process incorporates input from a wide variety of industry stakeholders to ensure each new edition is practical for implementation and reflects the latest advancements in building science. With each new edition of Standard 90.1, we receive energy efficiency gains, meaning that every successive edition requires less energy to heat and cool buildings. A new

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Building Energy Codes Program, Model Energy Code Determinations:  
<https://www.energycodes.gov/determinations>



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building will typically be in use for 50 to 100 years, and it does not make sense to apply an arbitrary timeline of five years for requiring a full return on an investment that may provide savings soon after construction, and will undoubtedly be more efficient and effective long into the future.

Up-to-date building energy codes are one of the state's most effective tools for reducing energy costs. When buildings are constructed using outdated standards, building owners and residents will see higher utility bills. Further, inefficient buildings that require added heating or air conditioning to keep residents comfortable are less resilient to extreme heat or cold, lengthy power outages, and weather events.

Additionally, I would like to address the provision in LR 441, Section (2) that states that the study shall include "researching and identifying a competent source for articulating the return on investment for building energy codes." **ASHRAE recommends the Committee refer to the U.S. Department of Energy and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory study on the cost-effectiveness of ASHRAE Standard 90.1 for Nebraska<sup>2</sup> as the most scientifically rigorous source available on this subject.**

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, including a copy of the study referenced above or other technical resources, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org).

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Maston, P.E.  
ASHRAE Society President, 2026-2027

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<sup>2</sup> Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, "Cost-Effectiveness of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2019 for Nebraska", July 2021.