

AMENDMENTS TO LB346

Introduced by Government, Military and Veterans Affairs.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 **Section 1.** Section 2-1801, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 2-1801 Sections 2-1801 to 2-1811 may be cited as the Nebraska Potato
6 Development Act. The act terminates on July 1, 2026.

7 **Sec. 2.** Section 2-1803, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 2-1803 (1) With the exception of the ex officio member, the Governor
10 shall appoint an advisory committee to be known as the Nebraska Potato
11 Development Committee. The committee shall be composed of three shippers
12 and four growers from the industry and the vice chancellor of the
13 University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources who
14 shall be an ex officio member. The Director of Agriculture shall be the
15 chairperson. The committee shall adopt and provide rules and regulations
16 for the conduct of the affairs of the Division of Potato Development and
17 advise the director regarding the appointment of the division head and
18 any assistants as may be appointed. The members of the committee shall
19 serve without pay but shall receive expenses incurred while on official
20 business as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. As the terms of
21 office of such appointees expire, successors shall be appointed by the
22 Governor for a period of two years and until their successors are
23 appointed and qualified.

24 (2) The Nebraska Potato Development Committee terminates on July 1,
25 2026.

26 **Sec. 3.** Section 2-1826, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

1 2-1826 This section terminates on July 1, 2026. The Nebraska Potato
2 Development Act and the Nebraska Potato Inspection Act shall become one
3 act in two parts with the Nebraska Potato Development Act designated as
4 Part I and the Nebraska Potato Inspection Act designated as Part II
5 thereof and the Revisor of Statutes shall make appropriate changes in the
6 statutes necessitated by such redesignation.

7 **Sec. 4.** Section 2-4901, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 2-4901 (1) The Climate Assessment Response Committee is hereby
10 created. The office of the Governor shall be the lead agency and shall
11 oversee the committee and its activities. The committee shall be composed
12 of representatives appointed by the Governor with the approval of a
13 majority of the Legislature from livestock producers, crop producers, the
14 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the Conservation and Survey
15 Division and Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska.
16 The Director of Agriculture or his or her designee, the chief executive
17 officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her
18 designee, and the Director of Natural Resources or his or her designee
19 shall be ex officio members of the committee. Representatives from the
20 federal Consolidated Farm Service Agency and Federal Crop Insurance
21 Corporation may also serve on the committee at the invitation of the
22 Governor. The chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture of the
23 Legislature and the chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources of
24 the Legislature shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of the committee.
25 The Governor may appoint a member of the Governor's Policy Research
26 Office and any other state agency representatives or invite any other
27 federal agencies to name representatives as he or she deems necessary.
28 The Governor shall appoint one of the Climate Assessment Response
29 Committee members to serve as the chairperson of the committee. Committee
30 members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174
31 to 81-1177.

1 (2) The committee shall meet at least twice each year and shall meet
2 more frequently (a) at the call of the chairperson, (b) upon request of a
3 majority of the committee members, and (c) during periods of drought or
4 other severe climate situations.

5 (3) The chairperson may establish subcommittees and may invite
6 representatives of agencies other than those with members on the
7 committee to serve on such subcommittees.

8 (4) Any funds for the activities of the committee and for other
9 climate-related expenditures may be appropriated directly to the office
10 of the Governor for contracting with other agencies or persons for tasks
11 approved by the committee.

12 (5) The Climate Assessment Response Committee terminates on July 1,
13 2026. Sections 2-4901 and 2-4902 terminate on July 1, 2026.

14 **Sec. 5.** Section 2-5001, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 2-5001 Sections 2-5001 to 2-5006 terminate on July 1, 2026. The
17 Legislature finds that it is in the interest of the people of the state
18 that the practice of aquaculture be encouraged in order to promote
19 agricultural diversification, augment food supplies, expand employment
20 opportunities, promote economic activity, increase stocks of fish and
21 other aquatic life, protect and better use and manage the natural
22 resources of the state, and provide other benefits to the state.

23 **Sec. 6.** Section 2-5003, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 2-5003 There is hereby created the Nebraska Aquaculture Board. The
26 board shall consist of (1) one employee of the commission who is familiar
27 with aquatic disease, appointed by the secretary of the commission, (2)
28 one employee of the department appointed by the director, (3) three
29 aquaculturists, appointed by the Governor, and (4) a representative of an
30 industry or product which is related to or used in aquaculture, appointed
31 by the Governor. The board shall elect from its members a chairperson.

1 The terms of the members of the board shall be three years, except that
2 the terms of the initial aquaculturist members of the board appointed by
3 the Governor shall be staggered so that one member is appointed for a
4 term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of
5 three years, as determined by the Governor. Members appointed under
6 subdivisions (3) and (4) of this section shall be reimbursed for expenses
7 as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

8 The Nebraska Aquaculture Board terminates on July 1, 2026.

9 **Sec. 7.** Section 20-506, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 20-506 (1) The Racial Profiling Advisory Committee is created. The
12 committee shall terminate on July 1, 2026.

13 (2)(a) The committee shall consist of:

14 (i) The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law
15 Enforcement and Criminal Justice, who also shall be the chairperson of
16 the committee;

17 (ii) The Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his
18 or her designee;

19 (iii) The director of the Commission on Latino-Americans or his or
20 her designee; and

21 (iv) The executive director of the Commission on Indian Affairs or
22 his or her designee.

23 (b) The committee shall also consist of the following persons, each
24 appointed by the Governor from a list of five names submitted to the
25 Governor for each position:

26 (i) A representative of the Fraternal Order of Police;

27 (ii) A representative of the Nebraska County Sheriffs Association;

28 (iii) A representative of the Police Officers Association of
29 Nebraska;

30 (iv) A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of
31 Nebraska;

- 1 (v) A representative of the AFL-CIO;
- 2 (vi) A representative of the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska;
- 3 (vii) A representative of the Nebraska branches of the National
- 4 Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and
- 5 (viii) A representative of the Nebraska State Bar Association
- 6 appointed by the Governor from a list of attorneys submitted by the
- 7 executive council of the Nebraska State Bar Association.

8 (3) The committee shall meet and organize within thirty days after

9 the appointment of the members. The committee shall meet semiannually at

10 a time and place to be fixed by the committee. Special meetings may be

11 called by the chairperson or at the request of two or more members of the

12 committee.

13 (4) Prior to July 1, 2026, the The committee shall advise the

14 commission and its executive director in the conduct of their duties

15 regarding (a) the completeness and acceptability of written racial

16 profiling prevention policies submitted by individual law enforcement

17 agencies as required by subsection (1) of section 20-504, (b) the

18 collection of data by law enforcement agencies, any needed additional

19 data, and any needed additional analysis, investigation, or inquiry as to

20 the data provided pursuant to subsection (3) of section 20-504, (c) the

21 review, analysis, inquiry, study, and recommendations required pursuant

22 to subsection (7) of section 20-504, including an analysis of the review,

23 analysis, inquiry, study, and recommendations, and (d) policy

24 recommendations with respect to the prevention of racial profiling and

25 the need, if any, for enforcement by the Department of Justice of the

26 prohibitions found in section 20-502.

27 (5) Beginning July 1, 2026, the Nebraska Commission on Law

28 Enforcement and Criminal Justice shall carry out the duties of the

29 advisory committee under this section.

30 **Sec. 8.** Section 38-167, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

31 2024, is amended to read:

1 38-167 (1) Boards shall be designated as follows:

2 (a) Prior to July 1, 2026, Board of Advanced Practice Registered
3 Nurses;

4 (b) Prior to July 1, 2026, Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling;

5 (c) Board of Athletic Training;

6 (d) Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology;

7 (e) Board of Behavior Analysts;

8 (f) Board of Chiropractic;

9 (g) Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology,
10 and Body Art;

11 (h) Board of Dentistry;

12 (i) Board of Emergency Medical Services;

13 (j) Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists;

14 (k) Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming;

15 (l) Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists;

16 (m) Board of Massage Therapy;

17 (n) Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy;

18 (o) Board of Medical Radiography;

19 (p) Board of Medicine and Surgery;

20 (q) Board of Mental Health Practice;

21 (r) Board of Nursing;

22 (s) Board of Nursing Home Administration;

23 (t) Board of Occupational Therapy Practice;

24 (u) Board of Optometry;

25 (v) Board of Pharmacy;

26 (w) Board of Physical Therapy;

27 (x) Board of Podiatry;

28 (y) Board of Psychology;

29 (z) Board of Respiratory Care Practice; and

30 (aa) Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

31 (2) Any change made by the Legislature of the names of boards listed

1 in this section shall not change the membership of such boards or affect
2 the validity of any action taken by or the status of any action pending
3 before any of such boards. Any such board newly named by the Legislature
4 shall be the direct and only successor to the board as previously named.

5 **Sec. 9.** Section 38-204, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 38-204 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
8 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
9 the Board of Nursing.

10 **Sec. 10.** Section 38-205, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
11 amended to read:

12 38-205 (1) The Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
13 terminates on July 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.
14 ~~Until July 1, 2007, the board shall consist of (a) five advanced practice~~
15 ~~registered nurses representing different advanced practice registered~~
16 ~~nurse specialties for which a license has been issued, (b) five~~
17 ~~physicians licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law to practice medicine~~
18 ~~in Nebraska, at least three of whom shall have a current collaborating~~
19 ~~relationship with an advanced practice registered nurse, (c) three~~
20 ~~consumer members, and (d) one licensed pharmacist.~~

21 (2) Prior to July 1, 2026 ~~On and after July 1, 2007,~~ the board shall
22 consist of:

23 (a) One nurse practitioner holding a license under the Nurse
24 Practitioner Practice Act, one certified nurse midwife holding a license
25 under the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice Act, one certified
26 registered nurse anesthetist holding a license under the Certified
27 Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act, and one clinical nurse
28 specialist holding a license under the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice
29 Act, except that the initial clinical nurse specialist appointee may be a
30 clinical nurse specialist practicing pursuant to the Nurse Practice Act
31 as such act existed prior to July 1, 2007. Of the initial appointments

1 under this subdivision, one shall be for a two-year term, one shall be
2 for a three-year term, one shall be for a four-year term, and one shall
3 be for a five-year term. All subsequent appointments under this
4 subdivision shall be for five-year terms;

5 (b) Three physicians, one of whom shall have a professional
6 relationship with a nurse practitioner, one of whom shall have a
7 professional relationship with a certified nurse midwife, and one of whom
8 shall have a professional relationship with a certified registered nurse
9 anesthetist. Of the initial appointments under this subdivision, one
10 shall be for a three-year term, one shall be for a four-year term, and
11 one shall be for a five-year term. All subsequent appointments under this
12 subdivision shall be for five-year terms; and

13 (c) Two public members. Of the initial appointments under this
14 subdivision, one shall be for a three-year term, and one shall be for a
15 four-year term. All subsequent appointments under this subdivision shall
16 be for five-year terms.

17 (3) Members of the board serving immediately before July 1, 2007,
18 shall serve until members are appointed and qualified under subsection
19 (2) of this section.

20 **Sec. 11.** Section 38-308, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
21 amended to read:

22 38-308 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of Alcohol
23 and Drug Counseling. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means the Board of
24 Mental Health Practice.

25 **Sec. 12.** Section 38-310, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 38-310 (1) Membership on the board shall consist of seven
28 professional members and two public members appointed pursuant to section
29 38-158. The members shall meet the requirements of sections 38-164 and
30 38-165. Three of the professional members shall be licensed alcohol and
31 drug counselors who may also be licensed as psychologists or mental

1 health practitioners, three of the professional members shall be licensed
2 alcohol and drug counselors who are not licensed as psychologists or
3 mental health practitioners, and one of the professional members shall be
4 a psychiatrist, psychologist, or mental health practitioner.

5 (2) The Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling terminates on July 1,
6 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

7 **Sec. 13.** Section 38-605, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 38-605 Prior to July 1, 2026, board Board means the Board of
10 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
11 the Board of Nursing.

12 **Sec. 14.** Section 38-703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 38-703 Prior to July 1, 2026, board Board means the Board of
15 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
16 the Board of Nursing.

17 **Sec. 15.** Section 38-904, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 38-904 Prior to July 1, 2026, board Board means the Board of
20 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
21 the Board of Nursing.

22 **Sec. 16.** Section 38-2120, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
23 2024, is amended to read:

24 38-2120 (1) This subsection applies prior to July 1, 2026. The board
25 shall consist of nine professional members and two public members
26 appointed pursuant to section 38-158. The members shall meet the
27 requirements of sections 38-164 and 38-165. Two professional members
28 shall be certified master social workers, two professional members shall
29 be certified professional counselors, two professional members shall be
30 certified marriage and family therapists, one professional member shall
31 be a certified art therapist, and two professional members shall be

1 licensed mental health practitioners that do not hold an associated
2 certification.

3 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the board shall consist of eleven
4 professional members and three public members appointed pursuant to
5 section 38-158. The members shall meet the requirements of sections
6 38-164 and 38-165. Two professional members shall be certified master
7 social workers, two professional members shall be certified professional
8 counselors, two professional members shall be certified marriage and
9 family therapists, one professional member shall be a certified art
10 therapist, two professional members shall be licensed mental health
11 practitioners that do not hold an associated certification, and two
12 professional members shall be licensed alcohol and drug counselors.

13 **Sec. 17.** Section 38-2213, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 38-2213 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the The board shall consist of
16 eight registered nurse members, two licensed practical nurse members, and
17 two public members. The registered nurses on the board shall be from the
18 following areas: (a) One practical nurse educator; (b) one associate
19 degree or diploma nurse educator; (c) one baccalaureate nurse educator;
20 (d) two nursing service administrators; (e) two staff nurses; and (f) one
21 advanced practice registered nurse.

22 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the board shall consist of ten
23 registered nurse members, two licensed practical nurse members, and three
24 public members. The registered nurses on the board shall be from the
25 following areas: (a) One practical nurse educator; (b) one associate
26 degree or diploma nurse educator; (c) one baccalaureate nurse educator;
27 (d) two nursing service administrators; (e) two staff nurses; and (f)
28 three advanced practice registered nurses.

29 (3) {2} The State Board of Health shall attempt to ensure that the
30 membership of the Board of Nursing is representative of acute care, long-
31 term care, and community-based care. A minimum of three and a maximum of

1 five members shall be appointed from each congressional district, and
2 each member shall have been a bona fide resident of the congressional
3 district from which he or she is appointed for a period of at least one
4 year prior to the time of the appointment of such member.

5 **Sec. 18.** Section 38-2214, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 38-2214 (1) Each licensed practical nurse educator on the board
8 shall (a) be a registered nurse currently licensed in the state, (b) have
9 graduated with a graduate degree in nursing or a related field of study,
10 (c) have had a minimum of five years' experience in administration,
11 teaching, or consultation in practical nurse education, and (d) be
12 currently employed as a practical nurse educator.

13 (2) Each associate degree or diploma nurse educator on the board and
14 the baccalaureate nurse educator on the board shall (a) be a registered
15 nurse currently licensed in the state, (b) have graduated with a graduate
16 degree in nursing, (c) have had a minimum of five years' experience in
17 administration, teaching, or consultation in nursing education, and (d)
18 be currently employed in the field being represented.

19 (3) Each staff nurse on the board shall (a) be a registered nurse
20 currently licensed in the state, (b) have had a minimum of five years'
21 experience in nursing, and (c) be currently employed as a staff nurse in
22 the provision of patient care services.

