

E AND R AMENDMENTS TO LB 346

Introduced by Guereca, 7, Chairman Enrollment and Review

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
2 insert the following new 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 38-167, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
10 2024, is amended to read:

11 38-167 (1) Boards shall be designated as follows:

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

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

15 (c) Board of Athletic Training;

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

17 (e) Board of Behavior Analysts;

18 (f) Board of Chiropractic;

19 (g) Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology,
20 and Body Art;

21 (h) Board of Dentistry;

22 (i) Board of Emergency Medical Services;

23 (j) Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists;

24 (k) Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming;

25 (l) Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists;

26 (m) Board of Massage Therapy;

27 (n) Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy;

28 (o) Board of Medical Radiography;

29 (p) Board of Medicine and Surgery;

30 (q) Board of Mental Health Practice;

31 (r) Board of Nursing;

- 1 (s) Board of Nursing Home Administration;
- 2 (t) Board of Occupational Therapy Practice;
- 3 (u) Board of Optometry;
- 4 (v) Board of Pharmacy;
- 5 (w) Board of Physical Therapy;
- 6 (x) Board of Podiatry;
- 7 (y) Board of Psychology;
- 8 (z) Board of Respiratory Care Practice; and
- 9 (aa) Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

10 (2) Any change made by the Legislature of the names of boards listed
11 in this section shall not change the membership of such boards or affect
12 the validity of any action taken by or the status of any action pending
13 before any of such boards. Any such board newly named by the Legislature
14 shall be the direct and only successor to the board as previously named.

15 **Sec. 8.** Section 38-204, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 38-204 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
18 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
19 the Board of Nursing.

20 **Sec. 9.** Section 38-205, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
21 amended to read:

22 38-205 (1) The Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
23 terminates on July 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.
24 ~~Until July 1, 2007, the board shall consist of (a) five advanced practice~~
25 ~~registered nurses representing different advanced practice registered~~
26 ~~nurse specialties for which a license has been issued, (b) five~~
27 ~~physicians licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law to practice medicine~~
28 ~~in Nebraska, at least three of whom shall have a current collaborating~~
29 ~~relationship with an advanced practice registered nurse, (c) three~~
30 ~~consumer members, and (d) one licensed pharmacist.~~

31 (2) Prior to July 1, 2026 ~~On and after July 1, 2007,~~ the board shall

1 consist of:

2 (a) One nurse practitioner holding a license under the Nurse
3 Practitioner Practice Act, one certified nurse midwife holding a license
4 under the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice Act, one certified
5 registered nurse anesthetist holding a license under the Certified
6 Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act, and one clinical nurse
7 specialist holding a license under the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice
8 Act, except that the initial clinical nurse specialist appointee may be a
9 clinical nurse specialist practicing pursuant to the Nurse Practice Act
10 as such act existed prior to July 1, 2007. Of the initial appointments
11 under this subdivision, one shall be for a two-year term, one shall be
12 for a three-year term, one shall be for a four-year term, and one shall
13 be for a five-year term. All subsequent appointments under this
14 subdivision shall be for five-year terms;

15 (b) Three physicians, one of whom shall have a professional
16 relationship with a nurse practitioner, one of whom shall have a
17 professional relationship with a certified nurse midwife, and one of whom
18 shall have a professional relationship with a certified registered nurse
19 anesthetist. Of the initial appointments under this subdivision, one
20 shall be for a three-year term, one shall be for a four-year term, and
21 one shall be for a five-year term. All subsequent appointments under this
22 subdivision shall be for five-year terms; and

23 (c) Two public members. Of the initial appointments under this
24 subdivision, one shall be for a three-year term, and one shall be for a
25 four-year term. All subsequent appointments under this subdivision shall
26 be for five-year terms.

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

30 **Sec. 10.** Section 38-308, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

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

4 **Sec. 11.** Section 38-310, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
5 amended to read:

6 38-310 (1) Membership on the board shall consist of seven
7 professional members and two public members appointed pursuant to section
8 38-158. The members shall meet the requirements of sections 38-164 and
9 38-165. Three of the professional members shall be licensed alcohol and
10 drug counselors who may also be licensed as psychologists or mental
11 health practitioners, three of the professional members shall be licensed
12 alcohol and drug counselors who are not licensed as psychologists or
13 mental health practitioners, and one of the professional members shall be
14 a psychiatrist, psychologist, or mental health practitioner.

15 (2) The Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling terminates on July 1,
16 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

17 **Sec. 12.** Section 38-605, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 38-605 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. 13.** Section 38-703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
23 amended to read:

24 38-703 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
25 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
26 the Board of Nursing.

27 **Sec. 14.** Section 38-904, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
28 amended to read:

29 38-904 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
30 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
31 the Board of Nursing.

1 **Sec. 15.** Section 38-2120, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2024, is amended to read:

3 38-2120 (1) This subsection applies prior to July 1, 2026. The board
4 shall consist of nine professional members and two public members
5 appointed pursuant to section 38-158. The members shall meet the
6 requirements of sections 38-164 and 38-165. Two professional members
7 shall be certified master social workers, two professional members shall
8 be certified professional counselors, two professional members shall be
9 certified marriage and family therapists, one professional member shall
10 be a certified art therapist, and two professional members shall be
11 licensed mental health practitioners that do not hold an associated
12 certification.

13 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the board shall consist of eleven
14 professional members and three public members appointed pursuant to
15 section 38-158. The members shall meet the requirements of sections
16 38-164 and 38-165. Two professional members shall be certified master
17 social workers, two professional members shall be certified professional
18 counselors, two professional members shall be certified marriage and
19 family therapists, one professional member shall be a certified art
20 therapist, two professional members shall be licensed mental health
21 practitioners that do not hold an associated certification, and two
22 professional members shall be licensed alcohol and drug counselors.

23 **Sec. 16.** Section 38-2213, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 38-2213 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the The board shall consist of
26 eight registered nurse members, two licensed practical nurse members, and
27 two public members. The registered nurses on the board shall be from the
28 following areas: (a) One practical nurse educator; (b) one associate
29 degree or diploma nurse educator; (c) one baccalaureate nurse educator;
30 (d) two nursing service administrators; (e) two staff nurses; and (f) one
31 advanced practice registered nurse.

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

8 (3) {2} The State Board of Health shall attempt to ensure that the
9 membership of the Board of Nursing is representative of acute care, long-
10 term care, and community-based care. A minimum of three and a maximum of
11 five members shall be appointed from each congressional district, and
12 each member shall have been a bona fide resident of the congressional
13 district from which he or she is appointed for a period of at least one
14 year prior to the time of the appointment of such member.

15 **Sec. 17.** Section 38-2214, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 38-2214 (1) Each licensed practical nurse educator on the board
18 shall (a) be a registered nurse currently licensed in the state, (b) have
19 graduated with a graduate degree in nursing or a related field of study,
20 (c) have had a minimum of five years' experience in administration,
21 teaching, or consultation in practical nurse education, and (d) be
22 currently employed as a practical nurse educator.

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

29 (3) Each staff nurse on the board shall (a) be a registered nurse
30 currently licensed in the state, (b) have had a minimum of five years'
31 experience in nursing, and (c) be currently employed as a staff nurse in

1 the provision of patient care services.

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

6 (5) Each licensed practical nurse member shall (a) have completed at
7 least four years of high school study, (b) be licensed as a licensed
8 practical nurse in this state, (c) have obtained a certificate or diploma
9 from a state-approved practical nursing program, (d) have been actively
10 engaged in practical nursing for at least five years, and (e) be
11 currently employed in the provision of patient care services as a
12 licensed practical nurse in the state.

13 (6) Each public member shall meet the requirements of section
14 38-165.

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

20 (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, the preferred representation of the
21 advanced practice registered nurses on the board includes one certified
22 registered nurse anesthetist, one nurse practitioner, and one clinical
23 nurse specialist or certified nurse midwife. If such representation is
24 not possible, any vacancy under subdivision (2)(f) of section 38-2213 may
25 be filled based on the composition of the applicant pool for the vacant
26 advanced practice registered nurse position on the board.

27 (c) The appointment of advanced practice registered nurses to fill
28 the vacancies as of July 1, 2026, shall be made so that one of the three
29 advanced practice registered nurse members serves until December 1, 2029,
30 one serves until December 1, 2030, and one serves until December 1, 2031,
31 or as close thereto as possible. Subsequent appointments of advanced

1 practice registered nurses shall be for five-year terms as provided in
2 section 38-163.

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

6 **Sec. 18.** Section 38-2216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
7 2024, is amended to read:

8 38-2216 In addition to the duties listed in sections 38-126 and
9 38-161, the board shall:

10 (1) Adopt reasonable and uniform standards for nursing practice and
11 nursing education;

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

20 (3) Establish rules and regulations for approving and classifying
21 programs preparing nurses, taking into consideration administrative and
22 organizational patterns, the curriculum, students, student services,
23 faculty, and instructional resources and facilities, and provide surveys
24 for each educational program as determined by the board;

25 (4) Approve educational programs which meet the requirements of the
26 Nurse Practice Act;

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

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

1 (7) Collect data regarding nursing;

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

4 (9) Join organizations that develop and regulate the national
5 nursing licensure examinations and exclusively promote the improvement of
6 the legal standards of the practice of nursing for the protection of the
7 public health, safety, and welfare; and

8 (10) Administer the Nurse Licensure Compact. In reporting
9 information to the coordinated licensure information system under Article
10 VII of the compact, the department may disclose personal identifying
11 information about a nurse, including his or her social security number;
12 and -

13 (11) Beginning July 1, 2026:

14 (a) Establish standards for integrated practice agreements between
15 collaborating physicians and certified nurse midwives;

16 (b) Monitor the scope of practice by certified nurse midwives,
17 certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and
18 nurse practitioners;

19 (c) Recommend disciplinary action relating to licenses of advanced
20 practice registered nurses, certified nurse midwives, certified
21 registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse
22 practitioners;

23 (d) Engage in other activities not inconsistent with the Advanced
24 Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act, the Certified Nurse Midwifery
25 Practice Act, the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act,
26 the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act, and the Nurse Practitioner
27 Practice Act; and

28 (e) Adopt rules and regulations to implement the Advanced Practice
29 Registered Nurse Practice Act, the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice
30 Act, the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act, the
31 Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act, and the Nurse Practitioner

1 Practice Act, for promulgation by the department as provided in section
2 38-126. Such rules and regulations shall also include (i) approved
3 certification organizations and certification programs and (ii)
4 professional liability insurance.

