LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 418

Introduced by Nordquist, 7.
Read first time January 16, 2015

Committee: Appropriations

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation; to amend sections 71-7611 and 77-2602, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014; to change the distribution of cigarette tax proceeds; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original sections.

6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. Section 71-7611, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, is amended to read:

71-7611 (1) The Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund is created. The State Treasurer shall transfer (a) fifty-six million one hundred thousand dollars no later than July 15, 2009, (b) fifty-nine million one hundred thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2010, July 15, 2011, July 15, 2012, and July 15, 2013, and (c) sixty million one hundred thousand dollars on or before July 15, 2014, and on or before every July 15 thereafter from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund and the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund to the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund, except that such amount shall be reduced by the amount of the unobligated balance in the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund at the time the transfer is made. The state investment officer upon consultation with the Nebraska Investment Council shall advise the State Treasurer on the amounts to be transferred from the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund and from the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund under this section in order to sustain such transfers in perpetuity. The state investment officer shall report electronically to the Legislature on or before October 1 of every even-numbered year on the sustainability of such transfers. The Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund shall also include money received pursuant to section 77-2602, which shall be used for biomedical research. Except as otherwise provided by law, no more than the amounts specified in this subsection may be appropriated or transferred from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund in any fiscal year.

It is the intent of the Legislature that no additional programs are funded through the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund until funding for all programs with an appropriation from the fund during FY2012-13 are restored to their FY2012-13 levels.

(2) Any money in the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
Investment Act.

(3) The University of Nebraska and postsecondary educational institutions having colleges of medicine in Nebraska and their affiliated research hospitals in Nebraska, as a condition of receiving any funds appropriated or transferred from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund, shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of sexual orientation.

Sec. 2. Section 77-2602, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, is amended to read:

77-2602 (1) Every stamping agent engaged in distributing or selling cigarettes at wholesale in this state shall pay to the Tax Commissioner of this state a special privilege tax. This shall be in addition to all other taxes. It shall be paid prior to or at the time of the sale, gift, or delivery to the retail dealer in the several amounts as follows: On each package of cigarettes containing not more than twenty cigarettes, sixty-four cents per package; and on packages containing more than twenty cigarettes, the same tax as provided on packages containing not more than twenty cigarettes for the first twenty cigarettes in each package and a tax of one-twentieth of the tax on the first twenty cigarettes on each cigarette in excess of twenty cigarettes in each package.

(2) Beginning October 1, 2004, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of forty-nine cents of such tax in the General Fund. The State Treasurer shall reduce the amount placed in the General Fund under this subsection by the amount prescribed in subdivision (3)(d) of this section. For purposes of this section, the equivalent of a specified number of cents of the tax shall mean that portion of the proceeds of the tax equal to the specified number divided by the tax rate per package of cigarettes containing not more than twenty cigarettes.

(3) The State Treasurer shall distribute the remaining proceeds of such tax in the following order:

(a) First, beginning July 1, 1980, the State Treasurer shall place
the equivalent of one cent of such tax in the Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund. For fiscal year distributions occurring after FY1998-99, the distribution under this subdivision shall not be less than the amount distributed under this subdivision for FY1997-98. Any money needed to increase the amount distributed under this subdivision to the FY1997-98 amount shall reduce the distribution to the General Fund;

(b) Second, beginning July 1, 1993, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of three cents of such tax in the Health and Human Services Cash Fund to carry out sections 81-637 to 81-640. For fiscal year distributions occurring after FY1998-99, the distribution under this subdivision shall not be less than the amount distributed under this subdivision for FY1997-98. Any money needed to increase the amount distributed under this subdivision to the FY1997-98 amount shall reduce the distribution to the General Fund;

(c) Third, beginning October 1, 2002, and continuing until all the purposes of the Deferred Building Renewal Act have been fulfilled, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of seven cents of such tax in the Building Renewal Allocation Fund. The distribution under this subdivision shall not be less than the amount distributed under this subdivision for FY1997-98. Any money needed to increase the amount distributed under this subdivision to the FY1997-98 amount shall reduce the distribution to the General Fund;