23 (4) Each nursing service administrator on the board shall (a) be a
24 registered nurse currently licensed in the state, (b) have had a minimum
25 of five years' experience in nursing service administration, and (c) be
26 currently employed in such field.

27 (5) Each licensed practical nurse member shall (a) have completed at
28 least four years of high school study, (b) be licensed as a licensed
29 practical nurse in this state, (c) have obtained a certificate or diploma
30 from a state-approved practical nursing program, (d) have been actively
31 engaged in practical nursing for at least five years, and (e) be

1 currently employed in the provision of patient care services as a
2 licensed practical nurse in the state.

3 (6) Each public member shall meet the requirements of section
4 38-165.

5 ~~(7)(a) Each~~ ~~(7)~~ The advanced practice registered nurse on the board
6 shall ~~(i)~~ ~~(a)~~ have a minimum of five years' experience as an advanced
7 practice registered nurse, ~~(ii)~~ ~~(b)~~ be currently employed as an advanced
8 practice registered nurse, and ~~(iii)~~ ~~(c)~~ be licensed as an advanced
9 practice registered nurse.

10 (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, the preferred representation of the
11 advanced practice registered nurses on the board includes one certified
12 registered nurse anesthetist, one nurse practitioner, and one clinical
13 nurse specialist or certified nurse midwife. If such representation is
14 not possible, any vacancy under subdivision (2)(f) of section 38-2213 may
15 be filled based on the composition of the applicant pool for the vacant
16 advanced practice registered nurse position on the board.

17 (c) The appointment of advanced practice registered nurses to fill
18 the vacancies as of July 1, 2026, shall be made so that one of the three
19 advanced practice registered nurse members serves until December 1, 2029,
20 one serves until December 1, 2030, and one serves until December 1, 2031,
21 or as close thereto as possible. Subsequent appointments of advanced
22 practice registered nurses shall be for five-year terms as provided in
23 section 38-163.

24 ~~(8) Members serving on December 1, 2008, may complete their~~
25 ~~respective terms even if they do not meet the requirements for~~
26 ~~appointment as changed by Laws 2007, LB 463.~~

27 **Sec. 19.** Section 38-2216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
28 2024, is amended to read:

29 38-2216 In addition to the duties listed in sections 38-126 and
30 38-161, the board shall:

31 (1) Adopt reasonable and uniform standards for nursing practice and

1 nursing education;

2 (2) If requested, issue or decline to issue advisory opinions
3 defining acts which in the opinion of the board are or are not permitted
4 in the practice of nursing. Such opinions shall be considered
5 informational only and are nonbinding. Practice-related information
6 provided by the board to registered nurses or licensed practical nurses
7 licensed under the Nurse Practice Act shall be made available by the
8 board on request to nurses practicing in this state under a license
9 issued by a state that is a party to the Nurse Licensure Compact;

10 (3) Establish rules and regulations for approving and classifying
11 programs preparing nurses, taking into consideration administrative and
12 organizational patterns, the curriculum, students, student services,
13 faculty, and instructional resources and facilities, and provide surveys
14 for each educational program as determined by the board;

15 (4) Approve educational programs which meet the requirements of the
16 Nurse Practice Act;

17 (5) Keep a record of all its proceedings and compile an annual
18 report for distribution;

19 (6) Adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for
20 delegation of nursing activities, including training or experience
21 requirements, competency determination, and nursing supervision;

22 (7) Collect data regarding nursing;

23 (8) Provide consultation and conduct conferences, forums, studies,
24 and research on nursing practice and education;

25 (9) Join organizations that develop and regulate the national
26 nursing licensure examinations and exclusively promote the improvement of
27 the legal standards of the practice of nursing for the protection of the
28 public health, safety, and welfare; and

29 (10) Administer the Nurse Licensure Compact. In reporting
30 information to the coordinated licensure information system under Article
31 VII of the compact, the department may disclose personal identifying

1 information about a nurse, including his or her social security number;
2 and -

3 (11) Beginning July 1, 2026:

4 (a) Monitor the scope of practice by certified nurse midwives,
5 certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and
6 nurse practitioners;

7 (b) Recommend disciplinary action relating to licenses of advanced
8 practice registered nurses, certified nurse midwives, certified
9 registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse
10 practitioners;

11 (c) Engage in other activities not inconsistent with the Advanced
12 Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act, the Certified Nurse Midwifery
13 Practice Act, the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act,
14 the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act, and the Nurse Practitioner
15 Practice Act; and

16 (d) Adopt rules and regulations to implement the Advanced Practice
17 Registered Nurse Practice Act, the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice
18 Act, the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act, the
19 Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act, and the Nurse Practitioner
20 Practice Act, for promulgation by the department as provided in section
21 38-126. Such rules and regulations shall also include (i) approved
22 certification organizations and certification programs and (ii)
23 professional liability insurance.

24 **Sec. 20.** Section 38-2306, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 38-2306 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
27 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
28 the Board of Nursing.

29 **Sec. 21.** Section 39-2106, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
30 2024, is amended to read:

31 39-2106 (1) There ~~To~~ ~~assist~~ ~~in~~ ~~developing~~ ~~the~~ ~~functional~~

1 ~~classification system,~~ there is hereby established the Board of Public
2 Roads Classifications and Standards which shall consist of eleven members
3 to be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature. The
4 board shall assist in developing the functional classification system.
5 Beginning July 1, 2026, another duty of the board shall be to have sole
6 responsibility for overseeing the County Highway and City Street
7 Superintendents Act.

8 (2) Of the members of such board:

9 (a) Two shall be representatives of the Department of
10 Transportation;

11 (b) Three shall be representatives of the counties. One of such
12 members shall be a county highway superintendent licensed pursuant to the
13 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act and two of such
14 members shall be county board members;

15 (c) Three shall be representatives of the municipalities. Prior to
16 July 1, 2026, each ~~Each~~ of such members shall be a city engineer, village
17 engineer, public works director, city manager, city administrator, street
18 commissioner, or city street superintendent licensed pursuant to the
19 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act. Beginning July 1,
20 2026, one of such members shall be a city street superintendent licensed
21 pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act, and
22 the remaining representatives of municipalities shall be a city engineer,
23 village engineer, public works director, city manager, city
24 administrator, street commissioner, or city street superintendent
25 licensed pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents
26 Act; and

27 (d) Three shall be lay citizens, with one representing each of the
28 three congressional districts of the state.

29 (3) The county members on the board shall represent the various
30 classes of counties, as defined in section 23-1114.01, in the following
31 manner:

1 (a) One shall be a representative from either a Class 1 or Class 2
2 county;

3 (b) One shall be a representative from either a Class 3 or Class 4
4 county; and

5 (c) One shall be a representative from either a Class 5, Class 6, or
6 Class 7 county.

7 (4) The municipal members of the board shall represent
8 municipalities of the following sizes by population, as determined by the
9 most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified
10 count by the United States Bureau of the Census:

11 (a) One shall be a representative from a municipality of less than
12 two thousand five hundred inhabitants;

13 (b) One shall be a representative from a municipality of two
14 thousand five hundred to fifty thousand inhabitants; and

15 (c) One shall be a representative from a municipality of over fifty
16 thousand inhabitants.

17 (5) In making such appointments, the Governor shall consult with the
18 Director-State Engineer and with the appropriate county and municipal
19 officials and may consult with organizations representing such officials
20 or representing counties or municipalities as may be appropriate.

21 (6) At the expiration of the existing term, one member from the
22 county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
23 citizens shall be appointed for a term of two years; and two members from
24 the county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
25 citizens shall be appointed for terms of four years. One representative
26 from the department shall be appointed for a two-year term and the other
27 representative shall be appointed for a four-year term. Thereafter, all
28 such appointments shall be for terms of four years each.

29 (7) Members of such board shall receive no compensation for their
30 services as such, except that the lay members shall receive the same
31 compensation as members of the State Highway Commission, and all members

1 shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their
2 official duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. All expenses
3 of such board shall be paid by the department.

4 **Sec. 22.** Section 39-2301.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
5 2024, is amended to read:

6 39-2301.01 For purposes of the County Highway and City Street
7 Superintendents Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

8 (1) Board of examiners means:

9 (a) Prior to July 1, 2026, the Board of Examiners for County Highway
10 and City Street Superintendents; and

11 (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, the Board of Public Roads
12 Classifications and Standards;

13 (2) City street superintendent means a person who engages in the
14 practice of street superintending for an incorporated municipality;

15 (3) County highway superintendent means a person who engages in the
16 practice of highway superintending for a county; and

17 (4) Street or highway superintending means assisting an incorporated
18 municipality or a county in the following:

19 (a) Developing and annually updating long-range plans or programs
20 based on needs and coordinated with adjacent local governmental units;

21 (b) Developing annual programs for design, construction, and
22 maintenance;

23 (c) Developing annual budgets based on programmed projects and
24 activities;

25 (d) Implementing the capital improvements and maintenance activities
26 provided in the approved plans, programs, and budgets; and

27 (e) Managing personnel, contractors, and equipment in support of
28 such planning, programming, budgeting, and implementation operations.

29 **Sec. 23.** Section 39-2304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
30 2024, is amended to read:

31 39-2304 (1) The Board of Examiners for County Highway and City

1 Street Superintendents is created. The board terminates on July 1, 2026.
2 The board shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Governor.
3 Four of such members shall be county representatives and three of such
4 members shall be municipal representatives.

5 (2)(a) Immediately preceding appointment to the board, each county
6 and municipal representative shall hold a county highway and city street
7 superintendent license pursuant to the County Highway and City Street
8 Superintendents Act.

9 (b) Of the county representatives, no more than one member shall be
10 appointed from each class of county as defined in section 23-1114.01.

11 (c) Of the municipal representatives:

12 (i) No more than one shall be appointed from each congressional
13 district;

14 (ii) One shall be a representative of a city of the metropolitan
15 class, primary class, or first class;

16 (iii) One shall be a representative of a city of the second class;
17 and

18 (iv) One shall be a representative of a village.

19 (3) In making such appointments, the Governor may give consideration
20 to the following lists of persons licensed pursuant to the County Highway
21 and City Street Superintendents Act:

22 (a) A list of county engineers, county highway superintendents, and
23 county surveyors submitted by the Nebraska Association of County
24 Officials; and

25 (b) A list of city street superintendents, city managers, city
26 administrators, street commissioners, city engineers, village engineers,
27 and public works directors submitted by the League of Nebraska
28 Municipalities.

29 (4) Two county representatives shall initially be appointed for
30 terms of two years each, and two county representatives shall initially
31 be appointed for terms of four years each. One municipal representative

1 shall initially be appointed for a term of two years, and two municipal
2 representatives shall initially be appointed for terms of four years
3 each. Thereafter, all such appointments shall be for terms of four years
4 each.

5 (5) In the event a county or municipal representative loses his or
6 her county highway and city street superintendent license, such person
7 shall no longer be qualified to serve on the board and such seat shall be
8 vacant. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the board for any reason,
9 such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the
10 remainder of the unexpired term. Such appointed person shall meet the
11 same requirements and qualifications as the member whose vacancy he or
12 she is filling.

13 (6) Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their
14 services as members of the board but shall be reimbursed for expenses
15 incurred while engaged in the performance of their official duties as
16 provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

17 (7) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

18 **Sec. 24.** Section 43-3401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
19 2024, is amended to read:

20 43-3401 (1) The Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council is
21 created. The council shall advise and assist the collaborating agencies
22 in carrying out the provisions of the Early Intervention Act, the Quality
23 Child Care Act, sections 79-1101 to 79-1104, and other early childhood
24 care and education initiatives under state supervision. Membership and
25 activities of the council shall comply with all applicable provisions of
26 federal law. Beginning July 1, 2026, there shall be sixteen members of
27 the council. Members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor
28 and shall include, but not be limited to:

29 (a) (1) Parents of children who require early intervention services,
30 early childhood special education, or ~~and~~ other early childhood care and
31 education services; and

1 **(b) (2)** Representatives of school districts, social services, health
2 and medical services, family child care programs, ~~and~~ center-based early
3 childhood care and education programs, agencies providing training to
4 staff of child care programs, resource and referral agencies, mental
5 health services, developmental disabilities services, educational service
6 units, Head Start, higher education, physicians, the Legislature,
7 business persons, and the collaborating agencies.

8 **(2)** Terms of the members shall be for three years, and a member
9 shall not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members shall
10 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177,
11 including child care expenses, with funds provided for such purposes
12 through the Early Intervention Act, the Quality Child Care Act, and
13 sections 79-1101 to 79-1104.

14 **(3)** Members of the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council serving
15 on July 13, 2000, shall constitute the Early Childhood Interagency
16 Coordinating Council and shall serve for the remainder of their terms.
17 The Governor shall make additional appointments as required by this
18 section and to fill vacancies as needed. The Governor shall set the
19 initial terms of additional appointees to result in staggered terms for
20 members of the council.

21 **(4)** The Department of Health and Human Services and the State
22 Department of Education shall provide and coordinate staff assistance to
23 the council.

24 **Sec. 25.** Section 43-4001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
25 2024, is amended to read:

26 43-4001 (1) The Children's Behavioral Health Task Force is created.
27 The task force terminates on July 1, 2026. The task force shall consist
28 of the following members:

29 (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
30 the Legislature or another member of the committee as his or her
31 designee;

1 (b) The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
2 Legislature or another member of the committee as his or her designee;

3 (c) Two providers of community-based behavioral health services to
4 children, appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services
5 Committee of the Legislature;

6 (d) One regional administrator appointed under section 71-808,
7 appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee
8 of the Legislature;

9 (e) Two representatives of organizations advocating on behalf of
10 consumers of children's behavioral health services and their families,
11 appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee
12 of the Legislature;

13 (f) One juvenile court judge, appointed by the Chief Justice of the
14 Supreme Court; and

15 (g) The probation administrator or his or her designee.

16 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation but
17 shall be reimbursed from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for expenses
18 as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

19 (3) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
20 the Legislature or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of the
21 task force. Administrative and staff support for the task force shall be
22 provided by the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature
23 and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature.

24 (4) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

25 **Sec. 26.** Section 43-4203, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
26 2024, is amended to read:

27 43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a
28 committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile
29 Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration. Such
30 committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home
31 placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth

1 rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the
2 commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what
3 populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment
4 services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately
5 serve those populations. Such committee shall also review how mental and
6 behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential
7 placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make
8 recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in
9 the juvenile justice system. The committee shall collaborate with the
10 Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the
11 Center for Health Policy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center,
12 the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state
13 and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations. The
14 recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in
15 the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families,
16 including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment
17 model. The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and
18 electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by
19 September 1.

20 (2) The commission shall collaborate with juvenile justice
21 specialists of the Office of Probation Administration and county
22 officials with respect to any county-operated practice model
23 participating in the Crossover Youth Program of the Center for Juvenile
24 Justice Reform at Georgetown University.

25 (3) The commission shall analyze case management workforce issues
26 and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of
27 the Legislature regarding:

28 (a) Salary comparisons with other states and the current pay
29 structure based on job descriptions;

30 (b) Utilization of incentives for persons who work in the area of
31 child welfare;

1 (c) Evidence-based training requirements for persons who work in the
2 area of child welfare and their supervisors; and

3 (d) Collaboration with the University of Nebraska to increase and
4 sustain such workforce.

