

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 877

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2010

Introduced by Cornett, 45.

FOR AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation; to amend sections 77-202.04, 77-701, 77-1363, 77-1502, 77-1507, 77-3517, 77-5007, 77-5013, 77-5016, 77-5018, and 77-5019, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to authorize appeals by the Tax Commissioner and Property Tax Administrator as prescribed; to change provisions relating to soil surveys; to change provisions relating to descriptions of property for property tax purposes; to change provisions relating to homestead exemptions; to change powers and duties of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 77-202.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-202.04 (1) Notice of a county board of equalization's decision granting or denying an application for exemption from taxation for real or tangible personal property shall be mailed or delivered to the applicant and the county assessor by the county clerk within seven days after the date of the board's decision. Persons, corporations, or organizations may appeal denial of an application for exemption by a county board of equalization. Only the county assessor may appeal the grant of such an exemption by a county board of equalization. Appeals pursuant to this section shall be made to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission in accordance with section 77-5013 within thirty days after the decision of the county board of equalization. The Tax Commissioner or Property Tax Administrator may in his or her discretion intervene in any such appeal pursuant to this section. If the county assessor, Tax Commissioner, or Property Tax Administrator appeals a county board of equalization's final decision granting an exemption from property taxation, the person, corporation, or organization granted such exemption by the county board of equalization shall be made a party to the appeal and shall be issued a notice of the appeal by the Tax Equalization and Review Commission within thirty days after the appeal is filed.

(2) A copy of the final decision by a county board of equalization shall be delivered electronically to the Tax Commissioner and the Property Tax Administrator within seven days after the date of the board's decision. The Tax Commissioner or the Property Tax Administrator shall have thirty days after the final decision to appeal the decision.

~~(2)~~ (3) Any owner may petition the Tax Equalization and Review Commission in accordance with section 77-5013, on or before December 31 of each year, to determine the taxable status of real property for that year if a failure to give notice as prescribed by this section prevented timely filing of a protest or appeal provided for in sections 77-202 to 77-202.25.

Sec. 2. Section 77-701, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-701 (1) A division of state government to be known as the property assessment division of the Department of Revenue is established. The Property Tax Administrator shall be the chief administrative officer of the division but shall be under the general supervision of the Tax Commissioner.

(2) The goals and functions of the division shall be to: (a) Execute faithfully the property tax laws of the State of Nebraska; (b) provide for efficient, updated methods and systems of property tax reporting, enforcement, and related activities; and (c) continually seek to improve its system of administration.

(3) All employees, budget requirements, appropriations, encumbrances, and assets and liabilities of the Department of Property Assessment and Taxation for the administration of property valuation and equalization shall be transferred and delivered to the division. The transferred employees shall not lose any accrued benefits or status due to the transfer and shall receive the same benefits as other state employees, including participation in the State Employees Retirement Act.

(4) The Tax Commissioner or Property Tax Administrator may appeal any final decision of a county board of equalization relating to the granting or denying of an exemption of real or personal property to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. If the Tax Commissioner or Property Tax

Administrator files such an appeal, the person, corporation, or organization granted or denied the exemption by the county board of equalization shall be made a party to the appeal and shall be issued a notice of the appeal by the Tax Equalization and Review Commission within thirty days after the appeal is filed. The Tax Commissioner or Property Tax Administrator may appeal any final decision of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission relating to the granting or denying of an exemption of real or personal property or relating to the valuation or equalization of real property.

~~(4) In any litigation pending on July 1, 2007, at 12:01 a.m., in any court in this state, any contested case pending on such date and time under the Administrative Procedure Act, or any appeal pending on such date and time before the Tax Equalization and Review Commission, in which the Property Tax Administrator is a party, the Tax Commissioner shall be substituted for the Property Tax Administrator as the party in such litigation, contested case, or appeal.~~

Sec. 3. Section 77-1363, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-1363 Agricultural land and horticultural land shall be divided into classes and subclasses of real property under section 77-103.01, including, but not limited to, irrigated cropland, dryland cropland, grassland, wasteland, nurseries, feedlots, and orchards, so that the categories reflect uses appropriate for the valuation of such land according to law. Classes shall be inventoried by subclasses of real property based on soil classification standards developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture as converted into land capability groups by the Property Tax Administrator. County assessors shall utilize and ~~implement~~ soil surveys in the assessment year after the soil survey maps become available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture as directed by the Property Tax Administrator. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the classes and subclasses of real property that may be used by county assessors or the Tax Equalization and Review Commission to achieve more uniform and proportionate valuations.

