

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1048

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

Read first time January 14, 2026

Committee:

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to government; to amend sections 44-1412,
2 48-683, 54-2428, 77-383, 77-385, 77-27,238, 77-6307, 81-125,
3 81-1354.01, 81-1378, 81-1504.01, 81-1505.04, 81-1505.05, 81-1607.01,
4 83-184.01, 83-1,100.03, 83-918, 83-963, and 86-1301, Reissue Revised
5 Statutes of Nebraska, sections 77-6521, 77-6604, 77-6610, 77-6837,
6 and 77-6928, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and
7 sections 61-218, 70-1003, 81-1113, 81-1139.02, 81-1430, 81-15,175,
8 and 81-1606, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to change and
9 eliminate certain reporting requirements for the Department of
10 Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the Department of Water,
11 Energy, and Environment, the Department of Revenue, the Department
12 of Administrative Services, a task force under the Nebraska
13 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the Department
14 of Correctional Services, the Board of Parole, the Department of
15 Economic Development, the Department of Insurance, the Department of
16 Transportation, and broadband Internet providers under the Nebraska
17 Broadband Bridge Act as prescribed; to change reporting procedures
18 for preparation of the state executive budget; to eliminate reports
19 regarding labor negotiations; to eliminate the Suggestion Award
20 Board and the state employee suggestion system; to harmonize
21 provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal
22 sections 48-2909, 54-642, 77-6309, 81-1205, 81-1346, 81-1347,
23 81-1347.01, 81-1350, 81-1351, 81-1352, 81-1353, 81-1354, 81-1384,

1 and 86-1313, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, section 39-1392,
2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 81-1348
3 and 81-1607, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025.

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 44-1412, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 44-1412 (1) On or before March 31 each year, each insurance carrier
4 shall file with the department the following information for the most
5 recent calendar year:

6 (a) The total number of incentive payments made pursuant to the
7 insurance carrier's shared savings incentive payment program;

8 (b) The use of shoppable health care services by category of service
9 for which incentive payments are made;

10 (c) The total amount of incentive payments made to enrollees;

11 (d) The average amount of incentive payments made by category of
12 shopable health care service;

13 (e) The total savings achieved below the average prices by category
14 of shoppable health care service; and

15 (f) The total number and percentage of an insurance carrier's
16 enrollees that participated in the shared savings incentive payment
17 program.

18 (2) On or before July 1, 2027 2019, and on or before July 1 every
19 two years of each year thereafter, the department shall electronically
20 submit an aggregate report for all insurance carriers filing the
21 information required by subsection (1) of this section to the
22 Legislature.

23 **Sec. 2.** Section 48-683, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 48-683 (1)—The department shall not use General Funds to implement
26 the short-time compensation program. The department shall use any and all
27 available federal funds to implement the short-time compensation program,
28 including, but not limited to, federal funds distributed to the state
29 under sections 903(c), 903(d), 903(f), and 903(g) of the federal Social
30 Security Act, as amended.

31 (2) The department shall submit an annual report to the Governor and

1 ~~electronically to the Legislature on the short-time compensation program~~
2 ~~trends, including the number of employers filing short-time compensation~~
3 ~~program plans, the number of layoffs averted through the use of the~~
4 ~~short-time compensation program, the amount of short-time compensation~~
5 ~~program benefits paid, and other information pertinent to the short-time~~
6 ~~compensation program.~~

7 **Sec. 3.** Section 54-2428, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 54-2428 (1) Any person required to obtain a National Pollutant
10 Discharge Elimination System permit for an animal feeding operation or a
11 construction and operating permit for a livestock waste control facility
12 shall file an application with the department accompanied by the
13 appropriate fees in the manner established by the department. The
14 application fee shall be established by the council with a maximum fee of
15 two hundred dollars. For major modifications to an application or a
16 permit, the fee shall equal the amount of the application fee.

17 (2) On or before March 1, 2006, and each year thereafter, each
18 person who has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit
19 or who has a large concentrated animal feeding operation, as defined in
20 40 C.F.R. 122 and 123, as such regulations existed on January 1, 2004,
21 and a state operating permit, a construction and operating permit, or a
22 construction approval issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act
23 or the Livestock Waste Management Act shall pay a per head annual fee
24 based on the permitted capacity identified in the permit for that
25 facility. The department shall invoice each permittee by February 1,
26 2006, and February 1 of each year thereafter.

27 (3) The initial annual fee shall be: Beef cattle, ten cents per
28 head; veal calves, ten cents per head; dairy cows, fifteen cents per
29 head; swine larger than fifty-five pounds, four dollars per one hundred
30 head or fraction thereof; swine less than fifty pounds, one dollar per
31 one hundred head or fraction thereof; horses, twenty cents per head;

1 sheep or lambs, one dollar per one hundred head or fraction thereof;
2 turkeys, two dollars per one thousand head or fraction thereof; chickens
3 or ducks with liquid manure facility, three dollars per one thousand head
4 or fraction thereof; and chickens or ducks with other than liquid manure
5 facility, one dollar per one thousand head or fraction thereof. This fee
6 structure may be reviewed in fiscal year 2007-08.

7 (4) Beginning in fiscal year 2007-08, the department shall annually
8 review and adjust the fee structure in this section and section 54-2423
9 to ensure that fees are adequate to meet twenty percent of the program
10 costs from the previous fiscal year. All fees collected under this
11 section and sections 54-2423, 54-2435, and 54-2436 shall be remitted to
12 the State Treasurer for credit to the Livestock Waste Management Cash
13 Fund which is created for the purposes described in the Livestock Waste
14 Management Act. Transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund
15 at the direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Livestock Waste
16 Management Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the
17 state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act
18 and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

19 (5) ~~On or before January 1 of each year, the department shall submit~~
20 ~~electronically a report to the Legislature in sufficient detail to~~
21 ~~document all direct and indirect costs incurred in the previous fiscal~~
22 ~~year in carrying out the Livestock Waste Management Act, including the~~
23 ~~number of inspections conducted, the number of animal feeding operations~~
24 ~~with livestock waste control facilities, the number of animal feeding~~
25 ~~operations inspected, the size of the livestock waste control facilities,~~
26 ~~the results of water quality monitoring programs, and other elements~~
27 ~~relating to carrying out the act. The Appropriations Committee of the~~
28 ~~Legislature shall review the report in its analysis of executive programs~~
29 ~~in order to verify that the revenue generated from fees was used solely~~
30 ~~to offset appropriate and reasonable costs associated with carrying out~~
31 ~~the act.~~

1 **Sec. 4.** Section 61-218, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
2 amended to read:

3 61-218 (1) The Water Resources Cash Fund is created. The fund shall
4 be administered by the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. Any
5 money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
6 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
7 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

8 (2) The State Treasurer shall credit to the fund such money as is
9 (a) transferred to the fund by the Legislature, (b) paid to the state as
10 fees, deposits, payments, and repayments relating to the fund, both
11 principal and interest, (c) donated as gifts, bequests, or other
12 contributions to such fund from public or private entities, (d) made
13 available by any department or agency of the United States if so directed
14 by such department or agency, (e) transferred pursuant to section
15 81-15,175, and (f) received by the state for settlement of claims
16 relating to interstate river compacts or decrees.

17 (3)(a) The fund shall be expended by the department in any area that
18 has adopted an integrated management plan as provided in section 46-715.

19 (b) The fund shall be used in any such area:

20 (i) To aid management actions taken to reduce consumptive uses of
21 water;

22 (ii) To enhance streamflows or ground water recharge;

23 (iii) For any other activity deemed necessary by the department in
24 the development and implementation of an integrated management plan;

25 (iv) For purposes of the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act; or

26 (v) For purposes of projects or proposals described in the grant
27 application as set forth in subdivision (2)(h) of section 81-15,175.

28 (c) To the extent funds are not expended pursuant to subdivision (b)
29 of this subsection, the department may conduct a statewide assessment of
30 short-term and long-term water management activities and funding needs to
31 meet statutory requirements in sections 46-713 to 46-718 and 46-739 and

1 any requirements of an interstate compact or decree or formal state
2 contract or agreement.

3 (d) The fund shall not be used to pay for administrative expenses or
4 any salaries for any political subdivision.

5 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that three million three
6 hundred thousand dollars be transferred each fiscal year from the General
7 Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund for FY2011-12 through FY2022-23,
8 except that for FY2012-13 it is the intent of the Legislature that four
9 million seven hundred thousand dollars be transferred from the General
10 Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund. It is the intent of the
11 Legislature that the State Treasurer credit any money received from any
12 Republican River Compact settlement to the Water Resources Cash Fund in
13 the fiscal year in which it is received.