5 (4) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee created pursuant to
6 section 43-4216, the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act Committee
7 created pursuant to section 43-4716, and the Bridge to Independence
8 Advisory Committee created pursuant to section 43-4513 shall be under the
9 jurisdiction of the commission. The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate
10 Committee and the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee terminate on
11 July 1, 2026, and the commission shall take over their duties pursuant to
12 sections 43-4215, 43-4217, and 43-4513.

13 (5) The commission shall work with the office of the State Court
14 Administrator, as appropriate, and entities which coordinate facilitated
15 conferencing as described in section 43-247.03.

16 (6) The commission shall work with administrators from each of the
17 service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116, the teams created
18 pursuant to section 28-728, local foster care review boards, child
19 advocacy centers, the teams created pursuant to the Supreme Court's
20 Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, community stakeholders, and
21 advocates for child welfare programs and services to establish networks
22 in each of such service areas. Such networks shall permit collaboration
23 to strengthen the continuum of services available to child welfare
24 agencies and to provide resources for children and juveniles outside the
25 child protection system.

26 (7) The commission may organize subcommittees as it deems necessary.
27 Members of the subcommittees may be members of the commission or may be
28 individuals who have knowledge of the subcommittee's subject matter,
29 professional expertise to assist the subcommittee in completing its
30 assigned responsibilities, or the ability to collaborate within the
31 subcommittee and with the commission to carry out the powers and duties

1 of the commission. A subcommittee shall meet as necessary to complete the
2 work delegated by the commission and shall report its findings to the
3 relevant committee within the commission.

4 (8) No member of any committee or subcommittee created pursuant to
5 this section shall have any private financial interest, profit, or
6 benefit from any work of such committee or subcommittee.

7 **Sec. 27.** Section 43-4216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
8 2024, is amended to read:

9 43-4216 (1) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee is created.
10 The committee shall be convened at least once every four years. The
11 committee terminates on July 1, 2026.

12 (2) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee shall consist of no
13 fewer than nine members, including:

14 (a) The following voting members: (i) Representatives from a child
15 welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents, from each of
16 the service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116; (ii) a
17 representative from an advocacy organization which deals with legal and
18 policy issues that include child welfare; (iii) a representative from an
19 advocacy organization, the singular focus of which is issues impacting
20 children; (iv) a representative from a foster and adoptive parent
21 association; (v) a representative from a lead agency; (vi) a
22 representative from a child advocacy organization that supports young
23 adults who were in foster care as children; (vii) a foster parent who
24 contracts directly with the Department of Health and Human Services; and
25 (viii) a foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency; and

26 (b) The following nonvoting, ex officio members: (i) The chief
27 executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his
28 or her designee and (ii) representatives from the Division of Children
29 and Family Services of the department from each service area designated
30 pursuant to section 81-3116, including at least one division employee
31 with a thorough understanding of the current foster care payment system

1 and at least one division employee with a thorough understanding of the
2 N-FOCUS electronic data collection system. The nonvoting, ex officio
3 members of the committee may attend committee meetings and participate in
4 discussions of the committee and shall gather and provide information to
5 the committee on the policies, programs, and processes of each of their
6 respective bodies. The nonvoting, ex officio members shall not vote on
7 decisions or recommendations by the committee.

8 (3) Members of the committee shall serve for terms of four years and
9 until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Nebraska
10 Children's Commission shall appoint the members of the committee and the
11 chairperson of the committee and may fill vacancies on the committee as
12 they occur.

13 (4) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

14 **Sec. 28.** Section 43-4406, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2024, is amended to read:

16 43-4406 On or before each September 15, the department shall report
17 electronically to the Health and Human Services Committee of the
18 Legislature the following information regarding child welfare services,
19 with respect to children served by the department:

20 (1) The percentage of children served and the allocation of the
21 child welfare budget, categorized by service area, including:

22 (a) The percentage of children served, by service area and the
23 corresponding budget allocation; and

24 (b) The percentage of children served who are wards of the state and
25 the corresponding budget allocation;

26 (2) The number of siblings in out-of-home care placed with siblings
27 as of the June 30 immediately preceding the date of the report,
28 categorized by service area;

29 (3) The number of waivers granted under subsection (2) of section
30 71-1904;

31 ~~(4) An update of the information in the report of the Children's~~

1 ~~Behavioral Health Task Force pursuant to sections 43-4001 to 43-4003,~~
2 ~~including:~~

3 ~~(a) The number of children receiving mental health and substance~~
4 ~~abuse services annually by the Division of Behavioral Health of the~~
5 ~~department;~~

6 ~~(b) The number of children receiving behavioral health services~~
7 ~~annually at the Hastings Regional Center;~~

8 ~~(c) The number of state wards receiving behavioral health services~~
9 ~~as of September 1 immediately preceding the date of the report;~~

10 ~~(d) Funding sources for children's behavioral health services for~~
11 ~~the fiscal year ending on the immediately preceding June 30;~~

12 ~~(e) Expenditures in the immediately preceding fiscal year by the~~
13 ~~division, categorized by category of behavioral health service and by~~
14 ~~behavioral health region; and~~

15 ~~(f) Expenditures in the immediately preceding fiscal year from the~~
16 ~~medical assistance program and CHIP as defined in section 68-969 for~~
17 ~~mental health and substance abuse services, for all children and for~~
18 ~~wards of the state;~~

19 ~~(4) (5) The following information as obtained for each service area:~~

20 ~~(a) Case manager education, including college degree, major, and~~
21 ~~level of education beyond a baccalaureate degree;~~

22 ~~(b) Average caseload per case manager;~~

23 ~~(c) Average number of case managers per child during the preceding~~
24 ~~twelve months;~~

25 ~~(d) Average number of case managers per child for children who have~~
26 ~~been in the child welfare system for three months, for six months, for~~
27 ~~twelve months, and for eighteen months and the consecutive yearly average~~
28 ~~for children until the age of majority or permanency is attained;~~

29 ~~(e) Monthly case manager turnover;~~

30 ~~(f) Monthly face-to-face contacts between each case manager and the~~
31 ~~children on his or her caseload;~~

1 (g) Monthly face-to-face contacts between each case manager and the
2 parent or parents of the children on his or her caseload;

3 (h) Case documentation of monthly consecutive team meetings per
4 quarter;

5 (i) Case documentation of monthly consecutive parent contacts per
6 quarter;

7 (j) Case documentation of monthly consecutive child contacts with
8 case manager per quarter;

9 (k) Case documentation of monthly consecutive contacts between child
10 welfare service providers and case managers per quarter;

11 (l) Timeliness of court reports; and

12 (m) Non-court-involved children, including the number of children
13 served, the types of services requested, the specific services provided,
14 the cost of the services provided, and the funding source;

15 (5) ~~(6)~~ All placements in residential treatment settings made or
16 paid for by the child welfare system, the Office of Juvenile Services,
17 the State Department of Education or local education agencies, and the
18 medical assistance program, including, but not limited to:

19 (a) Child variables;

20 (b) Reasons for placement;

21 (c) The percentage of children denied medicaid-reimbursed services
22 and denied the level of placement requested;

23 (d) With respect to each child in a residential treatment setting:

24 (i) If there was a denial of initial placement request, the length
25 and level of each placement subsequent to denial of initial placement
26 request and the status of each child before and immediately after, six
27 months after, and twelve months after placement;

28 (ii) Funds expended and length of placements;

29 (iii) Number and level of placements;

30 (iv) Facility variables; and

31 (v) Identification of specific child welfare services unavailable in

1 the child's community that, if available, could have prevented the need
2 for residential treatment; and

3 (e) Identification of child welfare services unavailable in the
4 state that, if available, could prevent out-of-state placements;

5 (6) ~~(7)~~ For any individual involved in the child welfare system
6 receiving a service or a placement through the department or its agent
7 for which referral is necessary, the date when such referral was made by
8 the department or its agent and the date and the method by which the
9 individual receiving the services was notified of such referral. To the
10 extent the department becomes aware of the date when the individual
11 receiving the referral began receiving such services, the department or
12 its agent shall document such date;

13 (7) ~~(8)~~ The number of sexual abuse allegations that occurred for
14 children being served by the Division of Children and Family Services of
15 the Department of Health and Human Services and placed at a residential
16 child-caring agency and the number of corresponding (a) screening
17 decision occurrences by category, (b) open investigations by category,
18 and (c) agency substantiations, court substantiations, and court-pending
19 status cases; and

20 (8) ~~(9)~~ Information on children who are reported or suspected
21 victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor, as
22 defined in section 28-830, including:

23 (a) The number of reports to the statewide toll-free number pursuant
24 to section 28-711 alleging sex trafficking of a minor or labor
25 trafficking of a minor and the number of children alleged to be victims;

26 (b) The number of substantiated victims of sex trafficking of a
27 minor or labor trafficking of a minor, including demographic information
28 and information on whether the children were already served by the
29 department;

30 (c) The number of children determined to be reported or suspected
31 victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor,

1 including demographic information and information on whether the children
2 were previously served by the department;

3 (d) The types and costs of services provided to children who are
4 reported or suspected victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor
5 trafficking of a minor; and

6 (e) The number of ongoing cases opened due to allegations of sex
7 trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor and number of
8 children and families served through these cases.

9 **Sec. 29.** Section 43-4513, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
10 2024, is amended to read:

11 43-4513 (1) The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee is created
12 within the Nebraska Children's Commission to advise and make
13 recommendations to the Legislature and the Nebraska Children's Commission
14 regarding ongoing implementation of the bridge to independence program,
15 extended guardianship assistance described in section 43-4511, and
16 extended adoption assistance described in section 43-4512. The Bridge to
17 Independence Advisory Committee terminates on July 1, 2026, and the
18 Nebraska Children's Commission shall carry out the duties under this
19 section. The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee shall provide a
20 written report regarding ongoing implementation, including participation
21 in the bridge to independence program, extended guardianship assistance
22 described in section 43-4511, and extended adoption assistance described
23 in section 43-4512 and early discharge rates and reasons obtained from
24 the department, to the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Health and
25 Human Services Committee of the Legislature, the department, and the
26 Governor by September 1 of each year. The report to the Health and Human
27 Services Committee of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

28 (2) The members of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee
29 shall include, but not be limited to, (a) representatives from all three
30 branches of government, and the representatives from the legislative and
31 judicial branches of government shall be nonvoting, ex officio members,

1 (b) no less than three young adults currently or previously in foster
2 care, which may be filled on a rotating basis by members of Project
3 Everlast or a similar youth support or advocacy group, (c) one or more
4 representatives from a child welfare advocacy organization, (d) one or
5 more representatives from a child welfare service agency, and (e) one or
6 more representatives from an agency providing independent living
7 services.

8 (3) Members of the committee shall be appointed for terms of two
9 years. The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint the chairperson
10 of the committee and may fill vacancies on the committee as they occur.

11 **Sec. 30.** Section 58-202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 58-202 (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

14 (a) The high cost of agricultural loans and the general
15 unavailability of such loans at favorable rates and terms for farmers,
16 particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural enterprises have
17 resulted in decreased crop, livestock, and business productivity and
18 prevented farmers and other agricultural enterprises from acquiring
19 modern agricultural equipment and processes. These problems have made it
20 difficult for farmers and other agricultural enterprises to maintain or
21 increase their present number of employees and have decreased the supply
22 of agricultural commodities available to fulfill the needs of the
23 citizens of this state; and

24 (b) There exists in this state an inadequate supply of and a
25 pressing need for farm credit and agricultural loan financing at interest
26 rates and terms which are consistent with the needs of farmers,
27 particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural enterprises.

28 (2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

29 (a) From time to time the high rates of interest charged by mortgage
30 lenders seriously restrict existing housing transfers and new housing
31 starts and the resultant reduction in residential construction starts

1 causes a condition of substantial unemployment and underemployment in the
2 construction industry;

3 (b) Such conditions generally result in and contribute to the
4 creation of slums and blighted areas in the urban and rural areas of this
5 state and a deterioration of the quality of living conditions within this
6 state and necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of
7 public funds for crime prevention and punishment, public health and
8 safety, fire and accident prevention, and other public services and
9 facilities; and

10 (c) There exists in the urban and rural areas of this state an
11 inadequate supply of and a pressing need for sanitary, safe, and
12 uncrowded housing at prices at which low-income and moderate-income
13 persons, particularly first-time homebuyers, can afford to purchase,
14 construct, or rent and as a result such persons are forced to occupy
15 unsanitary, unsafe, and overcrowded housing.

16 (3) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

17 (a) Adequate and reliable energy supplies are a basic necessity of
18 life and sufficient energy supplies are essential to supplying adequate
19 food and shelter;

20 (b) The cost and availability of energy supplies has been and will
21 continue to be a matter of state and national concern;

22 (c) The increasing cost and decreasing availability of energy
23 supplies for purposes of residential heating will limit the ability of
24 many of Nebraska's citizens to provide the basic necessities of life and
25 will result in a deterioration in living conditions and a threat to the
26 health and welfare of the citizens of this state;

27 (d) Energy conservation through building modifications including,
28 but not limited to, insulation, weatherization, and the installation of
29 alternative energy devices has been shown to be a prudent means of
30 reducing energy consumption costs and the need for additional costly
31 facilities to produce and supply energy;

1 (e) Because of the high cost of available capital, the purchase of
2 energy conservation devices is not possible for many Nebraskans. The
3 prohibitively high interest rates for private capital create a situation
4 in which the necessary capital cannot be obtained solely from private
5 enterprise sources and there is a need for the stimulation of investment
6 of private capital, thereby encouraging the purchase of energy
7 conservation devices and energy conserving building modifications;

8 (f) The increased cost per capita of supplying adequate life-
9 sustaining energy needs has reduced the amount of funds, both public and
10 private, available for providing other necessities of life, including
11 food, health care, and safe, sanitary housing; and

12 (g) The continuing purchase of energy supplies results in the
13 transfer of ever-increasing amounts of capital to out-of-state energy
14 suppliers.

15 (4) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

16 (a) There exist within this state unemployment and underemployment
17 especially in areas of basic economic activity, caused by economic
18 decline and need for diversification of the economic base, needlessly
19 increasing public expenditures for unemployment compensation and welfare,
20 decreasing the tax base, reducing tax revenue, and resulting in economic
21 and social liabilities to the entire state;

22 (b) Such unemployment and underemployment cause areas of the state
23 to deteriorate and become substandard and blighted and such conditions
24 result in making such areas economic or social liabilities harmful to the
25 economic and social well-being of the entire state and the communities in
26 which they exist, needlessly increasing public expenditures, imposing
27 onerous state and municipal burdens, decreasing the tax base, reducing
28 tax revenue, substantially impairing or arresting the sound growth of the
29 state and the municipalities, depreciating general state and community-
30 wide values, and contributing to the spread of disease and crime which
31 necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of public funds

1 for the preservation of the public health and safety, for crime
2 prevention, correction, prosecution, and punishment, for the treatment of
3 juvenile delinquency, for the maintenance of adequate police, fire, and
4 accident protection, and for other public services and facilities;

5 (c) There exist within this state conditions resulting from the
6 concentration of population of various counties, cities, and villages
7 which require the construction, maintenance, and operation of adequate
8 hospital and nursing facilities for the care of the public health. Since
9 these conditions cannot be remedied by the ordinary operations of private
10 enterprises and since provision of adequate hospital, nursing, and
11 medical care is a public use, it is in the public interest that adequate
12 hospital and medical facilities and care be provided in order to care for
13 and protect the public health and welfare;

14 (d) Creation of basic economic jobs in the private sector and the
15 promotion of health and welfare by the means provided under the Nebraska
16 Investment Finance Authority Act and the resulting reduction of needless
17 public expenditures, expansion of the tax base, provision of hospitals
18 and health care and related facilities, and increase of tax revenue are
19 needed within this state; and

20 (e) Stimulation of economic development throughout the state and the
21 provision of health care at affordable prices are matters of state
22 policy, public interest, and statewide concern and within the powers and
23 authority inherent in and reserved to the state in order that the state
24 and its municipalities shall not continue to be endangered by areas which
25 consume an excessive proportion of their revenue, in order that the
26 economic base of the state may be broadened and stabilized thereby
27 providing jobs and necessary tax base, and in order that adequate health
28 care services be provided to all residents of this state.