Sec. 4. Section 77-1502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-1502 (1) The county board of equalization shall meet for the purpose of reviewing and deciding written protests filed pursuant to this section beginning on or after June 1 and ending on or before July 25 of each year. Protests regarding real property shall be signed and filed after the county assessor's completion of the real property assessment roll required by section 77-1315 and on or before June 30. For protests of real property, a protest shall be filed for each parcel. Protests regarding taxable tangible personal property returns filed pursuant to section 77-1229 from January 1 through May 1 shall be signed and filed on or before June 30. The county board in a county with a population of more than one hundred thousand inhabitants based upon the most recent federal decennial census may adopt a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests from July 25 to August 10. The resolution must be adopted before July 25 and it will affect the time for hearing protests for that year only. By adopting such resolution, such county waives any right to petition the Tax Equalization and Review Commission for adjustment of a class or subclass of real property under section 77-1504.01 for that year.

(2) Each protest shall be signed and filed with the county clerk of the county where the property is assessed. The protest shall contain or have attached a statement of the reason or reasons why the requested change should be made and a description of the property to which the protest applies. If the property is real property, a description of ~~of~~ adequate to identify each parcel shall be provided. If the property is tangible personal property, a physical description of the property under protest shall be provided. If the protest does not contain or have attached the statement of the reason or reasons for the protest or the applicable description of the property, the protest shall be dismissed by the county board of equalization.

(3) No hearing of the county board of equalization on a protest filed under this section shall be held before a single commissioner or supervisor.

(4) The county clerk or county assessor shall prepare a separate report on each protest. The report shall include (a) a description adequate to identify the real property or a physical description of the tangible personal property to which the protest applies, (b) any recommendation of the county assessor for action on the protest, (c) if a referee is used, the recommendation of the referee, (d) the date the county board of equalization heard the protest, (e) the decision made by the county board of equalization,

(f) the date of the decision, and (g) the date notice of the decision was mailed to the protester. The report shall contain, or have attached to it, a statement, signed by the chairperson of the county board of equalization, describing the basis upon which the board's decision was made. The report shall have attached to it a copy of that portion of the property record file which substantiates calculation of the protested value unless the county assessor certifies to the county board of equalization that a copy is maintained in either electronic or paper form in his or her office. One copy of the report, if prepared by the county clerk, shall be given to the county assessor on or before August 2. The county assessor shall have no authority to make a change in the assessment rolls until there is in his or her possession a report which has been completed in the manner specified in this section. If the county assessor deems a report submitted by the county clerk incomplete, the county assessor shall return the same to the county clerk for proper preparation.

(5) On or before August 2, or on or before August 18 in a county that has adopted a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests, the county clerk shall mail to the protester written notice of the board's decision. The notice shall contain a statement advising the protester that a report of the board's decision is available at the county clerk's or county assessor's office, whichever is appropriate, and that a copy of the report may be used to complete an appeal to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission.

Sec. 5. Section 77-1507, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-1507 (1) The county board of equalization may meet at any time for the purpose of assessing any omitted real property that was not reported to the county assessor pursuant to section 77-1318.01 and for correction of clerical errors as defined in section 77-128 that result in a change of assessed value. The county board of equalization shall give notice of the assessed value of the real property to the record owner or agent at his or her last-known address. For real property which has been omitted in the current year, the county board of equalization shall not send notice pursuant to this section on or before June 1.

Protests of the assessed value proposed for omitted real property pursuant to this section or a correction for clerical errors shall be filed with the county board of equalization within thirty days after the mailing of the notice. All provisions of section 77-1502 except dates for filing a protest, the period for hearing protests, and the date for mailing notice of the county board of equalization's decision are applicable to any protest filed pursuant to this section.

