

FORTY-FOURTH DAY - MARCH 14, 2025**LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL****ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION****FORTY-FOURTH DAY**

Legislative Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, March 14, 2025

PRAYER

The prayer was offered by Gary Eller, First Presbyterian Church, Omaha.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Senator Dover.

ROLL CALL

Pursuant to adjournment, the Legislature met at 9:00 a.m., Speaker Arch presiding.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senators Bostar, Conrad, DeBoer, Dungan, Guereca, Hunt, Raybould, Sanders, and Spivey who were excused until they arrive.

SENATOR DEKAY PRESIDING**CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL**

The Journal for the forty-third day was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Priority designation(s) received:

McKeon - LB693
Storer - LB383
Ibach - LB646
Hallstrom - LB455
Education - LB306 and LB653
Jacobson - LB526
Dover - LR19CA
Nebraska Retirement Systems - LB645

Dorn - LB712
Judiciary - LB150

MESSAGE(S) FROM THE GOVERNOR

March 11, 2025

Mr. President, Speaker Arch
and Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Arch, and Members of the Legislature:

Contingent upon your approval, the following individual is being appointed as Commissioner of the Department of Labor:

Katie Thurber, 550 South 16th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506-4600

The aforementioned appointee is respectfully submitted for your consideration. Copies of the certificate and background information are included for your review.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

Enclosures

REPORTS

Agency reports electronically filed with the Legislature can be found on the [Nebraska Legislature's website](#).

REPORT OF REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

Following is a list of all lobbyists who have registered as of March 13, 2025, in accordance with Section 49-1481, Revised Statutes of Nebraska. Additional lobbyists who have registered will be filed weekly.

(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

Bromm & Associates
Springfield Platteview Community Schools
Hasley, Madeline
League of Nebraska Municipalities
Husch Blackwell Strategies
Bamboo Health
Linehan, Lou Ann

Linehan, Lou Ann
Orr, Scott
FMR LLC
Reigle, Jeanne
Nebraska Republican Party
Roque, Matthew
ProRail Nebraska, Inc.

AMENDMENT(S) - Print in Journal

Senator Bosn filed the following amendment to [LB530](#):

[FA38](#)

On Page 6, Line 6, strike the comma after "board".

Senator Bosn filed the following amendment to [LB150](#):

[FA39](#)

Strike the enacting clause

ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Senator Holdcroft announced the General Affairs Committee will meet March 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 1023 instead of Room 1510.

GENERAL FILE

LEGISLATIVE BILL 22A. Title read. Considered.

SPEAKER ARCH PRESIDING

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 41 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, and 6 excused and not voting.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 148A. Title read. Considered.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 38 ayes, 0 nays, 5 present and not voting, and 6 excused and not voting.

ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Priority designation(s) received:

Judiciary - LB530

McKinney - LB48

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 70. Introduced by McKinney, 11.

WHEREAS, the Bobby Douglas Legacy Award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the Black wrestling community and the longstanding commitment to inspiring, connecting, and empowering Black wrestlers through attitude, words, and actions; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edmonson posthumously earned the 2024 Bobby Douglas Legacy Award; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Joe broke his neck in a trampoline accident making him a quadriplegic and was told he would only live for ten more years, but, in 1968, Joe started his own wrestling program while earning his master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Joe also developed the nationally respected Exploradories and ran the Edmonson Youth Outreach Center of the YMCA to provide opportunities for inner-city youth to be mentored and to learn about wrestling; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Joe earned many awards and recognition, including reaching the Gold level certification in the National Coaches Education Program, being named USA Wrestling's 1985 Kids Person of the Year, being named a Point of Light by George H. W. Bush in 1991, and being named to the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Joe's impact on wrestling and his community is not forgotten and has been revived through posthumously earning the Bobby Douglas Legacy Award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Joe Edmonson and the family of Joe Edmonson on posthumously earning the 2024 Bobby Douglas Legacy Award.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Joe Edmonson.

Laid over.