5 **Sec. 19.** Section 38-2306, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 38-2306 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. 20.** Section 39-2106, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2024, is amended to read:

12 39-2106 (1) ~~There To assist in developing the functional~~
13 ~~classification system, there~~ is hereby established the Board of Public
14 Roads Classifications and Standards which shall consist of eleven members
15 to be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature. The
16 board shall assist in developing the functional classification system.
17 Beginning July 1, 2026, another duty of the board shall be to have sole
18 responsibility for overseeing the County Highway and City Street
19 Superintendents Act.

20 (2) Of the members of such board:

21 (a) Two shall be representatives of the Department of
22 Transportation;

23 (b) Three shall be representatives of the counties. One of such
24 members shall be a county highway superintendent licensed pursuant to the
25 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act and two of such
26 members shall be county board members;

27 (c) Three shall be representatives of the municipalities. Prior to
28 July 1, 2026, each ~~Each~~ of such members shall be a city engineer, village
29 engineer, public works director, city manager, city administrator, street
30 commissioner, or city street superintendent licensed pursuant to the
31 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act. Beginning July 1,

1 2026, one of such members shall be a city street superintendent licensed
2 pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act, and
3 the remaining representatives of municipalities shall be a city engineer,
4 village engineer, public works director, city manager, city
5 administrator, street commissioner, or city street superintendent
6 licensed pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents
7 Act; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (5) In making such appointments, the Governor shall consult with the
30 Director-State Engineer and with the appropriate county and municipal
31 officials and may consult with organizations representing such officials

1 or representing counties or municipalities as may be appropriate.

2 (6) At the expiration of the existing term, one member from the
3 county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
4 citizens shall be appointed for a term of two years; and two members from
5 the county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
6 citizens shall be appointed for terms of four years. One representative
7 from the department shall be appointed for a two-year term and the other
8 representative shall be appointed for a four-year term. Thereafter, all
9 such appointments shall be for terms of four years each.

10 (7) Members of such board shall receive no compensation for their
11 services as such, except that the lay members shall receive the same
12 compensation as members of the State Highway Commission, and all members
13 shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their
14 official duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. All expenses
15 of such board shall be paid by the department.

16 **Sec. 21.** Section 39-2301.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
17 2024, is amended to read:

18 39-2301.01 For purposes of the County Highway and City Street
19 Superintendents Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

20 (1) Board of examiners means:

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

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

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

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

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

31 (a) Developing and annually updating long-range plans or programs

1 based on needs and coordinated with adjacent local governmental units;

2 (b) Developing annual programs for design, construction, and
3 maintenance;

4 (c) Developing annual budgets based on programmed projects and
5 activities;

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

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

10 **Sec. 22.** Section 39-2304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2024, is amended to read:

12 39-2304 (1) The Board of Examiners for County Highway and City
13 Street Superintendents is created. The board terminates on July 1, 2026.
14 The board shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Governor.
15 Four of such members shall be county representatives and three of such
16 members shall be municipal representatives.

17 (2)(a) Immediately preceding appointment to the board, each county
18 and municipal representative shall hold a county highway and city street
19 superintendent license pursuant to the County Highway and City Street
20 Superintendents Act.

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

23 (c) Of the municipal representatives:

24 (i) No more than one shall be appointed from each congressional
25 district;

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

28 (iii) One shall be a representative of a city of the second class;
29 and

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

31 (3) In making such appointments, the Governor may give consideration

1 to the following lists of persons licensed pursuant to the County Highway
2 and City Street Superintendents Act:

3 (a) A list of county engineers, county highway superintendents, and
4 county surveyors submitted by the Nebraska Association of County
5 Officials; and

6 (b) A list of city street superintendents, city managers, city
7 administrators, street commissioners, city engineers, village engineers,
8 and public works directors submitted by the League of Nebraska
9 Municipalities.

10 (4) Two county representatives shall initially be appointed for
11 terms of two years each, and two county representatives shall initially
12 be appointed for terms of four years each. One municipal representative
13 shall initially be appointed for a term of two years, and two municipal
14 representatives shall initially be appointed for terms of four years
15 each. Thereafter, all such appointments shall be for terms of four years
16 each.

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

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

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

30 **Sec. 23.** Section 43-3401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
31 2024, is amended to read:

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

10 (a) ~~(1)~~ Parents of children who require early intervention services,
11 early childhood special education, or ~~and~~ other early childhood care and
12 education services; and

13 (b) ~~(2)~~ Representatives of school districts, social services, health
14 and medical services, family child care programs, ~~and~~ center-based early
15 childhood care and education programs, agencies providing training to
16 staff of child care programs, resource and referral agencies, mental
17 health services, developmental disabilities services, educational service
18 units, Head Start, higher education, physicians, the Legislature,
19 business persons, and the collaborating agencies.

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

26 (3) Members of the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council serving
27 on July 13, 2000, shall constitute the Early Childhood Interagency
28 Coordinating Council and shall serve for the remainder of their terms.
29 The Governor shall make additional appointments as required by this
30 section and to fill vacancies as needed. The Governor shall set the
31 initial terms of additional appointees to result in staggered terms for

1 members of the council.

2 (4) The Department of Health and Human Services and the State
3 Department of Education shall provide and coordinate staff assistance to
4 the council.

5 **Sec. 24.** Section 43-4001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
6 2024, is amended to read:

7 43-4001 (1) The Children's Behavioral Health Task Force is created.
8 The task force terminates on July 1, 2026. The task force shall consist
9 of the following members:

10 (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
11 the Legislature or another member of the committee as his or her
12 designee;

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

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

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

21 (e) Two representatives of organizations advocating on behalf of
22 consumers of children's behavioral health services and their families,
23 appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee
24 of the Legislature;

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

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

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

31 (3) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of

1 the Legislature or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of the
2 task force. Administrative and staff support for the task force shall be
3 provided by the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature
4 and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature.

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

6 **Sec. 25.** Section 43-4203, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
7 2024, is amended to read:

8 43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a
9 committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile
10 Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration. Such
11 committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home
12 placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth
13 rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the
14 commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what
15 populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment
16 services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately
17 serve those populations. Such committee shall also review how mental and
18 behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential
19 placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make
20 recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in
21 the juvenile justice system. The committee shall collaborate with the
22 Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the
23 Center for Health Policy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center,
24 the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state
25 and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations. The
26 recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in
27 the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families,
28 including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment
29 model. The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and
30 electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by
31 September 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (4) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee created pursuant to
18 section 43-4216, the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act Committee
19 created pursuant to section 43-4716, and the Bridge to Independence
20 Advisory Committee created pursuant to section 43-4513 shall be under the
21 jurisdiction of the commission. The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate
22 Committee and the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee terminate on
23 July 1, 2026, and the commission shall take over their duties pursuant to
24 sections 43-4215, 43-4217, and 43-4513.

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

28 (6) The commission shall work with administrators from each of the
29 service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116, the teams created
30 pursuant to section 28-728, local foster care review boards, child
31 advocacy centers, the teams created pursuant to the Supreme Court's

1 Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, community stakeholders, and
2 advocates for child welfare programs and services to establish networks
3 in each of such service areas. Such networks shall permit collaboration
4 to strengthen the continuum of services available to child welfare
5 agencies and to provide resources for children and juveniles outside the
6 child protection system.

7 (7) The commission may organize subcommittees as it deems necessary.
8 Members of the subcommittees may be members of the commission or may be
9 individuals who have knowledge of the subcommittee's subject matter,
10 professional expertise to assist the subcommittee in completing its
11 assigned responsibilities, or the ability to collaborate within the
12 subcommittee and with the commission to carry out the powers and duties
13 of the commission. A subcommittee shall meet as necessary to complete the
14 work delegated by the commission and shall report its findings to the
15 relevant committee within the commission.