29 (5) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

30 (a) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
31 municipalities, as defined in section 81-15,149, in providing wastewater

1 treatment facilities and safe drinking water facilities. The federal
2 funding provided for wastewater treatment facilities is extremely limited
3 while the need to provide and improve wastewater treatment facilities and
4 safe drinking water facilities is great;

5 (b) The construction, development, rehabilitation, and improvement
6 of modern and efficient sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities
7 are essential to protecting and improving the state's water quality, the
8 provision of adequate wastewater treatment facilities and safe drinking
9 water facilities is essential to economic growth and development, and new
10 sources of financing for such projects are needed;

11 (c) The federal government has acted to end the system of federal
12 construction grants for clean water projects and has instead provided for
13 capitalization grants to capitalize state revolving funds for wastewater
14 treatment projects and will soon expand that to include safe drinking
15 water facilities, and the state has created or is expected to create
16 appropriate funds or accounts for such purpose. The state is required or
17 expected to be required to provide matching funds for deposit into such
18 funds or accounts, and there is a need for financing in excess of the
19 amount which can be provided by the federal money and the state match;
20 and

21 (d) Additional assistance can be provided to municipalities as
22 defined in section 81-15,149 to alleviate the problems of water pollution
23 or the provision of safe drinking water by providing for the issuance of
24 revenue bonds, the proceeds of which shall be deposited into the
25 Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund or the comparable
26 state fund to finance safe drinking water facilities. Nothing in this
27 section shall prohibit the provision of loans, including loans made
28 pursuant to the Conservation Corporation Act prior to July 1, 2026, to a
29 municipality as defined in section 81-15,149 for the construction,
30 development, rehabilitation, operation, maintenance, and improvement of
31 wastewater treatment facilities or safe drinking water facilities.

1 (6) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) There is a need within this state for financing to assist public
3 school boards and school districts and private for-profit or not-for-
4 profit schools in connection with removal of materials determined to be
5 hazardous to the health and well-being of the residents of the state and
6 the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers and that the
7 federal funding provided for such projects is extremely limited and the
8 need and requirement to remove such materials and to reduce or eliminate
9 accessibility barriers from school buildings is great;

10 (b) The financing of the removal of such environmental hazards and
11 the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers is essential to
12 protecting and improving the facilities in the state which provide
13 educational benefits and services;

14 (c) The federal government has directed schools to remove such
15 hazardous materials and to reduce or eliminate accessibility barriers;
16 and

17 (d) The problems enumerated in this subsection cannot be remedied
18 through the operation of private enterprise or individual communities or
19 both but may be alleviated through the assistance of the authority to
20 encourage the investment of private capital and assist in the financing
21 of the removal of environmental hazards and the reduction or elimination
22 of accessibility barriers in educational facilities in this state in
23 order to provide for a clean, safe, and accessible environment to protect
24 the health and welfare of the citizens and residents of this state.

25 (7) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

26 (a) The rapidly rising volume of waste deposited by society
27 threatens the capacity of existing and future landfills. The nature of
28 waste disposal means that unknown quantities of potentially toxic and
29 hazardous materials are being buried and pose a constant threat to the
30 ground water supply. In addition, the nature of the waste and the
31 disposal methods utilized allow the waste to remain basically inert for

1 decades, if not centuries, without decomposition;

2 (b) Wastes filling Nebraska's landfills may at best represent a
3 potential resource, but without proper management wastes are hazards to
4 the environment and to the public health and welfare;

5 (c) The growing concern with ground water protection and the desire
6 to avoid financial risks inherent in ground water contamination have
7 caused many smaller landfills to close in favor of using higher-volume
8 facilities. Larger operations allow for better ground water protection at
9 a relatively lower and more manageable cost;

10 (d) The reduction of solid waste at the source and the recycling of
11 reusable waste materials will reduce the flow of waste to landfills and
12 increase the supply of reusable materials for the use of the public;

13 (e) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
14 counties, cities, villages, entities created under the Interlocal
15 Cooperation Act and the Joint Public Agency Act, and private persons with
16 the construction and operation of new solid waste disposal areas or
17 facilities and with the closure, monitoring, and remediation of existing
18 solid waste disposal areas and facilities;

19 (f) Financing the construction and operation of new solid waste
20 disposal areas and facilities and financing the closure, monitoring, and
21 remediation of existing and former solid waste disposal areas and
22 facilities in the state is essential to protect the environment and the
23 public health and welfare;

24 (g) The federal government has directed that effective October 1,
25 1993, all solid waste disposal areas and facilities shall be upgraded to
26 meet stringent siting, design, construction, operation, closure,
27 monitoring, and remediation requirements; and

28 (h) The problems enumerated in this subsection cannot be remedied
29 through the operation of private enterprise or individual communities or
30 both but may be alleviated through the assistance of the authority to
31 encourage the investment of private capital and to assist in the

1 financing of solid waste disposal areas and facilities and in the removal
2 of environmental hazards in solid waste disposal areas and facilities in
3 this state in order to provide for a clean environment to protect the
4 health and welfare of the citizens and residents of this state.

5 (8) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

6 (a) During emergencies the resources of political subdivisions must
7 be effectively directed and coordinated to public safety agencies to save
8 lives, to protect property, and to meet the needs of citizens;

9 (b) There exists a need for public safety communication systems for
10 use by Nebraska's public safety agencies as defined in the Nebraska
11 Public Safety Communication System Act;

12 (c) Investment in the public safety communication infrastructure is
13 required to ensure the effectiveness of such public safety agencies.
14 Since the maintenance of public safety is a paramount concern but the
15 cost of purchasing and operating multiple communication infrastructures
16 is prohibitive, it is imperative that political subdivisions cooperate in
17 their efforts to obtain real and personal property to establish, operate,
18 maintain, and manage public safety communication systems; and

19 (d) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
20 political subdivisions and any entities created under the Interlocal
21 Cooperation Act and the Joint Public Agency Act with the acquisition,
22 construction, and operation of real and personal property of public
23 safety communication systems.

24 (9) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that, as of May 27,
25 2005, and in connection with the financing of agricultural projects,
26 there is a need to increase both the limit on individual net worth and
27 the limit on the aggregate loan amount that may be provided by the
28 authority. Such adjustments are necessary to address the inadequate
29 supply of and pressing need for farm credit and agricultural loan
30 financing at interest rates and terms that are consistent with the needs
31 of farmers, particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural

1 enterprises.

2 (10) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

3 (a) The amount of funding and other resources available to remedy
4 the problems identified in this section has been, and continues to be,
5 insufficient. Accordingly, the authority must be provided with additional
6 powers to adequately address the problems identified in this section with
7 funding derived from public and private sources and state and federal
8 sources;

9 (b) Carrying out the purposes of the Nebraska Investment Finance
10 Authority Act may necessitate innovative agreements with public agencies
11 and private entities and it is the policy of this state to encourage such
12 public-private and intergovernmental cooperation; and

13 (c) Better, more broad-based sources of financing must be made
14 available to the authority and by the authority to the private sector of
15 the economy to enable the authority to address the problems identified in
16 this section.

17 **Sec. 31.** Section 66-1605, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 66-1605 Council means the Propane Education and Research Council
20 established under section ~~sections 66-1617 and~~ 66-1618.

21 **Sec. 32.** Section 66-1618, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
22 amended to read:

23 66-1618 (1)(a) ~~(1)~~ The council shall be appointed by the Governor
24 ~~within sixty days after the date the vote is certified to the Governor~~
25 ~~pursuant to section 66-1617.~~

26 (b) The council shall consist of five ~~nine~~ members, including two
27 ~~four~~ members representing retail marketers, one member representing
28 wholesalers, suppliers, and importers, one member representing
29 manufacturers and distributors of liquefied petroleum gas equipment, ~~one~~
30 ~~member representing the academic or propane research community, one~~
31 ~~propane user or consumer,~~ and the State Fire Marshal or his or her

1 designee. Other than the State Fire Marshal or his or her designee and
2 the representatives of the research community and consumers, members
3 shall be full-time employees or owners of businesses in the industry or
4 representatives of agriculture cooperatives. Only one person from any
5 company or an affiliated company may serve on the council at a time. All
6 members shall be Nebraska residents, except that the members representing
7 wholesalers, suppliers, and importers and manufacturers and distributors
8 of liquefied petroleum gas equipment may be residents of other states.

9 (2) Members of the council shall serve terms of four ~~three~~ years,
10 except that, of the initial members, three shall be appointed for terms
11 of one year and three shall be appointed for terms of two years. Members
12 filling unexpired terms shall be appointed in a manner consistent with
13 this section. Members may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms,
14 except that members filling unexpired terms may serve a maximum of seven
15 consecutive years. Members filling unexpired terms shall be appointed in
16 a manner consistent with this section. Former members may be reappointed
17 if they have not been members for a period of two years.

18 **Sec. 33.** Section 66-2001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
19 2024, is amended to read:

20 66-2001 (1) The Natural Gas Fuel Board is hereby established to
21 advise the Department of Environment and Energy regarding the promotion
22 of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel in Nebraska. The board terminates
23 on July 1, 2026. The board shall provide recommendations relating to:

24 (a) Distribution, infrastructure, and workforce development for
25 natural gas to be used as a motor vehicle fuel;

26 (b) Loans, grants, and tax incentives to encourage the use of
27 natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel for individuals and public and
28 private fleets; and

29 (c) Such other matters as it deems appropriate.

30 (2) The board shall consist of eight members appointed by the
31 Governor. The Governor shall make the initial appointments by October 1,

1 2012. The board shall include:

2 (a) One member representing a jurisdictional utility as defined in
3 section 66-1802;

4 (b) One member representing a metropolitan utilities district;

5 (c) One member representing the interests of the transportation
6 industry in the state;

7 (d) One member representing the interests of the business community
8 in the state, specifically fueling station owners or operators;

9 (e) One member representing natural gas marketers or pipelines in
10 the state;

11 (f) One member representing automobile dealerships or repair
12 businesses in the state;

13 (g) One member representing labor interests in the state; and

14 (h) One member representing environmental interests in the state,
15 specifically air quality.

16 (3) All appointments shall be subject to the approval of a majority
17 of the members of the Legislature if the Legislature is in session, and
18 if the Legislature is not in session, any appointment to fill a vacancy
19 shall be temporary until the next session of the Legislature, at which
20 time a majority of the members of the Legislature may approve or
21 disapprove such appointment.

22 (4) Members shall be appointed for terms of four years, except that
23 of the initial appointees the terms of the members representing a
24 jurisdictional utility and a metropolitan utilities district shall expire
25 on September 30, 2015, the terms of the members representing the
26 transportation industry, the business community, natural gas marketers or
27 pipelines, and automobile dealerships or repair businesses shall expire
28 on September 30, 2014, and the terms of the members representing labor
29 and environmental interests shall expire on September 30, 2013. Members
30 may be reappointed. A member shall serve until a successor is appointed
31 and qualified.

1 (5) A vacancy on the board shall exist in the event of death,
2 disability, resignation, or removal for cause of a member. Any vacancy on
3 the board arising other than from the expiration of a term shall be
4 filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. An
5 appointment to fill a vacancy shall be made by the Governor with the
6 approval of a majority of the Legislature, and any person so appointed
7 shall have the same qualifications as the person whom he or she succeeds.

8 (6) The board shall meet at least once annually.

9 (7) The members shall not be reimbursed for expenses associated with
10 carrying out their duties as members.

11 (8) The department shall provide administrative support to the board
12 as necessary so that the board may carry out its duties.

13 (9) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

14 **Sec. 34.** Section 71-702, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2024, is amended to read:

16 71-702 (1) The Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council is
17 created. The advisory council terminates on July 1, 2026. Prior to July
18 1, 2026, the advisory council ~~and~~ shall consist of not more than thirty
19 members, at least three-fourths of whom are women. At least one member
20 shall be appointed from the following disciplines: (a) An obstetrician/
21 gynecologist; (b) a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant from a
22 rural community; (c) a geriatrics physician or nurse; (d) a pediatrician;
23 (e) a community public health representative from each congressional
24 district; (f) a health educator; (g) an insurance industry
25 representative; (h) a mental health professional; (i) a representative
26 from a statewide health volunteer agency; (j) a private health care
27 industry representative; (k) an epidemiologist or a health statistician;
28 (l) a foundation representative; and (m) a woman who is a health care
29 consumer from each of the following age categories: Eighteen to thirty;
30 thirty-one to forty; forty-one to sixty-five; and sixty-six and older.
31 The membership shall also include a representative of the University of

1 Nebraska Medical Center, a representative from Creighton University
2 Medical Center, the chief medical officer if one is appointed under
3 section 81-3115, and the Title V Administrator of the Department of
4 Health and Human Services.

5 (2) The Governor shall appoint advisory council members and shall
6 consider and attempt to balance representation based on political party
7 affiliation, race, and different geographical areas of Nebraska when
8 making appointments. The Governor shall appoint the first chairperson and
9 vice-chairperson of the advisory council. There shall be two ex officio,
10 nonvoting members from the Legislature, one of which shall be the
11 chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee.

12 (3) The terms of the initial members shall be as follows: One-third
13 shall serve for one-year terms, one-third shall serve for two-year terms,
14 and one-third shall serve for three-year terms including the members
15 designated chairperson and vice-chairperson. Thereafter members shall
16 serve for three-year terms. Members may not serve more than two
17 consecutive three-year terms.

18 (4) The Governor shall make the appointments within three months
19 after July 13, 2000.

20 (5) The advisory council shall meet quarterly the first two years.
21 After this time the advisory council shall meet at least every six months
22 or upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of the voting members.
23 A quorum shall be one-half of the voting members.

24 (6) The members of the advisory council shall be reimbursed for
25 expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 and pursuant to
26 policies of the advisory council. Funds for reimbursement for expenses
27 shall be from the Women's Health Initiative Fund.

28 (7) The advisory council shall advise the Women's Health Initiative
29 of Nebraska in carrying out its duties under section 71-701 and may
30 solicit private funds to support the initiative.