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 71. Introduced by Meyer, 17; Clouse, 37; Juarez, 5; McKeon, 41; Storm, 23.

WHEREAS, the Pender High School Girls basketball team entered the 2024-2025 season as the defending Class D1 State Champions; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday February 8, 2025 the Pender High School Girls basketball team won the 16-team East Husker Conference title with a win over the North Bend Central Tigers; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday February 11, 2025 the Lady Pendragons finished the regular season with a record of 22-2; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Pendragons led all Class D1 schools during the regular season in power points; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Pendragons defeated the North Central Knights on February 28 to win the Class D1 district final; and

WHEREAS, the Pender Lady Pendragons defeated the Elm Creek Buffaloes on Saturday March 8, 2025 by a score of 74-40 to become the 2025 Class D1 State Tournament Champions; and

WHEREAS, the victory over Elm Creek resulted in the Lady Pendragons winning three consecutive State Championships; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Pendragons' 74 points against the Elm Creek Buffaloes became the second-most points ever scored in a Class D1 State Tournament championship game; and

WHEREAS, Mady Dolliver went six for nine from three-point range against Elm Creek to break the all-class record for three-point shots in State Tournament play; and

WHEREAS, Mady Dolliver, Maya Dolliver, and Hadley Walsh all made the Class D1 All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, Jason Dolliver has done an outstanding job coaching the Lady Pendragons, especially in regards to implementing his five-out offense; and

WHEREAS, the Pender School District was ranked by Public School Review as the top school district in the State of Nebraska for academics based upon the school's combined math and reading standardized test scores.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature celebrates the victorious season of the Pender Lady Pendragons' Girls Basketball Team by becoming the 2025 Class D1 State Champions.

2. That the Legislature recognizes the outstanding coaching of Jason Dolliver and the creation and implementation of his five-out offense.

3. That the Legislature honors the Pender School District for their commitment to both academic excellence and athletic competition.

4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Jason Dolliver, Superintendent of the Pender School District and Coach of the Pender Lady Pendragons High School Girls basketball team.

Laid over.

GENERAL FILE

LEGISLATIVE BILL 245. Committee [AM501](#), found on page 709, and considered on page 774, was renewed.

Senator M. Cavanaugh renewed [MO72](#), found and considered on page 774, to bracket until March 19, 2025.

Senator M. Cavanaugh requested a roll call vote on her motion to bracket.

Voting in the affirmative, 1:

Cavanaugh, J.

Voting in the negative, 32:

Arch	DeBoer	Hardin	Meyer	Storm
Armendariz	DeKay	Holdcroft	Moser	Strommen
Ballard	Dorn	Hughes	Murman	von Gillern
Bosn	Dover	Hunt	Prokop	Wordekemper
Clements	Dungan	Jacobson	Quick	
Clouse	Fredrickson	Lippincott	Riepe	
Conrad	Hallstrom	Lonowski	Storer	

Present and not voting, 2:

Cavanaugh, M. Rountree

Absent and not voting, 10:

Andersen	Hansen	Juarez	McKeon	Raybould
Brandt	Ibach	Kauth	McKinney	Sorrentino

Excused and not voting, 4:

Bostar	Guereca	Sanders	Spivey
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The M. Cavanaugh motion to bracket failed with 1 aye, 32 nays, 2 present and not voting, 10 absent and not voting, and 4 excused and not voting.

Senator M. Cavanaugh offered [MO71](#), found on page 779, to recommit to the Agriculture Committee.

SENATOR DEBOER PRESIDING

Senator M. Cavanaugh asked unanimous consent to withdraw her motion to recommit to the Agriculture Committee

No objections. So ordered.

Senator M. Cavanaugh offered [MO66](#), found on page 779, to indefinitely postpone.

Senator M. Cavanaugh asked unanimous consent to withdraw her motion to indefinitely postpone

No objections. So ordered.

The committee amendment was adopted with 39 ayes, 0 nays, 7 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 43 ayes, 0 nays, 4 present and not voting, and 2 excused and not voting.

ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Priority designation(s) received:

Executive Board - LB634
Hunt - LB275
Conrad - LB156
Fredrickson - LB380
Brandt - LB170
Murman - LB169
M. Cavanaugh - LB13
Hansen - LB676
Andersen - LR12CA
Sorrentino - LB79

GENERAL FILE

LEGISLATIVE BILL 295. Title read. Considered.

Committee [AM404](#), found on page 690, was offered.

The committee amendment was adopted with 36 ayes, 0 nays, 12 present and not voting, and 1 excused and not voting.

Senator Ballard withdrew [AM18](#), found on page 325.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 40 ayes, 0 nays, 8 present and not voting, and 1 excused and not voting.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Enrollment and Review

LEGISLATIVE BILL 293A. Placed on Select File.

(Signed) Dunixi Guereca, Chairperson

GENERAL FILE

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 25CA. Senator M. Cavanaugh offered [MO67](#), found on page 778, to indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Sec. 3(f).

Senator Hansen opened on LR25CA.

Senator M. Cavanaugh opened on her motion, MO67.

SPEAKER ARCH PRESIDING

SENATOR DEBOER PRESIDING

SPEAKER ARCH PRESIDING

Pending.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)
Health and Human Services

LEGISLATIVE BILL 382. Placed on General File.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 454. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM547](#)

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:
3 Section 1. Section 71-809, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:
5 71-809 (1) Each regional behavioral health authority shall be
6 responsible for the development and coordination of publicly funded
7 behavioral health services within the behavioral health region pursuant
8 to rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the department,
9 including, but not limited to, (a) administration and management of the
10 regional behavioral health authority, (b) integration and coordination of
11 the public behavioral health system within the behavioral health region,
12 (c) comprehensive planning for the provision of an appropriate array of
13 community-based behavioral health services and continuum of care for the
14 region, (d) submission for approval by the division of an annual budget
15 and a proposed plan for the funding and administration of publicly funded
16 behavioral health services within the region, (e) submission of annual
17 reports and other reports as required by the division, (f) initiation and
18 oversight of contracts for the provision of publicly funded behavioral
19 health services, and (g) coordination with the division in conducting
20 audits of publicly funded behavioral health programs and services.
21 (2) Each regional behavioral health authority shall adopt a policy
22 for use in determining the financial eligibility of all consumers and
23 shall adopt a uniform schedule of fees and copays, based on the policy
24 and schedule developed by the division, to be assessed against consumers
25 utilizing community-based behavioral health services in the region. The
26 methods used to determine the financial eligibility of all consumers
27 shall take into account taxable income, the number of family members
1 dependent on the consumer's income, liabilities, and other factors as
2 determined by the division. The policy and the schedule of fees and
3 copays shall be approved by the regional governing board and included
4 with the budget plan submitted to the division annually. Providers shall
5 charge fees consistent with the schedule of fees and copays in accordance
6 with the financial eligibility of all consumers but not in excess of the
7 actual cost of the service. Each regional behavioral health authority
8 shall assure that its policy and schedule of fees and copays are applied
9 uniformly by the providers in the region.
10 (3) Except for services being provided by a regional behavioral
11 health authority on July 1, 2004, under applicable state law in effect
12 prior to such date, no regional behavioral health authority shall provide
13 behavioral health services funded in whole or in part with revenue
14 received and administered by the division under the Nebraska Behavioral

15 Health Services Act unless:

16 (a) There has been a public competitive bidding process for such
17 services or the process is authorized pursuant to subsection (5) of this
18 section;

19 (b) There are no qualified and willing providers to provide such
20 services; and

21 (c) The regional behavioral health authority receives written
22 authorization from the director and enters into a contract with the
23 division to provide such services.

24 (4) Each regional behavioral health authority shall comply with all
25 applicable rules and regulations of the department relating to the
26 provision of behavioral health services by such authority, including, but
27 not limited to, rules and regulations which (a) establish definitions of
28 conflicts of interest for regional behavioral health authorities and
29 procedures in the event such conflicts arise, (b) establish uniform and
30 equitable ~~public-bidding~~ procedures for such services, and (c) require
31 each regional behavioral health authority to establish and maintain a
1 separate budget and separately account for all revenue and expenditures
2 for the provision of such services.