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

19 **Sec. 26.** Section 43-4216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
20 2024, is amended to read:

21 43-4216 (1) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee is created.
22 The committee shall be convened at least once every four years. The
23 committee terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

26 (a) The following voting members: (i) Representatives from a child
27 welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents, from each of
28 the service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116; (ii) a
29 representative from an advocacy organization which deals with legal and
30 policy issues that include child welfare; (iii) a representative from an
31 advocacy organization, the singular focus of which is issues impacting

1 children; (iv) a representative from a foster and adoptive parent
2 association; (v) a representative from a lead agency; (vi) a
3 representative from a child advocacy organization that supports young
4 adults who were in foster care as children; (vii) a foster parent who
5 contracts directly with the Department of Health and Human Services; and
6 (viii) a foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency; and

7 (b) The following nonvoting, ex officio members: (i) The chief
8 executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his
9 or her designee and (ii) representatives from the Division of Children
10 and Family Services of the department from each service area designated
11 pursuant to section 81-3116, including at least one division employee
12 with a thorough understanding of the current foster care payment system
13 and at least one division employee with a thorough understanding of the
14 N-FOCUS electronic data collection system. The nonvoting, ex officio
15 members of the committee may attend committee meetings and participate in
16 discussions of the committee and shall gather and provide information to
17 the committee on the policies, programs, and processes of each of their
18 respective bodies. The nonvoting, ex officio members shall not vote on
19 decisions or recommendations by the committee.

20 (3) Members of the committee shall serve for terms of four years and
21 until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Nebraska
22 Children's Commission shall appoint the members of the committee and the
23 chairperson of the committee and may fill vacancies on the committee as
24 they occur.

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

26 **Sec. 27.** Section 43-4406, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
27 2024, is amended to read:

28 43-4406 On or before each September 15, the department shall report
29 electronically to the Health and Human Services Committee of the
30 Legislature the following information regarding child welfare services,
31 with respect to children served by the department:

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

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

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

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

10 (3) The number of waivers granted under subsection (2) of section
11 71-1904;

12 ~~(4) An update of the information in the report of the Children's~~
13 ~~Behavioral Health Task Force pursuant to sections 43-4001 to 43-4003,~~
14 ~~including;~~

15 ~~(a) The number of children receiving mental health and substance~~
16 ~~abuse services annually by the Division of Behavioral Health of the~~
17 ~~department;~~

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

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

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

24 ~~(e) Expenditures in the immediately preceding fiscal year by the~~
25 ~~division, categorized by category of behavioral health service and by~~
26 ~~behavioral health region; and~~

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

31 ~~(4) (5)~~ The following information as obtained for each service area:

1 (a) Case manager education, including college degree, major, and
2 level of education beyond a baccalaureate degree;

3 (b) Average caseload per case manager;

4 (c) Average number of case managers per child during the preceding
5 twelve months;

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

10 (e) Monthly case manager turnover;

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

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

15 (h) Case documentation of monthly consecutive team meetings per
16 quarter;

17 (i) Case documentation of monthly consecutive parent contacts per
18 quarter;

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

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

23 (l) Timeliness of court reports; and

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

27 (5) ~~(6)~~ All placements in residential treatment settings made or
28 paid for by the child welfare system, the Office of Juvenile Services,
29 the State Department of Education or local education agencies, and the
30 medical assistance program, including, but not limited to:

31 (a) Child variables;

1 (b) Reasons for placement;

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

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

5 (i) If there was a denial of initial placement request, the length
6 and level of each placement subsequent to denial of initial placement
7 request and the status of each child before and immediately after, six
8 months after, and twelve months after placement;

9 (ii) Funds expended and length of placements;

10 (iii) Number and level of placements;

11 (iv) Facility variables; and

12 (v) Identification of specific child welfare services unavailable in
13 the child's community that, if available, could have prevented the need
14 for residential treatment; and

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

17 (6) ~~(7)~~ For any individual involved in the child welfare system
18 receiving a service or a placement through the department or its agent
19 for which referral is necessary, the date when such referral was made by
20 the department or its agent and the date and the method by which the
21 individual receiving the services was notified of such referral. To the
22 extent the department becomes aware of the date when the individual
23 receiving the referral began receiving such services, the department or
24 its agent shall document such date;

25 (7) ~~(8)~~ The number of sexual abuse allegations that occurred for
26 children being served by the Division of Children and Family Services of
27 the Department of Health and Human Services and placed at a residential
28 child-caring agency and the number of corresponding (a) screening
29 decision occurrences by category, (b) open investigations by category,
30 and (c) agency substantiations, court substantiations, and court-pending
31 status cases; and

1 ~~(8)~~ (9) Information on children who are reported or suspected
2 victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor, as
3 defined in section 28-830, including:

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

7 (b) The number of substantiated victims of sex trafficking of a
8 minor or labor trafficking of a minor, including demographic information
9 and information on whether the children were already served by the
10 department;

11 (c) The number of children determined to be reported or suspected
12 victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor,
13 including demographic information and information on whether the children
14 were previously served by the department;

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

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

21 **Sec. 28.** Section 43-4513, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
22 2024, is amended to read:

23 43-4513 (1) The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee is created
24 within the Nebraska Children's Commission to advise and make
25 recommendations to the Legislature and the Nebraska Children's Commission
26 regarding ongoing implementation of the bridge to independence program,
27 extended guardianship assistance described in section 43-4511, and
28 extended adoption assistance described in section 43-4512. The Bridge to
29 Independence Advisory Committee terminates on July 1, 2026, and the
30 Nebraska Children's Commission shall carry out the duties under this
31 section. The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee shall provide a

1 written report regarding ongoing implementation, including participation
2 in the bridge to independence program, extended guardianship assistance
3 described in section 43-4511, and extended adoption assistance described
4 in section 43-4512 and early discharge rates and reasons obtained from
5 the department, to the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Health and
6 Human Services Committee of the Legislature, the department, and the
7 Governor by September 1 of each year. The report to the Health and Human
8 Services Committee of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

9 (2) The members of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee
10 shall include, but not be limited to, (a) representatives from all three
11 branches of government, and the representatives from the legislative and
12 judicial branches of government shall be nonvoting, ex officio members,
13 (b) no less than three young adults currently or previously in foster
14 care, which may be filled on a rotating basis by members of Project
15 Everlast or a similar youth support or advocacy group, (c) one or more
16 representatives from a child welfare advocacy organization, (d) one or
17 more representatives from a child welfare service agency, and (e) one or
18 more representatives from an agency providing independent living
19 services.

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

23 **Sec. 29.** Section 58-202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 58-202 (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

26 (a) The high cost of agricultural loans and the general
27 unavailability of such loans at favorable rates and terms for farmers,
28 particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural enterprises have
29 resulted in decreased crop, livestock, and business productivity and
30 prevented farmers and other agricultural enterprises from acquiring
31 modern agricultural equipment and processes. These problems have made it

1 difficult for farmers and other agricultural enterprises to maintain or
2 increase their present number of employees and have decreased the supply
3 of agricultural commodities available to fulfill the needs of the
4 citizens of this state; and

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

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

10 (a) From time to time the high rates of interest charged by mortgage
11 lenders seriously restrict existing housing transfers and new housing
12 starts and the resultant reduction in residential construction starts
13 causes a condition of substantial unemployment and underemployment in the
14 construction industry;

15 (b) Such conditions generally result in and contribute to the
16 creation of slums and blighted areas in the urban and rural areas of this
17 state and a deterioration of the quality of living conditions within this
18 state and necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of
19 public funds for crime prevention and punishment, public health and
20 safety, fire and accident prevention, and other public services and
21 facilities; and

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

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

29 (a) Adequate and reliable energy supplies are a basic necessity of
30 life and sufficient energy supplies are essential to supplying adequate
31 food and shelter;

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

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

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

13 (e) Because of the high cost of available capital, the purchase of
14 energy conservation devices is not possible for many Nebraskans. The
15 prohibitively high interest rates for private capital create a situation
16 in which the necessary capital cannot be obtained solely from private
17 enterprise sources and there is a need for the stimulation of investment
18 of private capital, thereby encouraging the purchase of energy
19 conservation devices and energy conserving building modifications;

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

24 (g) The continuing purchase of energy supplies results in the
25 transfer of ever-increasing amounts of capital to out-of-state energy
26 suppliers.

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

28 (a) There exist within this state unemployment and underemployment
29 especially in areas of basic economic activity, caused by economic
30 decline and need for diversification of the economic base, needlessly
31 increasing public expenditures for unemployment compensation and welfare,

1 decreasing the tax base, reducing tax revenue, and resulting in economic
2 and social liabilities to the entire state;

3 (b) Such unemployment and underemployment cause areas of the state
4 to deteriorate and become substandard and blighted and such conditions
5 result in making such areas economic or social liabilities harmful to the
6 economic and social well-being of the entire state and the communities in
7 which they exist, needlessly increasing public expenditures, imposing
8 onerous state and municipal burdens, decreasing the tax base, reducing
9 tax revenue, substantially impairing or arresting the sound growth of the
10 state and the municipalities, depreciating general state and community-
11 wide values, and contributing to the spread of disease and crime which
12 necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of public funds
13 for the preservation of the public health and safety, for crime
14 prevention, correction, prosecution, and punishment, for the treatment of
15 juvenile delinquency, for the maintenance of adequate police, fire, and
16 accident protection, and for other public services and facilities;

17 (c) There exist within this state conditions resulting from the
18 concentration of population of various counties, cities, and villages
19 which require the construction, maintenance, and operation of adequate
20 hospital and nursing facilities for the care of the public health. Since
21 these conditions cannot be remedied by the ordinary operations of private
22 enterprises and since provision of adequate hospital, nursing, and
23 medical care is a public use, it is in the public interest that adequate
24 hospital and medical facilities and care be provided in order to care for
25 and protect the public health and welfare;

26 (d) Creation of basic economic jobs in the private sector and the
27 promotion of health and welfare by the means provided under the Nebraska
28 Investment Finance Authority Act and the resulting reduction of needless
29 public expenditures, expansion of the tax base, provision of hospitals
30 and health care and related facilities, and increase of tax revenue are
31 needed within this state; and

1 (e) Stimulation of economic development throughout the state and the
2 provision of health care at affordable prices are matters of state
3 policy, public interest, and statewide concern and within the powers and
4 authority inherent in and reserved to the state in order that the state
5 and its municipalities shall not continue to be endangered by areas which
6 consume an excessive proportion of their revenue, in order that the
7 economic base of the state may be broadened and stabilized thereby
8 providing jobs and necessary tax base, and in order that adequate health
9 care services be provided to all residents of this state.