14 (5)(a) Expenditures from the Water Resources Cash Fund may be made
15 to natural resources districts eligible under subsection (3) of this
16 section for activities to either achieve a sustainable balance of
17 consumptive water uses or assure compliance with an interstate compact or
18 decree or a formal state contract or agreement and shall require a match
19 of local funding in an amount equal to or greater than forty percent of
20 the total cost of carrying out the eligible activity. The department
21 shall, no later than August 1 of each year, beginning in 2007, determine
22 the amount of funding that will be made available to natural resources
23 districts from the Water Resources Cash Fund and notify natural resources
24 districts of this determination. The department shall adopt and
25 promulgate rules and regulations governing application for and use of the
26 Water Resources Cash Fund by natural resources districts. Such rules and
27 regulations shall, at a minimum, include the following components:

28 (i) Require an explanation of how the planned activity will achieve
29 a sustainable balance of consumptive water uses or will assure compliance
30 with an interstate compact or decree or a formal state contract or
31 agreement as required by section 46-715 and the controls, rules, and

1 regulations designed to carry out the activity; and

2 (ii) A schedule of implementation of the activity or its components,
3 including the local match as set forth in subdivision (5)(a) of this
4 section.

5 (b) Any natural resources district that fails to implement and
6 enforce its controls, rules, and regulations as required by section
7 46-715 shall not be eligible for funding from the Water Resources Cash
8 Fund until it is determined by the department that compliance with the
9 provisions required by section 46-715 has been established.

10 (6) ~~The Department of Water, Energy, and Environment shall submit~~
11 ~~electronically an annual report to the Legislature no later than October~~
12 ~~1 of each year that shall detail the use of the Water Resources Cash Fund~~
13 ~~in the previous year. The report shall provide:~~

14 (a) ~~Details regarding the use and cost of activities carried out by~~
15 ~~the department; and~~

16 (b) ~~Details regarding the use and cost of activities carried out by~~
17 ~~each natural resources district that received funds from the Water~~
18 ~~Resources Cash Fund.~~

19 (6)(a) (7)(a) Prior to the application deadline for fiscal year
20 2011-12, the Department of Natural Resources shall apply for a grant of
21 nine million nine hundred thousand dollars from the Nebraska
22 Environmental Trust Fund, to be paid out in three annual installments of
23 three million three hundred thousand dollars. The purposes listed in the
24 grant application shall be consistent with the uses of the Water
25 Resources Cash Fund provided in this section and shall be used to aid
26 management actions taken to reduce consumptive uses of water, to enhance
27 streamflows, to recharge ground water, or to support wildlife habitat in
28 any river basin determined to be fully appropriated pursuant to section
29 46-714 or designated as overappropriated pursuant to section 46-713.

30 (b) If the application is granted, funds received from such grant
31 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Water

1 Resources Cash Fund for the purpose of supporting the projects set forth
2 in the grant application. The department shall include in its grant
3 application documentation that the Legislature has authorized a transfer
4 of three million three hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund
5 into the Water Resources Cash Fund for each of fiscal years 2011-12 and
6 2012-13 and has stated its intent to transfer three million three hundred
7 thousand dollars to the Water Resources Cash Fund for fiscal year
8 2013-14.

9 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department apply
10 for an additional three-year grant that would begin in fiscal year
11 2014-15, an additional three-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental
12 Trust Fund that would begin in fiscal year 2017-18, and an additional
13 three-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund that would
14 begin in fiscal year 2020-21 if the criteria established in subsection
15 (4) of section 81-15,175 are achieved.

16 (7) (8) The department shall establish a subaccount within the Water
17 Resources Cash Fund for the accounting of all money received as a grant
18 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund as the result of an
19 application made pursuant to subsection (6) (7) of this section.

20 (8) (9) Any funds transferred from the Nebraska Environmental Trust
21 Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund shall be placed within the
22 subaccount created under subsection (7) (8) of this section and expended
23 in accordance with section 81-15,168.

24 (9) (10) The State Treasurer shall transfer one million dollars from
25 the Water Resources Cash Fund to the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Cash
26 Fund as soon as administratively possible after July 19, 2024, but before
27 June 30, 2025, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the
28 budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of
29 Administrative Services.

30 **Sec. 5.** Section 70-1003, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
31 amended to read:

1 70-1003 (1)(a) There is hereby established an independent board to
2 be known as the Nebraska Power Review Board. The board shall consist of
3 five members, including at least one engineer, at least one attorney, and
4 three additional persons. No more than one person who is or who has
5 within four years preceding such person's appointment been either a
6 director, an officer, or an employee of any electric utility or an
7 elective state officer shall serve on the board at the same time. Any
8 board member who previously was either a director, an officer, or an
9 employee of any electric utility within four years preceding such board
10 member's appointment shall refrain from taking any action or making any
11 decision in any proceeding before the board that involves such electric
12 utility for a period of four years after the date such board member
13 ceased being a director, an officer, or an employee of such electric
14 utility.

15 (b) Members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor subject
16 to the approval of the Legislature. Upon expiration of the terms of the
17 members first appointed, the successors shall be appointed for terms of
18 four years. No member of the board shall serve more than three
19 consecutive terms. Any vacancy on the board arising other than from the
20 expiration of a term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired
21 portion of the term, and any person appointed to fill a vacancy on the
22 board shall be eligible for reappointment for two more consecutive terms.
23 No more than three members of the board shall be registered members of
24 that political party represented by the Governor.

25 (2) Each member of the board shall receive one hundred dollars per
26 day for each day actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of
27 his or her duties, but not to exceed seven thousand dollars in any one
28 year, except for the member designated to represent the board on the
29 Southwest Power Pool Regional State Committee or its equivalent
30 successor, who shall receive two hundred fifty dollars for each day
31 actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of his or her duties,

1 not to exceed thirty-five thousand dollars in any one year. If the member
2 designated to represent the board on the Southwest Power Pool Regional
3 State Committee should for any reason no longer serve in that capacity
4 during a year, the pay received while serving in such capacity shall not
5 be used for purposes of calculating the seven-thousand-dollar limitation
6 for board members not serving in that capacity. When another board member
7 acts as the proxy for the designated Southwest Power Pool Regional State
8 Committee member, he or she shall receive the same pay as the designated
9 member would have for that activity. Pay received while serving as proxy
10 for such designated member shall not be used for purposes of determining
11 whether the seven-thousand-dollar limitation has been met for board
12 members not serving as such designated member. Total pay to board members
13 for activities related to the Southwest Power Pool shall not exceed an
14 aggregate total of forty thousand dollars in any one year. Each member
15 shall be reimbursed for expenses while so engaged as provided in sections
16 81-1174 to 81-1177. The board shall have jurisdiction as provided in
17 Chapter 70, article 10.

18 (3) The board shall elect from their members a chairperson and a
19 vice-chairperson. Decisions of the board shall require the approval of a
20 majority of the members of the board.

21 (4) The board shall employ an executive director and may employ such
22 other staff necessary to carry out the duties pursuant to Chapter 70,
23 article 10. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the
24 board and shall be solely responsible to the board. The executive
25 director shall be responsible for the administrative operations of the
26 board and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned
27 to him or her by the board. The board may obtain the services of experts
28 and consultants necessary to carry out the board's duties pursuant to
29 Chapter 70, article 10.

30 (5) The board shall publish and submit a biennial report with annual
31 data to the Governor, with copies to be filed with the Clerk of the

1 Legislature and with the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.
2 The report submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature shall be submitted
3 electronically. The department shall consider the information in the
4 Nebraska Power Review Board's report when the department prepares its own
5 report ~~reports~~ pursuant to section sections 81-1606 and 81-1607. The
6 report of the board shall include:

7 (a) The assessments for the fiscal year imposed pursuant to section
8 70-1020;

9 (b) The gross income totals for each category of the industry and
10 the industry total;

11 (c) The number of suppliers against whom the assessment is levied,
12 by category and in total;

13 (d) The projected dollar costs of generation, transmission, and
14 microwave applications, approved and denied;

15 (e) The actual dollar costs of approved applications upon
16 completion, and a summary of an informational hearing concerning any
17 significant divergence between the projected and actual costs;

18 (f) A description of Nebraska's current electric system and
19 information on additions to and retirements from the system during the
20 fiscal year, including microwave facilities;

21 (g) A statistical summary of board activities and an expenditure
22 summary;

23 (h) A roster of power suppliers in Nebraska and the assessment each
24 paid; and

25 (i) Appropriately detailed historical and projected electric supply
26 and demand statistics, including information on the total generating
27 capacity owned by Nebraska suppliers and the total peak load demand of
28 the previous year, along with an indication of how the industry will
29 respond to the projected situation.

