

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate January 15, 2025  
Rough Draft

**KELLY:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the sixth day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator von Gillern. Please rise.

**von GILLERN:** Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nebraskans. I subscribe to an app that sends me a verse of the day every morning, and usually that's the way I start my day. It's the first thing I read when I get up in the morning and it sets the tone for my day. The daily readings from today and yesterday, I found particularly appropriate. They are Matthew 5:43: You've heard that it was said, love your neighbor and hate your enemy, but I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. And then a verse that struck me particularly-- excuse me-- and then the next day was Isaiah 41:13: For I'm the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear, I will help you. And then a verse that was influential for me when I was deciding to run for office, and I believe probably many of you will relate to this. Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us? And I said, here I am, Lord, send me. Please join me in prayer. Holy Spirit, you're welcome in this place. Bring peace to all who enter this building to work on behalf of your children. Help us to love our enemies, to take hold of your hand and not be fearful, and to remember that we have been sent here to do good work for the people of Nebraska. All this I ask in Jesus name, Amen.

**KELLY:** I recognize Senator Clements for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CLEMENTS:** Please join me in the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**KELLY:** Thank you. I call to order the sixth day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

**CLERK:** There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Are there any corrections for the Journal?

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**CLERK:** I have no corrections this morning, sir.

**KELLY:** Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

**CLERK:** There are, Mr. President. Reference report from the Referencing Committee concerning LB130 through LB194 as well as LR10 and LR11CA, and a rereference of LB58 to the Government Committee. Additionally, notice of committee hearings from the Education Committee. Communication from the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, Senator Ballard has been selected as the vice chair for the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. And a communication from the Banking Insurance-- Commerce and Insurance Committee, Senator Hallstrom has been selected as vice chair of the Banking Committee. That's all I have this time, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Meyer would like to recognize the physician of the day, Dr. Dave Hoelting of Pender. Please stand and be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR1. Senator Ibach, you're recognized for a motion.

**IBACH:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a committee of 5 be appointed to escort the governor of the state of Nebraska to the Legislative Chamber to deliver his State of the State address.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Ibach. You've heard the motion. Members, all those in favor say aye. Those opposed, nay. The motion is adopted. The chair appoints the following committee: Senators Armendariz, Ballard, Conrad, DeBoer, and Hughes. Will you please retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the governor. The chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. President, your committee escorting the governor of the great state of Nebraska, Jim Pillen and First Lady Suzanne Pillen.

**KELLY:** The chair recognizes the governor of the great state of Nebraska, Jim Pillen.

**GOVERNOR PILLEN:** Good morning, President Kelly, Speaker Arch, members of the 199th-- One Hundred Ninth Legislative-- Legislature, tribal leaders, my fellow nebraskans. What an incredible time of promised opportunity for our state and our nation. What a tremendous moment for

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those of us who've been blessed with the privilege to serve our fellow citizens in public office. I'm as grateful today for that privilege as I was 2 years ago when I stood in this Chamber and swore to uphold the constitution. And I am more invigorated than ever before. I recently had a real, real reminder of the preciousness of each moment. For the incredible number of Nebraskans whose livelihood depends on the stewardship of powerful animals, they understand fully the respect of that power is no, no mystery. A few weeks ago, I dropped my guard and I was humbled by the power of that horse. I stand before you here today simply only by God's grace. But a life-giving moment like that that I experienced can have the effect of clarifying one's sense of mission. It reminds one of how incredibly delicate life is and to absolutely make the most of every single moment we're given. I'm incredibly grateful that Almighty God has given me a, a second shot at life, and I continue on the road to recovery instilled with a renewed commitment to spending my days fighting for the people of Nebraska and, most importantly, to make a difference. I'm incredibly grateful, not many words used that I can find to express my gratitude and love for Suzanne, for her constant love and care, and, I mean, unbelievably grateful the outpouring and support of so many Nebraskans. And I'm especially grateful for the power of the prayers of so many sending me the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit's healing me fast. Thank you. OK, no more horsing around. To all the public servants of this room, and especially to our new senators and their families, thank you for answering the call and saying yes to public life and for taking on the burdens and sacrifice of service. The road ahead is full of long days and late nights, of time away from your loved ones, and of sometimes trying debates and disagreements. But with it comes the daily opportunity to leave the greatest place in the world even better than when we found it for our kids and our grandbabies. If we keep their futures and the betterment of this state as our North Star and set our own political fortunes aside, there is absolutely, positively no limit of what we can achieve here together. I am incredibly excited to partner with both the veterans and the new arrivals of this Legislature, and I assure you every single moment that you serve is worth it. I'm pleased to report that the state of our state is extraordinarily strong. Our unemployment rate is among the lowest in America. Our state's population is growing faster than it has in decades, and our population now has just topped 2 million people. It equals the 2 million mama cows we have in the Sandhills. The engines of our economy are powering that growth from our