31 **Sec. 35.** Section 71-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 71-705 The Women's Health Initiative Fund is created. The fund
3 terminates on July 1, 2026. The fund shall consist of money received as
4 gifts or grants or collected as fees or charges from any federal, state,
5 public, or private source. Money in the fund shall be used to reimburse
6 the expenses of the Women's Health Initiative of Nebraska and expenses of
7 members of the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council. Nothing in
8 sections 71-701 to 71-707 requires the Women's Health Initiative of
9 Nebraska to accept any private donations that are not in keeping with the
10 goals and objectives set forth by the initiative and the Department of
11 Health and Human Services. No funds expended or received by or through
12 the initiative shall pay for abortion referral or abortion services. Any
13 money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
14 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
15 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

16 **Sec. 36.** Section 71-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 71-706 The Department of Health and Human Services shall have all
19 powers necessary to implement the purposes and intent of sections 71-701
20 to 71-707, including applying for, receiving, and administering federal
21 and other public and private funds credited to the Women's Health
22 Initiative Fund prior to July 1, 2026. Any funds obtained for the Women's
23 Health Initiative of Nebraska shall be remitted to the State Treasurer
24 for credit to the Women's Health Initiative Fund prior to July 1, 2026.

25 **Sec. 37.** Section 71-814, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 71-814 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services is
28 created. Members of the committee shall have a demonstrated interest and
29 commitment and specialized knowledge, experience, or expertise relating
30 to the provision of mental health services in the State of Nebraska. The
31 committee shall consist of twenty-three members appointed by the Governor

1 as follows: (a) One regional governing board member, (b) one regional
2 administrator, (c) twelve consumers of behavioral health services or
3 their family members, (d) two providers of behavioral health services,
4 (e) two representatives from the State Department of Education, including
5 one representative from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the
6 State Department of Education, (f) three representatives from the
7 Department of Health and Human Services representing mental health,
8 social services, and medicaid, (g) one representative from the Nebraska
9 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and (h) one
10 representative from the Housing Office of the Community and Rural
11 Development Division of the Department of Economic Development.

12 (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)
13 serve as the state's mental health planning council as required by Public
14 Law 102-321, (b) conduct regular meetings, (c) provide advice and
15 assistance to the division relating to the provision of mental health
16 services and, beginning July 1, 2026, substance use disorder services in
17 the State of Nebraska, including, but not limited to, the development,
18 implementation, provision, and funding of organized peer support
19 services, (d) promote the interests of consumers and their families,
20 including, but not limited to, their inclusion and involvement in all
21 aspects of services design, planning, implementation, provision,
22 education, evaluation, and research, (e) provide reports as requested by
23 the division, and (f) engage in such other activities as directed or
24 authorized by the division.

25 (3) Beginning July 1, 2026, the State Advisory Committee on Mental
26 Health Services shall also perform the duties of the State Advisory
27 Committee on Substance Abuse Services.

28 **Sec. 38.** Section 71-815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 71-815 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services
31 is created. The State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services

1 terminates on July 1, 2026. Members of the committee shall have a
2 demonstrated interest and commitment and specialized knowledge,
3 experience, or expertise relating to the provision of substance abuse
4 services in the State of Nebraska. The committee shall consist of twelve
5 members appointed by the Governor and shall include at least three
6 consumers of substance abuse services.

7 (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)
8 conduct regular meetings, (b) provide advice and assistance to the
9 division relating to the provision of substance abuse services in the
10 State of Nebraska, (c) promote the interests of consumers and their
11 families, (d) provide reports as requested by the division, and (e)
12 engage in such other activities as directed or authorized by the
13 division.

14 (3) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

15 **Sec. 39.** Section 71-2454.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
16 is amended to read:

17 71-2454.01 (1) The Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task
18 Force is created. The task force shall conduct a study to develop
19 recommendations of which controlled substances shall be reported by a
20 veterinarian to the prescription drug monitoring program created under
21 section 71-2454 when dispensing drugs from a veterinarian's office or an
22 animal shelter. The study shall include appropriate methods and
23 procedures of reporting by the veterinarians with the necessary database
24 field information. The task force shall utilize nationally available
25 resources afforded by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards
26 and the Department of State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs of the
27 American Veterinary Medical Association in development of the
28 recommendations.

29 (2) The task force shall consist of at least ten members appointed
30 by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the
31 Legislature as follows: One member of the Health and Human Services

1 Committee; two at-large members of the Legislature; three members
2 selected from a list of six veterinarians provided by the Board of
3 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, one of whom is employed by or provides
4 services at an animal shelter; one pharmacist nominated by the Nebraska
5 Pharmacists Association or its successor organization; and two members
6 nominated by the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association or its successor
7 organization. The task force shall also include a representative of the
8 prescription drug monitoring program who shall be a nonvoting member and
9 serve in an advisory capacity only.

10 (3) The members of the task force shall be appointed within one
11 hundred twenty days after February 25, 2016. The initial meeting of the
12 task force shall be convened within one hundred eighty days after
13 February 25, 2016. The task force shall elect a chairperson and may elect
14 any additional officers from among its members. All task force members
15 shall serve without compensation.

16 (4) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
17 the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on or before
18 December 1, 2016.

19 (5) For purposes of this section, animal shelter has the definition
20 found in section 54-626.

21 (6) The Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force
22 terminates on July 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

23 **Sec. 40.** Section 71-4503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 71-4503 The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish
26 the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education
27 Program. Until July 1, 2026, the ~~The~~ department shall consult with the
28 Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council created in section
29 71-4504 regarding the program. The department shall make information
30 regarding the program available on its website on or before June 30,
31 2018. The information shall include, but not be limited to:

1 (1) Continuing education opportunities regarding palliative care for
2 health care professionals;

3 (2) Delivery of palliative care in the home and in primary,
4 secondary, and tertiary environments;

5 (3) Best practices in palliative care delivery;

6 (4) Educational materials for consumers of palliative care;

7 (5) Referral information for palliative care; and

8 (6) Palliative care delivery systems.

9 **Sec. 41.** Section 71-4504, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
10 2024, is amended to read:

11 71-4504 (1) The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council
12 is created. The council terminates on July 1, 2026. Until July 1, 2026,
13 the council shall consult with and advise the Department of Health and
14 Human Services on matters relating to palliative care initiatives. The
15 council shall:

16 (a) Survey palliative care providers regarding best practices and
17 recommendations;

18 (b) Work with the department; and

19 (c) Make recommendations to the department regarding information on
20 the website pursuant to section 71-4503 as standards of care change.

21 (2) The council shall be composed of nine members appointed by the
22 Governor for three-year terms. At least two of the members shall be
23 physicians or nurses certified under the Hospice and Palliative Medicine
24 Certification Program administered by the American Board of Internal
25 Medicine. One member shall be an employee of the department familiar with
26 hospice and palliative medicine. The remaining members shall (a) have
27 palliative care work experience, (b) have experience with palliative care
28 delivery models in a variety of settings, such as acute care, long-term
29 care, and hospice care, and with a variety of populations, including
30 pediatric patients, youth patients, and adult patients, or (c) be
31 representatives of palliative care patients and their family caregivers.

1 (3) The council shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The
2 members shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The members shall
3 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 but
4 shall not receive any other compensation for such services.

5 (4) The department shall provide a place and time for the council to
6 meet and provide staffing assistance as necessary for the meetings.

7 **Sec. 42.** Section 71-5301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
8 2024, is amended to read:

9 71-5301 For purposes of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act, unless
10 the context otherwise requires:

11 ~~(1) Council means the Advisory Council on Public Water Supply;~~

12 (1) ~~(2)~~ Department means the Department of Environment and Energy;

13 (2) ~~(3)~~ Director means the Director of Environment and Energy or his
14 or her authorized representative;

15 (3) ~~(4)~~ Designated agent means any political subdivision or
16 corporate entity having the demonstrated capability and authority to
17 carry out in whole or in part the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and
18 with which the director has consummated a legal and binding contract
19 covering specifically delegated responsibilities;

20 (4) ~~(5)~~ Major construction, extension, or alteration means those
21 structural changes that affect the source of supply, treatment processes,
22 or transmission of water to service areas but does not include the
23 extension of service mains within established service areas;

24 (5) ~~(6)~~ Operator means the individual or individuals responsible for
25 the continued performance of the water supply system or any part of such
26 system during assigned duty hours;

27 (6) ~~(7)~~ Owner means any person owning or operating a public water
28 system;

29 (7) ~~(8)~~ Person means any individual, corporation, firm, partnership,
30 limited liability company, association, company, trust, estate, public or
31 private institution, group, agency, political subdivision, or other

1 entity or any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of any of
2 such entities;

3 (8) ~~(9)~~ Water supply system means all sources of water and their
4 surroundings under the control of one owner and includes all structures,
5 conduits, and appurtenances by means of which such water is collected,
6 treated, stored, or delivered except service pipes between street mains
7 and buildings and the plumbing within or in connection with the buildings
8 served;

9 (9)(a) ~~(10)(a)~~ Public water system means a system for providing the
10 public with water for human consumption through pipes or other
11 constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen service
12 connections or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five
13 individuals daily at least sixty days per year. Public water system
14 includes (i) any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution
15 facilities under control of the operator of such system and used
16 primarily in connection with such system and (ii) any collection or
17 pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used
18 primarily in connection with such system. Public water system does not
19 include a special irrigation district. A public water system is either a
20 community water system or a noncommunity water system.

21 (b) Service connection does not include a connection to a system
22 that delivers water by a constructed conveyance other than a pipe if (i)
23 the water is used exclusively for purposes other than residential uses,
24 consisting of drinking, bathing, cooking, and other similar uses, (ii)
25 the department determines that alternative water to achieve the
26 equivalent level of public health protection provided by the Nebraska
27 Safe Drinking Water Act and rules and regulations under the act is
28 provided for residential or similar uses for drinking and cooking, or
29 (iii) the department determines that the water provided for residential
30 or similar uses for drinking, cooking, and bathing is centrally treated
31 or treated at the point of entry by the provider, a pass-through entity,

1 or the user to achieve the equivalent level of protection provided by the
2 Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the rules and regulations under the
3 act.

4 (c) Special irrigation district means an irrigation district in
5 existence prior to May 18, 1994, that provides primarily agricultural
6 service through a piped water system with only incidental residential or
7 similar use if the system or the residential or similar users of the
8 system comply with exclusion provisions of subdivision (b)(ii) or (iii)
9 of this subdivision;

10 (10) ~~(11)~~ Drinking water standards means rules and regulations
11 adopted and promulgated pursuant to section 71-5302 which (a) establish
12 maximum levels for harmful materials which, in the judgment of the
13 director, may have an adverse effect on the health of persons and (b)
14 apply only to public water systems;

15 (11) ~~(12)~~ Lead free means (a) not containing more than two-tenths
16 percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux and (b) not
17 containing more than a weighted average of twenty-five hundredths percent
18 lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe
19 fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures;

20 (12) ~~(13)~~ Community water system means a public water system that
21 (a) serves at least fifteen service connections used by year-round
22 residents of the area served by the system or (b) regularly serves at
23 least twenty-five year-round residents;

24 (13) ~~(14)~~ Noncommunity water system means a public water system that
25 is not a community water system;

26 (14) ~~(15)~~ Nontransient noncommunity water system means a public
27 water system that is not a community water system and that regularly
28 serves at least twenty-five of the same individuals over six months per
29 year; and

30 (15) ~~(16)~~ Federal Safe Drinking Water Act means the federal Safe
31 Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f et seq., as the act existed on January

1 1, 2021.

2 **Sec. 43.** Section 71-5310, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
3 2024, is amended to read:

4 71-5310 (1) The director ~~, with the approval of the council,~~ may
5 authorize variances or exemptions from the drinking water standards
6 issued pursuant to section 71-5302 under conditions and in such manner as
7 deemed they deem necessary and desirable. Prior to July 1, 2026, such
8 variances and exemptions shall be subject to the approval of the Advisory
9 Council on Public Water Supply. Such variances or exemptions shall be
10 permitted under conditions and in a manner which are not less stringent
11 than the conditions under, and the manner in which, variances and
12 exemptions may be granted under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

13 (2) Prior to granting a variance or an exemption, the director shall
14 provide notice, in a newspaper of general circulation serving the area
15 served by the public water system, of the proposed exemption or variance
16 and that interested persons may request a public hearing on the proposed
17 exemption or variance. The director may require the system to provide
18 other appropriate notice necessary to provide adequate notice to persons
19 served by the system.

20 (3) If a public hearing is requested, the director shall set a time
21 and place for the hearing and such hearing shall be held before the
22 department prior to the variance or exemption being issued. Frivolous and
23 insubstantial requests for a hearing may be denied by the director. An
24 exemption or variance shall be conditioned on monitoring, testing,
25 analyzing, or other requirements to insure the protection of the public
26 health. A variance or an exemption granted shall include a schedule of
27 compliance under which the public water system is required to meet each
28 contaminant level or treatment technique requirement for which a variance
29 or an exemption is granted within a reasonable time as specified by the
30 director. Prior to July 1, 2026, the director's determination shall be
31 subject to with the approval of the Advisory Council on Public Water

1 Supply council.

2 **Sec. 44.** Section 71-5311, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 71-5311 (1) There is hereby established the Advisory Council on
5 Public Water Supply which shall advise and assist the department in
6 administering the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act. The council
7 terminates on July 1, 2026.

8 (2) The council shall be composed of seven members appointed by the
9 Governor, (a) one of whom shall be a professional engineer, (b) one of
10 whom shall be a licensed physician, (c) two of whom shall be consumers of
11 a public water system, (d) two of whom shall be operators of a public
12 water system who possess a license issued by the department to operate a
13 public water system. One such operator shall represent a system serving a
14 population of five thousand or less, and one such operator shall
15 represent a system serving a population of more than five thousand, and
16 (e) one of whom shall be, at the time of appointment, (i) an individual
17 who owns a public water system, (ii) a member of the governing board of a
18 public or private corporation which owns a public water system, or (iii)
19 in the case of a political subdivision which owns a public water system,
20 a member of the subdivision's governing board or board of public works or
21 similar board which oversees the operation of a public water system.

22 (3) All members shall be appointed for three-year terms. No member
23 shall serve more than three consecutive three-year terms. Each member
24 shall hold office until the expiration of his or her term or until a
25 successor has been appointed. Any vacancy occurring in council
26 membership, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled within
27 sixty days by the Governor by appointment from the appropriate category
28 for the unexpired term.

29 (4) The council shall meet not less than once each year. Special
30 meetings of the council may be called by the director or upon the written
31 request of any two members of the council explaining the reason for such

1 meeting. The place of the meeting shall be set by the director. Such
2 officers as the council deems necessary shall be elected every three
3 years beginning with the first meeting in the year 1990. A majority of
4 the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
5 of business. Representatives of the department shall attend each meeting.
6 Every act of the majority of the members of the council shall be deemed
7 to be the act of the council.

8 (5) No member of the council shall receive any compensation, but
9 each member shall be entitled, while serving on the business of the
10 council, to receive his or her travel and other necessary expenses while
11 so serving away from his or her place of residence as provided in
12 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

13 (6) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

14 **Sec. 45.** Section 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2024, is amended to read:

16 71-7012 The Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee is
17 established. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The committee
18 consists of the members of the Mammography Screening Committee serving
19 immediately prior to September 9, 1995, and eight additional members
20 appointed by the chief executive officer of the department or his or her
21 designee who have expertise or a personal interest in cervical cancer.
22 The committee shall consist of not more than twenty-four volunteer
23 members, at least eight of whom are women, appointed by the chief
24 executive officer or his or her designee. Members of the committee shall
25 be persons interested in health care, the promotion of breast cancer
26 screening, and cervical cancer and shall be drawn from both the private
27 sector and the public sector. At least one member shall be a person who
28 has or who has had breast cancer.

