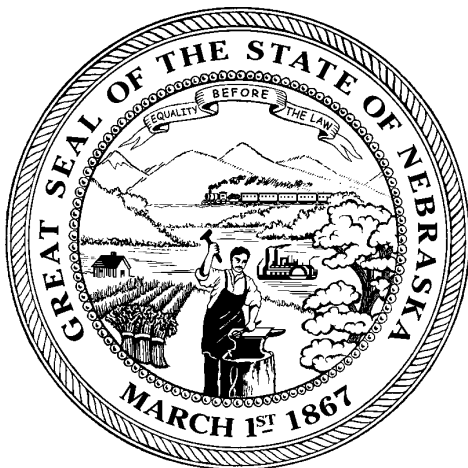


**INTERIM
STUDY
RESOLUTIONS**

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

2021



03-02-01-2021

**INDEX TO INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS
2021**

Numerical List of Interim Studies and Reference	1
Referencing and Study Process	11
Committee Priority Designations	12
Special Committees Created During the 2021 Legislative Session	
Calling for Studies	23
Interim Study Resolutions	25
Subject Index.....	1-6

INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS**Numerical List**

- LR23 Interim study to examine the progress of natural resources districts in fulfilling their originally intended purpose
Natural Resources
- LR25 Provide for appointment by the Executive Board of a special committee of the Legislature to be known as the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature
Special Committee
- LR29 Provide for appointment by the Executive Board of a special committee to be known as the Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature
Special Committee
- LR34 Interim study to examine the structure and funding of the Nebraska Environmental Trust
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- LR100 Interim study to determine whether the Real Property Appraiser Act should be updated
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- LR101 Interim study to examine whether legislation should be enacted to provide for comprehensive regulation of pharmacy benefit managers
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- LR104 Interim study to examine barriers related to early detection of colorectal cancer in Nebraska
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- LR126 Interim study to examine issues relating to the designation of blighted areas and extremely blighted areas under the Community Development Law
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Urban Affairs
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Education
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Education
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Natural Resources
- LR154 Interim study to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on Nebraska's workforce
Business and Labor
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Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR156 Interim study to examine mental health and addiction issues within the Nebraska criminal justice system
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Judiciary
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Business and Labor
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General Affairs
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General Affairs
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General Affairs
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Appropriations
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Appropriations
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Education
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Education
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Education
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Natural Resources
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Health and Human Services

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Banking, Commerce and Insurance
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Appropriations
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Health and Human Services
- LR202 Interim study to examine federal legislation regarding COVID-19 pandemic assistance
Health and Human Services
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Health and Human Services
- LR204 Interim study to examine a coding curriculum for students in Nebraska
Education
- LR205 Interim study to examine the use of mediation and residential eviction
Judiciary
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Business and Labor
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Health and Human Services
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Urban Affairs
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Appropriations
- LR210 Interim study to examine poverty and incarceration and the appropriations necessary to reduce both
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- LR211 Interim study to examine issues related to adopting construction codes
Urban Affairs
- LR212 Interim study to examine the health care workforce shortage in Nebraska
Appropriations
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Education
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Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- LR215 Interim study to examine county fees and fines set by statute and the cost for administering the associated services
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
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Executive Board
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Health and Human Services
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Natural Resources
- LR225 Interim study to review occupational regulation of truth and deception examiners pursuant to the Occupational Board Reform Act
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
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Executive Board
- LR227 Interim study to examine learning communities and learning community coordinating councils
Education
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Revenue

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Judiciary
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Revenue
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Transportation and Telecommunications
- LR234 Interim study to examine issues related to the regulation and taxation of electric vehicles
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Transportation and Telecommunications
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Transportation and Telecommunications
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Health and Human Services
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- LR261 Interim study to examine the structure and administration of and compliance with certain taxes
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- LB406 Create the Statewide Tourism And Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability Special Committee of the Legislature
Special Committee

REFERENCING AND STUDY PROCESS

Rule 4, Section 3

As a general practice, the Executive Board will refer interim study resolutions to the appropriate committees based upon subject-matter jurisdiction.

The Executive Board may, on its own behalf, conduct interim studies or create select interim committees to do so. Depending upon the availability of staff resources, subject-matter jurisdiction, and legislator interest, the Executive Board may establish a select committee to undertake the study.

The Executive Board shall retain its traditional prerogatives to consider and refer study proposals arising from extraordinary circumstances after the deadlines.