3 (5) A provider engaged in providing services may provide new and
4 existing services approved by the department and may contract with a
5 regional behavioral health authority if the enrolled network provider
6 meets the required standards. This consideration shall be made on a per-
7 service basis.

8 Sec. 2. Section 71-812, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
9 2024, is amended to read:

10 71-812 (1) The Behavioral Health Services Fund is created. The fund
11 shall be administered by the division and shall contain cash funds
12 appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise received by the department
13 for the provision of behavioral health services from any other public or
14 private source and directed by the Legislature for credit to the fund.
15 Transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund at the direction
16 of the Legislature.

17 (2) The Behavioral Health Services Fund shall be used to encourage
18 and facilitate the statewide development and provision of community-based
19 behavioral health services, including, but not limited to, (a) the
20 provision of grants, loans, and other assistance for such purpose and (b)
21 reimbursement to providers of such services.

22 (3)(a) Money transferred to the fund under section 76-903 shall be
23 used for housing-related assistance for very low-income adults with
24 serious mental illness or substance abuse disorder, except that if the
25 division determines that all housing-related assistance obligations under
26 this subsection have been fully satisfied, the division may distribute
27 any excess, up to twenty percent of such money, to regional behavioral
28 health authorities for acquisition or rehabilitation of housing to assist
29 such persons. The division shall manage and distribute such funds based
30 upon a formula established by the division, in consultation with regional
31 behavioral health authorities and the department, in a manner consistent
1 with and reasonably calculated to promote the purposes of the public
2 behavioral health system enumerated in section 71-803. The division shall
3 contract with each regional behavioral health authority for the provision
4 of such assistance. Each regional behavioral health authority may
5 contract with qualifying public, private, or nonprofit entities for the
6 provision of such assistance.

7 (b) For purposes of this subsection:

8 (i) Adult with serious mental illness means a person eighteen years
9 of age or older who has, or at any time during the immediately preceding
10 twelve months has had, a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional
11 disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria identified in
12 the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of

13 Mental Disorders and which has resulted in functional impairment that
 14 substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life functions.
 15 Serious mental illness does not include DSM V codes, substance abuse
 16 disorders, or developmental disabilities unless such conditions exist
 17 concurrently with a diagnosable serious mental illness;
 18 (ii) Housing-related assistance includes rental payments, utility
 19 payments, security and utility deposits, landlord risk mitigation
 20 payments, and other related costs and payments;
 21 (iii) Landlord risk mitigation payment means a payment provided to a
 22 landlord who leases or rents property to a very low-income adult with
 23 serious mental illness which may be used to pay for excessive damage to
 24 the rental property, any lost rent, any legal fees incurred by the
 25 landlord in excess of the security deposit, or any other expenses
 26 incurred by the landlord as a result of leasing or renting the property
 27 to such individual; and
 28 (iv) Very low-income means a household income of fifty percent or
 29 less of the applicable median family income estimate as established by
 30 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
 31 (4) Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested
 1 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
 2 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.
 3 Sec. 3. Original section 71-809, Reissue Revised Statutes of
 4 Nebraska, and section 71-812, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
 5 2024, are repealed.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 512. Placed on General File with amendment.

