

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 346

FINAL READING

Introduced by Arch, 14; at the request of the Governor.

Read first time January 16, 2025

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to government; to amend sections 2-1801,
2 2-1803, 2-1826, 2-4901, 2-5001, 2-5003, 38-204, 38-205, 38-308,
3 38-310, 38-605, 38-703, 38-904, 38-2213, 38-2214, 38-2306, 66-1605,
4 66-1618, 71-705, 71-706, 71-814, 71-815, 71-2454.01, 71-5311,
5 71-7102, 71-7107, 71-7108, 71-7109, 71-7110, 72-811, 72-812,
6 72-2101, 81-1108.41, 81-1348, 81-1430, 81-1431, 81-15,159.01,
7 81-15,210, 81-15,238, 81-15,245, 81-15,246, 82-703, 82-706, 85-1008,
8 85-1607, 85-1643, 86-511, 86-516, 86-521, 86-1101, 86-1102, and
9 86-1103, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 38-167,
10 38-2120, 38-2216, 39-2106, 39-2301.01, 39-2304, 43-3401, 43-4001,
11 43-4203, 43-4216, 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001, 71-702, 71-5301,
12 71-5310, and 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024;
13 to provide, change, eliminate, and transfer powers, duties, and
14 membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task
15 forces, panels, and departments as prescribed; to provide for
16 termination of the advisory council for the Private Postsecondary
17 Career School Act, the Advisory Council on Public Water Supply, the
18 Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, the Board of Alcohol
19 and Drug Counseling, the Board of Examiners for County Highway and
20 City Street Superintendents, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory
21 Committee, the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee, the Chief
22 Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection Committee, the

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

1 dates; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal
2 sections 38-206, 38-2307, 43-4003, 50-601, 50-602, 50-603, 66-1617,
3 71-4501, 71-4502, 71-4503, 71-7105, 71-7106, and 81-15,239, Reissue
4 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 71-4504, Revised Statutes
5 Cumulative Supplement, 2024.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

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

3 2-1801 Sections 2-1801 to 2-1811 may be cited as the Nebraska Potato
4 Development Act. The act terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

7 2-1803 (1) With the exception of the ex officio member, the Governor
8 shall appoint an advisory committee to be known as the Nebraska Potato
9 Development Committee. The committee shall be composed of three shippers
10 and four growers from the industry and the vice chancellor of the
11 University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources who
12 shall be an ex officio member. The Director of Agriculture shall be the
13 chairperson. The committee shall adopt and provide rules and regulations
14 for the conduct of the affairs of the Division of Potato Development and
15 advise the director regarding the appointment of the division head and
16 any assistants as may be appointed. The members of the committee shall
17 serve without pay but shall receive expenses incurred while on official
18 business as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. As the terms of
19 office of such appointees expire, successors shall be appointed by the
20 Governor for a period of two years and until their successors are
21 appointed and qualified.

22 (2) The Nebraska Potato Development Committee terminates on July 1,
23 2026.

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

26 2-1826 This section terminates on July 1, 2026. The Nebraska Potato
27 Development Act and the Nebraska Potato Inspection Act shall become one
28 act in two parts with the Nebraska Potato Development Act designated as
29 Part I and the Nebraska Potato Inspection Act designated as Part II
30 thereof and the Revisor of Statutes shall make appropriate changes in the
31 statutes necessitated by such redesignation.

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

3 2-4901 (1) The Climate Assessment Response Committee is hereby
4 created. The office of the Governor shall be the lead agency and shall
5 oversee the committee and its activities. The committee shall be composed
6 of representatives appointed by the Governor with the approval of a
7 majority of the Legislature from livestock producers, crop producers, the
8 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the Conservation and Survey
9 Division and Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska.
10 The Director of Agriculture or his or her designee, the chief executive
11 officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her
12 designee, and the Director of Natural Resources or his or her designee
13 shall be ex officio members of the committee. Representatives from the
14 federal Consolidated Farm Service Agency and Federal Crop Insurance
15 Corporation may also serve on the committee at the invitation of the
16 Governor. The chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture of the
17 Legislature and the chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources of
18 the Legislature shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of the committee.
19 The Governor may appoint a member of the Governor's Policy Research
20 Office and any other state agency representatives or invite any other
21 federal agencies to name representatives as he or she deems necessary.
22 The Governor shall appoint one of the Climate Assessment Response
23 Committee members to serve as the chairperson of the committee. Committee
24 members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174
25 to 81-1177.

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

30 (3) The chairperson may establish subcommittees and may invite
31 representatives of agencies other than those with members on the

1 committee to serve on such subcommittees.

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

6 (5) The Climate Assessment Response Committee terminates on July 1,
7 2026. Sections 2-4901 and 2-4902 terminate on July 1, 2026.

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

10 2-5001 Sections 2-5001 to 2-5006 terminate on July 1, 2026. The
11 Legislature finds that it is in the interest of the people of the state
12 that the practice of aquaculture be encouraged in order to promote
13 agricultural diversification, augment food supplies, expand employment
14 opportunities, promote economic activity, increase stocks of fish and
15 other aquatic life, protect and better use and manage the natural
16 resources of the state, and provide other benefits to the state.

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

19 2-5003 There is hereby created the Nebraska Aquaculture Board. The
20 board shall consist of (1) one employee of the commission who is familiar
21 with aquatic disease, appointed by the secretary of the commission, (2)
22 one employee of the department appointed by the director, (3) three
23 aquaculturists, appointed by the Governor, and (4) a representative of an
24 industry or product which is related to or used in aquaculture, appointed
25 by the Governor. The board shall elect from its members a chairperson.
26 The terms of the members of the board shall be three years, except that
27 the terms of the initial aquaculturist members of the board appointed by
28 the Governor shall be staggered so that one member is appointed for a
29 term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of
30 three years, as determined by the Governor. Members appointed under
31 subdivisions (3) and (4) of this section shall be reimbursed for expenses

1 as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

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

3 **Sec. 7.** Section 38-167, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
4 2024, is amended to read:

5 38-167 (1) Boards shall be designated as follows:

- 6 (a) Prior to July 1, 2026, Board of Advanced Practice Registered
7 Nurses;
- 8 (b) Prior to July 1, 2026, Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling;
- 9 (c) Board of Athletic Training;
- 10 (d) Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology;
- 11 (e) Board of Behavior Analysts;
- 12 (f) Board of Chiropractic;
- 13 (g) Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology,
14 and Body Art;
- 15 (h) Board of Dentistry;
- 16 (i) Board of Emergency Medical Services;
- 17 (j) Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists;
- 18 (k) Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming;
- 19 (l) Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists;
- 20 (m) Board of Massage Therapy;
- 21 (n) Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy;
- 22 (o) Board of Medical Radiography;
- 23 (p) Board of Medicine and Surgery;
- 24 (q) Board of Mental Health Practice;
- 25 (r) Board of Nursing;
- 26 (s) Board of Nursing Home Administration;
- 27 (t) Board of Occupational Therapy Practice;
- 28 (u) Board of Optometry;
- 29 (v) Board of Pharmacy;
- 30 (w) Board of Physical Therapy;
- 31 (x) Board of Podiatry;

- 1 (y) Board of Psychology;
- 2 (z) Board of Respiratory Care Practice; and
- 3 (aa) Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

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

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

11 38-204 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
12 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
13 the Board of Nursing.