Legislative rules require study resolutions be prioritized by the chairperson of the committee to which they are referred, and a report on those priorities shall be filed with the Clerk.

Rule 4, Section 3(g) of the Rules of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature requires that on or before December 1 of each year, each standing and select interim committee file a report on the disposition of the study resolutions referred to them.

(The following referral list reflects the committee prioritization of the resolutions referred to them.)

INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE REFERRALS

Committee Priority Designations

Agriculture: Halloran (C), Brandt (VC), Brewer, Cavanaugh, J., Gragert, Groene, Hansen, B., Lathrop

LR196 Interim study to examine the potential applications for blockchain technology in agricultural operations
Agriculture

Appropriations: Stinner (C), Wishart (VC), Clements, Dorn, Erdman, Hilkemann, Kolterman, McDonnell, Vargas

LR145 Interim study of the adequacy of current aged and disabled medicaid waiver assisted-living provider rates
Appropriations

LR178 Interim study to solicit input from Nebraskans regarding funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
Appropriations

LR179 Interim study to examine funding mechanisms in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
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LR200 Interim study to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund
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LR209 Interim study to examine the appropriations necessary for creating public health crisis zones
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LR210 Interim study to examine poverty and incarceration and the appropriations necessary to reduce both
Appropriations

LR212 Interim study to examine the health care workforce shortage in Nebraska
Appropriations

Banking, Commerce and Insurance: Williams (C), Lindstrom (VC), Aguilar, Bostar, Flood, McCollister, Pahls, Slama

LR101 Interim study to examine whether legislation should be enacted to provide for comprehensive regulation of pharmacy benefit managers
Banking, Commerce and Insurance

- LR100 Interim study to determine whether the Real Property Appraiser Act should be updated
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- LR116 Interim study to review the credentialing requirements in the Public Accountancy Act in furtherance of the purposes of the Occupational Board Reform Act
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- LR199 Interim study to examine the creation of a rural economic development program
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- Business and Labor:** Hansen, B. (C), Blood (VC), Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, M., Hunt, Lathrop
- LR158 Interim study to examine the accuracy of payments by the Department of Labor to recipients of state and federal benefit programs
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- LR154 Interim study to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on Nebraska's workforce
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- LR206 Interim study to examine workers' compensation
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- LR170 Interim study to examine the potential impact that innovation hubs could have in Nebraska
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- LR166 Interim study to review the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act
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- LR139 Interim study to examine the financial health of individuals in Nebraska's workforce over one year into the COVID-19 pandemic
Business and Labor

LR140 Interim study to examine Nebraska's unemployment insurance system
Business and Labor

Education: Walz (C), Morfeld (VC), Day, Linehan, McKinney, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders

LR180 Interim study to examine the identification of at-risk and economically disadvantaged students as a qualification factor for state-funded, education-related programs
Education

LR182 Interim study to examine the school enrollment options available to students
Education

LR213 Interim study to examine the mental and behavioral health needs of Nebraska students and the role of school psychologists
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LR204 Interim study to examine a coding curriculum for students in Nebraska
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Education

Executive Board: Hughes (C), Vargas (VC), Geist, Hilgers, Lathrop, Lowe, McCollister, Pansing Brooks, Slama, Stinner (nonvoting ex officio)

LR218 Interim study to examine issues related to pay and benefits of legislative staff
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LR226 Interim study to examine ways the Legislature provides oversight of state agencies
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General Affairs: Briese (C), Lowe (VC), Arch, Brandt, Brewer, Cavanaugh, J., Groene, Wayne

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LR177 Interim study to examine the State Athletic Commissioner and review occupational licenses and regulations for professional boxers and professional boxing promoters
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- LR171 Interim study to examine the rights, roles, and responsibilities of Nebraska county election officials, state election officials, and relevant court and corrections personnel in carrying out state law regarding voting rights for former felony offenders
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LR201 Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee
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Judiciary: Lathrop (C), Pansing Brooks (VC), Brandt, DeBoer, Geist, McKinney, Morfeld, Slama

LR156 Interim study to examine mental health and addiction issues within the Nebraska criminal justice system
Judiciary

LR129 Interim study to review staffing at the Department of Correctional Services
Judiciary

LR164 Interim study to examine problem solving courts
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LR183 Interim study to examine Nebraska law relating to body-worn cameras worn by law enforcement agents
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LR194 Interim study to examine methods of ending domestic and sexual violence in Nebraska
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- LR205 Interim study to examine the use of mediation and residential eviction
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- LR138 Interim study to examine remedies available for incarcerated persons who have property lost, stolen, or damaged during their confinement
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- LR189 Interim study to examine sex offender registration in Nebraska
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Natural Resources: Bostelman (C), Moser (VC), Aguilar, Cavanaugh, J., Gragert, Groene, Hughes, Wayne