agricultural background to our powerhouse financial services and the manufacturing sectors. Our state government is smaller, more efficient, and more productive. And at long last, the tax burden on our citizens to pay for that government is less than it was 2 years ago. Our natural resources are plentiful. Our people are the greatest character and hardest working of anywhere on earth right here in Nebraska. As I love to always say everywhere I go, what do you love the most about Nebraska? And the answer is it's the people. And it soon will be morning again in America with a return of a presidency and Congress committed to making this nation prosperous, secure, strong, and healthy again. But even with these strengths, this legislation affords us a tremendous opportunity to take further steps forward. Simply put, the work of making Nebraska a low-tax state is far from over. We should remember how we got here. Why our tax system is so out of whack. In the past during a period of deflation, hard for us to remember that, but there were periods of deflation 10 and 15 years ago, our city, county, and state governments grew at an excessive rate. There was little fiscal restraint, and the result was bloated government growing unchecked on the backs of our people. The burden upon-- is upon us today to fix it now. To make Nebraska competitive with our neighbors, we must set the example at the state level. Despite dire warnings of budget shortfalls, I'm presenting a budget that shrinks state spending by half a percent over the next biennium. In fact, if you set aside the increased and unreimbursed Medicaid spending required by the federal government, state spending in this budget is reduced by 2.3% even, even as we make a multi-generational investment in the University of Nebraska Medical Center and significantly increase our state commitment to supporting the mission of Offutt Air Force Base and the Strategic Command. We have presented to you a fully balanced budget that cuts spending. We have achieved this historic spending restraint by having the courage to say no and to focus on needs not wants. And we will continue to have that courage to focus on our needs and say no. The reality is not all are happy when we work to fix the tax system. But as my dad used to say and tell us on the farm, what on earth does happy have to do with it? We have work to do. Our job as public servants is not to make everyone happy, much less any one industry or special interest group. Our job is to focus on schools, on public safety, on our roads and infrastructure, and the critical services that Nebraskans need. That's what we need to do for Nebraska and Nebraskans and nothing else. This year we will prioritize improvements to Nebraska's school funding

system. TEEOSA, Nebraska's 30-year-old formula for school funding, remains broken, burdening local communities and property taxpayers and districts with limited resources and shortchanging our kids. It would shock most Nebraskans to hear that 25 years ago, 25 years ago, there were 226 school districts that received state aid. 24 years later, in 2024, guess what the number is? 60. That was not the intent with the original law. We are going to have to have the courage to make serious and lasting fixes to this system. I will establish a blue ribbon commission of experts to cut through the bureaucracy and vested special interest in our current school funding system and recommend a new model for Nebraska, which this Legislature will have-- be able to consider and adopt. And along with other technical changes to strengthen TEEOSA, Senator Hughes is championing a bill that will honor the state's constitutional obligation to fund K-12 education by increasing foundation aid per student across the state, consistent with the principle that school funding should always follow the student, not the system. Although we always wouldn't know by reading papers, last year did result in real wins for Nebraskans, struggling with our spiraling property tax crisis. After years in which only some Nebraskan owners took advantage of the property tax credits, now every single homeowner has received this relief. For the first time in a generation, Nebraskans opened their property tax statement last month to find the amount they owed was lower than the year before. Like many of you, I've been overwhelmed by the gratitude shown by so many Nebraskans for this relief. For the first time ever, the amount of property taxes local governments can collect is capped with commonsense flexibility to allow for public safety, police, and firefighters. But the work's not done. It's just beginning. And we must do more this year. There are leaders in this body like Senator Clements, who continue to fight to eliminate Nebraska's death tax. By making commonsense adjustments to our tax code and making it more competitive with other states, we will invest 200 more-- 200 million more dollars into Nebraska's property tax credit fund. From Harrison to Omaha, Nebraskans of all stripes have recognized how, how out of whack our property taxes are and they become what a burden they put on families, communities, and our ability to grow. They expect us to continue to work to solve it. And I know we will. To shrink government, we must eliminate its obsolete parts. And as I love to say, there's a lot of closets that we need to clean out. Over the years, we have created far too many boards and commissions. Many have missions that are duplicative of those of other government agencies or