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

11 (a) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
12 municipalities, as defined in section 81-15,149, in providing wastewater
13 treatment facilities and safe drinking water facilities. The federal
14 funding provided for wastewater treatment facilities is extremely limited
15 while the need to provide and improve wastewater treatment facilities and
16 safe drinking water facilities is great;

17 (b) The construction, development, rehabilitation, and improvement
18 of modern and efficient sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities
19 are essential to protecting and improving the state's water quality, the
20 provision of adequate wastewater treatment facilities and safe drinking
21 water facilities is essential to economic growth and development, and new
22 sources of financing for such projects are needed;

23 (c) The federal government has acted to end the system of federal
24 construction grants for clean water projects and has instead provided for
25 capitalization grants to capitalize state revolving funds for wastewater
26 treatment projects and will soon expand that to include safe drinking
27 water facilities, and the state has created or is expected to create
28 appropriate funds or accounts for such purpose. The state is required or
29 expected to be required to provide matching funds for deposit into such
30 funds or accounts, and there is a need for financing in excess of the
31 amount which can be provided by the federal money and the state match;

1 and

2 (d) Additional assistance can be provided to municipalities as
3 defined in section 81-15,149 to alleviate the problems of water pollution
4 or the provision of safe drinking water by providing for the issuance of
5 revenue bonds, the proceeds of which shall be deposited into the
6 Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund or the comparable
7 state fund to finance safe drinking water facilities. Nothing in this
8 section shall prohibit the provision of loans ~~, including loans made~~
9 ~~pursuant to the Conservation Corporation Act,~~ to a municipality as
10 defined in section 81-15,149 for the construction, development,
11 rehabilitation, operation, maintenance, and improvement of wastewater
12 treatment facilities or safe drinking water facilities.

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

14 (a) There is a need within this state for financing to assist public
15 school boards and school districts and private for-profit or not-for-
16 profit schools in connection with removal of materials determined to be
17 hazardous to the health and well-being of the residents of the state and
18 the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers and that the
19 federal funding provided for such projects is extremely limited and the
20 need and requirement to remove such materials and to reduce or eliminate
21 accessibility barriers from school buildings is great;

22 (b) The financing of the removal of such environmental hazards and
23 the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers is essential to
24 protecting and improving the facilities in the state which provide
25 educational benefits and services;

26 (c) The federal government has directed schools to remove such
27 hazardous materials and to reduce or eliminate accessibility barriers;
28 and

29 (d) The problems enumerated in this subsection cannot be remedied
30 through the operation of private enterprise or individual communities or
31 both but may be alleviated through the assistance of the authority to

1 encourage the investment of private capital and assist in the financing
2 of the removal of environmental hazards and the reduction or elimination
3 of accessibility barriers in educational facilities in this state in
4 order to provide for a clean, safe, and accessible environment to protect
5 the health and welfare of the citizens and residents of this state.

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

7 (a) The rapidly rising volume of waste deposited by society
8 threatens the capacity of existing and future landfills. The nature of
9 waste disposal means that unknown quantities of potentially toxic and
10 hazardous materials are being buried and pose a constant threat to the
11 ground water supply. In addition, the nature of the waste and the
12 disposal methods utilized allow the waste to remain basically inert for
13 decades, if not centuries, without decomposition;

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

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

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

25 (e) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
26 counties, cities, villages, entities created under the Interlocal
27 Cooperation Act and the Joint Public Agency Act, and private persons with
28 the construction and operation of new solid waste disposal areas or
29 facilities and with the closure, monitoring, and remediation of existing
30 solid waste disposal areas and facilities;

31 (f) Financing the construction and operation of new solid waste

1 disposal areas and facilities and financing the closure, monitoring, and
2 remediation of existing and former solid waste disposal areas and
3 facilities in the state is essential to protect the environment and the
4 public health and welfare;

5 (g) The federal government has directed that effective October 1,
6 1993, all solid waste disposal areas and facilities shall be upgraded to
7 meet stringent siting, design, construction, operation, closure,
8 monitoring, and remediation requirements; and

9 (h) The problems enumerated in this subsection cannot be remedied
10 through the operation of private enterprise or individual communities or
11 both but may be alleviated through the assistance of the authority to
12 encourage the investment of private capital and to assist in the
13 financing of solid waste disposal areas and facilities and in the removal
14 of environmental hazards in solid waste disposal areas and facilities in
15 this state in order to provide for a clean environment to protect the
16 health and welfare of the citizens and residents of this state.

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

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

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

24 (c) Investment in the public safety communication infrastructure is
25 required to ensure the effectiveness of such public safety agencies.
26 Since the maintenance of public safety is a paramount concern but the
27 cost of purchasing and operating multiple communication infrastructures
28 is prohibitive, it is imperative that political subdivisions cooperate in
29 their efforts to obtain real and personal property to establish, operate,
30 maintain, and manage public safety communication systems; and

31 (d) There is a need within this state for financing to assist

1 political subdivisions and any entities created under the Interlocal
2 Cooperation Act and the Joint Public Agency Act with the acquisition,
3 construction, and operation of real and personal property of public
4 safety communication systems.

5 (9) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that, as of May 27,
6 2005, and in connection with the financing of agricultural projects,
7 there is a need to increase both the limit on individual net worth and
8 the limit on the aggregate loan amount that may be provided by the
9 authority. Such adjustments are necessary to address the inadequate
10 supply of and pressing need for farm credit and agricultural loan
11 financing at interest rates and terms that are consistent with the needs
12 of farmers, particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural
13 enterprises.

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

15 (a) The amount of funding and other resources available to remedy
16 the problems identified in this section has been, and continues to be,
17 insufficient. Accordingly, the authority must be provided with additional
18 powers to adequately address the problems identified in this section with
19 funding derived from public and private sources and state and federal
20 sources;

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

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

29 **Sec. 30.** Section 66-1605, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 66-1605 Council means the Propane Education and Research Council

1 established under section ~~sections 66-1617 and 66-1618~~.

2 **Sec. 31.** Section 66-1618, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 66-1618 (1)(a) ~~(1)~~ The council shall be appointed by the Governor
5 ~~within sixty days after the date the vote is certified to the Governor~~
6 ~~pursuant to section 66-1617.~~

7 (b) The council shall consist of five ~~nine~~ members, including two
8 ~~four~~ members representing retail marketers, one member representing
9 wholesalers, suppliers, and importers, one member representing
10 manufacturers and distributors of liquefied petroleum gas equipment, ~~one~~
11 ~~member representing the academic or propane research community, one~~
12 ~~propane user or consumer,~~ and the State Fire Marshal or his or her
13 designee. Other than the State Fire Marshal or his or her designee and
14 the representatives of the research community and consumers, members
15 shall be full-time employees or owners of businesses in the industry or
16 representatives of agriculture cooperatives. Only one person from any
17 company or an affiliated company may serve on the council at a time. All
18 members shall be Nebraska residents, except that the members representing
19 wholesalers, suppliers, and importers and manufacturers and distributors
20 of liquefied petroleum gas equipment may be residents of other states.

21 (2) Members of the council shall serve terms of four ~~three~~ years,
22 except that, of the initial members, three shall be appointed for terms
23 of one year and three shall be appointed for terms of two years. Members
24 filling unexpired terms shall be appointed in a manner consistent with
25 this section. Members may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms,
26 except that members filling unexpired terms may serve a maximum of seven
27 consecutive years. Members filling unexpired terms shall be appointed in
28 a manner consistent with this section. Former members may be reappointed
29 if they have not been members for a period of two years.

30 **Sec. 32.** Section 66-2001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
31 2024, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

11 (2) The board shall consist of eight members appointed by the
12 Governor. The Governor shall make the initial appointments by October 1,
13 2012. The board shall include:

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

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

17 (c) One member representing the interests of the transportation
18 industry in the state;

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

21 (e) One member representing natural gas marketers or pipelines in
22 the state;

23 (f) One member representing automobile dealerships or repair
24 businesses in the state;

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

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

28 (3) All appointments shall be subject to the approval of a majority
29 of the members of the Legislature if the Legislature is in session, and
30 if the Legislature is not in session, any appointment to fill a vacancy
31 shall be temporary until the next session of the Legislature, at which

1 time a majority of the members of the Legislature may approve or
2 disapprove such appointment.

3 (4) Members shall be appointed for terms of four years, except that
4 of the initial appointees the terms of the members representing a
5 jurisdictional utility and a metropolitan utilities district shall expire
6 on September 30, 2015, the terms of the members representing the
7 transportation industry, the business community, natural gas marketers or
8 pipelines, and automobile dealerships or repair businesses shall expire
9 on September 30, 2014, and the terms of the members representing labor
10 and environmental interests shall expire on September 30, 2013. Members
11 may be reappointed. A member shall serve until a successor is appointed
12 and qualified.