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Nebraska Retirement Systems: Kolterman (C), Lindstrom (VC), Clements, McDonnell, Slama, Stinner

LR105 Interim study to examine the public employees' retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board
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LR106 Interim study to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions as required by 13-2402
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Revenue: Linehan (C), Lindstrom (VC), Albrecht, Bostar, Briese, Flood, Friesen, Pahls

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Transportation and Telecommunications: Friesen (C), Geist (VC), Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, M., DeBoer, Hughes, Moser

LR234 Interim study to examine issues related to the regulation and taxation of electric vehicles
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**SPECIAL COMMITTEES CREATED DURING THE 2021
LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALLING FOR STUDIES**

Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature: Arch (C), Wayne (VC), Clements, Geist, Hansen, M., Kolterman, McKinney, Murman, Sanders

LR29 Provide for appointment by the Executive Board of a special committee to be known as the Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature

School Finance Study Committee: Bostar, Brandt, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Friesen, Groene, McKinney, Pahls, Walz, Wishart

LR141 Interim study to create a select interim committee of the Legislature known as the School Finance Study Committee

Statewide Tourism and Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability (STAR WARS) Special Committee: Bostelman, Brandt, Clements, Gragert, Flood, Hilgers, Hughes, McCollister, McDonnell, Wishart

LB406 Create the Statewide Tourism And Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability Special Committee of the Legislature

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Special Oversight Committee: Pansing Brooks (C), Arch (VC), Halloran, Hansen, B., Lathrop, Lowe, Vargas, Walz, Wishart

LR25 Provide for appointment by the Executive Board of a special committee of the Legislature to be known as the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature

INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 23. Introduced by Erdman, 47; Briese, 41.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the progress of natural resources districts in fulfilling their originally intended purpose relating to flood control, soil erosion, irrigation run-off, and ground water quantity and quality.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 25. Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Arch, 14, Chairperson; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

WHEREAS, the One Hundredth Sixth Legislature, Second Session, passed Laws 2020, LB1144, creating the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature in response to deteriorating conditions at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva and in response to the Department of Health and Human Services proposed business plan to reorganize the youth rehabilitation and treatment center model; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Pete Ricketts issued an emergency declaration in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Nebraska. As a result, the Legislature was recessed for a prolonged period from March 13, 2020, until July 20, 2020, and Legislative Bill 1144 was not signed into law until August 11, 2020, giving the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee only a brief window of time to carry out its duties as set forth in Laws 2020, LB1144; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee toured the youth rehabilitation and treatment center facilities, received briefings from officials and stakeholders, and held a public hearing to study the quality of care and related issues at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee issued a report with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature on December 15, 2020, which included a recommendation to reappoint members to the committee and extend the committee until December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature terminated on December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, continued legislative input and oversight over the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers is needed as the Department of Health and Human Services develops and implements the five-year operations plan as required by section 43-427; and

WHEREAS, the safety, quality of life, and right to a safe treatment environment for youth in the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers continues to be of the utmost concern to the Legislature.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall appoint a special committee of the Legislature to be known as the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature. The committee shall consist of no more than nine members of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board. Members shall include the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, two other members of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, one member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, one member of the Education Committee of the Legislature, the chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature, and one member of the Legislature from each legislative district in which a youth rehabilitation and treatment center is located. The Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from the membership of the committee. The Executive Board may provide the committee with legal counsel, a committee clerk, and other staff as required by the committee from existing legislative staff. The committee may hold hearings and request and receive progress reports from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The committee may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of any papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony.

2. The Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature may study the quality of care and related issues at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The committee shall provide oversight of the administration and operations, including funding, capacity, and staffing practices at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The committee shall provide oversight for planning at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The committee shall utilize existing studies, reports, and legislation developed to address the conditions existing at the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The committee shall not be limited to such studies, reports, or legislation. The committee shall issue a report with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature on or before December 15, 2021.

3. The Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Special Oversight Committee of the Legislature shall terminate on December 31, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 29. Introduced by Cavanaugh, M., 6.