which have grown simply outdated over time. All add regulatory power or more government where none is needed, especially at a time when we must tighten our belt and treat every nickel like manhole covers. We must continue to assess which parts of government are still of use to the people. The clock ran out on that-- these efforts last session, but we must rightsize our boards and commissions with a commonsense bipartisan bill that will eliminate or consolidate dozens of them. Speaker Arch has reintroduced a bill that will do just that. I'm grateful for his leadership for this important issue and I look forward to signing it into law. We have an opportunity to consolidate and streamline 2 of our major code agencies. Water is the lifeblood of Nebraska. And what we do to protect our quantity and to improve our quality of water, I believe will be our legacy. Through both our vast system of surface waterways and our treasured pot of gold, the Ogallala Aquifer, we have a natural hedge against drought and, therefore, a God-given foundation for our agriculture and the industrial economy to weather it through the toughest of times. State government bifurcates its management of this through-- this resource through 2 separate departments: the Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Natural Resources. By doing so, we needlessly divide our focus on water quality and quantity. And given the, given the interrelatedness of these two things, this just simply doesn't make any sense. Further, it places us, Nebraska, out of step with our neighbors and uncompetitive with the majority of our fellow states. For our most treasured resource, water, to remain the envy of North America, our Ogallala Aquifer is the most sustainable and largest underground aquifer in the Western Hemisphere. To remain the envy of the Western Hemisphere for the next 7 generations, a new model of stewardship is needed. I'm grateful to Senator Brandt for carrying an important measure that will combine the Department of Energy and Environment and the Department of Natural Resources and establish a new combined Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. It will save costs. It will eliminate duplicative overhead. And it will streamline the mission of stewarding and protecting our natural resources and environment and enhance collaboration between our people as well. We have begun to work on consolidating of all the important work of these two agencies under unified leadership, and I look forward to working with you to carry that work to its completion. Now more than ever, it's vital that our state speaks with a unified voice on the national stage. For 3 decades, under current allocation of electoral college votes by congressional district, we have divided our

voice and diminished our impact in presidential elections. Not one of our fellow states, except for one, has followed down this path. Now is the time to fix it. And I thank Senator Lippincott for his leadership and giving it the priority it deserves. With no presidential election around the corner, there's no better time than now to dispassionately deliver on the will of the majority of the people of this state to honor our constitutional founding and unify, unify our voice in our most important exercise of democracy. I call on this body to end this 30-year experiment and pass winner take all this legislative session. I think it's appropriate to say now in this new modern world where we have these things that are so important to us that we have to check them every 30 seconds, I think it can be extremely difficult to protect our kids and culture from the harmful effects of the ever-present social media, online bullying, and attacks on our values. Every parent knows firsthand the worry of what their kids are being exposed to online and on screens. I believe here in Nebraska we need to level the playing field between parents and the big tech giants. I'm grateful to Senator Sanders, Senator Hardin, Senator Bosn, and Senator Storer for introducing a package of bills to protect our children from the harms of social media, ban phones in classrooms, and fix our child pornography laws to include AI-generated images. Think about this, we protect our kids from tobacco, we protect our kids from alcohol, we protect our kids from tattoos until certain ages, and even restrict-- we even restrict the age of when kids can work. Do you think we should take that one up too? There's no reason why we should not protect their mental health from the damage caused by social media, too. We must protect our kids and especially our daughters and granddaughters in other ways. In a world where common sense has become uncommon, it remains our North Star here in Nebraska. It's hard to understand a small minority of people believe it's acceptable to allow biological boys to share bathrooms, locker rooms, playing fields with girls. This is unfair, unconscionable, and a recipe for predatory behavior. Senator Kauth has brought back a new and improved Stand with Women Act, which will make sure that women's spaces are protected for women. I don't want my granddaughters that are sitting up there in the first row, for that matter, sharing a locker room with boys. And I don't want them competing against boys. And I know the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans agree. Pass the Stand for Women Act so my-- to my desk so I can-- we can protect common sense and young girls here in Nebraska. And last, but absolutely not least, we must take steps to protect both our farmers and producers and our consumers of food in

our state. I'm grateful to Senator Jacobson for his work to protect farmers' data from being taken advantage of by large corporate and big data interests. We have another opportunity to protect both consumers and our agricultural producers in a single step. It's important we send a message of leadership in Nebraska. The big food industry wants to flood our supermarket shelves with deceptively named products that purport to be meat on par with what our ranchers, feeders, and farmers produce throughout Nebraska. But the hard core reality is really simple, this stuff is made in bioreactors and is a masquerade of the original with unreliable protein, unknowable ingredients, and a flat-out dishonest label on the front. It's really important for us all to be on the same page. The backers of these products are all cut from the exact same cloth. They are anti-farmer activists who are the modern day Trojan horse that wants to put our agricultural producers and everything tied to agriculture out of business. It's really, really important that all of us recognize that. I will never stop fighting for Nebraska's farmers and ranchers, and I stand-- thank you. The lifeblood of our state, we need to be on offense. And I stand with Senator DeKay, who has introduced a strong bill to beef up our consumer protections and false labeling laws to eliminate this dishonest practice from Nebraska's grocery shelves. Last year, Nebraskans, what we experienced was unbelievable. Countless examples of public service in its purest form. In 2024, was a year where we felt the wrath of Mother Nature time and time and time again. Record blizzards, raging wildfires, torrential floods, and extraordinary vicious tornadoes. It set the stage for a record 11 declared emergencies last year throughout the year. Many Nebraskans experienced the worst day of their lives with their homes destroyed, their families in peril, and their futures incredibly uncertain. But here's the awesome thing: In the darkest moments, the people of our state were at their best. Nebraskans helping Nebraskans. And the strength and incredible grit and determination of our people shown through the brightest. One of the incredible privileges as getting to serve as your governor is to get to know firsthand the men and women who have answered the call to be the first to respond when the crisis strikes. I met an extraordinary, pure public servant who talked about going into homes totally destroyed, expecting to find victims of the tornado. And what that emotionally did to him and his team. With us today is Chris Potter, Chief of the Kennard Volunteer Fire Department from Washington County. Who-- whose fire and EMS responders were there for the community moments after the deadly tornado through-- tore