(d) Fourth, until July 1, 2009, the State Treasurer shall place in the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund the sum of five hundred twenty thousand dollars each fiscal year to carry out the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund Act. The Legislature shall appropriate the sum of five hundred twenty thousand dollars each year for fiscal year 2003-04 through fiscal year 2008-09;

(e) Fifth, beginning July 1, 2001, and continuing until June 30, 2008, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of two cents of such tax in the Information Technology Infrastructure Fund. The distribution
(f) Sixth, beginning July 1, 2001, and continuing until June 30, 2016, the State Treasurer shall place one million dollars each fiscal year in the City of the Primary Class Development Fund. If necessary, the State Treasurer shall reduce the distribution of tax proceeds to the General Fund pursuant to subsection (2) of this section by such amount required to fulfill the one million dollars to be distributed pursuant to this subdivision;

(g) Seventh, beginning July 1, 2001, and continuing until June 30, 2016, the State Treasurer shall place one million five hundred thousand dollars each fiscal year in the City of the Metropolitan Class Development Fund. If necessary, the State Treasurer shall reduce the distribution of tax proceeds to the General Fund pursuant to subsection (2) of this section by such amount required to fulfill the one million five hundred thousand dollars to be distributed pursuant to this subdivision; and

(h) Eighth, beginning July 1, 2008, and continuing until June 30, 2009, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of two million fifty thousand dollars of such tax in the Nebraska Public Safety Communication System Cash Fund. Beginning July 1, 2009, and continuing until June 30, 2016, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of two million five hundred seventy thousand dollars of such tax in the Nebraska Public Safety Communication System Cash Fund. Beginning July 1, 2016, and every fiscal year thereafter, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of three million seventy thousand dollars of such tax in the Nebraska Public Safety Communication System Cash Fund. If necessary, the State Treasurer shall reduce the distribution of tax proceeds to the General Fund pursuant to subsection (2) of this section by such amount required
to fulfill the distribution pursuant to this subdivision; and —

(i) Ninth, beginning July 1, 2016, and every fiscal year thereafter, the State Treasurer shall place the equivalent of two million dollars of such tax in the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to be used for biomedical research. If necessary, the State Treasurer shall reduce the distribution of tax proceeds to the General Fund pursuant to subsection (2) of this section by such amount required to fulfill the distribution pursuant to this subdivision.

(4) If, after distributing the proceeds of such tax pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of this section, any proceeds of such tax remain, the State Treasurer shall place such remainder in the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund.

(5) The Legislature hereby finds and determines that the projects funded from the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund and the Building Renewal Allocation Fund are of critical importance to the State of Nebraska. It is the intent of the Legislature that the allocations and appropriations made by the Legislature to such funds or, in the case of allocations for the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund, to the particular municipality's account not be reduced until all contracts and securities relating to the construction and financing of the projects or portions of the projects funded from such funds or accounts of such funds are completed or paid or, in the case of the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund, the earlier of such date or July 1, 2009, and that until such time any reductions in the cigarette tax rate made by the Legislature shall be simultaneously accompanied by equivalent reductions in the amount dedicated to the General Fund from cigarette tax revenue.

Any provision made by the Legislature for distribution of the proceeds of the cigarette tax for projects or programs other than those to (a) the General Fund, (b) the Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund, (c) the Health and Human Services Cash Fund, (d) the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund, (e) the Building Renewal Allocation
the Information Technology Infrastructure Fund, (g) the City of the Primary Class Development Fund, (h) the City of the Metropolitan Class Development Fund, and (i) the Nebraska Public Safety Communication System Cash Fund, and (j) the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund shall not be made a higher priority than or an equal priority to any of the programs or projects specified in subdivisions (a) through (i) of this subsection.

Sec. 3. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2016.

Sec. 4. Original sections 71-7611 and 77-2602, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, are repealed.