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

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

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

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

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

26 **Sec. 33.** Section 71-702, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
27 2024, is amended to read:

28 71-702 (1) The Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council is
29 created. The advisory council terminates on July 1, 2026. Prior to July
30 1, 2026, the advisory council ~~and~~ shall consist of not more than thirty
31 members, at least three-fourths of whom are women. At least one member

1 shall be appointed from the following disciplines: (a) An obstetrician/
2 gynecologist; (b) a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant from a
3 rural community; (c) a geriatrics physician or nurse; (d) a pediatrician;
4 (e) a community public health representative from each congressional
5 district; (f) a health educator; (g) an insurance industry
6 representative; (h) a mental health professional; (i) a representative
7 from a statewide health volunteer agency; (j) a private health care
8 industry representative; (k) an epidemiologist or a health statistician;
9 (l) a foundation representative; and (m) a woman who is a health care
10 consumer from each of the following age categories: Eighteen to thirty;
11 thirty-one to forty; forty-one to sixty-five; and sixty-six and older.
12 The membership shall also include a representative of the University of
13 Nebraska Medical Center, a representative from Creighton University
14 Medical Center, the chief medical officer if one is appointed under
15 section 81-3115, and the Title V Administrator of the Department of
16 Health and Human Services.

17 (2) The Governor shall appoint advisory council members and shall
18 consider and attempt to balance representation based on political party
19 affiliation, race, and different geographical areas of Nebraska when
20 making appointments. The Governor shall appoint the first chairperson and
21 vice-chairperson of the advisory council. There shall be two ex officio,
22 nonvoting members from the Legislature, one of which shall be the
23 chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee.

24 (3) The terms of the initial members shall be as follows: One-third
25 shall serve for one-year terms, one-third shall serve for two-year terms,
26 and one-third shall serve for three-year terms including the members
27 designated chairperson and vice-chairperson. Thereafter members shall
28 serve for three-year terms. Members may not serve more than two
29 consecutive three-year terms.

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

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

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

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

12 **Sec. 34.** Section 71-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

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

28 **Sec. 35.** Section 71-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 71-706 The Department of Health and Human Services shall have all
31 powers necessary to implement the purposes and intent of sections 71-701

1 to 71-707, including applying for, receiving, and administering federal
2 and other public and private funds credited to the Women's Health
3 Initiative Fund prior to July 1, 2026. Any funds obtained for the Women's
4 Health Initiative of Nebraska shall be remitted to the State Treasurer
5 for credit to the Women's Health Initiative Fund prior to July 1, 2026.

6 **Sec. 36.** Section 71-814, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 71-814 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services is
9 created. Members of the committee shall have a demonstrated interest and
10 commitment and specialized knowledge, experience, or expertise relating
11 to the provision of mental health services in the State of Nebraska. The
12 committee shall consist of twenty-three members appointed by the Governor
13 as follows: (a) One regional governing board member, (b) one regional
14 administrator, (c) twelve consumers of behavioral health services or
15 their family members, (d) two providers of behavioral health services,
16 (e) two representatives from the State Department of Education, including
17 one representative from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the
18 State Department of Education, (f) three representatives from the
19 Department of Health and Human Services representing mental health,
20 social services, and medicaid, (g) one representative from the Nebraska
21 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and (h) one
22 representative from the Housing Office of the Community and Rural
23 Development Division of the Department of Economic Development.

24 (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)
25 serve as the state's mental health planning council as required by Public
26 Law 102-321, (b) conduct regular meetings, (c) provide advice and
27 assistance to the division relating to the provision of mental health
28 services and, beginning July 1, 2026, substance use disorder services in
29 the State of Nebraska, including, but not limited to, the development,
30 implementation, provision, and funding of organized peer support
31 services, (d) promote the interests of consumers and their families,

1 including, but not limited to, their inclusion and involvement in all
2 aspects of services design, planning, implementation, provision,
3 education, evaluation, and research, (e) provide reports as requested by
4 the division, and (f) engage in such other activities as directed or
5 authorized by the division.

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

9 **Sec. 37.** Section 71-815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 71-815 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services
12 is created. The State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services
13 terminates on July 1, 2026. Members of the committee shall have a
14 demonstrated interest and commitment and specialized knowledge,
15 experience, or expertise relating to the provision of substance abuse
16 services in the State of Nebraska. The committee shall consist of twelve
17 members appointed by the Governor and shall include at least three
18 consumers of substance abuse services.

19 (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)
20 conduct regular meetings, (b) provide advice and assistance to the
21 division relating to the provision of substance abuse services in the
22 State of Nebraska, (c) promote the interests of consumers and their
23 families, (d) provide reports as requested by the division, and (e)
24 engage in such other activities as directed or authorized by the
25 division.

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

27 **Sec. 38.** Section 71-2454.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
28 is amended to read:

29 71-2454.01 (1) The Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task
30 Force is created. The task force shall conduct a study to develop
31 recommendations of which controlled substances shall be reported by a

1 veterinarian to the prescription drug monitoring program created under
2 section 71-2454 when dispensing drugs from a veterinarian's office or an
3 animal shelter. The study shall include appropriate methods and
4 procedures of reporting by the veterinarians with the necessary database
5 field information. The task force shall utilize nationally available
6 resources afforded by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards
7 and the Department of State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs of the
8 American Veterinary Medical Association in development of the
9 recommendations.

10 (2) The task force shall consist of at least ten members appointed
11 by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the
12 Legislature as follows: One member of the Health and Human Services
13 Committee; two at-large members of the Legislature; three members
14 selected from a list of six veterinarians provided by the Board of
15 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, one of whom is employed by or provides
16 services at an animal shelter; one pharmacist nominated by the Nebraska
17 Pharmacists Association or its successor organization; and two members
18 nominated by the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association or its successor
19 organization. The task force shall also include a representative of the
20 prescription drug monitoring program who shall be a nonvoting member and
21 serve in an advisory capacity only.

22 (3) The members of the task force shall be appointed within one
23 hundred twenty days after February 25, 2016. The initial meeting of the
24 task force shall be convened within one hundred eighty days after
25 February 25, 2016. The task force shall elect a chairperson and may elect
26 any additional officers from among its members. All task force members
27 shall serve without compensation.

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

31 (5) For purposes of this section, animal shelter has the definition

1 found in section 54-626.

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

4 **Sec. 39.** Section 71-5301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
5 2024, is amended to read:

6 71-5301 For purposes of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act, unless
7 the context otherwise requires:

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

9 (1) ~~(2)~~ Department means the Department of Environment and Energy;

10 (2) ~~(3)~~ Director means the Director of Environment and Energy or his
11 or her authorized representative;

12 (3) ~~(4)~~ Designated agent means any political subdivision or
13 corporate entity having the demonstrated capability and authority to
14 carry out in whole or in part the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and
15 with which the director has consummated a legal and binding contract
16 covering specifically delegated responsibilities;

17 (4) ~~(5)~~ Major construction, extension, or alteration means those
18 structural changes that affect the source of supply, treatment processes,
19 or transmission of water to service areas but does not include the
20 extension of service mains within established service areas;

21 (5) ~~(6)~~ Operator means the individual or individuals responsible for
22 the continued performance of the water supply system or any part of such
23 system during assigned duty hours;

24 (6) ~~(7)~~ Owner means any person owning or operating a public water
25 system;

26 (7) ~~(8)~~ Person means any individual, corporation, firm, partnership,
27 limited liability company, association, company, trust, estate, public or
28 private institution, group, agency, political subdivision, or other
29 entity or any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of any of
30 such entities;

31 (8) ~~(9)~~ Water supply system means all sources of water and their

1 surroundings under the control of one owner and includes all structures,
2 conduits, and appurtenances by means of which such water is collected,
3 treated, stored, or delivered except service pipes between street mains
4 and buildings and the plumbing within or in connection with the buildings
5 served;

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

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

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

7 (10) ~~(11)~~ Drinking water standards means rules and regulations
8 adopted and promulgated pursuant to section 71-5302 which (a) establish
9 maximum levels for harmful materials which, in the judgment of the
10 director, may have an adverse effect on the health of persons and (b)
11 apply only to public water systems;

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

17 (12) ~~(13)~~ Community water system means a public water system that
18 (a) serves at least fifteen service connections used by year-round
19 residents of the area served by the system or (b) regularly serves at
20 least twenty-five year-round residents;

21 (13) ~~(14)~~ Noncommunity water system means a public water system that
22 is not a community water system;

23 (14) ~~(15)~~ Nontransient noncommunity water system means a public
24 water system that is not a community water system and that regularly
25 serves at least twenty-five of the same individuals over six months per
26 year; and

27 (15) ~~(16)~~ Federal Safe Drinking Water Act means the federal Safe
28 Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f et seq., as the act existed on January
29 1, 2021.

30 **Sec. 40.** Section 71-5310, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
31 2024, is amended to read:

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

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

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

30 **Sec. 41.** Section 71-5311, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

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

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

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

26 (4) The council shall meet not less than once each year. Special
27 meetings of the council may be called by the director or upon the written
28 request of any two members of the council explaining the reason for such
29 meeting. The place of the meeting shall be set by the director. Such
30 officers as the council deems necessary shall be elected every three
31 years beginning with the first meeting in the year 1990. A majority of

1 the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
2 of business. Representatives of the department shall attend each meeting.
3 Every act of the majority of the members of the council shall be deemed
4 to be the act of the council.