(2) The county clerk shall, within seven days after the board's final decision, send:

(a) For protested action, a notification to the protester of the board's final action advising the protester that a report of the board's final decision is available at the county clerk's or county assessor's office, whichever is appropriate, and that a copy of the report may be used to complete an appeal to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission; and

(b) For protested and nonprotested action, a report to the Property Tax Administrator which shall state the a description of adequate to identify the property, the reason such property was not assessed pursuant to section 77-1301, and a statement of the board's justification for its action. A copy of the report shall be available for public inspection in the office of the county clerk.

(3) The action of the county board of equalization upon a protest filed pursuant to this section may be appealed to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission within thirty days after the board's final decision.

(4) Improvements to real property which were properly reported to the county assessor pursuant to section 77-1318.01 for the current year and were not added to the assessment roll by the county assessor on or before March 19 shall only be added to the assessment roll by the county board of equalization from June 1 through July 25. In counties that have adopted a resolution to extend the deadline for hearing protests under section 77-1502, the deadline of July 25 shall be extended to August 10.

Sec. 6. Section 77-3517, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-3517 (1) On or before August 1 of each year, the county assessor shall forward the approved applications for homestead exemptions and a copy of the certification of disability status that have been examined pursuant to section 77-3516 to the Tax Commissioner. The Tax Commissioner who shall determine if the applicant meets the income requirements and may also review any other application information he or she deems necessary in order to determine whether the application should be approved. The Tax Commissioner

shall, on or before November 1, certify his or her determinations to the county assessor. If the application is approved, the county assessor shall make the proper deduction on the assessment rolls. If the application is denied or approved in part, the Tax Commissioner shall notify the applicant of the denial or partial approval by mailing written notice to the applicant at the address shown on the application. The applicant may appeal the Tax Commissioner's denial or partial approval pursuant to section 77-3520. Late applications authorized by the county board shall be processed in a similar manner after approval by the county assessor.

(2) (a) Upon his or her own action or upon a request by an applicant, a spouse, or an owner-occupant, the Tax Commissioner may review ~~the income information of applicants.~~ any information necessary to determine whether an application is in compliance with sections 77-3501 to 77-3529. Any action taken by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to this subsection shall be taken within three years after December 31 of the year in which the exemption was claimed.

(b) If after completion of the review the Tax Commissioner determines that an exemption should have been approved or increased, ~~for reasons of the income requirements,~~ the Tax Commissioner shall notify the applicant, spouse, or owner-occupant and the county treasurer and assessor of his or her determination. The applicant, spouse, or owner-occupant shall receive a refund of the tax, if any, that was paid as a result of the exemption being denied, in whole or in part. The county treasurer shall make the refund and shall amend the county's claim for reimbursement from the state.

(c) If after completion of the review the Tax Commissioner determines that an exemption should have been denied or reduced, ~~for reasons of the income requirements,~~ the Tax Commissioner shall notify the applicant, spouse, or owner-occupant of such denial or reduction. The applicant, the spouse, and any owner-occupant may appeal the Tax Commissioner's denial or reduction pursuant to section 77-3520. Upon the expiration of the appeal period in section 77-3520, the Tax Commissioner shall notify the county assessor of the denial or reduction and the county assessor shall remove or reduce the exemption from the tax rolls of the county. Upon notification by the Tax Commissioner to the county assessor, the amount of tax due as a result of the action of the Tax Commissioner shall become a lien on the homestead until paid. Upon attachment of the lien, the county treasurer shall refund to the Tax Commissioner the amount of tax equal to the denied or reduced exemption for deposit into the General Fund. No lien shall be created if a change in ownership of the homestead or death of the applicant, the spouse, and all other owner-occupants has occurred prior to the Tax Commissioner's notice to the county assessor.