30 (6) The board may, in its discretion, hold public hearings
31 concerning the conditions that may indicate that retail competition in

1 the electric industry would benefit Nebraska's citizens and what steps,
2 if any, should be taken to prepare for retail competition in Nebraska's
3 electricity market. In determining whether to hold such hearings, the
4 board shall consider the sufficiency of public interest.

5 (7) The board may, at any time deemed beneficial by the board,
6 submit a report to the Governor with copies to be filed with the Clerk of
7 the Legislature and the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature.
8 The report filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and the committee
9 shall be filed electronically. The report may include:

10 (a) Whether or not a viable regional transmission organization and
11 adequate transmission exist in Nebraska or in a region which includes
12 Nebraska;

13 (b) Whether or not a viable wholesale electricity market exists in a
14 region which includes Nebraska;

15 (c) To what extent retail rates have been unbundled in Nebraska;

16 (d) A comparison of Nebraska's wholesale electricity prices to the
17 prices in the region; and

18 (e) Any other information the board believes to be beneficial to the
19 Governor, the Legislature, and Nebraska's citizens when considering
20 whether retail electric competition would be beneficial, such as, but not
21 limited to, an update on deregulation activities in other states and an
22 update on federal deregulation legislation.

23 (8) The board may establish working groups of interested parties to
24 assist the board in carrying out the powers set forth in subsections (6)
25 and (7) of this section.

26 **Sec. 6.** Section 77-383, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

28 77-383 The department may request from any state or local official
29 or agency any information necessary to complete the report ~~reports~~
30 required under section 77-382 and subsection (2) of section 77-385. All
31 state and local officials or agencies shall cooperate with the department

1 with respect to any such request.

2 **Sec. 7.** Section 77-385, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 77-385 (1) The report required under section 77-382 and a summary
5 of the report shall be submitted to the Governor, the Executive Board of
6 the Legislative Council, and the chairpersons of the Legislature's
7 Revenue and Appropriations Committees on or before October 15, 1991, and
8 October 15 of every even-numbered year thereafter. The report submitted
9 to the executive board and the committees shall be submitted
10 electronically. The department shall, on or before December 1 of each
11 even-numbered year, appear at a joint hearing of the Appropriations
12 Committee of the Legislature and the Revenue Committee of the Legislature
13 and present the report. Any supplemental information requested by three
14 or more committee members shall be presented within thirty days after the
15 request. The summary shall be included with or appended to the Governor's
16 budget presented to the Legislature in odd-numbered years.

17 (2)(a) ~~In addition to the tax expenditure report required under
18 section 77-382, the department shall prepare an annual report that
19 focuses specifically on the tax expenditures relating to sales and use
20 tax as follows:~~

21 (i) ~~For 2014 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall
22 analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax
23 expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(a) through (c) of section
24 77-382;~~

25 (ii) ~~For 2015 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall
26 analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax
27 expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(d) through (f) of section
28 77-382;~~

29 (iii) ~~For 2016 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall
30 analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax
31 expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(g) through (j) of section~~

1 ~~77-382~~; and

2 (iv) For 2017 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall
3 analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax
4 expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(k) through (m) of section
5 ~~77-382~~.

6 (b) The report required under this subsection shall be submitted to
7 the Governor, the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, and the
8 chairpersons of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature and the
9 Appropriations Committee of the Legislature on or before October 15 of
10 each year. The report submitted to the executive board and the committees
11 shall be submitted electronically. The department shall, on or before
12 December 1 of each year, appear at a joint hearing of the Appropriations
13 Committee of the Legislature and the Revenue Committee of the Legislature
14 and present the report. Any supplemental information requested by three
15 or more committee members shall be presented within thirty days after the
16 request.

17 **Sec. 8.** Section 77-27,238, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 77-27,238 (1) For taxable years beginning or deemed to begin on or
20 after January 1, 2017, there shall be allowed to an employer of any
21 eligible employee a nonrefundable credit, for not more than two years,
22 against the income tax imposed by the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 in the
23 amount of twenty percent of the employer's annual expenditures for any of
24 the following services that are provided to eligible employees and that
25 are incidental to the employer's business:

26 (a) The payment of tuition at a Nebraska public institution of
27 postsecondary education or the payment of the costs associated with a
28 high school equivalency program for eligible employees; and

29 (b) The provision of transportation of eligible employees to and
30 from work.

31 (2) The credit allowed under this section for any taxable year shall

1 not exceed the employer's actual tax liability for such taxable year.

2 ~~(3) The Department of Revenue shall submit a report electronically~~
3 ~~to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year on (a)~~
4 ~~the number of employers claiming a credit under this section and (b) the~~
5 ~~number of eligible employees receiving the services for which credits are~~
6 ~~claimed.~~

7 ~~(3) (4) The Department of Revenue, in consultation with the~~
8 ~~Department of Health and Human Services, shall develop a process to~~
9 ~~verify that any employer claiming credits under this section qualifies~~
10 ~~for such credits.~~

11 ~~(4) (5) The Department of Revenue may adopt and promulgate rules and~~
12 ~~regulations necessary to carry out this section.~~

13 ~~(5) (6) For purposes of this section, eligible employee means a~~
14 ~~parent or caretaker relative (a) who is a member of a unit that received~~
15 ~~benefits under the state or federally funded Temporary Assistance for~~
16 ~~Needy Families program established in 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., for any nine~~
17 ~~months of the eighteen-month period immediately prior to the employee's~~
18 ~~hiring date and (b) whose hiring date is on or after the first day of the~~
19 ~~taxable year for which the credit is claimed.~~

20 **Sec. 9.** Section 77-6307, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
21 amended to read:

22 77-6307 (1) Each qualified small business, qualified investor, and
23 qualified fund shall submit an annual report to the director by July 1 of
24 each year. The report shall certify that the business, investor, or fund
25 satisfies the requirements of the Angel Investment Tax Credit Act and
26 ~~shall include all information which will enable the Department of~~
27 ~~Economic Development to fulfill its reporting requirements under section~~
28 ~~77-6309.~~

29 (2) A qualified small business that ceases all operations and
30 becomes insolvent shall file a final report with the director in the form
31 required by the director documenting its insolvency.

1 (3) To maintain the confidentiality of the qualified investor, the
2 Department of Economic Development shall use a designated number to
3 identify such persons or entities.

4 (4) A qualified small business, qualified investor, or qualified
5 fund that fails to file a complete annual report by July 1 shall, at the
6 discretion of the director, be subject to a fine of two hundred dollars,
7 revocation of its certification, or both.

8 **Sec. 10.** Section 77-6521, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
9 2024, is amended to read:

10 77-6521 (1) The Department of Economic Development and the
11 Department of Revenue shall jointly submit electronically an annual
12 report to the Legislature no later than October 31 of each year. The
13 report shall be on a fiscal year, accrual basis that satisfies the
14 requirements set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The
15 Department of Economic Development and the Department of Revenue shall
16 together, on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year, appear at
17 a joint hearing of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature and
18 the Revenue Committee of the Legislature and present the report. Any
19 supplemental information requested by three or more committee members
20 must be provided within thirty days after the request.

21 (2) The report shall list (a) the agreements which have been signed
22 during the previous calendar year, (b) the agreements which are still in
23 effect, and (c) the identity of each taxpayer that is a party to an
24 agreement.

25 (3) The report shall provide information on agreement-specific total
26 credits used every two years for each agreement. The report shall
27 disclose the identity of the taxpayer and the total credits used during
28 the immediately preceding two years, expressed as a single, aggregated
29 total. The information required to be reported under this subsection
30 shall not be reported for the first year the taxpayer maintains the
31 required employment threshold. The information on first-year credits used

1 shall be combined with and reported as part of the second year.
2 Thereafter, the information on credits used for succeeding years shall be
3 reported for each agreement every two years containing information on two
4 years of credits used.

5 (4) No information shall be provided in the report that is protected
6 by state or federal confidentiality laws.

7 **Sec. 11.** Section 77-6604, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
8 2024, is amended to read:

9 77-6604 (1) A business may apply to the director for certification
10 as an eligible business. The program certification application shall be
11 in the form and be made under the procedures specified by the director.

12 (2) Within thirty days after receiving a program certification
13 application under this section, the director shall certify the business
14 as satisfying the conditions required of an eligible business, request
15 additional information, or deny the program certification application. If
16 the director requests additional information, the director shall certify
17 the business or deny the program certification application within thirty
18 days after receiving the additional information. If the director neither
19 certifies the business nor denies the program certification application
20 within thirty days after receiving the original program certification
21 application or within thirty days after receiving the additional
22 information requested, whichever is later, then the program certification
23 application is deemed approved if the business meets the requirements in
24 subsection (3) of this section. A business that applies for program
25 certification and is denied may reapply.