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

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

11 **Sec. 42.** Section 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
12 2024, is amended to read:

13 71-7012 The Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee is
14 established. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The committee
15 consists of the members of the Mammography Screening Committee serving
16 immediately prior to September 9, 1995, and eight additional members
17 appointed by the chief executive officer of the department or his or her
18 designee who have expertise or a personal interest in cervical cancer.
19 The committee shall consist of not more than twenty-four volunteer
20 members, at least eight of whom are women, appointed by the chief
21 executive officer or his or her designee. Members of the committee shall
22 be persons interested in health care, the promotion of breast cancer
23 screening, and cervical cancer and shall be drawn from both the private
24 sector and the public sector. At least one member shall be a person who
25 has or who has had breast cancer.

26 Of the initial members of the committee, four shall be appointed for
27 terms of one year and four shall be appointed for terms of two years.
28 Thereafter all appointments shall be for terms of two years. All members
29 shall serve until their successors are appointed. No member shall serve
30 more than two successive two-year terms. Vacancies in the membership of
31 the committee for any cause shall be filled by appointment by the chief

1 executive officer or his or her designee for the unexpired term.

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

11 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

12 **Sec. 43.** Section 71-7102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 71-7102 For purposes of the Critical Incident Stress Management Act:

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

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

17 (1) ~~(3)~~ Critical incident means a traumatic or crisis situation;

18 (2) ~~(4)~~ Critical incident stress means a strong emotional,
19 cognitive, or physical reaction which has the potential to interfere with
20 normal functioning, including physical and emotional illness, loss of
21 interest in the job, personality changes, marital discord, and loss of
22 ability to function;

23 (3) ~~(5)~~ Emergency service agency means any law enforcement agency,
24 fire department, emergency medical service, dispatcher, rescue service,
25 hospital as defined in section 71-419, or other entity which provides
26 emergency response services;

27 (4) ~~(6)~~ Emergency service personnel includes law enforcement
28 personnel, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and
29 hospital personnel; and

30 (5) ~~(7)~~ Program means the Critical Incident Stress Management
31 Program.

1 **Sec. 44.** Section 71-7107, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 71-7107 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall be the
4 lead agency for the program.

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

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

7 (b) (2) Provide necessary equipment for the program and
8 participants;

9 (c) (3) Provide staff support to the Critical Incident Stress
10 Management Council council;

11 (d) (4) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement the
12 program;

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

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

17 (g) (7) Appoint a director for the program who shall be an employee
18 of the department and shall be the chairperson of the Interagency
19 Management Committee committee.

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

21 (a) Coordinate program activities and emergency response;

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 (h) Manage program development and evaluation;
2 (i) Provide a mechanism for quality assurance that may include
3 certification of critical incident stress management team members;
4 (j) Identify critical incident stress management regions; and
5 (k) Provide backup to regional critical incident stress management
6 teams.
7 (4) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
8 implement the program.

9 **Sec. 45.** Section 71-7108, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 71-7108 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
12 ~~participate in the council and committee,~~ recruit mental health workers
13 for each critical incident stress management region , and participate in
14 the training and continuing education activities of critical incident
15 stress management peers and mental health professionals.

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

25 (3) The State Fire Marshal shall ~~participate in the council and~~
26 ~~committee,~~ cooperate in providing transportation for critical incident
27 stress management teams, recruit firefighters to be trained as critical
28 incident stress management peers in each critical incident stress
29 management region, participate in the training and continuing education
30 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
31 professionals, and appoint an individual who is employed by the State

1 Fire Marshal to be on each regional management committee.

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

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

12 **Sec. 46.** Section 71-7109, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 71-7109 The ~~council shall appoint a~~ statewide clinical director
15 shall be appointed by the Critical Incident Stress Management Council
16 until July 1, 2026, and by the Department of Health and Human Services on
17 and after July 1, 2026. The statewide clinical director ~~shall be a member~~
18 ~~of the committee and, working with the committee,~~ shall supervise and
19 evaluate the professional and peer support team members, including the
20 regional clinical directors, and until July 1, 2026, shall be a member of
21 and work with the Interagency Management Committee for such purpose. The
22 statewide clinical director may conduct critical incident stress
23 management training and continuing education activities.

24 **Sec. 47.** Section 71-7110, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 71-7110 Each critical incident stress management region shall have a
27 regional management committee composed of representatives of the
28 Department of Health and Human Services, the State Fire Marshal, and the
29 Nebraska State Patrol and a regional clinical director. The regional
30 clinical director shall have a graduate degree in a mental health
31 discipline. The regional management committee shall be responsible for

1 the implementation and coordination of the program in the region
2 according to the specifications developed by the Critical Incident Stress
3 Management Council ~~council~~ and Interagency Management Committee prior to
4 July 1, 2026, and developed by the department on and after July 1, 2026.
5 The regional management committee shall develop critical incident stress
6 management teams to facilitate the stress management process.

7 **Sec. 48.** Section 72-811, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 72-811 For purposes of sections 72-811 to 72-818:

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

11 (a) The the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee prior to July
12 1, 2026; and

13 (b) The Department of Administrative Services beginning July 1,
14 2026;

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

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

25 **Sec. 49.** Section 72-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 72-812 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee is hereby
28 created. The committee shall be composed of the Director of
29 Administrative Services, the State Building Administrator, and the
30 administrator of the Task Force for Building Renewal created pursuant to
31 section 81-174. When reviewing and considering action to be taken in

1 regard to a particular building or piece of land, the committee shall
2 also include a representative of the state agency responsible for the
3 building or land as a nonvoting member.

4 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee terminates July 1,
5 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

6 **Sec. 50.** Section 72-2101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 72-2101 The Governor's Residence Advisory Commission is created. The
9 commission terminates on July 1, 2026. The commission shall conduct an
10 annual inspection of the Governor's residence. A report on the inspection
11 shall be submitted to the Governor within thirty days after the day of
12 the inspection. The report shall include recommendations for major
13 maintenance or repair projects, if needed. Implementation and priority of
14 an approved major maintenance or repair project shall be determined by
15 the Governor in cooperation with the Director of Administrative Services.
16 Additionally, no changes, additions, deletions, or other alterations to
17 the residence, including its exterior, interior, decorative objects,
18 contents, or grounds shall be made without the prior approval of the
19 commission, except for the Governor's private living quarters located on
20 the second floor of the residence.

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

22 **Sec. 51.** Section 81-1108.41, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
23 is amended to read:

24 81-1108.41 (1) The division shall cause a state comprehensive
25 capital facilities plan to be developed. The plan shall project the
26 state's facilities needs for a period of six years and shall be based on
27 programmatic projections and input from each state agency. To aid in the
28 development of the plan prior to July 1, 2026, the Governor shall appoint
29 a State Comprehensive Capital Facilities Planning Committee with
30 representatives from various state agencies, and the ~~the~~ committee
31 shall develop and adopt comprehensive planning guidelines and a process

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

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

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

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

27 **Sec. 52.** Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative
28 Services shall assume the duties of:

29 (1) The Suggestion Award Board; and

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

31 **Sec. 53.** Section 81-1348, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 81-1348 There is hereby created the Suggestion Award Board. The
3 membership of such board shall consist of the Director of Personnel, the
4 Director of Administrative Services, the Auditor of Public Accounts or
5 his or her designee, and three persons, each to serve a term of three
6 years, selected and appointed by the Governor from the bargaining units
7 listed in section 81-1373, except that the first three appointments made
8 after February 23, 2000, shall be for terms of one year, two years, and
9 three years, as designated by the Governor. Of the persons selected from
10 such bargaining units, one person shall be selected from each of such
11 bargaining units as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 The members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
26 81-1174 to 81-1177.

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

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

31 **Sec. 54.** Section 81-1430, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 81-1430 (1) A task force is hereby established within the Nebraska
3 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the purposes of
4 investigating and studying human trafficking, the methods for advertising
5 human trafficking services, and the victimization of individuals coerced
6 to participate in human trafficking. The task force terminates July 1,
7 2026.

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

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

28 (b) Posters shall be placed in rest stops, strip clubs, and casinos.
29 The department ~~task force~~ shall work with local businesses and nonprofit
30 entities associated with the prevention of human trafficking to
31 voluntarily place additional signs in high schools, postsecondary

1 educational institutions, gas stations, hotels, hospitals, health care
2 clinics, urgent care centers, airports, train stations, bus stations, and
3 other locations around the state deemed appropriate by the department
4 ~~task force~~.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (g) A county sheriff;

23 (h) A county attorney;

24 (i) A county commissioner;

25 (j) A mayor or city manager;

26 (k) A person involved with the control or prevention of juvenile
27 delinquency;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (8) The chairperson of the task force shall be designated by the
29 Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairperson shall
30 be the chief executive officer of the task force but may delegate such of
31 his or her duties to other members of the task force as may be authorized

1 by the task force.

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

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

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

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

19 **Sec. 55.** Section 81-1431, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 81-1431 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that law enforcement
22 agencies, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, juvenile detention
23 center staff, and others involved in the juvenile justice system and the
24 criminal justice system and other relevant officials be provided
25 mandatory training regarding issues in human trafficking. Prior to July
26 1, 2026, the The task force established in section 81-1430 shall work
27 with such agencies, persons, and staff to develop a proper curriculum for
28 the training and to determine how the training should be provided. The
29 determination and accompanying legislative recommendations shall be made
30 by December 1, 2012. Such training shall focus on:

31 (a) State and federal law regarding human trafficking;

1 (b) Methods used in identifying victims of human trafficking who are
2 United States citizens and foreign nationals, including preliminary
3 interview techniques and appropriate questioning methods;

4 (c) Methods for prosecuting human traffickers;

5 (d) Methods of increasing effective collaboration with
6 nongovernmental organizations and other relevant social service
7 organizations in the course of investigating and prosecuting a human
8 trafficking case;

9 (e) Methods for protecting the rights of victims of human
10 trafficking, taking into account the need to consider human rights and
11 the special needs of women and minor victims;

12 (f) The necessity of treating victims of human trafficking as crime
13 victims rather than as criminals; and

14 (g) Methods for promoting the safety and well-being of all victims
15 of human trafficking.