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Ministries was awarded a five-year, 197 million dollar child welfare contract to serve abused and neglected children in the eastern service area of Douglas and Sarpy Counties by the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, under that contract Saint Francis Ministries has responsibility for approximately 2,500 children who are wards of the State of Nebraska or are in Nebraska families who are in need of services to keep their children safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Ministries has been accused in the State of Kansas of gross mismanagement of funds and the State of Kansas has charged the former Chief Executive Officer of Saint Francis Ministries, Robert Smith, with using company credit cards for inappropriate expenditures including personal travel, personal expenses, travel expenses of a friend, expenses for a business in El Salvador owned by his wife, and \$80,000 in tickets to the Chicago Cubs and hiding it from the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Ministries has estimated a 27 million dollar operating loss for the first year of the contract and may be at risk of bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation from January through September of 2020 released by the Department of Health and Human Services indicated that more than half of Saint Francis Ministries caseworkers had caseloads above the limits set by state law and the contract requires them to meet those statutory limits, and Saint Francis Ministries has failed to provide timely documentation on placements and case plans and has failed to do proper background checks for workers; and

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Ministries and the Department of Health and Human Services failed to give in person updates on the contract and care of the children involved to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature at the December 16, 2020, interim hearing.

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

1. That the Legislature hereby calls for the Executive Board of the Legislative Council to meet forthwith and appoint a special committee of the Legislature to be known as the Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature. The committee shall consist of nine members of the Legislature appointed by the executive board. Members shall include three members of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature with at least one member representing the eastern service area, one member of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, one member of the Education Committee of the Legislature, three members of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature with at least one member representing the eastern service area, and one at-large member of the Legislature. The committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from the membership of the committee. The executive board may provide the committee with a legal counsel,

committee clerk, and other staff as required by the committee from existing legislative staff, including the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. The executive board may authorize the committee to hire outside legal counsel, consultants, and investigators as required by the committee. The committee may hold hearings and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of any papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony.

2. The Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature is hereby authorized to study the quality of care and related staffing issues of the contractor and the contractor's interactions with families and children, foster families, Nebraska courts, and with the Department of Health and Human Services. The committee shall investigate placement and quality of care received by the children of the eastern service area through the contract services agreement with Saint Francis Ministries. The committee shall also study the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Administrative Services with respect to the award, implementation, and oversight of the contract. The committee shall utilize existing studies, reports, and legislation developed to address the current conditions. The committee shall not be limited to such studies, reports, or legislation.

3. The committee shall issue a report with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2022.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 34. Introduced by Slama, 1.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the structure and funding of the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 69. Introduced by Wayne, 13.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to receive reports and public input under the Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act, which requires that cities of the metropolitan class, cities of the primary class, and cities of the first class with a population of at least twenty thousand inhabitants submit a report to the Urban Affairs Committee every two years detailing the city's efforts to address the availability of and incentives for affordable housing through its zoning codes, ordinances, and regulations. The committee shall conduct one or more public hearings for the presentation of reports by cities which are required to submit reports under section 19-5504.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 76. Introduced by Hansen, M., 26; Cavanaugh, J., 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to complete a comprehensive interim study of court fees as a funding source for the court system and the judicial branch. Nebraska assesses fees as part of the court costs for most, if not all, civil and criminal cases, including those related to traffic citations. Nebraska is not alone in imposing court fees, as other states also assess court fees as a revenue source. Most of the court fees imposed go to fund the court system, including, but not limited to, funds dedicated to automation costs of the court computer system and to the judges' retirement fund. However, some court costs are earmarked for other state agencies that work with the court system. Nebraska law does provide for the waiver of court costs in certain circumstances due to indigent status or for the discharge of costs that are deemed uncollectible due to the financial inability to pay. In some instances court costs are also paid to the state by counties or cities.

The study shall examine:

(1) Whether fees should be assessed on all cases or only certain types of cases;

(2) How court costs and fees in Nebraska compare to other states;

(3) Whether court fees are an appropriate or effective means of providing funds for the court system or other agencies;

(4) Whether the current waiver or discharge provisions for court fees are adequate to protect indigent or poor individuals and whether any reform is necessary; and

(5) How much political subdivisions pay in court fees and whether any adjustment should be made.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 83. Introduced by Hansen, M., 26; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Hunt, 8; Wayne, 13.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the appointment process by which members of boards, commissions, and similar entities created by law are filled. Nebraska has more than two hundred such entities which provide oversight of governmental programs, regulate licensed professionals, carry out studies, oversee implementation of new programs, advocate for certain constituencies, and advise state agencies.