through it. Please join me in welcoming Chris as a representative of all of our first responders across your state. Chris? Chris is over to our right under the balcony. Thank you, Chris. Chris, the moment that I met you and you told me about what you and your team went through, you just touched my heart deeply. And all your incredible work, your leadership, we're, we're incredibly grateful. So thank you. Also with us today is the entire Nebraska Emergency Management Agency team, better known as NEMA. These dedicated people are the hub of the wheel of our state's emergency response system. I know I have taken what they do totally for granted. When the call comes in in the middle of the night, they're the ones that start making it happen. Their work is not seen. It's really unknown to most of Nebraskans. But that no-- in no way diminishes the dedication of their work or the pride which they do it in. Please join me in welcoming the NEMA team and honoring them and thanking them. Our NEMA team, please stand up. Yeah, please. I'm getting there. Many important issues will consume our focus throughout this legislative session. I pledge to you that we will be your partner throughout it all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everyone stepping up and answering the call of public service. And it's really important that we thank your families. May God bless you and may God bless the people of the greatest state in the history of civilization, Nebraska. Thank you for the privilege.

**KELLY:** Will the committee please escort the governor from the Chamber. Please be seated. Senators, introduction of new bills, please bring your new bills forward. Mr. Clerk, for items.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President. New Bills. LB259, introduced by Senator Lippincott, Ballard, Clements, DeKay, Hallstrom, Hardin, Holdcroft, Lonowski, McKeon, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Sanders, Sorrentino. It's a bill for an act relating to the Constitution of the United States; to adopt the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act. LB260, introduced by Speaker Arch at the request of the governor. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to amend Section 90-562, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; Laws 2023, LB814, Section 150; Laws 2024, LB1329A, Section 6; and Laws 2024, LB1412, Sections 53 and 69; to define terms; to provide, change, and eliminate appropriations for the operation of state government; to change a transfer of funds; to repeal the original section; declare an emergency. LB261 introduced by Speaker Arch at the request of the governor. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to state intent; to define terms; to make appropriations for the expenses of

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Nebraska State Government for the biennium ending June 30, 2027; to appropriate funds allocated to the state of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 42 U.S.C. 802, as amended; to appropriate funds for capital construction and property acquisition as prescribed; to require program statements and requests for funding; to transfer funds; provide duties; to provide an operative date; and declare an emergency. LB262, introduced by Speaker Arch at the request of the governor. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds for the payment of salaries of members of the Nebraska Legislature and payments to be made as provided by Chapter 68, Article 6 for fiscal year '25-26, fiscal year '26-27; to provide an operative date; and declare an emergency. LB263, introduced by Speaker Arch at the request of the governor. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds for the payment of the salaries and benefits of certain state officers for fiscal year '25-26 and fiscal year '26-27; to define terms; provide an operative date; and declare an emergency. LB264, introduced by Speaker Arch at the request of the governor. It's a bill for an act relating to government; to amend Sections 43-2607, 48-3405, 50-501, 57-1411, 72-2401, 76-3219, 77-2911, 77-4310.01 [SIC--77-4310.03], 79-810, 79-1021, 79-1064, 79-1104.02, 79-2510, 79-3501, 81-302, 81-407, 81-1210.04, 81-1211, 81-1213.02, 81-1216, 81-1230, 81-12,176, 81-12,177, 81-12,178, 81-12,182, 81-12,185, 81-12,187, 81-12,193, 81-12,243, 81-12,245, 81-15,168, 81-15,174, 81-15,175, 82-139, 84-612, 85-1643, 85-1645 [SIC--85-1654], 85-1920, 85-2009, 86-324, 86-333, 86-1028, and 86-1403, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 8-604, 13-3315, 29-1824 [SIC--29-1823], 37-1804, 48-621, 55-901, 60-3201.01, 60-1505, 60-1513, 61-218, 61-305, 61-405, 66-2308, 68-911, 68-996, 71-5328, 72-1001, 75-109.01, 75-1101, 77-4025, 77-6919, 77-6928, and 77-7304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide for, change, and to eliminate provisions relating to investment and transfers of funds; to change provisions of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act and the Nebraska Transformational Projects Act; to provide for termination of applicability of the Urban Redevelopment Act; to eliminate provisions relating to translation services under the Medical Assistance Act, a pilot program regarding patients with complex health needs, and reimbursement of counties for defendants lodged in county jails; to eliminate the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act, the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act, the Nebraska Nonprofit Security Grant Program Act, the Prescription Drug