Sec. 7. Section 77-5007, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-5007 The commission has the power and duty to hear and determine appeals of:

(1) Decisions of any county board of equalization equalizing the value of individual tracts, lots, or parcels of real property so that all real property is assessed uniformly and proportionately;

(2) Decisions of any county board of equalization granting or denying tax-exempt status for real or personal property or an exemption from motor vehicle taxes and fees;

(3) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner, and decisions of the Property Tax Administrator made before July 1, 2007, determining the taxable property of a railroad company, car company, public service entity, or air carrier within the state;

(4) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner, and decisions of the Property Tax Administrator made before July 1, 2007, determining adjusted valuation pursuant to section 79-1016;

(5) Decisions of any county board of equalization on the valuation of personal property or any penalties imposed under sections 77-1233.04 and 77-1233.06;

(6) Decisions of any county board of equalization on claims that a levy is or is not for an unlawful or unnecessary purpose or in excess of the requirements of the county;

(7) Decisions of any county board of equalization granting or rejecting an application for a homestead exemption;

(8) Decisions of the Department of Motor Vehicles determining the taxable value of motor vehicles pursuant to section 60-3,188;

(9) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner, and decisions of the Property Tax Administrator made before July 1, 2007, made under section 77-1330;

(10) Any other decision of any county board of equalization;

(11) Any other decision of the Property Tax Administrator made before July 1, 2007, and decisions made by the Tax Commissioner regarding property valuation, exemption, or taxation made on or after July 1, 2007;

(12) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner pursuant to section 77-3520;

and

(13) Final decisions of a county board of equalization appealed by the Tax Commissioner or Property Tax Administrator pursuant to section 77-701;  
and

~~(13)~~ (14) Any other decision, determination, action, or order from which an appeal to the commission is authorized.

The commission has the power and duty to hear and grant or deny relief on petitions.

Sec. 8. Section 77-5013, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-5013 (1) The commission obtains exclusive jurisdiction over an appeal or petition when:

(a) The commission has the power or authority to hear the appeal or petition;

(b) An appeal or petition is timely filed;

(c) The filing fee, if applicable, is timely received and thereafter paid; and

(d) In the case of an appeal, a copy of the decision, order, determination, or action appealed from, or other information that documents the decision, order, determination, or action appealed from, is timely filed.

Only the requirements of this subsection shall be deemed jurisdictional.

(2) A petition, an appeal, or the information required by subdivision (1)(d) of this section is timely filed and the filing fee, if applicable, is timely received if placed in the United States mail, postage prepaid, with a legible postmark for delivery to the commission, or received by the commission, on or before the date specified by law for filing the appeal or petition. If no date is otherwise provided by law, then an appeal shall be filed within thirty days after the decision, order, determination, or action appealed from is made.

(3) The filing fee for each appeal or petition filed with the commission is twenty-five dollars, except that no filing fee shall be required for an appeal by a county assessor, the Tax Commissioner, or the Property Tax Administrator acting in his or her official capacity or a county board of equalization acting in its official capacity.

(4) The form and requirements for execution of an appeal or petition may be specified by the commission in its rules and regulations.

Sec. 9. Section 77-5016, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-5016 Any hearing or proceeding of the commission shall be conducted as an informal hearing unless a formal hearing is granted as determined by the commission according to its rules and regulations. In any hearing or proceeding heard by the commission or a panel of commissioners:

(1) The commission may admit and give probative effect to evidence which possesses probative value commonly accepted by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs excluding incompetent, irrelevant, immaterial, and unduly repetitious evidence and shall give effect to the privilege rules of evidence in sections 27-501 to 27-513 but shall not otherwise be bound by the usual common-law or statutory rules of evidence except during a formal hearing. Any party to an appeal filed under section 77-5007 may request a formal hearing by delivering a written request to the commission not more than thirty days after the appeal is filed. The requesting party shall be liable for the payment of fees and costs of a court reporter pending a final decision. The commission shall be bound by the rules of evidence applicable in district court in any formal hearing held by the commission. Fees and costs of a court reporter shall be paid by the party or parties against whom a final decision is rendered, and all other costs shall be allocated as the commission may determine;

(2) The commission may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of any papers, books, accounts, documents, statistical analysis, and testimony. The commission may adopt and promulgate necessary rules for discovery which are consistent with the rules adopted by the Supreme Court pursuant to section 25-1273.01;