29 Of the initial members of the committee, four shall be appointed for
30 terms of one year and four shall be appointed for terms of two years.
31 Thereafter all appointments shall be for terms of two years. All members

1 shall serve until their successors are appointed. No member shall serve
2 more than two successive two-year terms. Vacancies in the membership of
3 the committee for any cause shall be filled by appointment by the chief
4 executive officer or his or her designee for the unexpired term.

5 Duties of the committee shall include, but not be limited to,
6 encouraging payment of public and private funds to the Breast and
7 Cervical Cancer Cash Fund, researching and recommending to the department
8 reimbursement limits, planning and implementing outreach and educational
9 programs to Nebraska women, advising the department on its operation of
10 the early detection of breast and cervical cancer grant from the United
11 States Department of Health and Human Services, and encouraging payment
12 of public and private funds to the fund. Members of the committee shall
13 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

14 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

15 **Sec. 46.** Section 71-7102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 71-7102 For purposes of the Critical Incident Stress Management Act:

18 ~~(1) Committee means the Interagency Management Committee;~~

19 ~~(2) Council means the Critical Incident Stress Management Council;~~

20 (1) ~~(3)~~ Critical incident means a traumatic or crisis situation;

21 (2) ~~(4)~~ Critical incident stress means a strong emotional,
22 cognitive, or physical reaction which has the potential to interfere with
23 normal functioning, including physical and emotional illness, loss of
24 interest in the job, personality changes, marital discord, and loss of
25 ability to function;

26 (3) ~~(5)~~ Emergency service agency means any law enforcement agency,
27 fire department, emergency medical service, dispatcher, rescue service,
28 hospital as defined in section 71-419, or other entity which provides
29 emergency response services;

30 (4) ~~(6)~~ Emergency service personnel includes law enforcement
31 personnel, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and

1 hospital personnel; and

2 ~~(5) (7)~~ Program means the Critical Incident Stress Management
3 Program.

4 **Sec. 47.** Section 71-7107, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
5 amended to read:

6 71-7107 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall be the
7 lead agency for the program.

8 (2) Until July 1, 2026, the ~~The~~ department shall:

9 (a) (1) Provide office support to program activities;

10 (b) (2) Provide necessary equipment for the program and
11 participants;

12 (c) (3) Provide staff support to the Critical Incident Stress
13 Management Council ~~council~~;

14 (d) (4) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement the
15 program;

16 (e) (5) Recruit hospital personnel and emergency medical workers to
17 be trained as critical incident stress management peers;

18 (f) (6) Participate in the training and continuing education of such
19 peers and mental health professionals; and

20 (g) (7) Appoint a director for the program who shall be an employee
21 of the department and shall be the chairperson of the Interagency
22 Management Committee ~~committee~~.

23 (3) On and after July 1, 2026, the department shall:

24 (a) Coordinate program activities and emergency response;

25 (b) Provide necessary equipment for the program and participants;

26 (c) Recruit hospital personnel and emergency medical workers to be
27 trained as critical incident stress management peers;

28 (d) Participate in the training and continuing education of such
29 peers and mental health professionals;

30 (e) Appoint a director for the program who shall be an employee of
31 the department;

1 (f) Specify the organizational and operational goals for the program
2 and provide overall policy direction for the program;

3 (g) Manage planning and budget development for the program;

4 (h) Manage program development and evaluation;

5 (i) Provide a mechanism for quality assurance that may include
6 certification of critical incident stress management team members;

7 (j) Identify critical incident stress management regions; and

8 (k) Provide backup to regional critical incident stress management
9 teams.

10 (4) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
11 implement the program.

12 **Sec. 48.** Section 71-7108, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 71-7108 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
15 ~~participate in the council and committee,~~ recruit mental health workers
16 for each critical incident stress management region , and participate in
17 the training and continuing education activities of critical incident
18 stress management peers and mental health professionals.

19 (2) The Nebraska State Patrol shall ~~participate in the council and~~
20 ~~committee,~~ receive all initial requests for stress management sessions,
21 coordinate transportation requirements for critical incident stress
22 management team members, recruit members of the law enforcement
23 profession in each region to be trained as critical incident stress
24 management peers, participate in the training and continuing education
25 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
26 professionals, and appoint a member of the patrol to each regional
27 management committee.

28 (3) The State Fire Marshal shall ~~participate in the council and~~
29 ~~committee,~~ cooperate in providing transportation for critical incident
30 stress management teams, recruit firefighters to be trained as critical
31 incident stress management peers in each critical incident stress

1 management region, participate in the training and continuing education
2 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
3 professionals, and appoint an individual who is employed by the State
4 Fire Marshal to be on each regional management committee.

5 (4) The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall ~~participate in~~
6 ~~the council and committee,~~ promote stress management planning as part of
7 emergency management preparedness, promote preincident education programs
8 to acquaint emergency service personnel with stress management
9 techniques, and participate in the training and continuing education
10 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
11 professionals.

12 (5) Until July 1, 2026, the department, patrol, State Fire Marshal,
13 and agency shall participate in the Critical Incident Stress Management
14 Council and the Interagency Management Committee.

15 **Sec. 49.** Section 71-7109, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 71-7109 The ~~council shall appoint~~ a statewide clinical director
18 shall be appointed by the Critical Incident Stress Management Council
19 until July 1, 2026, and by the Department of Health and Human Services on
20 and after July 1, 2026. The statewide clinical director ~~shall be a member~~
21 ~~of the committee and, working with the committee,~~ shall supervise and
22 evaluate the professional and peer support team members, including the
23 regional clinical directors, and until July 1, 2026, shall be a member of
24 and work with the Interagency Management Committee for such purpose. The
25 statewide clinical director may conduct critical incident stress
26 management training and continuing education activities.

27 **Sec. 50.** Section 71-7110, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
28 amended to read:

29 71-7110 Each critical incident stress management region shall have a
30 regional management committee composed of representatives of the
31 Department of Health and Human Services, the State Fire Marshal, and the

1 Nebraska State Patrol and a regional clinical director. The regional
2 clinical director shall have a graduate degree in a mental health
3 discipline. The regional management committee shall be responsible for
4 the implementation and coordination of the program in the region
5 according to the specifications developed by the Critical Incident Stress
6 Management Council ~~council~~ and Interagency Management Committee prior to
7 July 1, 2026, and developed by the department on and after July 1, 2026.
8 The regional management committee shall develop critical incident stress
9 management teams to facilitate the stress management process.

10 **Sec. 51.** Section 72-811, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
11 amended to read:

12 72-811 For purposes of sections 72-811 to 72-818:

13 (1) Committee means: ~~shall mean~~

14 (a) The the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee prior to July
15 1, 2026; and

16 (b) The Department of Administrative Services beginning July 1,
17 2026;

18 (2) Excess, referring to land, means ~~shall mean~~ (a) unused in whole
19 or in part by any state agency for the purposes for which the land was
20 acquired or received or (b) without current defined plans by any state
21 agency for the use of the land for the agency's mission for the next
22 fiscal year; and

23 (3) Vacant, referring to buildings, means ~~shall mean~~ (a) unoccupied,
24 (b) unused in whole or in part by any state agency for the purposes for
25 which the building was designed, intended, or remodeled, or (c) without
26 current defined plans by any state agency for the use of the building for
27 the agency's mission for the next fiscal year.

28 **Sec. 52.** Section 72-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 72-812 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee is hereby
31 created. The committee shall be composed of the Director of

1 Administrative Services, the State Building Administrator, and the
2 administrator of the Task Force for Building Renewal created pursuant to
3 section 81-174. When reviewing and considering action to be taken in
4 regard to a particular building or piece of land, the committee shall
5 also include a representative of the state agency responsible for the
6 building or land as a nonvoting member.

7 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee terminates July 1,
8 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

9 **Sec. 53.** Section 72-2101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 72-2101 The Governor's Residence Advisory Commission is created. The
12 commission terminates on July 1, 2026. The commission shall conduct an
13 annual inspection of the Governor's residence. A report on the inspection
14 shall be submitted to the Governor within thirty days after the day of
15 the inspection. The report shall include recommendations for major
16 maintenance or repair projects, if needed. Implementation and priority of
17 an approved major maintenance or repair project shall be determined by
18 the Governor in cooperation with the Director of Administrative Services.
19 Additionally, no changes, additions, deletions, or other alterations to
20 the residence, including its exterior, interior, decorative objects,
21 contents, or grounds shall be made without the prior approval of the
22 commission, except for the Governor's private living quarters located on
23 the second floor of the residence.

24 Sections 72-2101 to 72-2105 terminate on July 1, 2026.

25 **Sec. 54.** Section 81-1108.41, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
26 is amended to read:

27 81-1108.41 (1) The division shall cause a state comprehensive
28 capital facilities plan to be developed. The plan shall project the
29 state's facilities needs for a period of six years and shall be based on
30 programmatic projections and input from each state agency. To aid in the
31 development of the plan prior to July 1, 2026, the Governor shall appoint

1 a State Comprehensive Capital Facilities Planning Committee with
2 representatives from various state agencies, and the ~~The~~ committee
3 shall develop and adopt comprehensive planning guidelines and a process
4 of project prioritization. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026.
5 Beginning July 1, 2026, the division shall be responsible for the
6 comprehensive planning guidelines and the process of project
7 prioritization. The state comprehensive capital facilities plan shall be
8 submitted electronically to the Committee on Building Maintenance for
9 review before such plan shall be submitted to the Governor and the
10 Legislative Fiscal Analyst on or before November 15 prior to the
11 beginning of each biennium. The plan submitted to the Legislative Fiscal
12 Analyst shall be submitted electronically. Prior to July 1, 2026, the The
13 plan shall be based on priorities developed by the State Comprehensive
14 Capital Facilities Planning Committee. The University of Nebraska and any
15 Nebraska state college shall not be required to comply with or be subject
16 to the provisions of this section since these agencies are subject to and
17 participate in statewide facilities planning developed by the
18 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education pursuant to the
19 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act.

20 (2) An appropriation for drawings and construction may be made only
21 after submission of an acceptable program statement on or before
22 September 15 of the year previous to the initiation of such
23 appropriation. Such program statement shall include, but not be limited
24 to, (a) an assessment of the compatibility of the project with the state
25 comprehensive capital facilities plan and the agency or departmental
26 comprehensive capital facilities plan, (b) the identification of the
27 impact of the project on the space utilization of other facilities under
28 the control of the agency or department, and (c) the identification of
29 the future impact on the agency or departmental programmatic needs,
30 demand for utilities in excess of current capacity, parking needs, street
31 and road needs, and site acquisition needs. Such program statement shall

1 be submitted to the division and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The
2 program statement submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall be
3 submitted electronically.

4 (3) No contract for the planning, design, or construction of a new
5 facility or major modification or repair of an existing facility provided
6 for by any state appropriation may be initiated unless an acceptable
7 program statement has been approved by the Governor, the agency or
8 department has submitted to the division a certificate from the Committee
9 on Building Maintenance that there is no state-owned property which is
10 adequate or which through cost-effective renovation, as determined by the
11 division, could be made adequate to meet the agency's or department's
12 needs, and the conditions of the contracts are approved in writing by the
13 division, except that the provisions of this section shall not apply to
14 projects when the total design and construction cost of the project is
15 less than the limit established by the division. Such program statements
16 and contracts shall be reviewed by the division.

17 (4) The division shall file a written report on each program
18 statement and contract reviewed with the Governor and the Legislative
19 Fiscal Analyst. The report submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
20 shall be submitted electronically. This report shall cover the
21 consistency of the project with the state comprehensive capital
22 facilities plan and the agency or departmental comprehensive capital
23 facilities plan. A subsequent review and report upon completion of the
24 planning or design phase of the project shall indicate the compatibility
25 of the project with the agency or departmental comprehensive capital
26 facilities plan, compare the probable cost of the project with accepted
27 cost standards for similar construction projects, and review the
28 relationship of the project to other state agency or departmental capital
29 facilities in the same complex.

30 **Sec. 55.** Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative
31 Services shall assume the duties of:

1 (1) The Suggestion Award Board; and

2 (2) The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee.

3 **Sec. 56.** Section 81-1348, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 81-1348 There is hereby created the Suggestion Award Board. The
6 membership of such board shall consist of the Director of Personnel, the
7 Director of Administrative Services, the Auditor of Public Accounts or
8 his or her designee, and three persons, each to serve a term of three
9 years, selected and appointed by the Governor from the bargaining units
10 listed in section 81-1373, except that the first three appointments made
11 after February 23, 2000, shall be for terms of one year, two years, and
12 three years, as designated by the Governor. Of the persons selected from
13 such bargaining units, one person shall be selected from each of such
14 bargaining units as follows:

15 (1) The first term from the bargaining units listed in subdivisions
16 (1)(a), (b), and (l) of such section;

17 (2) The second term from the bargaining units listed in subdivisions
18 (1)(c), (d), and (g) of such section;

19 (3) The third term from the bargaining units listed in subdivisions
20 (1)(e), (f), and (h) of such section; and

21 (4) The fourth term from the bargaining units listed in subdivisions
22 (1)(i), (j), and (k) of such section.

23 After the fourth term, the appointments shall be made starting from
24 subdivision (1) of this section and following the same sequence.

25 Whenever a vacancy occurs on the board for any reason, the Governor
26 shall appoint an individual to fill such vacancy from the same bargaining
27 unit in which the vacancy exists.

28 The members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
29 81-1174 to 81-1177.

30 The board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to aid in
31 carrying out sections 81-1350 and 81-1351.

1 The Suggestion Award Board terminates on July 1, 2026. This section
2 terminates on July 1, 2026.

3 **Sec. 57.** Section 81-1430, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 81-1430 (1) A task force is hereby established within the Nebraska
6 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the purposes of
7 investigating and studying human trafficking, the methods for advertising
8 human trafficking services, and the victimization of individuals coerced
9 to participate in human trafficking. The task force terminates July 1,
10 2026.

11 (2) The task force shall examine the extent to which human
12 trafficking is prevalent in this state, the scope of efforts being taken
13 to prevent human trafficking from occurring, and the services available
14 to victims of human trafficking in this state. The task force shall
15 utilize information and research available from the Innocence Lost
16 National Initiative. The task force shall research and recommend a model
17 of rehabilitative services for victims of human trafficking that includes
18 input from the areas of law enforcement, social services, the legal
19 profession, the judiciary, mental health, and immigration. The task force
20 shall also investigate the limitations upon victims who wish to come
21 forward and seek medical attention; investigate the potential to stop
22 human trafficking; and investigate the potential to promote recovery, to
23 protect families and children who may be profoundly impacted by such
24 abuse, and to save lives.

25 (3)(a) The Department of Labor shall ~~work with the task force to~~
26 develop or select informational posters for placement around the state.
27 The posters shall be in English, Spanish, and any other language deemed
28 appropriate by the department ~~task force~~. The posters shall include a
29 toll-free telephone number a person may call for assistance, preferably
30 the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline (888)373-7888.

31 (b) Posters shall be placed in rest stops, strip clubs, and casinos.

1 The department task force shall work with local businesses and nonprofit
2 entities associated with the prevention of human trafficking to
3 voluntarily place additional signs in high schools, postsecondary
4 educational institutions, gas stations, hotels, hospitals, health care
5 clinics, urgent care centers, airports, train stations, bus stations, and
6 other locations around the state deemed appropriate by the department
7 task force.

8 (c) Prior to July 1, 2026, the department shall work with the task
9 force to carry out this subsection.