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

20 **Sec. 56.** Section 81-15,159.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
21 is amended to read:

22 81-15,159.01 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy shall
23 conduct a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs
24 operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and
25 revise such programs. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (a)
26 Whether existing state programs regarding litter and waste reduction and
27 recycling should be amended or merged; (b) a needs assessment of the
28 recycling and composting programs in the state, including the need for
29 infrastructure development operating standards, market development,
30 coordinated public education resulting in behavior change, and incentives
31 to increase recycling and composting; (c) methods to partner with

1 political subdivisions, private industry, and private, nonprofit
2 organizations to most successfully address waste management issues in the
3 state; (d) recommendations regarding existing funding sources and
4 possible new revenue sources at the state and local level to address
5 existing and emerging solid waste management issues; and (e) revisions to
6 existing grant programs to address solid waste management issues in a
7 proactive manner.

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

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

23 **Sec. 57.** Section 81-15,210, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 81-15,210 (1) The director of the Nebraska Emergency Management
26 Agency shall serve as the State Administrator of the Nebraska Emergency
27 Planning and Community Right to Know Act.

28 (2) The State Emergency Response Commission is created and shall be
29 a part of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for administrative
30 purposes. The commission terminates on July 1, 2026. Beginning July 1,
31 2026, the duties of the commission under the Nebraska Emergency Planning

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

18 (3) ~~(2)~~ The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for
19 terms of four years, except that of the first citizen members appointed,
20 three members shall serve for one-year terms, three members shall serve
21 for two-year terms, and two members shall serve for three-year terms, as
22 designated at the time of appointment.

23 (4) ~~(3)~~ A vacancy on the commission shall exist in the event of the
24 death, disability, or resignation of a member. Any member appointed to
25 fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which
26 his or her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed by the Governor
27 for the remainder of such term.

28 **Sec. 58.** Section 81-15,238, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 81-15,238 For purposes of the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment
31 System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act, the

1 definitions in sections 81-15,240 ~~81-15,239~~ to 81-15,244 shall be used.

2 **Sec. 59.** Section 81-15,245, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 81-15,245 The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory
5 Committee is created. The advisory committee terminates on July 1, 2026.

6 The advisory committee shall be composed of the following eleven members:

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

8 (a) Five private onsite wastewater treatment system professionals;
9 and

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

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

15 (3) The Director of Environment and Energy or his or her designated
16 representative; and

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

21 Members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
22 81-1174 to 81-1177. The department shall provide administrative support
23 for the advisory committee.

24 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

25 **Sec. 60.** Section 81-15,246, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 81-15,246 Prior to July 1, 2026, the Private Onsite Wastewater
28 Treatment System Advisory Committee ~~The advisory committee~~ shall:

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

31 (2) Advise the department on proposed rules and regulations relating

1 to the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors
2 Certification and System Registration Act;

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

6 (4) Advise the department on the administration of the act as
7 requested by the director.

8 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

9 **Sec. 61.** Section 82-703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 82-703 (1) The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection
12 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The
13 committee shall consist of members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame
14 Commission created pursuant to section 72-724.

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

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

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

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

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

26 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
27 States Capitol;

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

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

31 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

1 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
2 to incur.

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

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

6 **Sec. 62.** Section 82-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 82-706 (1) The Chief Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection
9 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The
10 committee shall consist of (a) a representative of the Commission on
11 Indian Affairs, selected by the chairperson of the commission, (b) a
12 member of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature,
13 selected by the chairperson of the committee, (c) the chairperson of the
14 Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development or its successor, and (d) the
15 Historic Preservation Planner of the City of Lincoln.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
28 States Capitol;

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

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

1 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and
2 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
3 to incur.

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

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

7 **Sec. 63.** Section 85-1008, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 85-1008 (1) To assist the center in carrying out its purposes and
10 functions prior to July 1, 2026, the Board of Regents may establish a
11 Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council composed of the following
12 members:

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

- 1 (s) One person representing fire safety;
- 2 (t) One representative of the Coordinating Commission for
- 3 Postsecondary Education;
- 4 (u) One person representing the Red Cross; and
- 5 (v) One person representing the state colleges.
- 6 (2) Representatives selected to serve on the council shall have
- 7 appropriate education, training, and experience in the field of fire
- 8 safety, industrial safety, recreational safety, domestic safety, or
- 9 traffic safety.

10 (3) The Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council terminates on July

11 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

12 **Sec. 64.** Section 85-1607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

13 amended to read:

14 85-1607 (1) Until July 1, 2026, the The board shall appoint an

15 advisory council of six representatives of private postsecondary career

16 schools. Members of the council shall include representatives from a

17 business school, a trade or technical school, a better business bureau,

18 and three other distinct areas of education. Members of the council shall

19 serve staggered terms of three years each as established by the board at

20 the time of initial appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the council, the

21 board shall appoint a successor in the same category as the predecessor.

22 The advisory council shall have the following responsibilities:

23 (a) {1} To advise the department in its administration of the

24 Private Postsecondary Career School Act; and

25 (b) {2} To review the rules and regulations adopted or proposed for

26 adoption by the department and make recommendations with respect thereto.

27 (2) The advisory council created pursuant to this section terminates

28 on July 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

29 **Sec. 65.** Section 85-1643, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

30 amended to read:

31 85-1643 (1) The Private Postsecondary Career Schools Cash Fund is

1 created. All fees collected pursuant to the Private Postsecondary Career
2 School Act shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the
3 fund. The fund shall be used only for the purpose of administering the
4 act. No fees shall be subject to refund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (h) Initial authorization to award an associate degree, one hundred
20 dollars;

21 (i) Significant program change, fifty dollars;

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

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

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

26 (a) Certificate of approval to recruit, five hundred dollars
27 annually;

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

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

30 (4)(a) Prior to July 1, 2026, the The board shall consult with the
31 advisory council established pursuant to section 85-1607 regarding any

1 increase in fees under the act. ~~The board~~ ~~Beginning with fiscal year~~
2 ~~2006-07 and each year thereafter, the board in consultation with the~~
3 ~~advisory council~~ shall establish fees sufficient to cover the total cost
4 of administration, except that such fees shall not exceed one hundred ten
5 percent of the previous year's total cost. Such fees shall be set out in
6 the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the board.

7 (b) Total cost of administration shall be determined by an annual
8 audit of:

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

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

12 (iii) Capital costs such as office equipment, computer hardware, and
13 computer software;

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

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

17 **Sec. 66.** Section 86-511, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 86-511 Technical panel means:

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

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

23 **Sec. 67.** Section 86-516, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 86-516 The commission shall:

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

28 (2) Create an information technology clearinghouse to identify and
29 share best practices and new developments, as well as identify existing
30 problems and deficiencies;

31 (3) Review and adopt policies to provide incentives for investments

1 in information technology infrastructure services;

2 (4) Determine a broad strategy and objectives for developing and
3 sustaining information technology development in Nebraska, including
4 long-range funding strategies, research and development investment,
5 support and maintenance requirements, and system usage and assessment
6 guidelines;

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

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

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

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

30 (9) Approve grants from the Community Technology Fund and Government
31 Technology Collaboration Fund;

1 (10) Adopt schedules and procedures for reporting needs, priorities,
2 and recommended projects;

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

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

9 (13) Beginning July 1, 2026, assume the duties of the technical
10 panel.

11 **Sec. 68.** Section 86-521, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 86-521 (1) A technical panel is created. The technical panel shall
14 be comprised of one representative from the Nebraska Educational
15 Telecommunications Commission, one representative from the office of
16 Chief Information Officer, one representative from the University of
17 Nebraska Computing Services Network, and such other members as specified
18 by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

19 (2) The technical panel shall review any technology project
20 presented to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission including any
21 recommendations by working groups established under sections 86-512 to
22 86-524. Upon the conclusion of the review of a technology project or
23 request for additional funding, the technical panel shall provide its
24 analysis to the commission. The technical panel may recommend technical
25 standards and guidelines to be considered for adoption by the commission.

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

29 **Sec. 69.** Section 86-1101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 86-1101 The Legislature finds and declares that:

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

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

7 It is the intent of the Legislature that broadband
8 telecommunications service in rural areas of the state should be
9 comparable in download and upload speed and price to urban areas in the
10 state where possible and that state resources should be utilized to
11 ensure that the rural residents of the state should not be penalized
12 simply because of their rural residence. It is further the intent of the
13 Legislature that the residents of this state should have access to
14 broadband telecommunications service at a minimum download speed of one
15 hundred megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of one hundred
16 megabits per second.

17 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

18 **Sec. 70.** Section 86-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 86-1102 (1) The Rural Broadband Task Force is hereby created. The
21 task force terminates on July 1, 2026. Task force members shall include
22 the chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of
23 the Legislature and a member of the Legislature selected by the Executive
24 Board of the Legislative Council who shall both serve as nonvoting, ex
25 officio members, a member of the Public Service Commission who shall be
26 selected by the chairperson of such commission, the chairperson of the
27 Nebraska Information Technology Commission or his or her designee who
28 shall act as chairperson of the task force, the Director of Economic
29 Development or his or her designee, the Director of Agriculture or his or
30 her designee, and the following members to be appointed by the Governor:
31 A representative of the agribusiness community, a representative of the

1 Nebraska business community, a representative of the regulated wireline
2 telecommunications industry, a representative of the wireless
3 telecommunications industry, a representative of the public power
4 industry, a representative of health care providers, a representative of
5 Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions, and a representative of
6 rural schools offering kindergarten through grade twelve. The members
7 appointed by the Governor shall serve for a term of two years and may be
8 reappointed.