26 (3) To be certified as an eligible business under the Renewable
27 Chemical Production Tax Credit Act, a business shall meet all of the
28 following requirements:

29 (a) The business produced at least one million pounds of renewable
30 chemicals in this state during the calendar year for which tax credits
31 are sought;

1 (b) The business is physically located in this state;

2 (c) The business organized, expanded, or located in this state on or

3 after January 1, 2021; and

4 (d) The business is in compliance with all agreements entered into

5 under the act and pursuant to any other tax credits or programs

6 administered by the Department of Economic Development or the Department

7 of Revenue.

8 (4)(a) An eligible business shall enter into an agreement with the
9 director for the successful completion of all requirements of the act.
10 The agreement may certify the business to receive tax credits under the
11 act for up to four years.

12 (b) As part of the agreement, the eligible business shall agree to
13 collect and provide any information reasonably required by the Department
14 of Economic Development and director or the Department of Revenue in
15 order to allow the director and department to fulfill the their reporting
16 obligations under section 77-6610.

17 **Sec. 12.** Section 77-6610, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
18 2024, is amended to read:

19 77-6610 (1) On or before October 31 of each year, the Department of
20 Economic Development January 31, 2024, and on or before each January 31
21 thereafter, the director and the Department of Revenue shall
22 electronically submit an annual report to the Legislature a report on the
23 Renewable Chemical Production Tax Credit Act to the Revenue Committee of
24 the Legislature. At a minimum, the report shall include the following
25 information regarding tax credits and the recipients of such credits:

26 (a) The aggregate number of pounds, and a list of each type, of
27 renewable chemicals produced in Nebraska by all recipients (i) during the
28 calendar year prior to the calendar year for which each recipient first
29 received tax credits and (ii) for each calendar year thereafter;

30 (b) The aggregate sales of all renewable chemicals produced by all
31 recipients in each calendar year for which there are at least five

1 recipients;

2 (c) The aggregate number of pounds, and a list of each type, of
3 biomass feedstock used in the production of renewable chemicals in
4 Nebraska by all recipients (i) during the calendar year prior to the
5 calendar year for which each recipient first received tax credits and
6 (ii) for each calendar year thereafter;

7 (d) The number of employees located in Nebraska of all recipients
8 (i) during the calendar year prior to the calendar year for which each
9 recipient first received tax credits and (ii) for each calendar year
10 thereafter;

11 (e) The number and aggregate amount of tax credits issued for each
12 calendar year;

13 (f) The number of eligible businesses placed on the wait list for
14 each calendar year and the total number of eligible businesses remaining
15 on the wait list at the end of that calendar year;

16 (g) The dollar amount of tax credit claims placed on the wait list
17 for each calendar year and the total dollar amount of tax credit claims
18 remaining on the wait list at the end of that calendar year;

19 (h) For each eligible business which received tax credits during
20 each calendar year: (i) The identity of the eligible business; (ii) the
21 amount of the tax credits; and (iii) the manner in which the eligible
22 business first qualified as an eligible business, whether by organizing,
23 expanding, or locating in the state; and

24 (i) The total amount of all tax credits claimed during each calendar
25 year, and the portion issued as refunds.

26 (2) In order to protect the presumption of confidentiality provided
27 for in section 77-6609, the Department of Economic Development director
28 and the Department of Revenue shall report all information in an
29 aggregate form to prevent, to the extent reasonably possible, information
30 being attributable to any particular eligible business, except as
31 provided in subdivision (1)(h) of this section.

1 **Sec. 13.** Section 77-6837, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2024, is amended to read:

3 77-6837 (1) Beginning in 2021, the director and the Tax Commissioner
4 shall jointly submit electronically an annual report for the previous
5 fiscal year to the Legislature no later than October 31 of each year. The
6 report shall be on a fiscal year, accrual basis that satisfies the
7 requirements set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The
8 Department of Economic Development and the Department of Revenue shall
9 together, on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year, appear at
10 a joint hearing of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature and
11 the Revenue Committee of the Legislature and present the report. Any
12 supplemental information requested by three or more committee members
13 shall be presented within thirty days after the request.

14 (2) The report shall list (a) the agreements which have been signed
15 during the previous year, (b) the agreements which are still in effect,
16 (c) the identity of each taxpayer who is party to an agreement, and (d)
17 the qualified location or locations.

18 (3) The report shall also state, for taxpayers who are parties to
19 agreements, by industry group (a) the specific incentive options applied
20 for under the Imagine Nebraska Act, (b) the refunds and reductions in tax
21 allowed on the investment, (c) the credits earned, (d) the credits used
22 to reduce the corporate income tax and the credits used to reduce the
23 individual income tax, (e) the credits used to obtain sales and use tax
24 refunds, (f) the credits used against withholding liability, (g) the
25 credits used for job training, (h) the credits used for infrastructure
26 development, (i) the number of jobs created under the act, (j) the
27 expansion of capital investment, (k) the estimated wage levels of jobs
28 created under the act subsequent to the application date, (l) the total
29 number of qualified applicants, (m) the projected future state revenue
30 gains and losses, (n) the sales tax refunds owed, (o) the credits
31 outstanding under the act, (p) the value of personal property exempted by

1 class in each county under the act, (q) ~~the total amount of the payments,~~
2 ~~(r)~~ the amount of workforce training and infrastructure development loans
3 issued, outstanding, repaid, and delinquent, and ~~(r) (s)~~ the value of
4 health coverage provided to employees at qualified locations during the
5 year who are not base-year employees and who are paid the required
6 compensation. The report shall include the estimate of the amount of
7 sales and use tax refunds to be paid and tax credits to be used as were
8 required for the October forecast under section 77-6839.

9 (4) In estimating the projected future state revenue gains and
10 losses, the report shall detail the methodology utilized, state the
11 economic multipliers and industry multipliers used to determine the
12 amount of economic growth and positive tax revenue, describe the analysis
13 used to determine the percentage of new jobs attributable to the Imagine
14 Nebraska Act, and identify limitations that are inherent in the analysis
15 method.

16 (5) The report shall provide an explanation of the audit and review
17 processes of the Department of Economic Development and the Department of
18 Revenue, as applicable, in approving and rejecting applications or the
19 grant of incentives and in enforcing incentive recapture. The report
20 shall also specify the median period of time between the date of
21 application and the date the agreement is executed for all agreements
22 executed by June 30 of the current year.

23 (6) The report shall provide information on agreement-specific total
24 incentives used every two years for each agreement. The report shall
25 disclose (a) the identity of the taxpayer, (b) the qualified location or
26 locations, and (c) the total credits used and refunds approved during the
27 immediately preceding two years expressed as a single, aggregated total.
28 The incentive information required to be reported under this subsection
29 shall not be reported for the first year the taxpayer attains the
30 required employment and investment thresholds. The information on first-
31 year incentives used shall be combined with and reported as part of the

1 second year. Thereafter, the information on incentives used for
2 succeeding years shall be reported for each agreement every two years
3 containing information on two years of credits used and refunds approved.
4 The incentives used shall include incentives which have been approved by
5 the director or Tax Commissioner, as applicable, but not necessarily
6 received, during the previous two years.

7 (7) The report shall include an executive summary which shows
8 aggregate information for all agreements for which the information on
9 incentives used in subsection (6) of this section is reported as follows:
10 (a) The total incentives used by all taxpayers for agreements detailed in
11 subsection (6) of this section during the previous two years; (b) the
12 number of agreements; (c) the new jobs at the qualified location or
13 locations for which credits have been granted; (d) the average
14 compensation paid to employees in the state in the year of application
15 and for the new jobs at the qualified location or locations; and (e) the
16 total investment for which incentives were granted. The executive summary
17 shall summarize the number of states which grant investment tax credits,
18 job tax credits, sales and use tax refunds for qualified investment, and
19 personal property tax exemptions and the investment and employment
20 requirements under which they may be granted.

21 (8) No information shall be provided in the report or in
22 supplemental information that is protected by state or federal
23 confidentiality laws.

24 **Sec. 14.** Section 77-6928, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
25 2024, is amended to read:

26 77-6928 (1) On or before October 31 July 15, 2024, and on or before
27 July 15 of each year, the Department of Economic Development and the
28 Department of Revenue shall electronically submit a joint annual report
29 to the Legislature thereafter, the Director of Economic Development shall
30 prepare a report that includes:

31 (a) The total amount of investment at qualified locations in the

1 previous calendar year by taxpayers who are receiving incentives pursuant
2 to the Urban Redevelopment Act;

3 (b) The total number of equivalent employees added in the previous
4 calendar year by taxpayers who are receiving incentives pursuant to the
5 act; and

6 (c) The total amount of credits claimed and refunds approved in the
7 previous calendar year under the act.