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

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

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

27 (a) One nurse practitioner holding a license under the Nurse
28 Practitioner Practice Act, one certified nurse midwife holding a license
29 under the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice Act, one certified
30 registered nurse anesthetist holding a license under the Certified
31 Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act, and one clinical nurse

1 specialist holding a license under the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice
2 Act, except that the initial clinical nurse specialist appointee may be a
3 clinical nurse specialist practicing pursuant to the Nurse Practice Act
4 as such act existed prior to July 1, 2007. Of the initial appointments
5 under this subdivision, one shall be for a two-year term, one shall be
6 for a three-year term, one shall be for a four-year term, and one shall
7 be for a five-year term. All subsequent appointments under this
8 subdivision shall be for five-year terms;

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

17 (c) Two public members. Of the initial appointments under this
18 subdivision, one shall be for a three-year term, and one shall be for a
19 four-year term. All subsequent appointments under this subdivision shall
20 be for five-year terms.

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

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

26 38-308 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of Alcohol
27 and Drug Counseling. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means the Board of
28 Mental Health Practice.

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

31 38-310 (1) Membership on the board shall consist of seven

1 professional members and two public members appointed pursuant to section
2 38-158. The members shall meet the requirements of sections 38-164 and
3 38-165. Three of the professional members shall be licensed alcohol and
4 drug counselors who may also be licensed as psychologists or mental
5 health practitioners, three of the professional members shall be licensed
6 alcohol and drug counselors who are not licensed as psychologists or
7 mental health practitioners, and one of the professional members shall be
8 a psychiatrist, psychologist, or mental health practitioner.

9 (2) The Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling terminates on July 1,
10 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

13 38-605 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
14 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
15 the Board of Nursing.

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

18 38-703 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
19 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
20 the Board of Nursing.

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

23 38-904 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
24 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
25 the Board of Nursing.

26 **Sec. 15.** Section 38-2120, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
27 2024, is amended to read:

28 38-2120 (1) This subsection applies prior to July 1, 2026. The board
29 shall consist of nine professional members and two public members
30 appointed pursuant to section 38-158. The members shall meet the
31 requirements of sections 38-164 and 38-165. Two professional members

1 shall be certified master social workers, two professional members shall
2 be certified professional counselors, two professional members shall be
3 certified marriage and family therapists, one professional member shall
4 be a certified art therapist, and two professional members shall be
5 licensed mental health practitioners that do not hold an associated
6 certification.

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

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

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

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

1 advanced practice registered nurses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (5) Each licensed practical nurse member shall (a) have completed at

1 least four years of high school study, (b) be licensed as a licensed
2 practical nurse in this state, (c) have obtained a certificate or diploma
3 from a state-approved practical nursing program, (d) have been actively
4 engaged in practical nursing for at least five years, and (e) be
5 currently employed in the provision of patient care services as a
6 licensed practical nurse in the state.

7 (6) Each public member shall meet the requirements of section
8 38-165.

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

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

21 (c) The appointment of advanced practice registered nurses to fill
22 the vacancies as of July 1, 2026, shall be made so that one of the four
23 advanced practice registered nurse members serves until December 1, 2028,
24 one serves until December 1, 2029, one serves until December 1, 2030, and
25 one serves until December 1, 2031, or as close thereto as possible.
26 Subsequent appointments of advanced practice registered nurses shall be
27 for five-year terms as provided in section 38-163.

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

31 **Sec. 18.** Section 38-2216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2024, is amended to read:

2 38-2216 In addition to the duties listed in sections 38-126 and
3 38-161, the board shall:

4 (1) Adopt reasonable and uniform standards for nursing practice and
5 nursing education;

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

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

19 (4) Approve educational programs which meet the requirements of the
20 Nurse Practice Act;

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

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

26 (7) Collect data regarding nursing;

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

29 (9) Join organizations that develop and regulate the national
30 nursing licensure examinations and exclusively promote the improvement of
31 the legal standards of the practice of nursing for the protection of the

1 public health, safety, and welfare; and

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

7 (11) Beginning July 1, 2026:

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

10 (b) Monitor the scope of practice by certified nurse midwives,
11 certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and
12 nurse practitioners;

13 (c) Recommend disciplinary action relating to licenses of advanced
14 practice registered nurses, certified nurse midwives, certified
15 registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse
16 practitioners;

17 (d) Engage in other activities not inconsistent with the Advanced
18 Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act, the Certified Nurse Midwifery
19 Practice Act, the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act,
20 the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act, and the Nurse Practitioner
21 Practice Act; and

22 (e) Adopt rules and regulations to implement the Advanced Practice
23 Registered Nurse Practice Act, the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice
24 Act, the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act, the
25 Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice Act, and the Nurse Practitioner
26 Practice Act, for promulgation by the department as provided in section
27 38-126. Such rules and regulations shall also include (i) approved
28 certification organizations and certification programs and (ii)
29 professional liability insurance.

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

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

4 **Sec. 20.** Section 39-2106, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
5 2024, is amended to read:

6 39-2106 (1) ~~There To assist in developing the functional~~
7 ~~classification system, there~~ is hereby established the Board of Public
8 Roads Classifications and Standards which shall consist of eleven members
9 to be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature. The
10 board shall assist in developing the functional classification system.
11 Beginning July 1, 2026, another duty of the board shall be to have sole
12 responsibility for overseeing the County Highway and City Street
13 Superintendents Act.

14 (2) Of the members of such board:

15 (a) Two shall be representatives of the Department of
16 Transportation;

17 (b) Three shall be representatives of the counties. One of such
18 members shall be a county highway superintendent licensed pursuant to the
19 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act and two of such
20 members shall be county board members;

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

1 Act; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (5) In making such appointments, the Governor shall consult with the
24 Director-State Engineer and with the appropriate county and municipal
25 officials and may consult with organizations representing such officials
26 or representing counties or municipalities as may be appropriate.

27 (6) At the expiration of the existing term, one member from the
28 county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
29 citizens shall be appointed for a term of two years; and two members from
30 the county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
31 citizens shall be appointed for terms of four years. One representative

1 from the department shall be appointed for a two-year term and the other
2 representative shall be appointed for a four-year term. Thereafter, all
3 such appointments shall be for terms of four years each.

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

10 **Sec. 21.** Section 39-2301.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2024, is amended to read:

12 39-2301.01 For purposes of the County Highway and City Street
13 Superintendents Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

14 (1) Board of examiners means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (b) Developing annual programs for design, construction, and
28 maintenance;

29 (c) Developing annual budgets based on programmed projects and
30 activities;

31 (d) Implementing the capital improvements and maintenance activities

1 provided in the approved plans, programs, and budgets; and

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

4 **Sec. 22.** Section 39-2304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
5 2024, is amended to read:

6 39-2304 (1) The Board of Examiners for County Highway and City
7 Street Superintendents is created. The board terminates on July 1, 2026.
8 The board shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Governor.
9 Four of such members shall be county representatives and three of such
10 members shall be municipal representatives.