10 (4) The task force shall consist of the following members:

11 (a) The Attorney General or his or her designee;

12 (b) The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law
13 Enforcement and Criminal Justice;

14 (c) The Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his
15 or her designee;

16 (d) The Director of Correctional Services or his or her designee;

17 (e) The chief of police or director of public safety of a city of
18 two hundred thousand inhabitants or more as determined by the most recent
19 federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by
20 the United States Bureau of the Census;

21 (f) The chief of police or director of public safety of a city of
22 less than two hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most
23 recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified
24 count by the United States Bureau of the Census;

25 (g) A county sheriff;

26 (h) A county attorney;

27 (i) A county commissioner;

28 (j) A mayor or city manager;

29 (k) A person involved with the control or prevention of juvenile
30 delinquency;

31 (l) A person involved with the control or prevention of child abuse;

1 (m) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

2 (n) The director of the Commission on Latino-Americans or his or her
3 designee; and

4 (o) Six members, at least three of whom shall be women, from the
5 public at large.

6 (5) The Governor shall appoint the members of the task force listed
7 in subdivisions (4)(e) through (l) and (o) of this section for terms as
8 provided in subsection (6) of this section. The membership of the task
9 force shall represent varying geographic areas and large and small
10 political subdivisions. One member from the public at large shall be a
11 professional representing child welfare, and one member of the public at
12 large shall represent juvenile pretrial diversion programs.

13 (6) The members of the task force appointed by the Governor shall
14 serve six-year terms, except that of the members first appointed, four
15 shall serve initial two-year terms, four shall serve initial four-year
16 terms, and six shall serve initial six-year terms from January 1 next
17 succeeding their appointments. Thereafter, all members shall serve six-
18 year terms. A member may be reappointed at the expiration of his or her
19 term. Any vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall
20 be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the
21 original appointment.

22 (7) No member shall serve beyond the time when he or she holds the
23 office, employment, or status by reason of which he or she was initially
24 eligible for appointment. Any member of the task force appointed by the
25 Governor may be removed from the task force for cause upon notice and an
26 opportunity to be heard at a public hearing. One of the causes for
27 removal shall be absence from three regularly scheduled meetings of the
28 task force during any six-month period when the member has failed to
29 advise the task force in advance of such meeting that he or she will be
30 absent and stating a reason therefor.

31 (8) The chairperson of the task force shall be designated by the

1 Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairperson shall
2 be the chief executive officer of the task force but may delegate such of
3 his or her duties to other members of the task force as may be authorized
4 by the task force.

5 (9) Notwithstanding any provision of law, ordinance, or charter
6 provision to the contrary, membership on the task force shall not
7 disqualify any member from holding any other public office or employment
8 or cause the forfeiture thereof.

9 (10) The members of the task force shall serve on the task force
10 without compensation, but they shall be entitled to receive reimbursement
11 for expenses incurred incident to such service as provided in sections
12 81-1174 to 81-1177.

13 (11) Eleven members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for
14 the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the task
15 force. The task force shall have the power to act by a majority of the
16 members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.

17 (12) Every July 1 and December 1 until July 1, 2026, the task force
18 shall report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature the results
19 of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together
20 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into
21 effect by filing the report with the clerk.

22 **Sec. 58.** Section 81-1431, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
23 amended to read:

24 81-1431 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that law enforcement
25 agencies, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, juvenile detention
26 center staff, and others involved in the juvenile justice system and the
27 criminal justice system and other relevant officials be provided
28 mandatory training regarding issues in human trafficking. Prior to July
29 1, 2026, the The task force established in section 81-1430 shall work
30 with such agencies, persons, and staff to develop a proper curriculum for
31 the training and to determine how the training should be provided. The

1 determination and accompanying legislative recommendations shall be made
2 by December 1, 2012. Such training shall focus on:

- 3 (a) State and federal law regarding human trafficking;
- 4 (b) Methods used in identifying victims of human trafficking who are
5 United States citizens and foreign nationals, including preliminary
6 interview techniques and appropriate questioning methods;
- 7 (c) Methods for prosecuting human traffickers;
- 8 (d) Methods of increasing effective collaboration with
9 nongovernmental organizations and other relevant social service
10 organizations in the course of investigating and prosecuting a human
11 trafficking case;
- 12 (e) Methods for protecting the rights of victims of human
13 trafficking, taking into account the need to consider human rights and
14 the special needs of women and minor victims;
- 15 (f) The necessity of treating victims of human trafficking as crime
16 victims rather than as criminals; and
- 17 (g) Methods for promoting the safety and well-being of all victims
18 of human trafficking.

19 (2) Prior to July 1, 2026, ~~the~~ task force shall also seek the
20 input and participation of appropriate nongovernmental organizations and
21 other relevant organizations regarding the provision, preparation, and
22 presentation of the training called for in this section.

23 **Sec. 59.** Section 81-15,159.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
24 is amended to read:

25 81-15,159.01 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy shall
26 conduct a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs
27 operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and
28 revise such programs. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (a)
29 Whether existing state programs regarding litter and waste reduction and
30 recycling should be amended or merged; (b) a needs assessment of the
31 recycling and composting programs in the state, including the need for

1 infrastructure development operating standards, market development,
2 coordinated public education resulting in behavior change, and incentives
3 to increase recycling and composting; (c) methods to partner with
4 political subdivisions, private industry, and private, nonprofit
5 organizations to most successfully address waste management issues in the
6 state; (d) recommendations regarding existing funding sources and
7 possible new revenue sources at the state and local level to address
8 existing and emerging solid waste management issues; and (e) revisions to
9 existing grant programs to address solid waste management issues in a
10 proactive manner.

11 (2) The Director of Environment and Energy shall establish an
12 advisory committee to advise the department regarding the study described
13 in this section. The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed
14 by the director and shall include no more than nine members. The director
15 shall designate a chairperson of the advisory committee. The members
16 shall receive no compensation for their services. The advisory committee
17 terminates on July 1, 2026.

18 (3) In addition to the advisory committee, the department may hire
19 consultants and special experts to assist in the study described in this
20 section. After completion of the study, the department shall submit a
21 report, including recommendations, to the Executive Board of the
22 Legislative Council and the chairpersons of the Natural Resources
23 Committee, the Urban Affairs Committee, and the Appropriations Committee
24 of the Legislature no later than December 15, 2017. The report shall be
25 submitted electronically.

26 **Sec. 60.** Section 81-15,210, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

28 81-15,210 (1) The director of the Nebraska Emergency Management
29 Agency shall serve as the State Administrator of the Nebraska Emergency
30 Planning and Community Right to Know Act.

31 (2) The State Emergency Response Commission is created and shall be

1 a part of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for administrative
2 purposes. The commission terminates on July 1, 2026. Beginning July 1,
3 2026, the duties of the commission under the Nebraska Emergency Planning
4 and Community Right to Know Act shall be carried out by the Nebraska
5 Emergency Management Agency. The membership of the commission shall
6 include the Director of Environment and Energy or his or her designee,
7 the Director-State Engineer or his or her designee, the Superintendent of
8 Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his or her designee, the State Fire
9 Marshal or his or her designee, the director of the Nebraska Emergency
10 Management Agency or his or her designee, the chief executive officer of
11 the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee, two
12 elected officials or employees of municipal or county government, and one
13 citizen member to represent each of the following interest groups:
14 Firefighters, local emergency management, public or community health,
15 environmental protection, labor, school district, small business,
16 agricultural business, chemical industry, highway transportation, and
17 rail transportation. The Governor shall appoint the municipal or county
18 government officials or employees and the citizen members with the
19 approval of the Legislature. The appointments shall be made to represent
20 the three congressional districts as equally as possible.

21 (3) ~~(2)~~ The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for
22 terms of four years, except that of the first citizen members appointed,
23 three members shall serve for one-year terms, three members shall serve
24 for two-year terms, and two members shall serve for three-year terms, as
25 designated at the time of appointment.

26 (4) ~~(3)~~ A vacancy on the commission shall exist in the event of the
27 death, disability, or resignation of a member. Any member appointed to
28 fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which
29 his or her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed by the Governor
30 for the remainder of such term.

31 **Sec. 61.** Section 81-15,238, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 81-15,238 For purposes of the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment
3 System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act, the
4 definitions in sections 81-15,240 ~~81-15,239~~ to 81-15,244 shall be used.

5 **Sec. 62.** Section 81-15,245, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 81-15,245 The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory
8 Committee is created. The advisory committee terminates on July 1, 2026.
9 The advisory committee shall be composed of the following eleven members:

10 (1) Seven members appointed by the director as follows:

11 (a) Five private onsite wastewater treatment system professionals;
12 and

13 (b) Two registered environmental health specialists or officials
14 representing local public health departments which have established
15 programs for regulating private onsite wastewater treatment systems;

16 (2) The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and
17 Human Services or his or her designee;

18 (3) The Director of Environment and Energy or his or her designated
19 representative; and

20 (4) One representative with experience in soils and geology and one
21 representative with experience in biological engineering, both of whom
22 shall be designated by the vice chancellor of the University of Nebraska
23 Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

24 Members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
25 81-1174 to 81-1177. The department shall provide administrative support
26 for the advisory committee.

27 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

28 **Sec. 63.** Section 81-15,246, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 81-15,246 Prior to July 1, 2026, the Private Onsite Wastewater
31 Treatment System Advisory Committee ~~The advisory committee~~ shall:

1 (1) Meet not less often than annually as determined by the director.
2 The director may call special meetings of the advisory committee;

3 (2) Advise the department on proposed rules and regulations relating
4 to the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors
5 Certification and System Registration Act;

6 (3) Advise the department on rules and regulations for the siting,
7 layout, operation, and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment
8 systems; and

9 (4) Advise the department on the administration of the act as
10 requested by the director.

11 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

12 **Sec. 64.** Section 82-703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 82-703 (1) The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection
15 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The
16 committee shall consist of members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame
17 Commission created pursuant to section 72-724.

18 (2) Upon approval by the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress
19 and pursuant to the agreement described in section 82-702, the Willa
20 Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee shall:

21 (a) Select a sculptor to create a statue of Willa Cather to be
22 placed in the National Statuary Hall and review and approve the plans for
23 the statue; and

24 (b) Identify a method to obtain necessary funding to pay for all of
25 the following. All funds shall be privately donated and separately
26 managed. No state funds shall be expended for such purposes:

27 (i) The sculptor for designing and carving or casting the statue;

28 (ii) The design and fabrication of the pedestal;

29 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
30 States Capitol;

31 (iv) The removal and transportation of the replaced statue;

1 (v) The temporary placement of the new statue in the Rotunda of the
2 United States Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;

3 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

4 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
5 to incur.

6 (3) The committee has the authority to receive and disburse gifts.

7 (4) The committee shall execute the requirements of this section no
8 later than June 30, 2023.

9 **Sec. 65.** Section 82-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 82-706 (1) The Chief Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection
12 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The
13 committee shall consist of (a) a representative of the Commission on
14 Indian Affairs, selected by the chairperson of the commission, (b) a
15 member of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature,
16 selected by the chairperson of the committee, (c) the chairperson of the
17 Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development or its successor, and (d) the
18 Historic Preservation Planner of the City of Lincoln.

19 (2) Upon approval by the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress
20 and pursuant to the agreement described in section 82-705, the Chief
21 Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection Committee may:

22 (a) Select a sculptor to create a statue of Chief Standing Bear to
23 be placed in the National Statuary Hall and review and approve the plans
24 for the statue; and

25 (b) Identify a method to obtain necessary funding to pay for all of
26 the following. All funds shall be privately donated and separately
27 managed. No state funds shall be expended for such purposes:

28 (i) The sculptor for designing and carving or casting the statue;

29 (ii) The design and fabrication of the pedestal;

30 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
31 States Capitol;

- 1 (iv) The removal and transportation of the replaced statue;
2 (v) The temporary placement of the new statue in the Rotunda of the
3 United States Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;
4 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and
5 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
6 to incur.
- 7 (3) The committee has the authority to receive and disburse gifts.
8 (4) The committee shall execute the requirements of this section no
9 later than June 30, 2023.

10 **Sec. 66.** Section 85-1008, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
11 amended to read:

12 85-1008 (1) To assist the center in carrying out its purposes and
13 functions prior to July 1, 2026, the Board of Regents may establish a
14 Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council composed of the following
15 members:

- 16 (a) One representative from the Department of Transportation;
17 (b) One representative from the Department of Motor Vehicles;
18 (c) One representative from the State Department of Education;
19 (d) One representative from the Game and Parks Commission;
20 (e) One representative from the Department of Labor;
21 (f) One person representing the community college areas;
22 (g) One person representing private business and industry;
23 (h) One person representing the University of Nebraska;
24 (i) One person representing the medical profession;
25 (j) One person representing the area of law enforcement in this
26 state;
- 27 (k) One person representing the Safety Council of Nebraska, Inc. ;
28 (l) One person representing the area of transportation;
29 (m) One person representative of emergency medical services;
30 (n) One person representing the judiciary in the State of Nebraska;
31 (o) One person representing city government;

- 1 (p) One person representing county government;
- 2 (q) One person representing the area of agriculture;
- 3 (r) One person representing the local public school system;
- 4 (s) One person representing fire safety;
- 5 (t) One representative of the Coordinating Commission for
- 6 Postsecondary Education;
- 7 (u) One person representing the Red Cross; and
- 8 (v) One person representing the state colleges.

9 (2) Representatives selected to serve on the council shall have
10 appropriate education, training, and experience in the field of fire
11 safety, industrial safety, recreational safety, domestic safety, or
12 traffic safety.

13 (3) The Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council terminates on July
14 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

15 **Sec. 67.** Section 85-1607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 85-1607 (1) Until July 1, 2026, the The board shall appoint an
18 advisory council of six representatives of private postsecondary career
19 schools. Members of the council shall include representatives from a
20 business school, a trade or technical school, a better business bureau,
21 and three other distinct areas of education. Members of the council shall
22 serve staggered terms of three years each as established by the board at
23 the time of initial appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the council, the
24 board shall appoint a successor in the same category as the predecessor.
25 The advisory council shall have the following responsibilities:

26 (a) {1} To advise the department in its administration of the
27 Private Postsecondary Career School Act; and

28 (b) {2} To review the rules and regulations adopted or proposed for
29 adoption by the department and make recommendations with respect thereto.

30 (2) The advisory council created pursuant to this section terminates
31 on July 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

1 **Sec. 68.** Section 85-1643, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 85-1643 (1) The Private Postsecondary Career Schools Cash Fund is
4 created. All fees collected pursuant to the Private Postsecondary Career
5 School Act shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the
6 fund. The fund shall be used only for the purpose of administering the
7 act. No fees shall be subject to refund.

8 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, fees
9 collected pursuant to the act shall be the following:

10 (a) Initial application for authorization to operate, two hundred
11 dollars plus twenty dollars per program of study offered;

12 (b) Renewal application for authorization to operate, one hundred
13 dollars plus twenty dollars per program of study offered, except that the
14 board may establish a variable fee schedule based upon the prior school
15 year's gross tuition revenue as provided by the school pursuant to
16 section 85-1656;

17 (c) Approval to operate a branch facility, one hundred dollars;

18 (d) Late submission of application, fifty dollars;

19 (e) Initial agent's permit, fifty dollars;

20 (f) Agent's permit renewal, twenty dollars;

21 (g) Accreditation or reaccreditation, one hundred dollars;

22 (h) Initial authorization to award an associate degree, one hundred
23 dollars;

24 (i) Significant program change, fifty dollars;

25 (j) Change of name or location, twenty-five dollars; and

26 (k) Additional new program, one hundred dollars.