8 (2) The report shall also provide information on project-specific
9 total incentives used every two years for each approved project,
10 including (a) the identity of the taxpayer, (b) the qualified location of
11 the project, and (c) the total credits used and refunds approved during
12 the immediately preceding two years expressed as a single, aggregated
13 total. The incentive information required to be reported under this
14 subsection shall not be reported for the first year the taxpayer attains
15 the required employment and investment thresholds. The information on
16 first-year incentives used shall be combined with and reported as part of
17 the second year. Thereafter, the information on incentives used for
18 succeeding years shall be reported for each project every two years and
19 shall include information on two years of credits used and refunds
20 approved. The incentives used shall include incentives that have been
21 approved by the Director of Economic Development, but not necessarily
22 received, during the previous two calendar years.

23 (3) On or before September 1, 2024, and on or before September 1 of
24 each year thereafter, the Department of Economic Development shall
25 present the report electronically to the Appropriations Committee of the
26 Legislature. Any supplemental information requested by three or more
27 committee members shall be presented within thirty days after the
28 request.

29 (4) No information shall be provided in the report that is protected
30 by state or federal confidentiality laws.

31 **Sec. 15.** Section 81-125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 81-125 The Governor shall on or before January 15 of each odd-
3 numbered year present to the Legislature a complete budget for all the
4 activities of the state receiving appropriations or requesting
5 appropriations, except that the Governor during his or her first year in
6 office shall present such budget to the Legislature on or before February
7 1. Such budget shall be a tentative work program for the coming biennium,
8 shall contain a full and itemized report of the expenditures from
9 appropriations made by the previous Legislature and the items which the
10 Governor deems worthy of consideration for the coming biennium, for the
11 respective departments, offices, and institutions, and for all other
12 purposes, and shall contain the estimated revenue from taxation, the
13 estimated revenue from sources other than taxation, an estimate of the
14 amount required to be raised by taxation and the sales and income tax
15 rates necessary to raise such amount, the revenue foregone by operation
16 of laws in effect at the time of such report granting tax expenditures
17 and reduced tax liabilities as identified in the reports required by
18 sections 77-5731 and 77-6837, and recommendations as to deficiency
19 funding requirements pursuant to section 81-126. The summary of the tax
20 expenditure report prepared pursuant to ~~subsection (1) of~~ section 77-385
21 and a summary of the reports required by sections 77-5731 and 77-6837
22 shall be included with or appended to the budget presented to the
23 Legislature. The Governor may make recommendations whether to continue or
24 eliminate, in whole or in part, each tax expenditure and incentive
25 program or to limit the duration of particular tax expenditures and
26 incentives to a fixed number of years and shall include his or her
27 reasoning for each recommendation, if any. The recommendations shall be
28 transmitted to the Revenue Committee of the Legislature at the same time
29 the Governor submits a budget as required in this section. The budget as
30 transmitted to the Legislature shall show the estimated requirements for
31 each activity of the state as prepared by the Department of

1 Administrative Services and the final recommendation of the Governor. The
2 budget shall comprise the complete report to the Legislature of all
3 appropriations made for the current biennium and expenditures therefrom
4 by all agencies receiving appropriations, and the report of expenditures
5 contained in the budget shall be in lieu of all other biennial or other
6 financial reports required by statute to the Legislature by expending
7 agencies of appropriations and expenditures for their own activities
8 except the biennial report of the State Treasurer and Director of
9 Administrative Services.

10 **Sec. 16.** Section 81-1113, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
11 amended to read:

12 81-1113 The budget division shall prepare the executive budget in
13 accordance with the wishes and policies of the Governor. The budget
14 division shall have the following duties, powers, and responsibilities:

15 (1) Shall prescribe the forms and procedures to be employed by all
16 departments and agencies of the state in compiling and submitting their
17 individual budget requests and shall set up a budget calendar which shall
18 provide for (a) the date, not later than July 15 of each even-numbered
19 year, for distribution of instructions, (b) the date by which time
20 requests for appropriations by each agency shall be submitted, and (c)
21 the period during which such public hearings as the Governor may elect
22 shall be held for each department and agency. The budget request shall be
23 submitted each even-numbered year no later than the date provided in
24 subsection (1) of section 81-132, shall include the intended receipts and
25 expenditures by programs, ~~subprograms, and activities~~ and such
26 additional information as the administrator may deem appropriate for each
27 fiscal year, ~~including the certification described in subdivision (4) of~~
28 ~~this section,~~ shall be made upon a biennial basis, and shall include
29 actual receipts and actual expenditures for each fiscal year of the most
30 recently completed biennium and the first year of the current biennium
31 and estimates for the second year of the current biennium and each year

1 of the next ensuing biennium;

2 (2) Shall prescribe the forms and procedures to be employed by all
3 departments and agencies of the state in compiling and submitting their
4 proposed changes to existing appropriations for the biennium in progress.

5 The budget division shall distribute instructions and forms to all
6 departments and agencies no later than September 15 of each odd-numbered
7 year. Departments and agencies shall submit their proposed changes no
8 later than the date provided in subsection (2) of section 81-132;

9 (3) Shall work with each governmental department and agency in
10 developing performance standards for each program, ~~subprogram~~, and
11 activity to measure and evaluate present as well as projected levels of
12 expenditures. The budget division shall also work with the Department of
13 Health and Human Services to develop key goals, benchmarks, and methods
14 of quantification of progress required pursuant to sections 81-3133.01 to
15 81-3133.03;

16 (4)(a) Shall develop a certification form and procedure to be
17 included in each budget request under subdivision (1) of this section
18 through which each department and agency shall certify, for each program
19 or practice it administers, whether such program or practice is an
20 evidence-based program or practice, or, if not, whether such program or
21 practice is reasonably capable of becoming an evidence-based program or
22 practice;

23 (b) For purposes of this subdivision (4):

24 (i) Evidence-based means that a program or practice (A) offers a
25 high level of research on effectiveness, determined as a result of
26 multiple rigorous evaluations, such as randomized controlled trials and
27 evaluations that incorporate strong comparison group designs or a single
28 large multisite randomized study and (B) to the extent practicable, has
29 specified procedures that allow for successful replication;

30 (ii) Program or practice means a function or activity that is
31 sufficiently identifiable as a discrete unit of service; and

1 ~~(iii) Reasonably capable of becoming an evidence-based program or~~
2 ~~practice means the program or practice is susceptible to quantifiable~~
3 ~~benchmarks that measure service delivery, client or customer~~
4 ~~satisfaction, or efficiency;~~

5 ~~(4) (5) Shall, following passage of legislative appropriations, be~~
6 ~~responsible for the administration of the approved budget through~~
7 ~~budgetary allotments;~~

8 ~~(5) (6) Shall be responsible for a monthly budgetary report for each~~
9 ~~department and agency showing comparisons between actual expenditures and~~
10 ~~allotments, which report shall be subject to review by the director and~~
11 ~~budget administrator; and~~

12 ~~(6) (7) Shall be responsible for the authorization of employee~~
13 ~~positions. Such authorizations shall be based on the following:~~

14 (a) A requirement that a sufficient budget program appropriation and
15 salary limitation exist to fully fund all authorized positions;

16 (b) A requirement that permanent full-time positions which have been
17 vacant for ninety days or more be reviewed and reauthorized prior to
18 being filled. If requested by the budget division, the personnel division
19 of the Department of Administrative Services shall review such vacant
20 position to determine the proper classification for the position;

21 (c) A requirement that authorized positions accurately reflect
22 legislative intent contained in legislative appropriation and intent
23 bills; and

24 (d) Other relevant criteria as determined by the budget
25 administrator.

26 **Sec. 17.** Section 81-1139.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
27 amended to read:

28 81-1139.02 Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative
29 Services shall assume the duties of the Vacant Building and Excess Land
30 Committee. \div

31 ~~(1) The Suggestion Award Board; and~~

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

2 **Sec. 18.** Section 81-1354.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
3 is amended to read:

4 81-1354.01 Nothing in sections 81-1301 to ~~81-1329~~ ~~81-1354~~ shall
5 prohibit state employees from exercising their rights granted in Chapter
6 48, article 8, or any other applicable sections of law.

7 **Sec. 19.** Section 81-1378, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 81-1378 (1) The dates indicated in sections 81-1379 to ~~81-1383~~
10 ~~81-1384~~ shall refer to those dates immediately preceding the beginning of
11 the contract period for which negotiations are being conducted.

12 (2) When any date provided in sections 81-1379 to ~~81-1383~~ ~~81-1384~~
13 falls on a Saturday, a Sunday, or any day declared by statutory enactment
14 or proclamations of the Governor to be a holiday, the next following day
15 which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or a day declared by the enactment or
16 proclamation to be a holiday shall be deemed to be the day indicated by
17 such date.