11 (2)(a) Immediately preceding appointment to the board, each county
12 and municipal representative shall hold a county highway and city street
13 superintendent license pursuant to the County Highway and City Street
14 Superintendents Act.

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

17 (c) Of the municipal representatives:

18 (i) No more than one shall be appointed from each congressional
19 district;

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

22 (iii) One shall be a representative of a city of the second class;
23 and

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

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

28 (a) A list of county engineers, county highway superintendents, and
29 county surveyors submitted by the Nebraska Association of County
30 Officials; and

31 (b) A list of city street superintendents, city managers, city

1 administrators, street commissioners, city engineers, village engineers,
2 and public works directors submitted by the League of Nebraska
3 Municipalities.

4 (4) Two county representatives shall initially be appointed for
5 terms of two years each, and two county representatives shall initially
6 be appointed for terms of four years each. One municipal representative
7 shall initially be appointed for a term of two years, and two municipal
8 representatives shall initially be appointed for terms of four years
9 each. Thereafter, all such appointments shall be for terms of four years
10 each.

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

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

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

24 **Sec. 23.** Section 43-3401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
25 2024, is amended to read:

26 43-3401 (1) The Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council is
27 created. The council shall advise and assist the collaborating agencies
28 in carrying out the provisions of the Early Intervention Act, the Quality
29 Child Care Act, sections 79-1101 to 79-1104, and other early childhood
30 care and education initiatives under state supervision. Membership and
31 activities of the council shall comply with all applicable provisions of

1 federal law. Beginning July 1, 2026, there shall be sixteen members of
2 the council. Members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor
3 and shall include, but not be limited to:

4 (a) ~~(1)~~ Parents of children who require early intervention services,
5 early childhood special education, or ~~and~~ other early childhood care and
6 education services; and

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

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

20 (3) Members of the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council serving
21 on July 13, 2000, shall constitute the Early Childhood Interagency
22 Coordinating Council and shall serve for the remainder of their terms.
23 The Governor shall make additional appointments as required by this
24 section and to fill vacancies as needed. The Governor shall set the
25 initial terms of additional appointees to result in staggered terms for
26 members of the council.

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

30 **Sec. 24.** Section 43-4001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
31 2024, is amended to read:

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

4 (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
5 the Legislature or another member of the committee as his or her
6 designee;

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

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

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

15 (e) Two representatives of organizations advocating on behalf of
16 consumers of children's behavioral health services and their families,
17 appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee
18 of the Legislature;

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

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

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

25 (3) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
26 the Legislature or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of the
27 task force. Administrative and staff support for the task force shall be
28 provided by the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature
29 and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature.

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

31 **Sec. 25.** Section 43-4203, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2024, is amended to read:

2 43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a
3 committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile
4 Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration. Such
5 committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home
6 placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth
7 rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the
8 commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what
9 populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment
10 services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately
11 serve those populations. Such committee shall also review how mental and
12 behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential
13 placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make
14 recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in
15 the juvenile justice system. The committee shall collaborate with the
16 Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the
17 Center for Health Policy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center,
18 the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state
19 and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations. The
20 recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in
21 the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families,
22 including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment
23 model. The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and
24 electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by
25 September 1.

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

31 (3) The commission shall analyze case management workforce issues

1 and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of
2 the Legislature regarding:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 **Sec. 26.** Section 43-4216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
14 2024, is amended to read:

15 43-4216 (1) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee is created.
16 The committee shall be convened at least once every four years. The
17 committee terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

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

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

14 (3) Members of the committee shall serve for terms of four years and
15 until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Nebraska
16 Children's Commission shall appoint the members of the committee and the
17 chairperson of the committee and may fill vacancies on the committee as
18 they occur.

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

20 **Sec. 27.** Section 43-4406, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
21 2024, is amended to read:

22 43-4406 On or before each September 15, the department shall report
23 electronically to the Health and Human Services Committee of the
24 Legislature the following information regarding child welfare services,
25 with respect to children served by the department:

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

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

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

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

4 (3) The number of waivers granted under subsection (2) of section
5 71-1904;

6 ~~(4) An update of the information in the report of the Children's~~
7 ~~Behavioral Health Task Force pursuant to sections 43-4001 to 43-4003,~~
8 ~~including:~~

9 ~~(a) The number of children receiving mental health and substance~~
10 ~~abuse services annually by the Division of Behavioral Health of the~~
11 ~~department;~~

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

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

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

18 ~~(e) Expenditures in the immediately preceding fiscal year by the~~
19 ~~division, categorized by category of behavioral health service and by~~
20 ~~behavioral health region; and~~

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

25 ~~(4) (5)~~ The following information as obtained for each service area:

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

28 (b) Average caseload per case manager;

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

31 (d) Average number of case managers per child for children who have

1 been in the child welfare system for three months, for six months, for
2 twelve months, and for eighteen months and the consecutive yearly average
3 for children until the age of majority or permanency is attained;

4 (e) Monthly case manager turnover;

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

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

9 (h) Case documentation of monthly consecutive team meetings per
10 quarter;

11 (i) Case documentation of monthly consecutive parent contacts per
12 quarter;

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

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

17 (l) Timeliness of court reports; and

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

21 (5) ~~(6)~~ All placements in residential treatment settings made or
22 paid for by the child welfare system, the Office of Juvenile Services,
23 the State Department of Education or local education agencies, and the
24 medical assistance program, including, but not limited to:

25 (a) Child variables;

26 (b) Reasons for placement;

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

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

30 (i) If there was a denial of initial placement request, the length
31 and level of each placement subsequent to denial of initial placement

1 request and the status of each child before and immediately after, six
2 months after, and twelve months after placement;

3 (ii) Funds expended and length of placements;

4 (iii) Number and level of placements;

5 (iv) Facility variables; and

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

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

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

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

26 (8) ~~(9)~~ Information on children who are reported or suspected
27 victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor, as
28 defined in section 28-830, including:

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

1 (b) The number of substantiated victims of sex trafficking of a
2 minor or labor trafficking of a minor, including demographic information
3 and information on whether the children were already served by the
4 department;

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

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

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

15 **Sec. 28.** Section 43-4513, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
16 2024, is amended to read:

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

1 Governor by September 1 of each year. The report to the Health and Human
2 Services Committee of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

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

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

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

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

21 **Sec. 30.** Section 66-1618, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
22 amended to read:

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

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

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

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

18 **Sec. 31.** Section 66-2001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
19 2024, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

1 2012. The board shall include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 **Sec. 32.** Section 71-702, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2024, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **Sec. 33.** Section 71-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

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

16 **Sec. 34.** Section 71-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

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

25 **Sec. 35.** Section 71-814, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

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

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

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

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

28 **Sec. 36.** Section 71-815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

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

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

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

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

15 **Sec. 37.** Section 71-2454.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
16 is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **Sec. 38.** Section 71-5301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
24 2024, is amended to read:

25 71-5301 For purposes of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act, unless
26 the context otherwise requires:

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

28 ~~(1) (2)~~ Department means the Department of Environment and Energy;

29 ~~(2) (3)~~ Director means the Director of Environment and Energy or his
30 or her authorized representative;

31 ~~(3) (4)~~ Designated agent means any political subdivision or

1 corporate entity having the demonstrated capability and authority to
2 carry out in whole or in part the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and
3 with which the director has consummated a legal and binding contract
4 covering specifically delegated responsibilities;

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

9 (5) ~~(6)~~ Operator means the individual or individuals responsible for
10 the continued performance of the water supply system or any part of such
11 system during assigned duty hours;

12 (6) ~~(7)~~ Owner means any person owning or operating a public water
13 system;

14 (7) ~~(8)~~ Person means any individual, corporation, firm, partnership,
15 limited liability company, association, company, trust, estate, public or
16 private institution, group, agency, political subdivision, or other
17 entity or any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of any of
18 such entities;

19 (8) ~~(9)~~ Water supply system means all sources of water and their
20 surroundings under the control of one owner and includes all structures,
21 conduits, and appurtenances by means of which such water is collected,
22 treated, stored, or delivered except service pipes between street mains
23 and buildings and the plumbing within or in connection with the buildings
24 served;

25 (9)(a) ~~(10)(a)~~ Public water system means a system for providing the
26 public with water for human consumption through pipes or other
27 constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen service
28 connections or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five
29 individuals daily at least sixty days per year. Public water system
30 includes (i) any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution
31 facilities under control of the operator of such system and used

1 primarily in connection with such system and (ii) any collection or
2 pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used
3 primarily in connection with such system. Public water system does not
4 include a special irrigation district. A public water system is either a
5 community water system or a noncommunity water system.

6 (b) Service connection does not include a connection to a system
7 that delivers water by a constructed conveyance other than a pipe if (i)
8 the water is used exclusively for purposes other than residential uses,
9 consisting of drinking, bathing, cooking, and other similar uses, (ii)
10 the department determines that alternative water to achieve the
11 equivalent level of public health protection provided by the Nebraska
12 Safe Drinking Water Act and rules and regulations under the act is
13 provided for residential or similar uses for drinking and cooking, or
14 (iii) the department determines that the water provided for residential
15 or similar uses for drinking, cooking, and bathing is centrally treated
16 or treated at the point of entry by the provider, a pass-through entity,
17 or the user to achieve the equivalent level of protection provided by the
18 Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the rules and regulations under the
19 act.

20 (c) Special irrigation district means an irrigation district in
21 existence prior to May 18, 1994, that provides primarily agricultural
22 service through a piped water system with only incidental residential or
23 similar use if the system or the residential or similar users of the
24 system comply with exclusion provisions of subdivision (b)(ii) or (iii)
25 of this subdivision;

26 (10) ~~(11)~~ Drinking water standards means rules and regulations
27 adopted and promulgated pursuant to section 71-5302 which (a) establish
28 maximum levels for harmful materials which, in the judgment of the
29 director, may have an adverse effect on the health of persons and (b)
30 apply only to public water systems;

31 (11) ~~(12)~~ Lead free means (a) not containing more than two-tenths

1 percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux and (b) not
2 containing more than a weighted average of twenty-five hundredths percent
3 lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe
4 fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures;

5 (12) ~~(13)~~ Community water system means a public water system that
6 (a) serves at least fifteen service connections used by year-round
7 residents of the area served by the system or (b) regularly serves at
8 least twenty-five year-round residents;

9 (13) ~~(14)~~ Noncommunity water system means a public water system that
10 is not a community water system;

11 (14) ~~(15)~~ Nontransient noncommunity water system means a public
12 water system that is not a community water system and that regularly
13 serves at least twenty-five of the same individuals over six months per
14 year; and

15 (15) ~~(16)~~ Federal Safe Drinking Water Act means the federal Safe
16 Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f et seq., as the act existed on January
17 1, 2021.

18 **Sec. 39.** Section 71-5310, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
19 2024, is amended to read:

20 71-5310 (1) The director ~~, with the approval of the council,~~ may
21 authorize variances or exemptions from the drinking water standards
22 issued pursuant to section 71-5302 under conditions and in such manner as
23 deemed they deem necessary and desirable. Prior to July 1, 2026, such
24 variances and exemptions shall be subject to the approval of the Advisory
25 Council on Public Water Supply. Such variances or exemptions shall be
26 permitted under conditions and in a manner which are not less stringent
27 than the conditions under, and the manner in which, variances and
28 exemptions may be granted under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

29 (2) Prior to granting a variance or an exemption, the director shall
30 provide notice, in a newspaper of general circulation serving the area
31 served by the public water system, of the proposed exemption or variance

1 and that interested persons may request a public hearing on the proposed
2 exemption or variance. The director may require the system to provide
3 other appropriate notice necessary to provide adequate notice to persons
4 served by the system.

5 (3) If a public hearing is requested, the director shall set a time
6 and place for the hearing and such hearing shall be held before the
7 department prior to the variance or exemption being issued. Frivolous and
8 insubstantial requests for a hearing may be denied by the director. An
9 exemption or variance shall be conditioned on monitoring, testing,
10 analyzing, or other requirements to insure the protection of the public
11 health. A variance or an exemption granted shall include a schedule of
12 compliance under which the public water system is required to meet each
13 contaminant level or treatment technique requirement for which a variance
14 or an exemption is granted within a reasonable time as specified by the
15 director. Prior to July 1, 2026, the director's determination shall be
16 subject to with the approval of the Advisory Council on Public Water
17 Supply council.

18 **Sec. 40.** Section 71-5311, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 71-5311 (1) There is hereby established the Advisory Council on
21 Public Water Supply which shall advise and assist the department in
22 administering the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act. The council
23 terminates on July 1, 2026.

24 (2) The council shall be composed of seven members appointed by the
25 Governor, (a) one of whom shall be a professional engineer, (b) one of
26 whom shall be a licensed physician, (c) two of whom shall be consumers of
27 a public water system, (d) two of whom shall be operators of a public
28 water system who possess a license issued by the department to operate a
29 public water system. One such operator shall represent a system serving a
30 population of five thousand or less, and one such operator shall
31 represent a system serving a population of more than five thousand, and

1 (e) one of whom shall be, at the time of appointment, (i) an individual
2 who owns a public water system, (ii) a member of the governing board of a
3 public or private corporation which owns a public water system, or (iii)
4 in the case of a political subdivision which owns a public water system,
5 a member of the subdivision's governing board or board of public works or
6 similar board which oversees the operation of a public water system.

7 (3) All members shall be appointed for three-year terms. No member
8 shall serve more than three consecutive three-year terms. Each member
9 shall hold office until the expiration of his or her term or until a
10 successor has been appointed. Any vacancy occurring in council
11 membership, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled within
12 sixty days by the Governor by appointment from the appropriate category
13 for the unexpired term.