Donation Program Act, the Resilient Soils and Water (Quality) Act, and the Small Business Assistance Act; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to provide operative dates; repeal the original section; to outright repeal Sections 2-405, 2-406, 2-407, 2-408, 2-409, 2-410, 57-1601, 57-1602, 57-1603, 57-1604, 57-1605, 57-1606, 57-1607, 57-1608, 57-1609, 57-1610, 57-1611, 57-1612, 57-1613, 57-1614, 57-1615, 57-1616, 57-1617, 57-1618, 57-1619, 57-1620, 57-1621, 57-1622, 57-1623, 57-1624, 68-1010, 71-2496, 71-2497, 71-2498, 71-2499, 71-24,100, 71-24,101, 71-24,102, 81-829.06, 81-829.07, 81-829.08, 81-829.09, 81-829.10, 81-829.11, 81-12,232, 81-12,233, 81-12,234, 81-12,235, 81-12,236, 81-12,237, 81-12,244, 84-622, 86-1301, 86-1302, 86-1303, 86-1304, 86-1305, 86-1306, 86-1307, 86-1308, 86-1309, 86-1310, 86-1311, 86-1312, and 86-1313, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and declare an Emergency. LB264 [SIC--LB265], introduced by Senator Sorrentino. It's a bill for an act relating to labor; to amend Sections 68-602 [SIC--48-602] 48-648, 48-649.01, 48-657, 48-3405, 81-407, and 81-1201.21, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 48-622.01, 48-622.02, and 48-649.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to eliminate certain funds and change certain references to funds; to change provisions relating to the state unemployment insurance tax rate and the Workforce Development Program Cash Fund; to eliminate the Nebraska Worker Training Board; harmonize provisions; provide an operative date; repeal the original section; to outright repeal Section 48-622.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and declare an emergency. LB266, introduced by Senator Dover. It's a bill for an act relating to local governments; to prohibit ordinances which have the effect of imposing rent controls on private property; define terms; to provide limits on such ordinances; and provide applicability. LB267, introduced by Senator Rountree. It's a bill for an act relating to the Uniform Resident--Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; to amend Section 76-1401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide for removal of a cotenant or occupant who has committed an act of domestic violence from a rental agreement; to provide powers and duties for landlords; to provide for court costs and attorney's fees; to require landlord to change locks in cases of domestic violence as prescribed; harmonize provisions; and repeal the original section. Additionally, Mr. President, notice of committee hearing from the Judiciary Committee and the Natural Resources Committee. New bills. LB268 introduced by Senator Rountree. It's a bill for an act relating to the Medical Assistance Act; to amend Section 68-901, Revised Statutes Cumulative

Supplement, 2024; to require the Department Health and Human Services to implement a provider rate increase as prescribed; to harmonize provisions; repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. LB269, introduced by Senator Rountree. It's a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; to amend Section 77-27,143, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to mandate an address-based boundary database for assigning taxing jurisdictions; to harmonize provisions; provide an operative date; and repeal the original section. LB270, introduced by Senator Rountree. It's a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; amend Section 77-2711, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide for an audit by the Auditor of Public Accounts for suspected tax reporting irregularities or discrepancies; to create an exception to the disclosure of confidential tax information by municipalities; and to repeal the original section. LB271, introduced by Senators Storer, Bosn, and Hallstrom. It's a bill for an act relating to crimes and offenses; to amend Section 28-101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to prohibit interference with railroad infrastructure, equipment, and personnel as prescribed; to define terms; to harmonize provisions; repeal the original section. LB-- or excuse me-- notice of committee hearing from the Revenue Committee. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, for new bills.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President. New bills. LB272, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; to amend section 77-3506, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to change provisions relating to homestead exemptions for certain disabled veterans and surviving spouses as prescribed; repeal the original section. LB273 introduced by Senator Hunt. It's a bill for an act relating to decedents' estates; to amend Section 30-3417, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change powers and duties relating to attorneys in fact; and repeal the original section. LB274, introduced Senator Hunt, is a bill for an act relating to childcare licensing; to amend Section 71-1913, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 71-1911.03 and 71-1912, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; change liability insurance coverages for applicants under the Child Care Licensing Act; to provide for inspections and investigations as prescribed; and repeal the original section. LB275, introduced by Senator Hunt, is a bill for an act relating to state wards; to amend Section 43-907, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to require the Department of Health and