18 (3) The dates indicated in sections 81-1382 and 81-1383 are
19 jurisdictional. Failure of either party to act in a timely manner shall
20 result in a jurisdictional bar for either the commission or Supreme
21 Court.

22 **Sec. 20.** Section 81-1430, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
23 amended to read:

24 81-1430 (1) A task force is hereby established within the Nebraska
25 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the purposes of
26 investigating and studying human trafficking, the methods for advertising
27 human trafficking services, and the victimization of individuals coerced
28 to participate in human trafficking. The task force terminates July 1,
29 2026.

30 (2) The task force shall examine the extent to which human
31 trafficking is prevalent in this state, the scope of efforts being taken

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (g) A county sheriff;

13 (h) A county attorney;

14 (i) A county commissioner;

15 (j) A mayor or city manager;

16 (k) A person involved with the control or prevention of juvenile
17 delinquency;

18 (1) A person involved with the control or prevention of child abuse;

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

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

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

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

31 (6) The members of the task force appointed by the Governor shall

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

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

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

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

27 (10) The members of the task force shall serve on the task force
28 without compensation, but they shall be entitled to receive reimbursement
29 for expenses incurred incident to such service as provided in sections
30 81-1174 to 81-1177.

31 (11) Eleven members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for

1 the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the task
2 force. The task force shall have the power to act by a majority of the
3 members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.

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

9 **Sec. 21.** Section 81-1504.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
10 is amended to read:

11 81-1504.01 The department shall provide the following information
12 electronically to the Governor and to the Clerk of the Legislature by
13 December 1 of each year:

14 (1) A report by type of service or aid provided by the use and
15 distribution of federal funds received by the department. The report
16 shall also include user fees, permit fees, license fees, and application
17 fees authorized by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as
18 follows:

19 (a) Actual expenditure of each budget program grant or authorized
20 fees for the most recently completed state fiscal year, including a list
21 of expenditures by funding source state matching funds;

22 (b) Current budget and planned use and distribution of each budget
23 program grant and authorized fees for the current state fiscal year,
24 including a list of expenditures by funding source state matching funds;

25 (c) A summary of the projected funding level of each budget program
26 grant and authorized fees and the impact of federal mandates and
27 regulations upon the future use of federal funding each grant and
28 authorized fees; and

29 (d) Program summaries including statistical summaries when
30 applicable for the most recently completed state fiscal year and program
31 activity goals for the current state fiscal year;

1 (2) A summary of regulations of the federal Environmental Protection
2 Agency which the department is required to implement and which do not
3 include federal funding assistance and the possible financial impact to
4 the state and political subdivisions;

5 (3) A report by type of service or aid provided by the use and
6 distribution of state general and cash funds, including user fees, permit
7 fees, license fees, and application fees, to carry out activities that
8 are not funded by federal grants as follows:

9 (a) Actual expenditure of state funds, by agency sections, for the
10 most recently completed state fiscal year, including a breakdown of
11 expenditures by personal services, operations, travel, capital outlay,
12 and consulting and contractual services;

13 (b) Current budget and planned use and distribution of state funds,
14 by budget program agency sections, for the current state fiscal year,
15 including a breakdown of expenditures for aid and operations personal
16 services, operations, travel, capital outlay, and consulting and
17 contractual services;

18 (c) A summary of projected program funding needs based upon the
19 statutory requirements and public demand for services and the
20 department's assessment of anticipated needs statewide; and

21 (d) Program summaries including statistical summaries when
22 applicable for the most recently completed state fiscal year and program
23 activity goals for the current state fiscal year;

24 (4) A report regarding staff turnover by job class and the
25 department's assessment of its ability to hire and retain qualified staff
26 considering the state's personnel pay plan;

27 (5) A report listing the method used by each new or existing
28 licensee, permittee, or other person who is required by the department to
29 establish proof of financial responsibility; and

30 (6) A report for the previous state fiscal year relating to the
31 purpose of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act and of funds

1 credited to the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund; -

2 ~~The reports and summaries submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature~~
3 ~~shall be submitted electronically.~~

4 (7) A report for the previous state fiscal year relating to the use
5 of the Water Resources Cash Fund including details regarding the use and
6 cost of activities carried out by the department and details regarding
7 the use and cost of activities carried out by each natural resources
8 district that received funds from the Water Resources Cash Fund;

9 (8) A report designed to identify emerging trends related to energy
10 supply, demand, and conservation and to specify the level of statewide
11 energy need within the following sectors: (a) Agricultural; (b)
12 commercial; (c) residential; (d) industrial; (e) transportation; (f)
13 utilities; (g) government; and (h) any other sector that the director
14 determines to be useful, that shall include, but not be limited to:

15 (i) An assessment of the state's energy resources, including
16 examination of the current energy supplies and any feasible alternative
17 sources;

18 (ii) The estimated reduction in annual energy consumption resulting
19 from various energy conservation measures;

20 (iii) The status of the ongoing studies of the department pursuant
21 to subdivisions (35) through (58) of section 81-1504;

22 (iv) Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for
23 administrative and legislative actions to accomplish the purposes of this
24 section and section 81-1606; and

25 (v) The use of funds disbursed during the previous state fiscal year
26 under sections 81-1635 to 81-1641. The use of such funds shall be
27 reported each year until the funds are completely disbursed and all
28 contractual obligations have expired or otherwise terminated;

29 (9) A report that documents all direct and indirect costs incurred
30 in the previous fiscal year in carrying out the Livestock Waste
31 Management Act, including (a) the number of inspections conducted, (b)

1 the number of animal feeding operations with livestock waste control
2 facilities, (c) the number of animal feeding operations inspected, (d)
3 the size of the livestock waste control facilities, (e) the results of
4 water quality monitoring programs, and (f) any other elements relating to
5 carrying out the act. The Appropriations Committee of the Legislature
6 shall review the report in its analysis of executive programs in order to
7 verify that the revenue generated from fees was used solely to offset
8 appropriate and reasonable costs associated with the Livestock Waste
9 Management Act; and

10 (10) A report that documents all direct and indirect program costs
11 incurred in the previous fiscal year in carrying out the air quality
12 permit program as provided in section 81-1505.04. The Appropriations
13 Committee of the Legislature shall review such report in its analysis of
14 executive programs in order to verify that revenue generated from
15 emission fees was used solely to offset appropriate and reasonable costs
16 associated with the air quality permit program. The report shall identify
17 costs incurred by the department to administer the permit program for
18 each major source. In addition, the department shall identify costs
19 incurred by primary activity and not specific to a major source.

20 **Sec. 22.** Section 81-1505.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
21 is amended to read:

22 81-1505.04 (1)(a) The department shall collect an annual emission
23 fee from major sources of air pollution. Each major source shall pay the
24 emission fee for regulated pollutants in the amount of twenty-five
25 dollars per ton per pollutant or as adjusted pursuant to this section.
26 The fee shall be based upon the amount of emissions of each regulated
27 pollutant as reported or estimated by the source in the previous calendar
28 year, but fees shall not be paid on amounts in excess of four thousand
29 tons per year for any regulated pollutant.

30 (b) Beginning with calendar year 2001 emissions, fees shall not be
31 paid for a mid-sized electric generation facility on amounts in excess of

1 four hundred tons per year for any regulated pollutant.

2 (c) A mid-sized electric generation facility owned by a municipality
3 shall continue to be considered a separate mid-sized electric generation
4 facility for purposes of this section even if the facility is
5 subsequently permitted with another general unit larger than one hundred
6 fifteen megawatts under separate ownership. Each facility under separate
7 ownership shall be considered a separate major source for purposes of
8 this section.

9 (d) For purposes of this section, mid-sized electric generation
10 facility means a facility that:

11 (i) Uses coal as the primary source of fuel in the facility's
12 largest generation unit;

13 (ii) Has a name plate generating capacity of between seventy and one
14 hundred fifteen megawatts in the facility's largest generation unit; and

15 (iii) Is not operating in a political subdivision which has been
16 delegated the authority to enforce the air quality permit program within
17 its jurisdiction.

18 (2)(a) The emission fee may be increased or decreased annually by
19 the department by the percentage difference between the Consumer Price
20 Index for the most recent year ending before the beginning of such year
21 and the Consumer Price Index for the year 1989 or as required to pay all
22 reasonable direct and indirect costs of developing and administering the
23 air quality permit program. For purposes of this section, Consumer Price
24 Index means the change in the price of goods and services for all urban
25 consumers published by the United States Department of Labor at the close
26 of the twelve-month period ending on August 31 of each year.