27 (3) Fees for out-of-state schools may include, but shall not exceed
28 the following:

29 (a) Certificate of approval to recruit, five hundred dollars
30 annually;

31 (b) Initial agent's permit, one hundred dollars; and

1 (c) Agent's permit renewal, forty dollars.

2 (4)(a) Prior to July 1, 2026, the The board shall consult with the
3 advisory council established pursuant to section 85-1607 regarding any
4 increase in fees under the act. The board ~~Beginning with fiscal year~~
5 ~~2006-07 and each year thereafter, the board in consultation with the~~
6 ~~advisory council~~ shall establish fees sufficient to cover the total cost
7 of administration, except that such fees shall not exceed one hundred ten
8 percent of the previous year's total cost. Such fees shall be set out in
9 the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the board.

10 (b) Total cost of administration shall be determined by an annual
11 audit of:

12 (i) Salaries and benefits or portions thereof for those department
13 employees who administer the act;

14 (ii) Operating costs such as rent, utilities, and supplies;

15 (iii) Capital costs such as office equipment, computer hardware, and
16 computer software;

17 (iv) Costs for travel by employees of the department, including car
18 rental, gas, and mileage charges; and

19 (v) Other reasonable and necessary costs as determined by the board.

20 **Sec. 69.** Section 86-444, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
21 amended to read:

22 86-444 Advisory board means:

23 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board;
24 and -

25 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the 911 Service System Advisory
26 Committee.

27 **Sec. 70.** Section 86-461, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
28 amended to read:

29 86-461 (1) The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board is created to
30 advise the commission concerning the implementation, development,
31 administration, coordination, evaluation, and maintenance of enhanced

1 wireless 911 service. The advisory board terminates on July 1, 2026. The
2 advisory board shall be composed of nine individuals appointed by the
3 Governor, including:

4 (a) One sheriff;

5 (b) Two county officials or employees;

6 (c) Two municipal officials or employees;

7 (d) One representative from the state's wireless telecommunications
8 industry;

9 (e) One manager of a public safety answering point not employed by a
10 sheriff;

11 (f) One representative of the state's local exchange
12 telecommunications service industry; and

13 (g) One member of the public.

14 (2) The advisory board shall also include two ex officio members:

15 (a) One commissioner from the Public Service Commission or his or
16 her designee; and

17 (b) The Chief Information Officer or his or her designee.

18 (3) Members of the board as described in subdivisions (1)(a) through
19 (1)(g) of this section shall be appointed for a term of three years. Each
20 succeeding member of the board shall be appointed for a term of three
21 years. The board shall meet as often as necessary to carry out its
22 duties. Members of the board shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided
23 in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

24 **Sec. 71.** Section 86-511, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 86-511 Technical panel means:

27 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the panel created in section 86-521;
28 and -

29 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the commission.

30 **Sec. 72.** Section 86-516, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 86-516 The commission shall:

2 (1) Annually by July 1, adopt policies and procedures used to
3 develop, review, and annually update a statewide technology plan;

4 (2) Create an information technology clearinghouse to identify and
5 share best practices and new developments, as well as identify existing
6 problems and deficiencies;

7 (3) Review and adopt policies to provide incentives for investments
8 in information technology infrastructure services;

9 (4) Determine a broad strategy and objectives for developing and
10 sustaining information technology development in Nebraska, including
11 long-range funding strategies, research and development investment,
12 support and maintenance requirements, and system usage and assessment
13 guidelines;

14 (5) Adopt guidelines regarding project planning and management and
15 administrative and technical review procedures involving state-owned or
16 state-supported technology and infrastructure. Governmental entities,
17 state agencies, and noneducation political subdivisions shall submit all
18 projects which use any combination of general funds, federal funds, or
19 cash funds for information technology purposes to the process established
20 by sections 86-512 to 86-524. The commission may adopt policies that
21 establish the format and minimum requirements for project submissions.
22 The commission may monitor the progress of any such project and may
23 require progress reports;

24 (6) Adopt minimum technical standards, guidelines, and architectures
25 upon recommendation by the technical panel. Such standards and guidelines
26 shall not unnecessarily restrict the use of new technologies or prevent
27 commercial competition, including competition with Network Nebraska;

28 (7) Establish ad hoc technical advisory groups to study and make
29 recommendations on specific topics, including workgroups to establish,
30 coordinate, and prioritize needs for education, local communities,
31 intergovernmental data communications, and state agencies;

1 (8) By November 15 of each even-numbered year, make recommendations
2 on technology investments to the Governor and the Legislature, including
3 a prioritized list of projects, reviewed by the technical panel pursuant
4 to section 86-521. The recommendations submitted to the Legislature shall
5 be submitted electronically;

6 (9) Approve grants from the Community Technology Fund and Government
7 Technology Collaboration Fund;

8 (10) Adopt schedules and procedures for reporting needs, priorities,
9 and recommended projects;

10 (11) Assist the Chief Information Officer in developing and
11 maintaining Network Nebraska pursuant to section 86-5,100; ~~and~~

12 (12) Determine the format that state agencies, boards, and
13 commissions shall use to report their information technology plans under
14 section 86-524.01. The commission shall include an analysis of such plans
15 in the statewide technology plan; and -

16 (13) Beginning July 1, 2026, assume the duties of the technical
17 panel.

18 **Sec. 73.** Section 86-521, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 86-521 (1) A technical panel is created. The technical panel shall
21 be comprised of one representative from the Nebraska Educational
22 Telecommunications Commission, one representative from the office of
23 Chief Information Officer, one representative from the University of
24 Nebraska Computing Services Network, and such other members as specified
25 by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

26 (2) The technical panel shall review any technology project
27 presented to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission including any
28 recommendations by working groups established under sections 86-512 to
29 86-524. Upon the conclusion of the review of a technology project or
30 request for additional funding, the technical panel shall provide its
31 analysis to the commission. The technical panel may recommend technical

1 standards and guidelines to be considered for adoption by the commission.

2 (3) The technical panel terminates on July 1, 2026. The Nebraska
3 Information Technology Commission shall assume the powers and duties of
4 the technical panel on July 1, 2026.

5 **Sec. 74.** Section 86-1025.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
6 is amended to read:

7 86-1025.01 (1) The 911 Service System Advisory Committee is created.
8 The committee shall advise the commission concerning the implementation,
9 coordination, operation, management, maintenance, and funding of the 911
10 service system and provide input on technical training and quality
11 assurance. The state 911 director and the Chief Information Officer or
12 his or her designee shall serve as ex officio members. The committee
13 shall include the following individuals appointed by the commission:

14 (a) Four representatives of public safety agencies within the state,
15 including an emergency manager, a member of a law enforcement agency, a
16 member of a fire department, and a member of an emergency medical service
17 as defined in section 38-1207;

18 (b) Two county officials or employees;

19 (c) Two municipal officials or employees;

20 (d) Two representatives of the telecommunications industry;

21 (e) Two managers of public safety answering points, one of whom is
22 employed by a county sheriff and one of whom is not employed by a county
23 sheriff;

24 (f) One representative of the Nebraska Association of County
25 Officials; and

26 (g) One representative of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

27 (2) Of the fourteen appointed members of the committee described in
28 subdivisions (1)(a) through (g) of this section, at least four members
29 shall be appointed from each of the three congressional districts. The
30 appointed members of the committee shall serve for terms of three years.
31 A vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. The

1 committee shall annually select a chairperson and vice-chairperson and
2 meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties. Members of the
3 committee shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
4 81-1174 to 81-1177.

5 (3) The committee shall make any recommendations to the commission
6 regarding the exercise of the commission's duties administering the 911
7 service system pursuant to section 86-1025, including recommending the
8 adoption and promulgation of any rules and regulations necessary to carry
9 out the purposes of the 911 Service System Act or the introduction of any
10 legislation. The commission may consider and implement any such
11 recommendations.

12 (4) Beginning July 1, 2026, the committee shall assume the duties of
13 the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board.

14 **Sec. 75.** Section 86-1101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 86-1101 The Legislature finds and declares that:

17 (1) The availability, quality, and affordability of broadband
18 telecommunications service is important to the residents of Nebraska; and

19 (2) Because availability, quality, and affordability of broadband
20 telecommunications service is lacking in certain rural areas in Nebraska,
21 combined with greater investment in urban areas, the state may be facing
22 a digital divide.

23 It is the intent of the Legislature that broadband
24 telecommunications service in rural areas of the state should be
25 comparable in download and upload speed and price to urban areas in the
26 state where possible and that state resources should be utilized to
27 ensure that the rural residents of the state should not be penalized
28 simply because of their rural residence. It is further the intent of the
29 Legislature that the residents of this state should have access to
30 broadband telecommunications service at a minimum download speed of one
31 hundred megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of one hundred

1 megabits per second.

2 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

3 **Sec. 76.** Section 86-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 86-1102 (1) The Rural Broadband Task Force is hereby created. The
6 task force terminates on July 1, 2026. Task force members shall include
7 the chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of
8 the Legislature and a member of the Legislature selected by the Executive
9 Board of the Legislative Council who shall both serve as nonvoting, ex
10 officio members, a member of the Public Service Commission who shall be
11 selected by the chairperson of such commission, the chairperson of the
12 Nebraska Information Technology Commission or his or her designee who
13 shall act as chairperson of the task force, the Director of Economic
14 Development or his or her designee, the Director of Agriculture or his or
15 her designee, and the following members to be appointed by the Governor:
16 A representative of the agribusiness community, a representative of the
17 Nebraska business community, a representative of the regulated wireline
18 telecommunications industry, a representative of the wireless
19 telecommunications industry, a representative of the public power
20 industry, a representative of health care providers, a representative of
21 Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions, and a representative of
22 rural schools offering kindergarten through grade twelve. The members
23 appointed by the Governor shall serve for a term of two years and may be
24 reappointed.

25 (2) The task force may appoint advisory groups to assist the task
26 force in providing technical expertise and advice on any issue. The
27 advisory groups may be composed of representatives of stakeholder groups
28 which may include, but not necessarily be limited to, representatives
29 from small and large wireline companies, wireless companies, public power
30 districts, electric cooperative corporations, cable television companies,
31 Internet service providers, low-income telecommunications and electric

1 utility customers, health care providers, and representatives of
2 educational sectors. No compensation or expense reimbursement shall be
3 provided to any member of any advisory group appointed by the task force.

4 (3) The Nebraska Information Technology Commission shall provide
5 staff assistance to the task force in consultation with staff from the
6 Public Service Commission and other interested parties. The task force
7 may hire consultants to assist in carrying out its duties. The task force
8 shall review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability
9 of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska. In particular, the task
10 force shall:

11 (a) Determine how Nebraska rural areas compare to neighboring states
12 and the rest of the nation in average download and upload speeds and in
13 subscription rates to higher speed tiers, when available;

14 (b) Examine the role of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal
15 Service Fund in bringing comparable and affordable broadband services to
16 rural residents and any effect of the fund in deterring or delaying
17 capital formation, broadband competition, and broadband deployment;

18 (c) Review the feasibility of alternative technologies and providers
19 in accelerating access to faster and more reliable broadband service for
20 rural residents;

21 (d) Examine alternatives for deployment of broadband services to
22 areas that remain unserved or underserved, such as funding redirection
23 programs described in section 86-330, public-private partnerships,
24 funding for competitive deployment, and other measures, and make
25 recommendations to the Public Service Commission to encourage deployment
26 in such areas;

27 (e) Recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal
28 service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support
29 and other federal funding;

30 (f) Make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature as to the
31 most effective and efficient ways that federal broadband rural

1 infrastructure funds received after July 1, 2018, should be expended if
2 such funds become available; and

3 (g) Determine other issues that may be pertinent to the purpose of
4 the task force.

5 (4) Task force members shall serve on the task force without
6 compensation but shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for expenses
7 incurred for such service as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

8 (5) The task force shall meet at the call of the chairperson and
9 shall present its findings in a report to the Executive Board of the
10 Legislative Council no later than November 1, 2019, and by November 1
11 every odd-numbered year thereafter. The report shall be submitted
12 electronically.

13 (6) For purposes of this section, broadband services means high-
14 speed telecommunications capability at a minimum download speed of one
15 hundred megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of one hundred
16 megabits per second, and that enables users to originate and receive
17 high-quality voice, data, and video telecommunications using any
18 technology.

19 **Sec. 77.** Section 86-1103, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 86-1103 The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund is created. The fund
22 shall be used to carry out the purposes of the Rural Broadband Task Force
23 as described in section 86-1102. For administrative purposes, the fund
24 shall be located in the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The
25 fund shall consist of money appropriated or transferred by the
26 Legislature and gifts, grants, or bequests from any source, including
27 federal, state, public, and private sources. Any money in the fund
28 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment
29 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska
30 State Funds Investment Act.

31 The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund terminates on July 1, 2026. The

1 State Treasurer shall transfer any money remaining in the fund on such
2 date to the General Fund.

3 **Sec. 78.** Section 81 of this act becomes operative on July 1, 2026.
4 The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

5 **Sec. 79.** Original sections 2-1801, 2-1803, 2-1826, 2-4901, 2-5001,
6 2-5003, 20-506, 38-204, 38-205, 38-308, 38-310, 38-605, 38-703, 38-904,
7 38-2213, 38-2214, 38-2306, 58-202, 66-1605, 66-1618, 71-705, 71-706,
8 71-814, 71-815, 71-2454.01, 71-4503, 71-5311, 71-7102, 71-7107, 71-7108,
9 71-7109, 71-7110, 72-811, 72-812, 72-2101, 81-1108.41, 81-1348, 81-1430,
10 81-1431, 81-15,159.01, 81-15,210, 81-15,238, 81-15,245, 81-15,246,
11 82-703, 82-706, 85-1008, 85-1607, 85-1643, 86-444, 86-461, 86-511,
12 86-516, 86-521, 86-1025.01, 86-1101, 86-1102, and 86-1103, Reissue
13 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 38-167, 38-2120, 38-2216,
14 39-2106, 39-2301.01, 39-2304, 43-3401, 43-4001, 43-4203, 43-4216,
15 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001, 71-702, 71-4504, 71-5301, 71-5310, and
16 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, are repealed.

17 **Sec. 80.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
18 38-2307, 43-4003, 50-601, 50-602, 50-603, 66-1617, and 81-15,239, Reissue
19 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 43-1306, Revised Statutes
20 Cumulative Supplement, 2024.

21 **Sec. 81.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
22 2-4201, 2-4202, 2-4203, 2-4204, 2-4205, 2-4206, 2-4207, 2-4208, 2-4209,
23 2-4210, 2-4211, 2-4212, 2-4213, 2-4214, 2-4215, 2-4216, 2-4217, 2-4218,
24 2-4219, 2-4220, 2-4221, 2-4222, 2-4223, 2-4224, 2-4225, 2-4226, 2-4227,
25 2-4228, 2-4229, 2-4230, 2-4231, 2-4232, 2-4233, 2-4234, 2-4235, 2-4236,
26 2-4237, 2-4238, 2-4239, 2-4240, 2-4241, 2-4242, 2-4243, 2-4244, 2-4245,
27 2-4246, 71-7105, and 71-7106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.