Human Services to screen children under its charge for Social Security benefit eligibility; to require the department to manage Social Security benefit payments for child beneficiaries as prescribed; and repeal the original section. LB276, introduced by Senator McKinney, is a bill for an act relating to law enforcement; to amend Sections 29-411, 81-1414.15, and 81-1414.19, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the Municipal Police Oversight Act; to require cities and county attorneys and the Attorney General to maintain public Brady and Giglio lists; to prohibit no-knock search and arrest warrants; to define a term; change provisions relating to law enforcement officer records; to harmonize provisions; provide a duty for the Revisor of Statutes; to repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. LB277, introduced by Senator McKinney, is a bill for an act relating to grand juries; to amend Section 29-1401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; require appointment of a special prosecutor in cases involving a death during apprehension by or in custody of law enforcement; require appointment of investigators as prescribed; require that a law enforcement officer or detention personnel involved in the death not return to duty until grand jury proceedings are complete; harmonize provisions; and repeal the original section. LB278 introduced by Senator von Gillern, is a bill for an act relating to insurance; to amend Section 44-4109.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; change requirements for certain insurance policies and contracts; and repeal the original section. LB279, introduced by Senator von Gillern, is a bill for an act relating to the Motor Vehicle Registration Act; to amend Section 60-399, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 60-3,100, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide for only one license plate to be required to be displayed on a motor vehicle; and repeal the original section. LB280, introduced by Senator von Gillern, is a bill for an act relating to gaming; to amend Sections 9-1202, 9-1205, 9-1206, and 9-1207; Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 2-1202 and 9-1107, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to change the authorized use of the, of the Racing and Gaming Commission's Racetrack Gaming Fund; to require an authorized gaming operator to have an annual audit as prescribed; require reports; provide powers and duties for the Auditor of Public Accounts to review the audit report of an authorized gaming operator and examine the books, records, funds, and accounts of authorized gaming operators as prescribed; and repeal the original section. LB281, introduced by Senator Quick, is a bill for an act relating to nursing; amend Section

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38-204, 38-506 [SIC--38-605], 38-703, 38-904, 38-2213, 38-2214, and 38-2306; Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 38-167, 38-2216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to eliminate and rename certain boards as prescribed; to change requirements and qualifications for members of the Board of Nursing; to eliminate qualifications and duties for the Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; to repeal the original section, to outright repeal Sections 68-- 38-205 and 38-206 and 38-2307, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska. LB282, introduced by Senator Prokop, is a bill for an act relating to education; to allow a teacher employed at an approved and accredited public, private, denominational, or parochial school in this state to receive reimbursement for school supplies paid for by such teacher as prescribed; to provide powers and duties to the State Board of Education and the Department of Education; declare an emergency. Additionally, notice that the-- notice of committee hearings for the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. That's all I have this time, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, for bills.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President. New Bills. LB283, introduced by Senator Spivey, Machaela Cavanaugh, Guereca. It's a bill for an act relating to medical assist-- the-- to the Medical Assistance Act; to amend Section 68-901, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; require the Department of Health Human Services to file state plan amendments as prescribed; and repeal the original section. LB284, introduced by Senator Guereca, is a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services; and declare an emergency. LB285, introduced by Senator Lonowski, Andersen, and McKeon. It's a bill for an act relating to the electronic nicotine delivery systems; to amend Sections 28-1418.01, and 28-1425, 28-1429, 59-1523, and 77-4001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to prohibit the sale or certification under the Tobacco Products (Tax) Act of flavored vapor products; to define terms; to provide a penalty; to harmonize provisions; and repeal the original section. LB286, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to economic development; to amend Sections 81-12,110 and 81-12,208, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide an application deadline under the Nebraska Innovation Hub Act; change an application deadline under the Nebraska

Rural Projects Act; and to repeal the original section. LB287, introduced by the, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Housing Agency Act; to amend section 71-1572, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide duties for certain housing agencies relating to bed bugs; harmonize provisions; repeal the original section. LB288, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee, is a bill for an act relating to the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act; to amend section-- Sections 81-1237, 81-1238, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to define terms; change provisions relating to grant funding considerations; repeal the original section. LB289, introduced by Sen-- introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee, is a bill for an act relating to cities and villages; to amend Sections 17-201, 17-202, and 19-911, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 18-2709, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to change provisions relating to the incorporation of a village and the number, election, and term of members on a village board of trustees; to provide a procedure for changing the number of members on a village board of trustees; to allow certain city councils to constitute a board of adjustment; to redefine qualifying business under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act; and repeal the original section. LB290, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to the Economic Recovery Act; to amend Section 81-12,241, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to grant funding for a business park; and repeal the original section. Additionally, amendments to be printed from Senator Conrad to LB258. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** More bill Introductions. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** LB292, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee. A bill for an act relating to prefabricated housing; to amend Section 81-1239, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide for a grant to study prefabricated housing; to provide for funding; and to repeal the original section.

**CLERK:** LB291 is right here. Oh, he-- we just switched them. Yep, you're good.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** OK, they got flipped. LB291, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee. A bill for an act relating to municipalities; to amend Section 13-522, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and