The Legislature plays a pivotal role in the establishment, administration, and operation of boards, commissions, and similar entities created by law, including the responsibility to conduct hearings and determine whether to approve or disapprove of certain gubernatorial appointments as part of the appointment process.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

1. An examination of the process by which individuals are appointed by the Governor, including the recruitment process, how the public learns of opportunities to serve, the application process, and the review and vetting process by the executive branch;
2. An examination of the process by which appointments are confirmed by the Legislature;
3. Identification of any potential barriers that may exist to the process of filling vacancies;
4. An analysis of potential changes that could be made to the process to more efficiently fill vacancies; and
5. An exploration of procedural changes that could result in more diversity within such entities.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 97. Introduced by Hansen, M., 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to determine whether further revision to Nebraska grand jury laws is necessary to ensure that such proceedings are transparent and open to public inspection. The Legislature passed Laws 2020, LB881, which included a provision that amended the law relating to grand jury proceedings. The Legislature intended to provide for public access to the transcript of a grand jury convened to investigate the death of a person in custody or detention. Specifically, Laws 2020, LB881 amended section 29-1407.01 to provide that if no true bill was issued by the grand jury, then the transcript and exhibits of the grand jury are to be available upon written request from the clerk of the district court. If a true

bill is returned by the grand jury, Laws 2020, LB881 provided for a process by which the transcript and exhibits are generally publicly available unless a trial court limits or prohibits access due to a related criminal proceeding. Despite the changes made by Laws 2020, LB881, the exact process by which a member of the public or press accesses grand jury transcripts is not clearly delineated. Additionally, the clerks of the courts differ in their interpretations of the law.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) An examination of whether further legislation is necessary to ensure that grand jury proceedings are transparent and open to public inspection;
- (2) An examination of whether there is a clear and uniform practice among the courts to make sure such proceedings are available to the public or press;
- (3) An examination of any additional issues or components of the Nebraska grand jury laws and consideration of additional reforms or amendments; and
- (4) Input from the public and impacted individuals regarding the subject matter of this resolution.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 100. Introduced by Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether the Real Property Appraiser Act should be updated. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the study committee should seek the assistance of the Real Property Appraiser Board and should consider the input of interested persons as the study committee deems necessary and appropriate.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 101. Introduced by Williams, 36; Kolterman, 24; Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether legislation should be enacted to provide for comprehensive regulation of pharmacy benefit managers. The study shall include an examination of issues raised

during consideration of LB270 introduced by Senator Morfeld and LB375 introduced by Senator Kolterman, which are pending in the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the committee shall consider the input of interested individuals, public officials, and such entities as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 104. Introduced by Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine barriers related to early detection of colorectal cancer in Nebraska. This study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Costs associated with screening and diagnostic testing;
- (2) Cost and consequences associated with a lack of screening and diagnostic testing;
- (3) Health insurance coverage in Nebraska that covers screening and diagnostic testing; and
- (4) Costs and consequences associated with requirements for insurance companies to provide health insurance coverage for screening and diagnostic testing.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 105. Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the public employees' retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board, including the State Employees Retirement System, the Retirement System for Nebraska Counties under the County Employees Retirement Act, the School Employees Retirement System, the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement System, and the Nebraska Judges Retirement System. The study may also examine the Class V school employees retirement system established under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act.

The study shall examine issues as they relate to the funding needs, benefits, contributions, and administration of each retirement system.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 106. Introduced by Kolterman, 24.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to carry out the provisions of section 13-2402 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, which requires the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions.

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

1. That the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall conduct a public hearing for the presentation of reports by political subdivisions with underfunded defined benefit plans.

3. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 110. Introduced by Lathrop, 12.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to investigate the advertisement and use of unproven stem cell injections as a therapy for health disorders. Stem cells of the body are capable of developing into any of the body's 200 different kinds of cells and, with proper study, development, and approval, may offer the potential to combat diseases that have few or no treatments. The only stem-cell-based products that have approval from the federal Food and Drug Administration are those made from blood-forming cells that are derived from umbilical cord blood, peripheral blood, or bone marrow. These are used primarily to treat patients with cancer or other disorders of the blood or immune system. Any other advertised use of stem cells is not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and the advertising of such unapproved uses violates state and federal law. It has been documented across the United States that patients who have received unapproved stem cell therapy have suffered serious infections, blindness, tumor growth, or even death. Older individuals are particularly vulnerable to misleading marketing statements regarding stem cell therapy as they may not be good candidates for other treatment

options, but are desperate for relief. More than 500 clinics across the United States, including several in Nebraska, offer unproven stem cell therapies which cost tens of thousands of dollars and are not covered by private or public insurance. Such clinics do not possess approval from the federal Food and Drug Administration, nor scientific substantiation for the claims made within their advertising campaigns, and are harming Nebraskans. Other states have implemented new laws to establish consumer protections for those in the public who are unaware of potential risks, dangerous side effects, and lack of effectiveness of such unapproved stem cell therapy. By informing the public that certain treatments have not been proven safe or effective, Nebraskans can make more informed decisions about their healthcare.