AM519

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
 2 sections:
 3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
 4 cited as the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act.
 5 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act:
 6 (1) Abortion-inducing drug means a drug or other substance,
 7 including a regimen of two or more drugs or substances, that is provided
 8 to a woman known to be pregnant, with the specific intent of terminating
 9 the life of her preborn child. A drug, medicine, or other substance that
 10 is capable of terminating the life of a preborn child but is provided for
 11 another medical purpose, including, but not limited to, management of
 12 miscarriage or removal of an ectopic pregnancy, is not an abortion-
 13 inducing drug;
 14 (2) Adverse event means any harmful event or outcome arising out of
 15 the provision of an abortion-inducing drug, including: (a) Shock; (b)
 16 hemorrhage requiring surgical management or blood transfusion; (c)
 17 aspiration or allergic response; (d) infection; (e) sepsis; (f) pelvic
 18 inflammatory disease; (g) incomplete abortion requiring surgical
 19 management; (h) failure to terminate the pregnancy; (i) missed ectopic
 20 pregnancy; (j) death; or (k) any other adverse event as defined by the
 21 federal Food and Drug Administration as reported by MedWatch;
 22 (3) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;
 23 and
 24 (4) Provide, when used with regard to an abortion-inducing drug,
 25 means any act of giving, selling, dispensing, administering, transferring
 26 possession of, or prescribing an abortion-inducing drug.
 27 Sec. 3. Before a physician provides an abortion-inducing drug, the
 1 physician shall:
 2 (1) Examine the woman in person;
 3 (2) Independently verify that the woman is pregnant;
 4 (3) Determine whether the woman has an ectopic pregnancy; and
 5 (4) Document in the woman's medical record the gestational age and
 6 location of the pregnancy.

7 Sec. 4. A physician who provides an abortion-inducing drug, or the
 8 physician's agent, shall schedule a follow-up visit between the physician
 9 and the woman to whom the abortion-inducing drug was provided. Such
 10 follow-up visit shall occur no earlier than the third day and no later
 11 than the twenty-eighth day after the date the abortion-inducing drug was
 12 provided. At the follow-up visit, the physician shall:

13 (1) Confirm that the woman's pregnancy is completely terminated;
 14 (2) Assess the woman for adverse events occurring after the
 15 provision of the abortion-inducing drug, including any continued blood
 16 loss; and

17 (3) Document any adverse event in the woman's medical record.

18 Sec. 5. (1) A physician who provides an abortion-inducing drug
 19 shall file a report with the department within thirty days after the end
 20 of the calendar month in which the abortion-inducing drug was provided.

21 Such report shall include, in addition to any information required by
 22 rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the department:

23 (a) The name of the physician;

24 (b) The name of the abortion-inducing drug provided and the date
 25 each drug was provided to the woman;

26 (c) The date the woman returned for a follow-up visit, if
 27 applicable;

28 (d) Documentation of any adverse events that occurred after
 29 provision of the abortion-inducing drug;

30 (e) Any follow-up treatment provided by the physician; and

31 (f) If the woman was referred to another health care provider, the
 1 purpose of such referral.

2 (2) The department shall produce a standard form for filing such
 3 report.

4 (3) The report shall not include any personally identifying
 5 information for a woman to whom an abortion-inducing drug was provided.

6 Sec. 6. No woman upon whom an abortion is attempted, induced, or
 7 performed shall be liable for a violation of the Chemical Abortion Safety
 8 Protocol Act.

9 Sec. 7. Section 38-2021, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
 10 2024, is amended to read:

11 38-2021 Unprofessional conduct means any departure from or failure
 12 to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of
 13 medicine and surgery or the ethics of the profession, regardless of
 14 whether a person, patient, or entity is injured, or conduct that is
 15 likely to deceive or defraud the public or is detrimental to the public
 16 interest, including, but not limited to:

17 (1) Performance by a physician of an abortion as defined in
 18 subdivision (1) of section 28-326 under circumstances when he or she will
 19 not be available for a period of at least forty-eight hours for
 20 postoperative care unless such postoperative care is delegated to and
 21 accepted by another physician;

22 (2) Performing an abortion upon a minor without having satisfied the
 23 requirements of sections 71-6901 to 71-6911;

24 (3) The intentional and knowing performance of a partial-birth
 25 abortion as defined in subdivision (8) of section 28-326, unless such
 26 procedure is necessary to save the life of the mother whose life is
 27 endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury,
 28 including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from
 29 the pregnancy itself;

30 (4) Performance by a physician of an abortion in violation of the
 31 Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act; ~~and~~

1 (5) Violation of the Preborn Child Protection Act; ~~and~~

2 (6) Violation of the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act.