9 (2) The task force may appoint advisory groups to assist the task
10 force in providing technical expertise and advice on any issue. The
11 advisory groups may be composed of representatives of stakeholder groups
12 which may include, but not necessarily be limited to, representatives
13 from small and large wireline companies, wireless companies, public power
14 districts, electric cooperative corporations, cable television companies,
15 Internet service providers, low-income telecommunications and electric
16 utility customers, health care providers, and representatives of
17 educational sectors. No compensation or expense reimbursement shall be
18 provided to any member of any advisory group appointed by the task force.

19 (3) The Nebraska Information Technology Commission shall provide
20 staff assistance to the task force in consultation with staff from the
21 Public Service Commission and other interested parties. The task force
22 may hire consultants to assist in carrying out its duties. The task force
23 shall review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability
24 of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska. In particular, the task
25 force shall:

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

29 (b) Examine the role of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal
30 Service Fund in bringing comparable and affordable broadband services to
31 rural residents and any effect of the fund in deterring or delaying

1 capital formation, broadband competition, and broadband deployment;

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

5 (d) Examine alternatives for deployment of broadband services to
6 areas that remain unserved or underserved, such as funding redirection
7 programs described in section 86-330, public-private partnerships,
8 funding for competitive deployment, and other measures, and make
9 recommendations to the Public Service Commission to encourage deployment
10 in such areas;

11 (e) Recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal
12 service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support
13 and other federal funding;

14 (f) Make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature as to the
15 most effective and efficient ways that federal broadband rural
16 infrastructure funds received after July 1, 2018, should be expended if
17 such funds become available; and

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

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

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

28 (6) For purposes of this section, broadband services means high-
29 speed telecommunications capability at a minimum download speed of one
30 hundred megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of one hundred
31 megabits per second, and that enables users to originate and receive

1 high-quality voice, data, and video telecommunications using any
2 technology.

3 **Sec. 71.** Section 86-1103, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 86-1103 The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund is created. The fund
6 shall be used to carry out the purposes of the Rural Broadband Task Force
7 as described in section 86-1102. For administrative purposes, the fund
8 shall be located in the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The
9 fund shall consist of money appropriated or transferred by the
10 Legislature and gifts, grants, or bequests from any source, including
11 federal, state, public, and private sources. Any money in the fund
12 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment
13 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska
14 State Funds Investment Act.

15 The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund terminates on July 1, 2026. The
16 State Treasurer shall transfer any money remaining in the fund on such
17 date to the General Fund.

18 **Sec. 72.** Section 75 of this act becomes operative on July 1, 2026.
19 The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

20 **Sec. 73.** Original sections 2-1801, 2-1803, 2-1826, 2-4901, 2-5001,
21 2-5003, 38-204, 38-205, 38-308, 38-310, 38-605, 38-703, 38-904, 38-2213,
22 38-2214, 38-2306, 58-202, 66-1605, 66-1618, 71-705, 71-706, 71-814,
23 71-815, 71-2454.01, 71-5311, 71-7102, 71-7107, 71-7108, 71-7109, 71-7110,
24 72-811, 72-812, 72-2101, 81-1108.41, 81-1348, 81-1430, 81-1431,
25 81-15,159.01, 81-15,210, 81-15,238, 81-15,245, 81-15,246, 82-703, 82-706,
26 85-1008, 85-1607, 85-1643, 86-511, 86-516, 86-521, 86-1101, 86-1102, and
27 86-1103, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 38-167,
28 38-2120, 38-2216, 39-2106, 39-2301.01, 39-2304, 43-3401, 43-4001,
29 43-4203, 43-4216, 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001, 71-702, 71-5301, 71-5310,
30 and 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, are repealed.

31 **Sec. 74.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections

1 2-4201, 2-4202, 2-4203, 2-4204, 2-4205, 2-4206, 2-4207, 2-4208, 2-4209,
2 2-4210, 2-4211, 2-4212, 2-4213, 2-4214, 2-4215, 2-4216, 2-4217, 2-4218,
3 2-4219, 2-4220, 2-4221, 2-4222, 2-4223, 2-4224, 2-4225, 2-4226, 2-4227,
4 2-4228, 2-4229, 2-4230, 2-4231, 2-4232, 2-4233, 2-4234, 2-4235, 2-4236,
5 2-4237, 2-4238, 2-4239, 2-4240, 2-4241, 2-4242, 2-4243, 2-4244, 2-4245,
6 2-4246, 38-2307, 43-4003, 50-601, 50-602, 50-603, 66-1617, 71-4501,
7 71-4502, 71-4503, and 81-15,239, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
8 and sections 43-1306 and 71-4504, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
9 2024.

10 **Sec. 75.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
11 38-206, 71-7105, and 71-7106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

12 2. Strike beginning with "government" on page 1, line 1, through
13 page 3, line 20, and insert "government; to amend sections 2-1801,
14 2-1803, 2-1826, 2-4901, 2-5001, 2-5003, 38-204, 38-205, 38-308, 38-310,
15 38-605, 38-703, 38-904, 38-2213, 38-2214, 38-2306, 58-202, 66-1605,
16 66-1618, 71-705, 71-706, 71-814, 71-815, 71-2454.01, 71-5311, 71-7102,
17 71-7107, 71-7108, 71-7109, 71-7110, 72-811, 72-812, 72-2101, 81-1108.41,
18 81-1348, 81-1430, 81-1431, 81-15,159.01, 81-15,210, 81-15,238, 81-15,245,
19 81-15,246, 82-703, 82-706, 85-1008, 85-1607, 85-1643, 86-511, 86-516,
20 86-521, 86-1101, 86-1102, and 86-1103, Reissue Revised Statutes of
21 Nebraska, and sections 38-167, 38-2120, 38-2216, 39-2106, 39-2301.01,
22 39-2304, 43-3401, 43-4001, 43-4203, 43-4216, 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001,
23 71-702, 71-5301, 71-5310, and 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative
24 Supplement, 2024; to provide, change, eliminate, and transfer powers,
25 duties, and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task
26 forces, panels, and departments as prescribed; to provide for termination
27 of the advisory council for the Private Postsecondary Career School Act,
28 the Advisory Council on Public Water Supply, the Board of Advanced
29 Practice Registered Nurses, the Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling, the
30 Board of Examiners for County Highway and City Street Superintendents,
31 the Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee, the Bridge to

1 Independence Advisory Committee, the Chief Standing Bear National
2 Statuary Hall Selection Committee, the Children's Behavioral Health Task
3 Force, the Climate Assessment Response Committee, the Critical Incident
4 Stress Management Council, the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee,
5 the Governor's Residence Advisory Commission, the Interagency Management
6 Committee, the Natural Gas Fuel Board, the Nebraska Aquaculture Board,
7 the Nebraska Potato Development Act, the Nebraska Potato Development
8 Committee, the Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council, the Private
9 Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory Committee, the Rural
10 Broadband Task Force, the solid waste management advisory committee, the
11 State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services, the State
12 Comprehensive Capital Facilities Planning Committee, the State Emergency
13 Response Commission, the Suggestion Award Board, the task force on human
14 trafficking, the technical panel for the Nebraska Information Technology
15 Commission, the Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee, the Veterinary
16 Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force, the Willa Cather National
17 Statuary Hall Selection Committee, the Women's Health Initiative Advisory
18 Council, and the Women's Health Initiative Fund; to change provisions
19 relating to the Board of Mental Health Practice, the Board of Nursing,
20 the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards, the Critical
21 Incident Stress Management Act, the Department of Administrative
22 Services, the Department of Environment and Energy, the Department of
23 Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Early Childhood
24 Interagency Coordinating Council, the Nebraska Children's Commission, the
25 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the Nebraska Information Technology
26 Commission, the Propane Education and Research Council, the State
27 Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services, and the State Board of
28 Education; to change and eliminate funds; to eliminate the Children and
29 Juveniles Data Feasibility Study Advisory Group, the Conservation
30 Corporation Act, the Nebraska Conservation Corporation, the Palliative
31 Care and Quality of Life Act, the Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task

1 Force; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; to
2 provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; and to outright
3 repeal sections 2-4201, 2-4202, 2-4203, 2-4204, 2-4205, 2-4206, 2-4207,
4 2-4208, 2-4209, 2-4210, 2-4211, 2-4212, 2-4213, 2-4214, 2-4215, 2-4216,
5 2-4217, 2-4218, 2-4219, 2-4220, 2-4221, 2-4222, 2-4223, 2-4224, 2-4225,
6 2-4226, 2-4227, 2-4228, 2-4229, 2-4230, 2-4231, 2-4232, 2-4233, 2-4234,
7 2-4235, 2-4236, 2-4237, 2-4238, 2-4239, 2-4240, 2-4241, 2-4242, 2-4243,
8 2-4244, 2-4245, 2-4246, 38-206, 38-2307, 43-4003, 50-601, 50-602, 50-603,
9 66-1617, 71-4501, 71-4502, 71-4503, 71-7105, 71-7106, and 81-15,239,
10 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 43-1306 and 71-4504,
11 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024."