Section 13-518, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to adopt the Aid to Municipalities Act; to create a fund; to change provisions relating to budget limitations; to provide a duty for the Revisor of Statutes; and to repeal the original sections. LB293, introduced by Senator Ballard. A bill for an act relating to Professional Employer Organization Registration Act; to amend Section 48-2708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 48-2706, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to change provisions relating to health benefit plans and employee welfare benefit plans; to repeal the original sections. LB294, introduced by Senators Storer, Brandt, DeKay, Ibach, Jacobson, Lonowski, McKeon, and Strommen. A bill for an act relating to the County Visitors Improvement Fund; to amend Section 81-3720; Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to grants; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency. LB295, introduced by the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee. A bill for an act relating to retirement; to amend Sections 23-2320, 42-1102, 79-902, 79-904.01, 79-915, 79-956, 79-978, 79-9,103, 79-9,106, 79-9,117, 79-9,118, 81-2014, 81-2016, 81-2017, 84-1301, 84-1307, 84-1322, 84-1502, 84-1504, and 84-1511, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 23-2301, 23-2306, 24-701, and 24-703.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to redefine terms and change provisions relating to termination, documents used to demonstrate United States citizenship or lawful presence in the United States, repayment of gross distributions or benefits, cost of living adjustments, deadlines for filing forms relating to survivorship annuities, and employee leave for preretirement planning programs under the County Employees Retirement Act, and Judges Retirement Act, the School Employees Retirement Act, and Class V School Employees Retirement Act, the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act, and the State Employees Retirement Act; to change a definition in the Spousal Pension Rights Act; to restate legislative intent under the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act; to change provisions relating to calling meetings of the Public Employees Retirement Board and paying per diems and expenses for members of the Public Employees Retirement Board; to change provisions relating to demonstrating United States citizenship or lawful presence in the United States for participation in deferred compensation plan; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB296, introduced by Senator Arch. A bill for an act relating to education; to amend Sections 79-303.01, 79-729, and 79-1054, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to require the Department of Education to create a centralized education record



system for students under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court and to employ registrars as prescribed; to provide powers and duties to the Commissioner of Education related to issuing high school diplomas to students under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as prescribed; to change provisions related to graduation requirements; to change provisions relating to the improvement grant program established by the State Board of Education and the authorized uses of the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund; and to repeal the original sections. LB297, introduced by Senator Ibach. A bill for an act relating to the Employment Security Law; to amend Section 48-649.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to change provisions relating to the combined tax rate; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency. LB298, introduced by Senator Arch, Clements, Hansen, Holdcroft, Jacobson, and Riepe. A bill for an act relating to the Legislature; to amend Sections 28-711, 43-4302, 43-4303, 43-4317, 43-4320, 43-4321, 43-4322, 43-4324, 43-4326, 43-4329, 43-4330, 47-901, 47-902, 47-903, 47-904, 47-905, 47-907, 47-908, 47-909, 47-910, 47-911, 47-912, 47-913, 47-914, 47-915, 47-916, 47-917, 47-918, 47-919, 47-920, 50-406, 50-406.01, 50-407, 50-408, 50-409, 50-410, 50-416, 50-418, 50-420, 50-1201, 50-1202, 50-1203, 50-1204, 50-1205, 50-1205.01, 50-1206, 50-1210, 50-1211, 50-1212, 50-1303, 50-1304, 73-401, 81-8,240, 81-8,241, 81-8,242, 81-8,243, 81-8,244, 81-8,245, 81-8,246, 81-8,247, 81-8,248, 81-8,249, 81-8,250, 81-8,251, 81-8,252, 81-8,253, 81-8,254, 81-1114, 83-178, 83-1,125.01, 84-304, 84-311, 84-322, and 84-910, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 28-712.01, 29-2011.02, 29-2011.03, 43-2,108, 43-4301, 43-4318, 43-4323, 43-4325, 43-4327, 43-4328, 43-2331 [SIC--43-4331], 43-4332, 50-401.01, 50-402, 77-2711, and 77-27,119, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to name the Office of Public Counsel Act; to change provisions relating to the Public Counsel; to provide for confidentiality of certain information; to provide for subpoenas; to state legislative intent, to provide for the Division of Legislative Oversight, the Director of Legislative Oversight, and the Legislative Oversight Committee; to change the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act and the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System Act as prescribed; to transfer provisions; to provide penalties; to change provisions relating to the Legislative Council, the Legislative Research Office, the Legislative Fiscal Office, and the Legislative Office; to change the Legislative Performance Audit Act as prescribed; to eliminate the Legislative Performance Audit Committee; to provide--

harmonize provisions; provide a duty for the Revisor of Statutes; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal Sections 43-4304, 43-4304.01, 43-4304.02, 43-4305, 43-4306, 43-4306.01, 43-4307, 43-4307.01, 43-4308, 43-4309, 43-4310, 43-4311, 43-4312, 43-4313, 43-4314, 43-4315, 43-4316, 43-4319, 47-906, and 50-421, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and declare an emergency. LB299, introduced by Senator Ibach and Juarez. A bill for an act relating to immigration; to amend Sections 4-109, 4-110, 4-113, 48-628.04, 79-915, 79-9,118, 81-2016, 84-1307, and 84-1504, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 4-108, 4-111, 4-112, 23-2306, and 24-703.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to define terms; to authorize eligible aliens and dependents to receive public benefits arising from or relating to employment; to allow such persons to participate in certain retirement programs; to change provisions relating to certain documentation; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB300, introduced by Senator Murman, Ballard, Clements, Conrad, Dorn, Holdcroft, Hunt, Jacobson, Lippincott, Lonowski, and Sanders. A bill for an act relating to schools; to amend Sections 79-566, 79-567, 79-594, 79-1219, 79-2401, and 79-2402, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act; to change provisions relating to and provide a limit for superintendent and educational service unit administrator compensation; to define terms; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB301, introduced by Senator Ibach and Juarez. A bill for an act relating to immigration; to amend Sections 4-109, 4-110, 4-113, 48-628.04, 79-915, 79-9,118, 81-1401, 81-1410, 81-2016, 84-1307, and 84-1504, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 4-108, 4-111, 4-112, 23-2306, and 24-703.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to define terms to allow eligible aliens to receive law enforcement officer training and certification; to authorize such eligible aliens and dependents to receive public benefits arising from or relating to employment as a law enforcement officer; to allow such persons to participate in retirement programs for such law enforcement positions; to change provisions relating to certain documentation; to repeal obsolete provisions; harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB302, introduced by Senator Murman, Ballard, Conrad, Hunt, Lippincott, Lonowski, Rountree, and Sanders. A bill for an act relating to time; to amend Sections 49-1301, 49-1302, 81-1323, and 81-1328, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 32-908, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