The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Stem cells and stem cell products;
- (2) The approval process for stem cell therapies by the federal Food and Drug Administration;
- (3) Current clinical trials for stem cells and stem cell products;
- (4) Products and services offered at stem cell clinics located in Nebraska and the advertising techniques used to promote such products and services; and
- (5) The role the state can play in protecting the public from potential adverse effects of unproven stem cell therapies, including the state agencies that can work together to share information.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 115. Introduced by Lowe, 37.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine and review liquor laws in Nebraska, including the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, to determine if any updates or revisions are necessary. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) Laws relating to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of alcoholic liquor;
- (2) The types of licenses issued by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, including special designated liquor licenses; and
- (3) Any taxes and fees collected by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

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

1. That the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 116. Introduced by Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to review the credentialing requirements in the Public Accountancy Act in furtherance of the purposes of the Occupational Board Reform Act.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 117. Introduced by Bostelman, 23.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the extent of surface water irrigation in the state, examine the condition of surface water irrigation projects and infrastructure, understand the status and projected costs of infrastructure rehabilitation projects, and evaluate the anticipated effects relating to completion or delay of those projects. The study may also examine the economic, social, recreational, environmental, and other benefits of water supply infrastructure rehabilitation.

The issues addressed by this interim study may include, but not be limited to:

(1) Identifying the location of current projects in irrigation districts, reclamation districts, public power districts, canal companies, and other surface water projects and the effect of such projects on local and statewide water resources;

(2) Identifying the intentional and incidental acres served by surface water projects and the number of surface water irrigators served by such projects;

(3) Computing the number of miles of canals, laterals, pipelines, and drains operated and maintained by the districts for purposes of operating and maintaining surface water irrigation;

(4) Identifying the number, location, size, and purpose of dams, reservoirs, lakes, and other impoundments owned or operated by the districts;

(5) Evaluating information about the age, condition, operation, and maintenance of all surface water facilities owned or operated by the districts;

(6) Ascertaining amounts paid by the State of Nebraska and the federal government as a result of an operating agreement between those entities

relating to the operation and maintenance of surface water projects identified by this study;

(7) Ascertaining the source of funds paid by the State of Nebraska to the federal government as a result of an operating agreement between those entities relating to the operation and maintenance of surface water projects identified by this study;

(8) Determining the benefits to agriculture, recreation, fish and wildlife management, municipalities, industry, the public water supply, and ground water recharge;

(9) Identifying the location of aging surface water infrastructure in Nebraska and compiling an estimate of future funding needed to address such infrastructure; and

(10) Reviewing potential sources for securing such funding, including, but not limited to, project owner financial inputs, local funding options, state funding options, federal funding options from project facility owners, and federal funding options from past development organizations.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee may upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 122. Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee: Wayne, 13, Chairperson; Arch, 14; Blood, 3; Briese, 41; Hansen, M., 26; Hunt, 8; Lowe, 37.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the statutes governing cities of the metropolitan class in Chapter 14 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. The goal of the study is to determine statutes that need to be updated or modernized because those statutes contain obsolete, antiquated, or duplicate language.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 123. Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee: Wayne, 13, Chairperson; Arch, 14; Blood, 3; Briese, 41; Hansen, M., 26; Hunt, 8; Lowe, 37.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review the occupational regulations for radon measurement specialists and radon mitigation specialists. Such a review is required by section 84-948 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. This study shall fulfill the requirements of the Occupational Board Reform Act. The study shall include an examination of the guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to determine qualifications for radon measurement specialists and radon mitigation specialists pursuant to the Radiation Control Act.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 124. Introduced by Wayne, 13.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to the designation of extremely blighted areas under the Community Development Law. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of the provisions in Article VIII, section 12, of the Constitution of Nebraska and the Community Development Law that govern extremely blighted areas;