14 (4) The council shall meet not less than once each year. Special
15 meetings of the council may be called by the director or upon the written
16 request of any two members of the council explaining the reason for such
17 meeting. The place of the meeting shall be set by the director. Such
18 officers as the council deems necessary shall be elected every three
19 years beginning with the first meeting in the year 1990. A majority of
20 the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
21 of business. Representatives of the department shall attend each meeting.
22 Every act of the majority of the members of the council shall be deemed
23 to be the act of the council.

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

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

30 **Sec. 41.** Section 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
31 2024, is amended to read:

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

14 Of the initial members of the committee, four shall be appointed for
15 terms of one year and four shall be appointed for terms of two years.
16 Thereafter all appointments shall be for terms of two years. All members
17 shall serve until their successors are appointed. No member shall serve
18 more than two successive two-year terms. Vacancies in the membership of
19 the committee for any cause shall be filled by appointment by the chief
20 executive officer or his or her designee for the unexpired term.

21 Duties of the committee shall include, but not be limited to,
22 encouraging payment of public and private funds to the Breast and
23 Cervical Cancer Cash Fund, researching and recommending to the department
24 reimbursement limits, planning and implementing outreach and educational
25 programs to Nebraska women, advising the department on its operation of
26 the early detection of breast and cervical cancer grant from the United
27 States Department of Health and Human Services, and encouraging payment
28 of public and private funds to the fund. Members of the committee shall
29 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

30 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

31 **Sec. 42.** Section 71-7102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 71-7102 For purposes of the Critical Incident Stress Management Act:

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

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

5 (1) ~~(3)~~ Critical incident means a traumatic or crisis situation;

6 (2) ~~(4)~~ Critical incident stress means a strong emotional,
7 cognitive, or physical reaction which has the potential to interfere with
8 normal functioning, including physical and emotional illness, loss of
9 interest in the job, personality changes, marital discord, and loss of
10 ability to function;

11 (3) ~~(5)~~ Emergency service agency means any law enforcement agency,
12 fire department, emergency medical service, dispatcher, rescue service,
13 hospital as defined in section 71-419, or other entity which provides
14 emergency response services;

15 (4) ~~(6)~~ Emergency service personnel includes law enforcement
16 personnel, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and
17 hospital personnel; and

18 (5) ~~(7)~~ Program means the Critical Incident Stress Management
19 Program.

20 **Sec. 43.** Section 71-7107, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
21 amended to read:

22 71-7107 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall be the
23 lead agency for the program.

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

25 (a) ~~(1)~~ Provide office support to program activities;

26 (b) ~~(2)~~ Provide necessary equipment for the program and
27 participants;

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

30 (d) ~~(4)~~ Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement the
31 program;

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

3 ~~(f) (6)~~ Participate in the training and continuing education of such
4 peers and mental health professionals; and

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

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

9 (a) Coordinate program activities and emergency response;

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (h) Manage program development and evaluation;

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

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

24 (k) Provide backup to regional critical incident stress management
25 teams.

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

28 **Sec. 44.** Section 71-7108, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 71-7108 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
31 ~~participate in the council and committee,~~ recruit mental health workers

1 for each critical incident stress management region , and participate in
2 the training and continuing education activities of critical incident
3 stress management peers and mental health professionals.

4 (2) The Nebraska State Patrol shall ~~participate in the council and~~
5 ~~committee~~, receive all initial requests for stress management sessions,
6 coordinate transportation requirements for critical incident stress
7 management team members, recruit members of the law enforcement
8 profession in each region to be trained as critical incident stress
9 management peers, participate in the training and continuing education
10 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
11 professionals, and appoint a member of the patrol to each regional
12 management committee.

13 (3) The State Fire Marshal shall ~~participate in the council and~~
14 ~~committee~~, cooperate in providing transportation for critical incident
15 stress management teams, recruit firefighters to be trained as critical
16 incident stress management peers in each critical incident stress
17 management region, participate in the training and continuing education
18 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
19 professionals, and appoint an individual who is employed by the State
20 Fire Marshal to be on each regional management committee.

21 (4) The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall ~~participate in~~
22 ~~the council and committee~~, promote stress management planning as part of
23 emergency management preparedness, promote preincident education programs
24 to acquaint emergency service personnel with stress management
25 techniques, and participate in the training and continuing education
26 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
27 professionals.

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

31 **Sec. 45.** Section 71-7109, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 71-7109 The ~~council shall appoint~~ a statewide clinical director
3 shall be appointed by the Critical Incident Stress Management Council
4 until July 1, 2026, and by the Department of Health and Human Services on
5 and after July 1, 2026. The statewide clinical director ~~shall be a member~~
6 ~~of the committee and, working with the committee,~~ shall supervise and
7 evaluate the professional and peer support team members, including the
8 regional clinical directors, and until July 1, 2026, shall be a member of
9 and work with the Interagency Management Committee for such purpose. The
10 statewide clinical director may conduct critical incident stress
11 management training and continuing education activities.

12 **Sec. 46.** Section 71-7110, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 71-7110 Each critical incident stress management region shall have a
15 regional management committee composed of representatives of the
16 Department of Health and Human Services, the State Fire Marshal, and the
17 Nebraska State Patrol and a regional clinical director. The regional
18 clinical director shall have a graduate degree in a mental health
19 discipline. The regional management committee shall be responsible for
20 the implementation and coordination of the program in the region
21 according to the specifications developed by the Critical Incident Stress
22 Management Council ~~council~~ and Interagency Management Committee prior to
23 July 1, 2026, and developed by the department on and after July 1, 2026.
24 The regional management committee shall develop critical incident stress
25 management teams to facilitate the stress management process.

26 **Sec. 47.** Section 72-811, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

28 72-811 For purposes of sections 72-811 to 72-818:

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

30 (a) The ~~the~~ Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee prior to July
31 1, 2026; and

1 (b) The Department of Administrative Services beginning July 1,
2 2026;

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

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

13 **Sec. 48.** Section 72-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 72-812 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee is hereby
16 created. The committee shall be composed of the Director of
17 Administrative Services, the State Building Administrator, and the
18 administrator of the Task Force for Building Renewal created pursuant to
19 section 81-174. When reviewing and considering action to be taken in
20 regard to a particular building or piece of land, the committee shall
21 also include a representative of the state agency responsible for the
22 building or land as a nonvoting member.

23 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee terminates July 1,
24 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

25 **Sec. 49.** Section 72-2101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 72-2101 The Governor's Residence Advisory Commission is created. The
28 commission terminates on July 1, 2026. The commission shall conduct an
29 annual inspection of the Governor's residence. A report on the inspection
30 shall be submitted to the Governor within thirty days after the day of
31 the inspection. The report shall include recommendations for major

1 maintenance or repair projects, if needed. Implementation and priority of
2 an approved major maintenance or repair project shall be determined by
3 the Governor in cooperation with the Director of Administrative Services.
4 Additionally, no changes, additions, deletions, or other alterations to
5 the residence, including its exterior, interior, decorative objects,
6 contents, or grounds shall be made without the prior approval of the
7 commission, except for the Governor's private living quarters located on
8 the second floor of the residence.