27 (b) For purposes of this section, reasonable direct and indirect
28 costs of developing and administering the air quality permit program, as
29 required under the federal Clean Air Act, as the act existed on May 31,
30 2001, 42 U.S.C. 7661a through f, include:

31 (i) Consideration of any associated overhead charges for personnel,

1 equipment, buildings, and vehicles;

2 (ii) Reviewing and acting on any application for a permit or permit

3 revision;

4 (iii) Implementing and enforcing the terms of any permit, not

5 including any court costs or other costs associated with any formal

6 enforcement action;

7 (iv) Emissions and ambient monitoring, including adequate resources

8 to audit and inspect source-operated monitoring programs;

9 (v) Preparing generally applicable regulations or guidance;

10 (vi) Modeling, analyses, or demonstrations;

11 (vii) Preparing inventories and tracking emissions; and

12 (viii) Developing and implementing any emissions trading programs as

13 defined by the department. ; and

14 (ix) ~~Providing support to sources under the Small Business~~

15 ~~Compliance Advisory Panel.~~

16 (c) The council shall establish procedures for the method of

17 calculation and payment of the emission fee in a manner consistent with

18 this section and shall establish the definition of or a table listing the

19 pollutants which are regulated pollutants and a definition of major

20 source. Such definitions or listing shall comply with and not be more

21 stringent than the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, as the act

22 existed on May 31, 2001, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

23 (3) ~~On or before January 1 of each year, the department shall submit~~

24 ~~electronically a report to the Legislature in sufficient detail to~~

25 ~~document all direct and indirect program costs incurred in the previous~~

26 ~~fiscal year in carrying out the air quality permit program. The~~

27 ~~Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall review such report in~~

28 ~~its analysis of executive programs in order to verify that revenue~~

29 ~~generated from emission fees was used solely to offset appropriate and~~

30 ~~reasonable costs associated with the air quality permit program. The~~

31 ~~report shall identify costs incurred by the department to administer the~~

1 ~~permit program for each major source. In addition, the department shall~~
2 ~~identify costs incurred by primary activity not specific to a major~~
3 ~~source.~~

4 (3) (4) The department shall administer a cost tracking system which
5 shall show costs for each major source and costs for each primary
6 activity that is not specific to a major source. The department shall
7 consult with interested parties regarding identification of primary
8 activities to be tracked by the cost tracking system.

9 **Sec. 23.** Section 81-1505.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
10 is amended to read:

11 81-1505.05 The Clean Air Title V Cash Fund is created. The
12 department shall remit all fees collected pursuant to section 81-1505.04
13 to the State Treasurer for credit to the fund. Any fee collected pursuant
14 to section 81-1505.04 shall be used solely to pay the reasonable direct
15 and indirect costs required to develop and administer the air quality
16 permit program, ~~including expenses of the Small Business Compliance~~
17 ~~Advisory Panel.~~ Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
18 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
19 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

20 **Sec. 24.** Section 81-15,175, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
21 amended to read:

22 81-15,175 (1) The board may make an annual allocation each fiscal
23 year from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to the Nebraska
24 Environmental Endowment Fund as provided in section 81-15,174.01. The
25 board shall make annual allocations from the Nebraska Environmental Trust
26 Fund and may make annual allocations each fiscal year from the Nebraska
27 Environmental Endowment Fund for projects which conform to the
28 environmental categories of the board established pursuant to section
29 81-15,176 and to the extent the board determines those projects to have
30 merit. The board shall establish a calendar annually for receiving and
31 evaluating proposals and awarding grants. To evaluate the economic,

1 financial, and technical feasibility of proposals, the board may
2 establish subcommittees, request or contract for assistance, or establish
3 advisory groups. Private citizens serving on advisory groups shall be
4 reimbursed for expenses pursuant to sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

5 (2) The board shall establish rating systems for ranking proposals
6 which meet the board's environmental categories and other criteria. The
7 rating systems shall include, but not be limited to, the following
8 considerations:

9 (a) Conformance with categories established pursuant to section
10 81-15,176;

11 (b) Amount of funds committed from other funding sources;

12 (c) Encouragement of public-private partnerships;

13 (d) Geographic mix of projects over time;

14 (e) Cost-effectiveness and economic impact;

15 (f) Direct environmental impact;

16 (g) Environmental benefit to the general public and the long-term
17 nature of such public benefit; and

18 (h) Applications submitted by the Department of Water, Energy, and
19 Environment pursuant to subsection (6) (7) of section 61-218 shall be
20 awarded fifty priority points in the ranking process for the 2011 grant
21 application if the Legislature has authorized annual transfers of three
22 million three hundred thousand dollars to the Water Resources Cash Fund
23 for each of fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13 and has stated its intent to
24 transfer three million three hundred thousand dollars to the Water
25 Resources Cash Fund in fiscal year 2013-14. Priority points shall be
26 awarded if the proposed programs set forth in the grant application are
27 consistent with the purposes of reducing consumptive uses of water,
28 enhancing streamflows, recharging ground water, or supporting wildlife
29 habitat in any river basin determined to be fully appropriated pursuant
30 to section 46-714 or designated as overappropriated pursuant to section
31 46-713.

1 (3) A grant awarded under this section pursuant to an application
2 made under subsection (6) ~~(7)~~ of section 61-218 shall be paid out in the
3 following manner:

4 (a) The initial three million three hundred thousand dollar
5 installment shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the
6 Water Resources Cash Fund no later than fifteen business days after the
7 date that the grant is approved by the board;

8 (b) The second three million three hundred thousand dollar
9 installment shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the
10 Water Resources Cash Fund no later than May 15, 2013; and

11 (c) The third three million three hundred thousand dollar
12 installment shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the
13 Water Resources Cash Fund no later than May 15, 2014, if the Legislature
14 has authorized a transfer of three million three hundred thousand dollars
15 from the General Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund for fiscal year
16 2013-14.

17 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of
18 Water, Energy, and Environment apply for an additional three-year grant
19 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund that would begin in fiscal
20 year 2014-15, a three-year grant that would begin in fiscal year 2017-18,
21 and a three-year grant that would begin in fiscal year 2020-21 and such
22 application shall be awarded fifty priority points in the ranking process
23 as set forth in subdivision (2)(h) of this section if the following
24 criteria are met:

25 (a) The Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature has examined
26 options for water funding and has submitted a report electronically to
27 the Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2012,
28 setting forth:

29 (i) An outline and priority listing of water management and funding
30 needs in Nebraska, including instream flows, residential, agricultural,
31 recreational, and municipal needs, interstate obligations, water quality

1 issues, and natural habitats preservation;

2 (ii) An outline of statewide funding options which create a
3 dedicated, sustainable funding source to meet the needs set forth in the
4 report; and

5 (iii) Recommendations for legislation;

6 (b) The projects and activities funded by the department through
7 grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund under this section have
8 resulted in enhanced streamflows, reduced consumptive uses of water,
9 recharged ground water, supported wildlife habitat, or otherwise
10 contributed towards conserving, enhancing, and restoring Nebraska's
11 ground water and surface water resources. On or before July 1, 2014, the
12 department shall submit electronically a report to the Natural Resources
13 Committee of the Legislature providing demonstrable evidence of the
14 benefits accrued from such projects and activities; and

15 (c) In addition to the grant reporting requirements of the trust, on
16 or before July 1, 2014, the department provides to the board a report
17 which includes documentation that:

18 (i) Expenditures from the Water Resources Cash Fund made to natural
19 resources districts have met the matching fund requirements provided in
20 subdivision (5)(a) of section 61-218;

21 (ii) Ten percent or less of the matching fund requirements has been
22 provided by in-kind contributions for expenses incurred for projects
23 enumerated in the grant application. In-kind contributions shall not
24 include land or land rights; and

25 (iii) All other projects and activities funded by the department
26 through grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund under this
27 section were matched not less than forty percent of the project or
28 activity cost by other funding sources.

29 (5) The board may establish a subcommittee to rate grant
30 applications. If the board uses a subcommittee, the meetings of such
31 subcommittee shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act. The subcommittee

1 shall (a) use the rating systems established by the board under
2 subsection (2) of this section, (b) assign a numeric value to each rating
3 criterion, combine these values into a total score for each application,
4 and rank the applications by the total scores, (c) recommend an amount of
5 funding for each application, which amount may be more or less than the
6 requested amount, and (d) submit the ranked list and recommended funding
7 to the board for its approval or disapproval.

8 (6) The board may commit funds to multiyear projects, subject to
9 available funds and appropriations. No commitment shall exceed three
10 years without formal action by the board to renew the grant or contract.
11 Multiyear commitments may be exempt from the rating process except for
12 the initial application and requests to renew the commitment.

13 (7) The board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations and
14 publish guidelines governing allocations from the fund. The board shall
15 conduct annual reviews of existing projects for compliance with project
16 goals and grant requirements.