(2) A review of areas that have been designated by municipalities as extremely blighted areas since the passage of Amendment 2 by Nebraska voters in November 2020;

(3) An examination of the definition of extremely blighted area under the Community Development Law and whether such definition is sufficiently limited to encourage the use of tax-increment financing in the hardest hit neighborhoods within municipalities; and

(4) An examination of any additional requirements placed by municipalities on the use of tax-increment financing for more than fifteen years within areas that have been designated as extremely blighted areas, including whether such additional requirements should be codified in the Community Development Law.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 125. Introduced by Wayne, 13.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to the designation of enhanced employment areas under the Community Development Law. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A review of the provisions in the Community Development Law that govern enhanced employment areas;
- (2) A review of the procedures utilized by municipalities for the review and approval of proposed enhanced employment areas;
- (3) An examination of the different statutory requirements for enhanced employment areas within areas that have been designated blighted and substandard under the Community Development Law and outside of areas that have been designated blighted and substandard under the Community Development Law; and
- (4) An examination of the interaction between enhanced employment areas and the use of tax-increment financing by municipalities.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 126. Introduced by Wayne, 13.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to the designation of blighted areas and extremely blighted areas under the Community Development Law. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A review of the provisions in the Community Development Law that provide for designation of an area as a blighted area or an extremely blighted area;
- (2) A review of the Community Development Law to determine if a process exists for removing a blighted area designation or an extremely blighted area designation from an area;
- (3) A review of areas which are no longer designated by a municipality as a blighted area or an extremely blighted area and the procedures utilized to remove such a designation; and
- (4) An examination of whether the Community Development Law should require a regular review of areas designated as a blighted area or an extremely blighted area to determine whether those areas still meet the statutory requirements for those designations.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 127. Introduced by Hilkemann, 4.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to identify a more equitable scale for motor vehicle taxation.

The interim study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) The average number of vehicles registered that pay zero percent of the motor vehicle tax;

(2) The amount of annual revenue generated by the motor vehicle tax;

(3) The possibility of rescheduling the percentage of motor vehicle tax by vehicle age to achieve a revenue-neutral impact;

(4) To what extent decreasing the motor vehicle tax on newer vehicles and increasing the motor vehicle tax on older vehicles would incentivize consumers to purchase new vehicles; and

(5) The potential for reduction in pollution by increasing the motor vehicle tax on older vehicles.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 129. Introduced by Wishart, 27; McDonnell, 5; Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review and examine staffing at the Department of Correctional Services, including, but not limited to, staff recruitment, staff retention, staffing levels, and wage compression at individual facilities, as well as the effects of reduced staffing on the operations of these facilities and offender outcomes.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 131. Introduced by Hansen, M., 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the lack of affordable housing in Nebraska, identify barriers to affordable housing, and explore statutory changes necessary to encourage the development of affordable housing across the state. The 2019 Blueprint Nebraska report, which includes contributions from housing experts across the state, indicates that the state's economic development has slowed as a result of a shortage of affordable housing units and states a goal of building an additional thirty thousand to fifty thousand housing units in the coming years. The report suggests that stimulating construction through increased funding and collaboration are key steps to addressing the shortage.

This interim study shall assess the affordable housing situation in this state and explore ways to support the housing industry and other stakeholders in providing an appropriate level of affordable housing.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A collection of existing data on the number of affordable housing units still needed to address the statewide housing shortage;

(2) An examination of existing federal, state, and local funding sources and the entities and processes through which such funds are disseminated, including, but not limited to, (a) an overview of federal and state funding opportunities available through the Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, and the Department of Health and Human Services and (b) an examination of how those entities coordinate to boost efforts to increase affordable housing in Nebraska communities;

(3) A review of potential statutory changes that would consolidate entities, create new entities, or provide for new duties to state agencies related to affordable housing, and whether those changes would increase efficiency in community efforts to rehabilitate and build affordable housing units; and

(4) A determination of whether additional state funding is needed to increase development and access to affordable housing.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 136. Introduced by Brewer, 43; Clements, 2; Erdman, 47; Gragert, 40; Halloran, 33.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine, understand, and evaluate the causes, impacts, and costs of rolling electrical power outages during the extreme weather events of February 2021. The study shall also identify and evaluate the differing effects, if any, of public power district membership in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and the costs and benefits of SPP membership.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) The February 2021 rolling power outages to clearly determine the cause, the impact on generation resources, and the necessity to curtail power usage in Nebraska as a result of the event;