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

10 **Sec. 50.** Section 81-1108.41, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
11 is amended to read:

12 81-1108.41 (1) The division shall cause a state comprehensive
13 capital facilities plan to be developed. The plan shall project the
14 state's facilities needs for a period of six years and shall be based on
15 programmatic projections and input from each state agency. To aid in the
16 development of the plan prior to July 1, 2026, the Governor shall appoint
17 a State Comprehensive Capital Facilities Planning Committee with
18 representatives from various state agencies, and the ~~the~~ committee
19 shall develop and adopt comprehensive planning guidelines and a process
20 of project prioritization. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026.
21 Beginning July 1, 2026, the division shall be responsible for the
22 comprehensive planning guidelines and the process of project
23 prioritization. The state comprehensive capital facilities plan shall be
24 submitted electronically to the Committee on Building Maintenance for
25 review before such plan shall be submitted to the Governor and the
26 Legislative Fiscal Analyst on or before November 15 prior to the
27 beginning of each biennium. The plan submitted to the Legislative Fiscal
28 Analyst shall be submitted electronically. Prior to July 1, 2026, the ~~The~~
29 plan shall be based on priorities developed by the State Comprehensive
30 Capital Facilities Planning Committee. The University of Nebraska and any
31 Nebraska state college shall not be required to comply with or be subject

1 to the provisions of this section since these agencies are subject to and
2 participate in statewide facilities planning developed by the
3 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education pursuant to the
4 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act.

5 (2) An appropriation for drawings and construction may be made only
6 after submission of an acceptable program statement on or before
7 September 15 of the year previous to the initiation of such
8 appropriation. Such program statement shall include, but not be limited
9 to, (a) an assessment of the compatibility of the project with the state
10 comprehensive capital facilities plan and the agency or departmental
11 comprehensive capital facilities plan, (b) the identification of the
12 impact of the project on the space utilization of other facilities under
13 the control of the agency or department, and (c) the identification of
14 the future impact on the agency or departmental programmatic needs,
15 demand for utilities in excess of current capacity, parking needs, street
16 and road needs, and site acquisition needs. Such program statement shall
17 be submitted to the division and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The
18 program statement submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall be
19 submitted electronically.

20 (3) No contract for the planning, design, or construction of a new
21 facility or major modification or repair of an existing facility provided
22 for by any state appropriation may be initiated unless an acceptable
23 program statement has been approved by the Governor, the agency or
24 department has submitted to the division a certificate from the Committee
25 on Building Maintenance that there is no state-owned property which is
26 adequate or which through cost-effective renovation, as determined by the
27 division, could be made adequate to meet the agency's or department's
28 needs, and the conditions of the contracts are approved in writing by the
29 division, except that the provisions of this section shall not apply to
30 projects when the total design and construction cost of the project is
31 less than the limit established by the division. Such program statements

1 and contracts shall be reviewed by the division.

2 (4) The division shall file a written report on each program
3 statement and contract reviewed with the Governor and the Legislative
4 Fiscal Analyst. The report submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
5 shall be submitted electronically. This report shall cover the
6 consistency of the project with the state comprehensive capital
7 facilities plan and the agency or departmental comprehensive capital
8 facilities plan. A subsequent review and report upon completion of the
9 planning or design phase of the project shall indicate the compatibility
10 of the project with the agency or departmental comprehensive capital
11 facilities plan, compare the probable cost of the project with accepted
12 cost standards for similar construction projects, and review the
13 relationship of the project to other state agency or departmental capital
14 facilities in the same complex.

15 **Sec. 51.** Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative
16 Services shall assume the duties of:

17 (1) The Suggestion Award Board; and

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

19 **Sec. 52.** Section 81-1348, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 81-1348 There is hereby created the Suggestion Award Board. The
22 membership of such board shall consist of the Director of Personnel, the
23 Director of Administrative Services, the Auditor of Public Accounts or
24 his or her designee, and three persons, each to serve a term of three
25 years, selected and appointed by the Governor from the bargaining units
26 listed in section 81-1373, except that the first three appointments made
27 after February 23, 2000, shall be for terms of one year, two years, and
28 three years, as designated by the Governor. Of the persons selected from
29 such bargaining units, one person shall be selected from each of such
30 bargaining units as follows:

31 (1) The first term from the bargaining units listed in subdivisions

1 (1)(a), (b), and (l) of such section;

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

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

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

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

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

13 The members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
14 81-1174 to 81-1177.

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

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

19 **Sec. 53.** Section 81-1430, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 81-1430 (1) A task force is hereby established within the Nebraska
22 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the purposes of
23 investigating and studying human trafficking, the methods for advertising
24 human trafficking services, and the victimization of individuals coerced
25 to participate in human trafficking. The task force terminates July 1,
26 2026.

27 (2) The task force shall examine the extent to which human
28 trafficking is prevalent in this state, the scope of efforts being taken
29 to prevent human trafficking from occurring, and the services available
30 to victims of human trafficking in this state. The task force shall
31 utilize information and research available from the Innocence Lost

1 National Initiative. The task force shall research and recommend a model
2 of rehabilitative services for victims of human trafficking that includes
3 input from the areas of law enforcement, social services, the legal
4 profession, the judiciary, mental health, and immigration. The task force
5 shall also investigate the limitations upon victims who wish to come
6 forward and seek medical attention; investigate the potential to stop
7 human trafficking; and investigate the potential to promote recovery, to
8 protect families and children who may be profoundly impacted by such
9 abuse, and to save lives.

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

16 (b) Posters shall be placed in rest stops, strip clubs, and casinos.
17 The department ~~task force~~ shall work with local businesses and nonprofit
18 entities associated with the prevention of human trafficking to
19 voluntarily place additional signs in high schools, postsecondary
20 educational institutions, gas stations, hotels, hospitals, health care
21 clinics, urgent care centers, airports, train stations, bus stations, and
22 other locations around the state deemed appropriate by the department
23 ~~task force~~.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (g) A county sheriff;

11 (h) A county attorney;

12 (i) A county commissioner;

13 (j) A mayor or city manager;

14 (k) A person involved with the control or prevention of juvenile
15 delinquency;

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

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

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

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

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

29 (6) The members of the task force appointed by the Governor shall
30 serve six-year terms, except that of the members first appointed, four
31 shall serve initial two-year terms, four shall serve initial four-year

1 terms, and six shall serve initial six-year terms from January 1 next
2 succeeding their appointments. Thereafter, all members shall serve six-
3 year terms. A member may be reappointed at the expiration of his or her
4 term. Any vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall
5 be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the
6 original appointment.

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

16 (8) The chairperson of the task force shall be designated by the
17 Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairperson shall
18 be the chief executive officer of the task force but may delegate such of
19 his or her duties to other members of the task force as may be authorized
20 by the task force.

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

25 (10) The members of the task force shall serve on the task force
26 without compensation, but they shall be entitled to receive reimbursement
27 for expenses incurred incident to such service as provided in sections
28 81-1174 to 81-1177.

29 (11) Eleven members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for
30 the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the task
31 force. The task force shall have the power to act by a majority of the

1 members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.