2024; to eliminate daylight saving time; to, to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB303, introduced by Senator Hughes at the request of the governor. A bill for an act relating to education; to amend section 79-1001, 79-1006, 79-1022, 79-1022.02, 79-1023, 79-1027, and 79-1031.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 77-3422 [SIC--77-3442], Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to change school district levy authority; to change provisions relating to foundation aid and certain certification dates and provide for a base levy adjustment under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunitites Support Act; to create the School Finance Reform Commission; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency. LB304, introduced by Senator DeBoer, John Cavanaugh, Clouse, Senator Fredrickson, Hallstrom, Quick, Spivey, and Strommen. A bill for an act relating to the federal Child Care Subsidy program; to amend Sections 68-1206 and 68-1724, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to eliminate a sunset date; and to repeal the original sections. LB305, introduced by Senator Ibach. A bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; to amend Section 77-2715.07, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to adopt the Preceptorship Tax Credit Act; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB306, introduced by the Education Committee. A bill for an act relating to postsecondary education; to amend Sections 85-304, 85-1402, 85-3003, 85-3004, 85-3006, and 85-3202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 13-518, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to define a term relating to the budget limitation for community colleges; to change provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges; to redefine terms under the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act; to change provisions relating to scholarships to a state college, private college, or the University of Nebraska under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act; to, to redefine terms under the Door to College Scholarship Act; harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original section. LB307, introduced by Senator Ibach. A bill for an act relating to appropriations; to appropriated funds for certain tuition waivers; and declare an emergency. LB308, introduced by Senator Ibach. A bill for an act relating to health care; to amend Section 81-401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the Health Care Staffing Agency Registration Act; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original section. LB309, introduced by Senator Hughes. A bill for an act relating to batteries; to adopt the Safe

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Battery Collection and Recycling Act; to provide penalties; and to create a fund. LB310, introduced by Senator Hansen. A bill for an act relating to public health and welfare; to amend Section 71-519, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide an exemption from newborn screening as prescribed; and to repeal the original section.

**KELLY:** Mr. Clerk, for items.

**CLERK:** Mr. Clerk [SIC], items, new bills. LB311, introduced by Senator DeBoer, is a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act; to amend Sections 86-111.01 and 86-124, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to redefine a term; to change provisions relating to nonregulated activities; and to repeal the original section. New LR, LR14, introduced by Senator Lippincott and others, stating that the Legislature hereby apply to Congress under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution for the calling of a convention of the states to limit-- states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and members of Congress. LR15CA, introduced by Senator McKinney, constitutional amendment to eliminate the death penalty and commute any existing sentence of death to a sentence of life imprisonment. LR16CA, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee, constitutional amendment to require the state to reimburse political subdivisions for responsibilities imposed by the Legislature after the year 2026 or for increased level of service required by the Legislature after year 2026. LR17, introduced by Senator Quick, that pursuant to Section 37-342 that the Legislature approves the indication of intent by the Game and Parks Commission to incorporate Camp Augustine into the state park system. Amendments-- a series of amendments and motions to be printed to LB213. Name adds: Senator Dover to LB12; Fredrickson, LB28; Conrad, LB37; Wordekemper, LB62; Conrad, LB65, LB70, LB71; Senator Clouse, LB90; Raybould, LB130, LB137, LB141, LB143, LB151, LB152, LB156; Senator Dover, LB156; Fredrickson, LB156; Fredrickson, LB157; Raybould, LB157; Raybould, LB163, LB165, LB166; Brandt, LB168; Conrad, LB171; Raybould, LB171, LB173, LB181, LB186, LB188, LB192; Fredrickson, LB236; Conrad, LB237; Brandt, LB246; Dover, LB254; Conrad, LB255; and Wordekemper to withdraw his name from LB179.

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Finally, Mr. President, a priority motion. Senator Juarez would move to adjourn the body until Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

**KELLY:** Members, you've heard the motion to adjourn. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed, nay. The Legislature is adjourned.