(3) The commission may consider and utilize the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Nebraska, the laws of the United States, the laws of Nebraska, the Code of Federal Regulations, the Nebraska Administrative Code, any decision of the several courts of the United States or the State of Nebraska, and the legislative history of any law,

rule, or regulation, without making the document a part of the record. The commission may without inclusion in the record consider and utilize published treatises, periodicals, and reference works pertaining to the valuation or assessment of real or personal property or the meaning of words and phrases if the document is identified in the commission's rules and regulations. All other evidence, including records and documents in the possession of the commission of which it desires to avail itself, shall be offered and made a part of the record in the case. No other factual information or evidence other than that set forth in this section shall be considered in the determination of the case. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts or by incorporation by reference;

(4) Every party shall have the right of cross-examination of witnesses who testify and shall have the right to submit rebuttal evidence;

(5) The commission may take notice of judicially cognizable facts and in addition may take notice of general, technical, or scientific facts within its specialized knowledge or statistical information regarding general levels of assessment within a county or a class or subclass of real property within a county and measures of central tendency within such county or classes or subclasses within such county which have been made known to the commission. Parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise of the material so noticed. They shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the facts so noticed. The commission may utilize its experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge in the evaluation of the evidence presented to it;

(6) Any person testifying under oath at a hearing who knowingly and intentionally makes a false statement to the commission or its designee is guilty of perjury. For the purpose of this section, perjury is a Class I misdemeanor;

(7) The commission may determine any question raised in the proceeding upon which an order, decision, determination, or action appealed from is based. The commission may consider all questions necessary to determine taxable value of property as it hears an appeal or cross appeal;

(8) In all appeals, excepting those arising under section 77-1606, if the appellant presents no evidence to show that the order, decision, determination, or action appealed from is incorrect, the commission shall deny the appeal. If the appellant presents any evidence to show that the order, decision, determination, or action appealed from is incorrect, such order, decision, determination, or action shall be affirmed unless evidence is adduced establishing that the order, decision, determination, or action was unreasonable or arbitrary;

(9) If the appeal concerns a decision by the county board of equalization that property is, in whole or in part, exempt from taxation, the decision to be rendered by the commission shall only determine the exemption status of the property. The decision shall not determine the taxable value of the property unless stipulated by the parties according to subsection (2) of section 77-5017;

(10) If the appeal concerns a decision by the county board of equalization that property owned by the state or a political subdivision is or is not exempt and there has been no final determination of the value of the property, the decision to be rendered by the commission shall only determine the exemption status of the property. The decision shall not determine the taxable value of the property unless stipulated by the parties according to subsection (2) of section 77-5017;

(11) The costs of any appeal, including the costs of witnesses, may be taxed by the commission as it deems just, except costs payable by the appellant pursuant to section 77-1510.01, unless (a) the appellant is the county assessor or county clerk in which case the costs shall be paid by the county or (b) the appellant is the Tax Commissioner or Property Tax Administrator in which case the costs shall be paid by the state; and

(12) The commission shall deny relief to the appellant or petitioner in any hearing or proceeding unless a majority of the commissioners present determine that the relief should be granted.

Sec. 10. Section 77-5018, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-5018 (1) The commission may issue decisions and orders which are supported by the evidence and appropriate for resolving the matters in dispute. Every final decision and order adverse to a party to the proceeding, rendered by the commission in a case appealed to the commission, shall be in writing or stated in the record and shall be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law. The findings of fact shall consist of a concise statement of the conclusions upon each contested issue of fact. Parties to the proceeding shall be notified of the decision and order in person or by mail.

A copy of the decision and order shall be delivered or mailed ~~upon request~~ to each party or his or her attorney of record. Within seven days of issuing a decision and order, the commission shall electronically publish such decision and order on a web site maintained by the commission that is accessible to the general public. The full text of final decisions and orders entered after a hearing by the commission or a panel of commissioners shall be published on the web site. Final decisions and orders that are entered (a) on a dismissal by the appellant or petitioner, (b) on a default order when the appellant or petitioner failed to appear, or (c) by agreement of the parties may be published on the web site in a summary manner identifying the parties, the case number, and the basis for the final decision and order. Any decision rendered by the commission shall be certified to the county treasurer and to the officer charged with the duty of preparing the tax list, and if and when such decision becomes final, such officers shall correct their records accordingly and the tax list pursuant to section 77-1613.02.