3 Sec. 8. If any section in this act or any part of any section is
 4 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration shall not affect

5 the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.
 6 Sec. 9. Original section 38-2021, Revised Statutes Cumulative
 7 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 632. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM616](#)

1 1. On page 2, lines 10 and 14, after "performed" insert "and
 2 completed".

LEGISLATIVE BILL 102. Indefinitely postponed.

(Signed) Brian Hardin, Chairperson

Agriculture

LEGISLATIVE BILL 658. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM568](#)

1 1. Strike original sections 4, 7, and 8 and insert the following new
 2 sections:
 3 Sec. 4. Cultivated-protein food product means a food product having
 4 one or more sensory attributes that resemble a type of tissue originating
 5 from an agricultural food animal but that, in lieu of being derived from
 6 meat processing, is derived from manufacturing animal cells, including
 7 processes that are part of a manufacturing operation in which one or more
 8 stem cells are initially isolated from an agricultural food animal, are
 9 grown in vitro, and may be manipulated.
 10 Sec. 7. Manufactured-protein food product means a cultivated-
 11 protein food product, insect-protein food product, or plant-protein food
 12 product.
 13 Sec. 8. Plant-protein food product means a food product that:
 14 (1) Has one or more sensory attributes that resemble a type of
 15 tissue found in a species of agricultural food animal;
 16 (2) Is substantially derived from manufacturing plant parts; and
 17 (3) Does not include any part of an animal that has been
 18 slaughtered.
 19 2. On page 4, line 29, strike "stored" and insert "displayed".

(Signed) Barry DeKay, Chairperson

Education

LEGISLATIVE BILL 426. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM586](#)

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
 2 sections:
 3 Section 1. Section 79-724, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
 4 amended to read:
 5 79-724 (1) It is the responsibility of society to ensure that youth
 6 are given the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic,
 7 and civil citizens to ensure a strong, stable, just, and prosperous
 8 America. Such a citizenry necessitates that every member thereof be
 9 knowledgeable of our nation's history, government, geography, and
 10 economic system. The youth in our state should be committed to the ideals
 11 and values of our country's democracy and the constitutional republic
 12 established by the people. Schools should help prepare our youth to make
 13 informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. Civic competence is

14 necessary to sustain and improve our democratic way of life and must be
 15 taught in all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools. A
 16 central role of schools is to impart civic knowledge and skills that help
 17 our youth to see the relevance of a civic dimension for their lives.
 18 Students should be made fully aware of the liberties, opportunities, and
 19 advantages we possess and the sacrifices and struggles of those through
 20 whose efforts these benefits were gained. Since young people are most
 21 susceptible to the acceptance of principles and doctrines that will
 22 influence them throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of
 23 our educational system to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks,
 24 and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the youth of our state have
 25 the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil
 26 American citizens.

27 (2)(4) The school board of each school district shall, at the
 1 beginning of each calendar year, appoint from its members a committee of
 2 three, to be known as the committee on American civics, which shall:
 3 (a) Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one
 4 when public testimony is accepted;
 5 (b) Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the
 6 meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and
 7 details of all matters discussed;
 8 (c) Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in
 9 the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted
 10 pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches foundational knowledge in
 11 civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
 12 (d) Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that
 13 it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role
 14 in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our
 15 constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the
 16 incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections 79-719
 17 to 79-723 in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's
 18 institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
 19 (e) Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the
 20 committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and
 21 contains a reference to this section;
 22 (f) Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative,
 23 interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the
 24 social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;
 25 (g) Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district
 26 incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
 27 (i) Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire
 28 civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States
 29 Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth
 30 grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the
 31 individual score from each test for each student made available to a
 1 parent or guardian of such student; ~~or~~
 2 (ii) Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth
 3 grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as
 4 defined by section 84-1409 followed by the completion of a project or
 5 paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal
 6 learning experience of such student related to such attendance or
 7 participation; or
 8 (iii) Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation
 9 between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth
 10 grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed
 11 in subsection (8) ~~subdivision (6)~~ of this section or on a topic related to
 12 such person or persons or event; and
 13 (h) Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the
 14 provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board
 15 regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

16 ~~(3)(2)~~ All social studies courses approved for grade levels as
 17 provided by this section shall include and adequately stress
 18 contributions of all ethnic groups to (a) the development and growth of
 19 America into a great nation, (b) art, music, education, medicine,
 20 literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) the military in
 21 all of this nation's wars.