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

7 **Sec. 54.** Section 81-1431, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 81-1431 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that law enforcement
10 agencies, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, juvenile detention
11 center staff, and others involved in the juvenile justice system and the
12 criminal justice system and other relevant officials be provided
13 mandatory training regarding issues in human trafficking. Prior to July
14 1, 2026, the The task force established in section 81-1430 shall work
15 with such agencies, persons, and staff to develop a proper curriculum for
16 the training and to determine how the training should be provided. The
17 determination and accompanying legislative recommendations shall be made
18 by December 1, 2012. Such training shall focus on:

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

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

23 (c) Methods for prosecuting human traffickers;

24 (d) Methods of increasing effective collaboration with
25 nongovernmental organizations and other relevant social service
26 organizations in the course of investigating and prosecuting a human
27 trafficking case;

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

31 (f) The necessity of treating victims of human trafficking as crime

1 victims rather than as criminals; and

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

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

8 **Sec. 55.** Section 81-15,159.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
9 is amended to read:

10 81-15,159.01 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy shall
11 conduct a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs
12 operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and
13 revise such programs. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (a)
14 Whether existing state programs regarding litter and waste reduction and
15 recycling should be amended or merged; (b) a needs assessment of the
16 recycling and composting programs in the state, including the need for
17 infrastructure development operating standards, market development,
18 coordinated public education resulting in behavior change, and incentives
19 to increase recycling and composting; (c) methods to partner with
20 political subdivisions, private industry, and private, nonprofit
21 organizations to most successfully address waste management issues in the
22 state; (d) recommendations regarding existing funding sources and
23 possible new revenue sources at the state and local level to address
24 existing and emerging solid waste management issues; and (e) revisions to
25 existing grant programs to address solid waste management issues in a
26 proactive manner.

27 (2) The Director of Environment and Energy shall establish an
28 advisory committee to advise the department regarding the study described
29 in this section. The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed
30 by the director and shall include no more than nine members. The director
31 shall designate a chairperson of the advisory committee. The members

1 shall receive no compensation for their services. The advisory committee
2 terminates on July 1, 2026.

3 (3) In addition to the advisory committee, the department may hire
4 consultants and special experts to assist in the study described in this
5 section. After completion of the study, the department shall submit a
6 report, including recommendations, to the Executive Board of the
7 Legislative Council and the chairpersons of the Natural Resources
8 Committee, the Urban Affairs Committee, and the Appropriations Committee
9 of the Legislature no later than December 15, 2017. The report shall be
10 submitted electronically.

11 **Sec. 56.** Section 81-15,210, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 81-15,210 (1) The director of the Nebraska Emergency Management
14 Agency shall serve as the State Administrator of the Nebraska Emergency
15 Planning and Community Right to Know Act.

16 (2) The State Emergency Response Commission is created and shall be
17 a part of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for administrative
18 purposes. The commission terminates on July 1, 2026. Beginning July 1,
19 2026, the duties of the commission under the Nebraska Emergency Planning
20 and Community Right to Know Act shall be carried out by the Nebraska
21 Emergency Management Agency. The membership of the commission shall
22 include the Director of Environment and Energy or his or her designee,
23 the Director-State Engineer or his or her designee, the Superintendent of
24 Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his or her designee, the State Fire
25 Marshal or his or her designee, the director of the Nebraska Emergency
26 Management Agency or his or her designee, the chief executive officer of
27 the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee, two
28 elected officials or employees of municipal or county government, and one
29 citizen member to represent each of the following interest groups:
30 Firefighters, local emergency management, public or community health,
31 environmental protection, labor, school district, small business,

1 agricultural business, chemical industry, highway transportation, and
2 rail transportation. The Governor shall appoint the municipal or county
3 government officials or employees and the citizen members with the
4 approval of the Legislature. The appointments shall be made to represent
5 the three congressional districts as equally as possible.

6 ~~(3)~~ (2) The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for
7 terms of four years, except that of the first citizen members appointed,
8 three members shall serve for one-year terms, three members shall serve
9 for two-year terms, and two members shall serve for three-year terms, as
10 designated at the time of appointment.

11 ~~(4)~~ (3) A vacancy on the commission shall exist in the event of the
12 death, disability, or resignation of a member. Any member appointed to
13 fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which
14 his or her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed by the Governor
15 for the remainder of such term.

16 **Sec. 57.** Section 81-15,238, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 81-15,238 For purposes of the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment
19 System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act, the
20 definitions in sections 81-15,240 ~~81-15,239~~ to 81-15,244 shall be used.

21 **Sec. 58.** Section 81-15,245, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
22 amended to read:

23 81-15,245 The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory
24 Committee is created. The advisory committee terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

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

27 (a) Five private onsite wastewater treatment system professionals;
28 and

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

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

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

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

9 Members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
10 81-1174 to 81-1177. The department shall provide administrative support
11 for the advisory committee.

12 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

13 **Sec. 59.** Section 81-15,246, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

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

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

19 (2) Advise the department on proposed rules and regulations relating
20 to the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors
21 Certification and System Registration Act;

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

25 (4) Advise the department on the administration of the act as
26 requested by the director.

27 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

28 **Sec. 60.** Section 82-703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 82-703 (1) The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection
31 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The

1 committee shall consist of members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame
2 Commission created pursuant to section 72-724.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
15 States Capitol;

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

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

19 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

20 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
21 to incur.

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

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

25 **Sec. 61.** Section 82-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 82-706 (1) The Chief Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection
28 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The
29 committee shall consist of (a) a representative of the Commission on
30 Indian Affairs, selected by the chairperson of the commission, (b) a
31 member of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature,

1 selected by the chairperson of the committee, (c) the chairperson of the
2 Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development or its successor, and (d) the
3 Historic Preservation Planner of the City of Lincoln.

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

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

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

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

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

15 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
16 States Capitol;

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

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

20 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

21 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
22 to incur.

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

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

26 **Sec. 62.** Section 85-1008, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

28 85-1008 (1) To assist the center in carrying out its purposes and
29 functions prior to July 1, 2026, the Board of Regents may establish a
30 Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council composed of the following
31 members:

- 1 (a) One representative from the Department of Transportation;
2 (b) One representative from the Department of Motor Vehicles;
3 (c) One representative from the State Department of Education;
4 (d) One representative from the Game and Parks Commission;
5 (e) One representative from the Department of Labor;
6 (f) One person representing the community college areas;
7 (g) One person representing private business and industry;
8 (h) One person representing the University of Nebraska;
9 (i) One person representing the medical profession;
10 (j) One person representing the area of law enforcement in this
11 state;
12 (k) One person representing the Safety Council of Nebraska, Inc.;
13 (l) One person representing the area of transportation;
14 (m) One person representative of emergency medical services;
15 (n) One person representing the judiciary in the State of Nebraska;
16 (o) One person representing city government;
17 (p) One person representing county government;
18 (q) One person representing the area of agriculture;
19 (r) One person representing the local public school system;
20 (s) One person representing fire safety;
21 (t) One representative of the Coordinating Commission for
22 Postsecondary Education;
23 (u) One person representing the Red Cross; and
24 (v) One person representing the state colleges.