(2) The commission may, on its own motion, modify or change its findings or orders, at any time before an appeal and within ten days after the date of such findings or orders, for the purpose of correcting any ambiguity, clerical error, or patent or obvious error. The time for appeal shall not be lengthened because of the correction unless the correction substantially changes the findings or order.

(3) The Tax Commissioner or the Property Tax Administrator shall have thirty days after a final decision of the commission to appeal the commission's decision.

Sec. 11. Section 77-5019, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-5019 (1) Any party aggrieved by a final decision in a case appealed to the commission, any party aggrieved by a final decision of the commission on a petition, ~~or~~ any party aggrieved by an order of the commission issued pursuant to section 77-5020 or sections 77-5023 to 77-5028, or any party aggrieved by a final decision of the commission appealed by the Tax Commissioner or the Property Tax Administrator pursuant to section 77-701 shall be entitled to judicial review in the Court of Appeals. Upon request of the county, the Attorney General may appear and represent the county or political subdivision in cases in which the commission is not a party. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent resort to other means of review, redress, or relief provided by law.

(2)(a) Proceedings for review shall be instituted by filing a petition and the appropriate docket fees in the Court of Appeals within thirty days after the date on which a final appealable order is entered by the commission. All parties of record shall be made parties to the proceedings for review. The commission shall only be made a party of record if the action complained of is an order issued by the commission pursuant to section 77-1504.01 or 77-5020 or sections 77-5023 to 77-5028. Summons shall be served on all parties within thirty days after the filing of the petition in the manner provided for service of a summons in section 25-510.02. The court, in its discretion, may permit other interested persons to intervene. No bond or undertaking is required for an appeal to the Court of Appeals.

(b) A petition for review shall set forth: (i) The name and mailing address of the petitioner; (ii) the name and mailing address of the county whose action is at issue or the commission; (iii) identification of the final decision at issue together with a duplicate copy of the final decision; (iv) the identification of the parties in the case that led to the final decision; (v) the facts to demonstrate proper venue; (vi) the petitioner's reasons for believing that relief should be granted; and (vii) a request for relief, specifying the type and extent of the relief requested.

(3) The filing of the petition or the service of summons upon the commission shall not stay enforcement of a decision. The commission may order a stay. The court may order a stay after notice of the application for the stay to the commission and to all parties of record. The court may require the party requesting the stay to give bond in such amount and conditioned as the court directs.

(4) Upon receipt of a petition the date for submission of the official record shall be determined by the court. The commission shall prepare a certified copy of the official record of the proceedings had before the commission in the case. The official record shall include: (a) Notice of all proceedings; (b) any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the commission pertaining to the case; (c) the transcribed record of the hearing before the commission, including all exhibits and evidence introduced during the hearing, a statement of matters officially noticed by the commission during the proceeding, and all proffers of proof and objections and rulings thereon;

and (d) the final order appealed from. The official record in an appeal of a commission decision issued pursuant to sections 77-5023 to 77-5028 may be limited by the request of a petitioner to those parts of the record pertaining to a specific county. The commission shall charge the petitioner with the reasonable direct cost or require the petitioner to pay the cost for preparing the official record for transmittal to the court in all cases except when the petitioner is not required to pay a filing fee. If payment is required, payment of the cost, as estimated by the commission, for preparation of the official record shall be paid to the commission prior to preparation of the official record and the commission shall not transmit the official record to the court until payment of the actual costs of its preparation is received.

(5) The review shall be conducted by the court for error on the record of the commission. If the court determines that the interest of justice would be served by the resolution of any other issue not raised before the commission, the court may remand the case to the commission for further proceedings. The court may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the commission or remand the case for further proceedings.

(6) Appeals under this section shall be given precedence over all civil cases.

Sec. 12. Original sections 77-202.04, 77-701, 77-1363, 77-1502, 77-1507, 77-3517, 77-5007, 77-5013, 77-5016, 77-5018, and 77-5019, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 13. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.