17 (8) Every five years the board may evaluate the long-term effects of
18 the projects it funds. The evaluation may assess a sample of such
19 projects. The board may hire an independent consultant to conduct the
20 evaluation and may report the evaluation findings to the Legislature and
21 the Governor. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted
22 electronically.

23 **Sec. 25.** Section 81-1606, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
24 amended to read:

25 81-1606 The Department of Water, Energy, and Environment shall
26 develop and maintain a program of collection, compilation, and analysis
27 of energy statistics and information. Existing information reporting
28 requests, maintained at the state and federal levels, shall be utilized
29 whenever possible in any data collection required regarding state energy
30 policy pursuant to this section, subdivisions (35) through (58) of
31 section 81-1504, or section 81-1604 or ~~81-1607~~. A central state

1 repository of energy data shall be developed and coordinated with other
2 governmental data-collection and record-keeping programs. The department
3 shall, on at least an annual basis, with monthly compilations, submit to
4 the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature a report identifying state
5 energy consumption by fuel type and by use to the extent that such
6 information is available. The report submitted to the Clerk of the
7 Legislature shall be submitted electronically. Nothing in this section
8 shall be construed as permitting or authorizing the revealing of
9 confidential information. For purposes of this section confidential
10 information shall mean any process, formula, pattern, decision, or
11 compilation of information which is used, directly or indirectly, in the
12 business of the producer, refiner, distributor, transporter, or vendor,
13 and which gives such producer, refiner, distributor, transporter, or
14 vendor an advantage or an opportunity to obtain an advantage over
15 competitors who do not know or use it.

16 **Sec. 26.** Section 81-1607.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
17 is amended to read:

18 81-1607.01 The State Energy Cash Fund is hereby created. The fund
19 shall consist of funds received pursuant to section 57-705. The fund
20 shall be used for the administration of subdivisions (35) through (58) of
21 section 81-1504 and sections 81-1604 to 81-1606 ~~81-1607~~, for energy
22 conservation activities, and for providing technical assistance to
23 communities in the area of natural gas other than assistance regarding
24 ownership of regulated utilities, except that transfers may be made from
25 the fund to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature. Any
26 money in the State Energy Cash Fund available for investment shall be
27 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
28 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. The State
29 Treasurer shall transfer any money in the State Energy Office Cash Fund
30 to the State Energy Cash Fund on July 1, 2019.

31 **Sec. 27.** Section 83-184.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 83-184.01 (1) The department, in consultation with the State Court
3 Administrator, shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
4 provide an effective process for the transfer of funds for the purpose of
5 satisfying restitution orders.

6 (2) A sentencing order requiring an inmate to pay restitution shall
7 be treated as a court order authorizing the department to withhold and
8 transfer funds for the purpose of satisfying a restitution order.

9 (3) This section applies to funds in the wage fund of any inmate
10 confined in a correctional facility on or after August 30, 2015.

11 ~~(4) The department shall report annually to the Legislature on the
12 collection of restitution from wage funds. The report shall include the
13 total number of inmates with restitution judgments, the total number of
14 inmates with wage funds, the total number of inmates with both, the
15 number of payments made to either victims or clerks of the court, the
16 average amount of payments, and the total amount of restitution
17 collected. The report shall be submitted electronically.~~

18 **Sec. 28.** Section 83-1,100.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
19 is amended to read:

20 83-1,100.03 (1) The board, in consultation with the department,
21 shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to reduce the number of
22 inmates under the custody of the department who serve their entire
23 sentence in a correctional facility and are released without supervision.
24 The rules and regulations shall establish clear guidelines and procedures
25 to ensure that each parolee is subject to a minimum of nine months of
26 supervision and shall place priority on providing supervision lengths
27 that enable meaningful transition periods for all offenders. The rules
28 and regulations shall ensure that each inmate eligible for parole is
29 assessed for risk of reoffending using a validated risk and needs
30 assessment provided by the department and shall incorporate into the
31 release decision an inmate's assessed risk of reoffending, past criminal

1 history, program completion, institutional conduct, and other individual
2 characteristics related to the likelihood of reoffending into parole
3 release decisions.

4 (2) ~~By February 1 of each year, the board and the department shall submit a report to the Legislature, the Supreme Court, and the Governor that describes the percentage of offenders sentenced to the custody of the department who complete their entire sentence and are released with no supervision. The report shall document characteristics of the individuals released without supervision, including the highest felony class of conviction, offense type of conviction, most recent risk assessment, status of the individualized release or reentry plan, and reasons for the release without supervision. The report also shall provide recommendations from the department and board for changes to policy and practice to meet the goal of achieving a reduction in the number of inmates under the custody of the department who serve their entire sentence in a correctional facility and are released without supervision. The report to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.~~

19 (2) (3) The department, in consultation with the board, shall maintain a list of individuals who are eligible for parole but are expected to complete their entire sentence in the custody of the department and be released with no supervision. This list shall be used to facilitate the placement of committed offenders in community work release and reentry centers under the Community Work Release and Reentry Centers Act.

26 **Sec. 29.** Section 83-918, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

28 83-918 (1) For each biennium, the Department of Correctional Services shall, as part of the appropriations request process pursuant to subsection (1) of section 81-132, include a strategic plan that identifies the main purpose or purposes of each program, verifiable and

1 auditable key goals that the department believes are fair measures of its
2 progress in meeting each program's main purpose or purposes, and
3 benchmarks for improving performance on the key goals. The department
4 shall also report whether the benchmarks are being met and, if not, the
5 expected timeframes for meeting them.

6 (2) On or before July 1 September 15 of each year, the Department of
7 Correctional Services shall report electronically to the Judiciary
8 Committee of the Legislature and the Appropriations Committee of the
9 Legislature on the progress towards the key goals identified pursuant to
10 this section that occurred in the previous twelve months. Upon request,
11 the department shall appear at a joint hearing of the Judiciary Committee
12 and Appropriations Committee and present the report.

13 **Sec. 30.** Section 83-963, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 83-963 (1) The department shall prepare an annual report on
16 committed offenders who are paroled or granted controlled release
17 pursuant to the Correctional System Overcrowding Emergency Act for each
18 year the department is operating under an overcrowding emergency as
19 defined in section 83-962. The report shall summarize each such former
20 committed offender's behavior since parole and generally evaluate his or
21 her success or lack of success in becoming a law-abiding member of
22 society. The annual report shall be filed electronically with the
23 Executive Board of the Legislative Council on or before February 1
24 December 31, with the first such report submitted by February 1 December
25 31 of the first year that committed offenders are paroled pursuant to the
26 act. A notice of the filing of the report shall be submitted
27 electronically to each member of the Legislature when the annual report
28 is filed with the Executive Board.

29 (2) On or before February 1 of each year, the board and the
30 department shall submit a report to the Legislature, the Supreme Court,
31 and the Governor that describes the percentage of offenders sentenced to

1 the custody of the department who complete their entire sentence and are
2 released with no supervision. The report shall document characteristics
3 of the individuals released without supervision, including the highest
4 felony class of conviction, offense type of conviction, most recent risk
5 assessment, status of the individualized release or reentry plan, and
6 reasons for the release without supervision. The report also shall
7 provide recommendations from the department and board for changes to
8 policy and practice to meet the goal of achieving a reduction in the
9 number of inmates under the custody of the department who serve their
10 entire sentence in a correctional facility and are released without
11 supervision. The report to the Legislature shall be submitted
12 electronically.

13 **Sec. 31.** Section 86-1301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 86-1301 Sections 86-1301 to 86-1312 ~~86-1313~~ shall be known and may
16 be cited as the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act.

17 **Sec. 32.** Original sections 44-1412, 48-683, 54-2428, 77-383,
18 77-385, 77-27,238, 77-6307, 81-125, 81-1354.01, 81-1378, 81-1504.01,
19 81-1505.04, 81-1505.05, 81-1607.01, 83-184.01, 83-1,100.03, 83-918,
20 83-963, and 86-1301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections
21 77-6521, 77-6604, 77-6610, 77-6837, and 77-6928, Revised Statutes
22 Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 61-218, 70-1003, 81-1113,
23 81-1139.02, 81-1430, 81-15,175, and 81-1606, Revised Statutes Supplement,
24 2025, are repealed.

25 **Sec. 33.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
26 48-2909, 54-642, 77-6309, 81-1205, 81-1346, 81-1347, 81-1347.01, 81-1350,
27 81-1351, 81-1352, 81-1353, 81-1354, 81-1384, and 86-1313, Reissue Revised
28 Statutes of Nebraska, section 39-1392, Revised Statutes Cumulative
29 Supplement, 2024, and sections 81-1348 and 81-1607, Revised Statutes
30 Supplement, 2025.