22 ~~(4)(3)~~ All grades of all public, private, denominational, and
 23 parochial schools, below the sixth grade, shall devote at least one hour
 24 per week to exercises or teaching periods for the following purpose:
 25 (a) The discussion of noteworthy events pertaining to American
 26 history or the exceptional acts of individuals and groups of Americans;
 27 (b) The historical background, memorization, and singing of
 28 patriotic songs such as the Star-Spangled Banner and America the
 29 Beautiful;
 30 (c) The development of respect for the American flag as a symbol of
 31 freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom; and
 1 (d) Instruction as to proper conduct in the presentation of the
 2 American flag.

3 (5) Each public, private, denominational, and parochial school may,
 4 as a part of the social studies curriculum, engage students between the
 5 commencement of fifth grade and the completion of eighth grade in a one-
 6 hour American flag education program that includes, but need not be
 7 limited to, the United States Flag Code, the thirteen folds of the
 8 American flag, proper flag etiquette and conduct in the presentation of
 9 the flag, and the historical background of the flag. Such flag education
 10 program may be developed and presented in consultation and partnership
 11 with a local recognized veterans organization as defined in section
 12 80-401.01.

13 ~~(6)(4)~~ In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to
 14 the eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial
 15 schools, time shall be set aside for the teaching of American history
 16 from the social studies curriculum, which shall be taught in such a
 17 manner that all students are given the opportunity to (a) become
 18 competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep
 19 understanding of and respect for both the Constitution of the United
 20 States and the Constitution of Nebraska and (b) prepare to preserve,
 21 protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world.

22 ~~(7)(5)~~ In at least two courses in every high school, time shall be
 23 devoted to the teaching of civics and American history as outlined in the
 24 social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01, during
 25 which specific attention shall be given to the following matters:
 26 (a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution,
 27 the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local
 28 government in this state;
 29 (b) The benefits and advantages of representative government, the
 30 rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the
 31 dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual
 1 freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to,
 2 Nazism and communism;
 3 (c) The duties of citizenship, which include active participation in
 4 the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and
 5 the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and
 6 (d) The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics,
 7 financial literacy, and geography to address societal issues.

8 ~~(8)(6)~~ Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion
 9 shall be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public,
 10 private, denominational, and parochial school on George Washington's
 11 birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
 12 birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day,
 13 Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or

14 following such holiday, if the school is in session.

15 ~~(9)(7)~~ Every school board, the State Board of Education, and the
 16 superintendent of each school district in the state shall be held
 17 directly responsible in the order named for carrying out this section.

18 Neglect thereof by any employee may be considered a cause for dismissal.
 19 Sec. 2. (1)(a) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council
 20 shall, in coordination with the State Department of Education, develop a
 21 grant program to provide funding to school districts for the purchase of
 22 American flags made in the United States for students as part of an
 23 American flag education program provided pursuant to subsection (5) of
 24 section 79-724.

25 (b) Subject to available appropriations, a school district may apply
 26 to the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council in a manner
 27 prescribed by the council to receive a grant pursuant to this section.
 28 Such grants shall be funded from the American Flag Education Grant Cash
 29 Fund administered by the State Department of Education.

30 (2) The American Flag Education Grant Cash Fund is created. The fund
 31 shall consist of any money transferred by the Legislature and any gifts,
 1 grants, or bequests. The fund shall be used to provide grants pursuant to
 2 this section. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
 3 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
 4 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

5 Sec. 3. (1) The State Department of Education shall contract with
 6 the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council to carry out subsection
 7 (2) of this section.