25 (2) Representatives selected to serve on the council shall have
26 appropriate education, training, and experience in the field of fire
27 safety, industrial safety, recreational safety, domestic safety, or
28 traffic safety.

29 (3) The Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council terminates on July
30 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

31 **Sec. 63.** Section 85-1607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 85-1607 (1) Until July 1, 2026, the The board shall appoint an
3 advisory council of six representatives of private postsecondary career
4 schools. Members of the council shall include representatives from a
5 business school, a trade or technical school, a better business bureau,
6 and three other distinct areas of education. Members of the council shall
7 serve staggered terms of three years each as established by the board at
8 the time of initial appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the council, the
9 board shall appoint a successor in the same category as the predecessor.
10 The advisory council shall have the following responsibilities:

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

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

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

17 **Sec. 64.** Section 85-1643, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 85-1643 (1) The Private Postsecondary Career Schools Cash Fund is
20 created. All fees collected pursuant to the Private Postsecondary Career
21 School Act shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the
22 fund. The fund shall be used only for the purpose of administering the
23 act. No fees shall be subject to refund.

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

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

28 (b) Renewal application for authorization to operate, one hundred
29 dollars plus twenty dollars per program of study offered, except that the
30 board may establish a variable fee schedule based upon the prior school
31 year's gross tuition revenue as provided by the school pursuant to

1 section 85-1656;

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

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

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

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

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

7 (h) Initial authorization to award an associate degree, one hundred
8 dollars;

9 (i) Significant program change, fifty dollars;

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

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

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

14 (a) Certificate of approval to recruit, five hundred dollars
15 annually;

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

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

18 (4)(a) Prior to July 1, 2026, the ~~The~~ board shall consult with the
19 advisory council established pursuant to section 85-1607 regarding any
20 increase in fees under the act. The board ~~Beginning with fiscal year~~
21 ~~2006-07 and each year thereafter, the board in consultation with the~~
22 ~~advisory council~~ shall establish fees sufficient to cover the total cost
23 of administration, except that such fees shall not exceed one hundred ten
24 percent of the previous year's total cost. Such fees shall be set out in
25 the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the board.

26 (b) Total cost of administration shall be determined by an annual
27 audit of:

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

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

31 (iii) Capital costs such as office equipment, computer hardware, and

1 computer software;

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

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

5 **Sec. 65.** Section 86-511, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 86-511 Technical panel means:

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

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

11 **Sec. 66.** Section 86-516, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 86-516 The commission shall:

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

16 (2) Create an information technology clearinghouse to identify and
17 share best practices and new developments, as well as identify existing
18 problems and deficiencies;

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

21 (4) Determine a broad strategy and objectives for developing and
22 sustaining information technology development in Nebraska, including
23 long-range funding strategies, research and development investment,
24 support and maintenance requirements, and system usage and assessment
25 guidelines;

26 (5) Adopt guidelines regarding project planning and management and
27 administrative and technical review procedures involving state-owned or
28 state-supported technology and infrastructure. Governmental entities,
29 state agencies, and noneducation political subdivisions shall submit all
30 projects which use any combination of general funds, federal funds, or
31 cash funds for information technology purposes to the process established

1 by sections 86-512 to 86-524. The commission may adopt policies that
2 establish the format and minimum requirements for project submissions.
3 The commission may monitor the progress of any such project and may
4 require progress reports;

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

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

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

18 (9) Approve grants from the Community Technology Fund and Government
19 Technology Collaboration Fund;

20 (10) Adopt schedules and procedures for reporting needs, priorities,
21 and recommended projects;

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

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

28 (13) Beginning July 1, 2026, assume the duties of the technical
29 panel.

30 **Sec. 67.** Section 86-521, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 86-521 (1) A technical panel is created. The technical panel shall
2 be comprised of one representative from the Nebraska Educational
3 Telecommunications Commission, one representative from the office of
4 Chief Information Officer, one representative from the University of
5 Nebraska Computing Services Network, and such other members as specified
6 by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

7 (2) The technical panel shall review any technology project
8 presented to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission including any
9 recommendations by working groups established under sections 86-512 to
10 86-524. Upon the conclusion of the review of a technology project or
11 request for additional funding, the technical panel shall provide its
12 analysis to the commission. The technical panel may recommend technical
13 standards and guidelines to be considered for adoption by the commission.

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

17 **Sec. 68.** Section 86-1101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 86-1101 The Legislature finds and declares that:

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

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

26 It is the intent of the Legislature that broadband
27 telecommunications service in rural areas of the state should be
28 comparable in download and upload speed and price to urban areas in the
29 state where possible and that state resources should be utilized to
30 ensure that the rural residents of the state should not be penalized
31 simply because of their rural residence. It is further the intent of the

1 Legislature that the residents of this state should have access to
2 broadband telecommunications service at a minimum download speed of one
3 hundred megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of one hundred
4 megabits per second.

5 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

6 **Sec. 69.** Section 86-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

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

28 (2) The task force may appoint advisory groups to assist the task
29 force in providing technical expertise and advice on any issue. The
30 advisory groups may be composed of representatives of stakeholder groups
31 which may include, but not necessarily be limited to, representatives

1 from small and large wireline companies, wireless companies, public power
2 districts, electric cooperative corporations, cable television companies,
3 Internet service providers, low-income telecommunications and electric
4 utility customers, health care providers, and representatives of
5 educational sectors. No compensation or expense reimbursement shall be
6 provided to any member of any advisory group appointed by the task force.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (e) Recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal
31 service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support

1 and other federal funding;

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

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

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

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

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

22 **Sec. 70.** Section 86-1103, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
23 amended to read:

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

1 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska
2 State Funds Investment Act.

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

6 **Sec. 71.** Section 74 of this act becomes operative on July 1, 2026.
7 The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

8 **Sec. 72.** Original sections 2-1801, 2-1803, 2-1826, 2-4901, 2-5001,
9 2-5003, 38-204, 38-205, 38-308, 38-310, 38-605, 38-703, 38-904, 38-2213,
10 38-2214, 38-2306, 66-1605, 66-1618, 71-705, 71-706, 71-814, 71-815,
11 71-2454.01, 71-5311, 71-7102, 71-7107, 71-7108, 71-7109, 71-7110, 72-811,
12 72-812, 72-2101, 81-1108.41, 81-1348, 81-1430, 81-1431, 81-15,159.01,
13 81-15,210, 81-15,238, 81-15,245, 81-15,246, 82-703, 82-706, 85-1008,
14 85-1607, 85-1643, 86-511, 86-516, 86-521, 86-1101, 86-1102, and 86-1103,
15 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 38-167, 38-2120,
16 38-2216, 39-2106, 39-2301.01, 39-2304, 43-3401, 43-4001, 43-4203,
17 43-4216, 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001, 71-702, 71-5301, 71-5310, and
18 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, are repealed.

19 **Sec. 73.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
20 38-2307, 43-4003, 50-601, 50-602, 50-603, 66-1617, 71-4501, 71-4502,
21 71-4503, and 81-15,239, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section
22 71-4504, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024.

23 **Sec. 74.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
24 38-206, 71-7105, and 71-7106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.