8 (2) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council shall, in
 9 consultation and partnership with a statewide recognized veterans
 10 organization as defined in section 80-401.01, develop and make available
 11 online for use by schools, an educational video and learning materials
 12 relating to the American flag for purposes of an American flag education
 13 program provided pursuant to subsection (5) of section 79-724.

14 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate five thousand
 15 dollars for fiscal year 2025-26 from the General Fund to the State
 16 Department of Education to carry out this section.

17 Sec. 4. Section 79-1248, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
 18 amended to read:

19 79-1248 The powers and duties of the Educational Service Unit
 20 Coordinating Council include, but are not limited to:

21 (1) Providing public access to lists of qualified distance education
 22 courses;

23 (2) Collecting and providing school schedules for participating
 24 educational entities;

25 (3) Facilitation of scheduling for qualified distance education
 26 courses;

27 (4) Brokering of qualified distance education courses to be
 28 purchased by educational entities;

29 (5) Assessment of distance education needs and evaluation of
 30 distance education services;

31 (6) Compliance with technical standards as set forth by the Nebraska
 1 Information Technology Commission and academic standards as set forth by
 2 the State Department of Education related to distance education;

3 (7) Establishment of a system for scheduling courses brokered by the
 4 council and for choosing receiving educational entities when the demand
 5 for a course exceeds the capacity as determined by either the technology
 6 available or the course provider;

7 (8) Administration of learning management systems, either through
 8 the staff of the council or by delegation to an appropriate educational
 9 entity, with the funding for such systems provided by participating
 10 educational entities; ~~and~~

11 (9) Coordination with educational service units and postsecondary

12 educational institutions to provide assistance for instructional design
13 for both two-way interactive video distance education courses and the
14 offering of graduate credit courses in distance education; and
15 (10) Coordination with the State Department of Education to provide
16 grants to school districts for the purchase of American flags pursuant to
17 section 2 of this act.
18 Sec. 5. Original sections 79-724 and 79-1248, Reissue Revised
19 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

(Signed) Dave Murman, Chairperson

MOTION(S) - Print in Journal

Senator Raybould filed the following motions to LB455:

MO76

Indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Sec. 3(f).

MO77

Bracket until June 9, 2025.

MO78

Recommit to the Business and Labor Committee.

Senator McKinney filed the following motions to LB79:

MO79

Indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Sec. 3(f).

MO80

Bracket until June 9, 2025.

MO81

Recommit to the Judiciary Committee.

Senator McKinney filed the following motions to LB556:

MO82

Indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Sec. 3(f).

MO83

Bracket until June 9, 2025.

MO84

Recommit to the Judiciary Committee.

AMENDMENT(S) - Print in Journal

Senator McKeon filed the following amendment to LB490:

AM213 is available in the Bill Room.

Senator von Gillern filed the following amendment to LB707:

AM615 is available in the Bill Room.

ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

Priority designation(s) received:

Dungan - LB272
Moser - LB323
von Gillern - LB340
Appropriations - LB392 and LB393
DeKay - LB437
Agriculture - LB246
Business and Labor - LB532
Bostar - LB644
Guereca - LB224
Armendariz - LB434
Strommen - LB538
Ballard - LB80

UNANIMOUS CONSENT - Add Cointroducer(s)

Unanimous consent to add Senator(s) as cointroducer(s). No objections. So ordered.

Senator Andersen name added to LR12CA.

VISITOR(S)

Visitors to the Chamber were Baker Caulkins, Kearney; Eric Scott, Valentine; Artie Verner, Lincoln; students from the Nebraska Army National Guard, Lincoln; Kerry and Jeri Ferguson, Kimball; students from Wildewood Elementary, Ralston; Carissa Uhrmacher, Hastings; Sophie Kostenko, Ukraine; students from St. John the Baptist School, Plattsmouth.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:03 p.m., on a motion by Senator Quick, the Legislature adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Monday, March 17, 2025.

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