(2) The financial impact of rolling power outages on communities, businesses, and residents in Nebraska;

(3) The governing structures, business models, revenue structures and generation diversity of power entities in Nebraska and regional transmission organizations that are available to Nebraska entities;

(4) How transparency, visibility, and public input processes can be improved in SPP decisionmaking and what role Nebraska's rural electrical systems and public power districts play when emergency decisions to shut off electricity are made;

(5) To what degree each public power district and associated regional transmission organizations rely on accredited capacity in Nebraska and by out-of-state members, and to what degree, if any, those accredited capacity sources played a part in the rolling power outages of February 2021;

(6) The effect, if any, changes made by Laws 2016, LB824, had on power generation in the state;

(7) The costs, benefits, risks, and disadvantages of public power participation in regional transmission organizations;

(8) The authority of public power districts within the state of Nebraska to join and enter into agreements with regional transmission organizations such as SPP;

(9) Any weather-induced generation reduction from the extreme cold of February 2021 and what impact it had on energy resources; and

(10) Any alternatives and mitigation measures to avoid rolling power outages in Nebraska in the future, including requirements to develop robust baseload capacity in the regional marketplace and the degree to which it may be helpful to develop micro-grids using advanced nuclear reactor technology in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 137. Introduced by Aguilar, 35; Brewer, 43.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to assess the operations and practices of the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home. The veterans' home is the newest of the four veterans' homes in the state and opened on January 16, 2019, as a skilled nursing facility located in Kearney with two hundred twenty-five beds. The interim study is intended to determine the level of legislative assistance and support required by the veterans' home.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A statistical analysis of historical occupancy and staffing levels;
2. An analysis of the workforce available to and the current hiring practices of the veterans' home; and
3. The level of communication between the veterans' home and stakeholders in the state and community and, if needed, ways to improve such communication.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 138. Introduced by Lathrop, 12.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine current and potential future remedies available for incarcerated persons who have property lost, stolen, or damaged during their confinement. Until recently, a tort claims process was available to incarcerated individuals for the purpose of providing a remedy to those in such a situation. However, a 2019 court case impacted this process because it recognized correctional staff as law enforcement officers covered by the exception to the waiver of sovereign immunity contained in subdivision (2) of section 81-8,219 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. As a result, the tort claims process is only applicable to incarcerated individuals in extremely limited circumstances. Despite this ruling, correctional staff have continued to encourage incarcerated individuals to utilize the tort claims process notwithstanding the apparent futility of following this process in light of the court case.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 139. Introduced by Hansen, M., 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the financial health of individuals in Nebraska's workforce over one year into the COVID-19 pandemic.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of:

- (1) Wages across the state and across industries, including, but not limited to, tipped workers, minimum wage workers, and workers with disabilities;
- (2) Whether income earned by Nebraska workers is adequate to afford the cost of living in Nebraska for necessities, such as food and housing;
- (3) The standard benefits available to workers across the state and across industries, including, but not limited to, paid sick leave and paid safe leave, health insurance, and retirement benefits;
- (4) Whether the benefits available to Nebraska workers promotes health, wellness, and long-term financial stability into retirement; and
- (5) Job opportunities available to workers across the state and whether those opportunities align with the types of jobs and benefits that workers are seeking.

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

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 140. Introduced by Hansen, M., 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine Nebraska's unemployment insurance system. The Department of Labor reported that weekly initial unemployment insurance claims reached a record high in March 2020 and continued to be substantive throughout 2020 and into 2021. Many constituents have shared their stories of the difficulty they experienced applying for unemployment benefits, contacting the Department of Labor, and receiving their full unemployment benefits in a timely manner. While the pandemic was unprecedented, it is important that Nebraskans are able to access the benefits they have earned during an emergency.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) An examination of unemployment claim rates during the COVID-19 pandemic and through 2021;

(2) An examination of the average wait time to receive unemployment benefits starting in March 2020 and continuing each month up to the present;

(3) The lived experiences of those who applied for unemployment benefits and experienced trouble with receiving such benefits in a timely manner;

(4) The accessibility to and issues faced by Nebraska's unemployment benefits program during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(5) Any potential improvement or changes to Nebraska's unemployment insurance system.

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

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 141. Introduced by DeBoer, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to create a select interim committee of the Legislature, to be known as the School Finance Study Committee, to conduct an indepth study of the financing of the public elementary and secondary schools in the state. The committee shall consist of eleven members of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. Members shall include two members of the Education Committee of the Legislature, two members of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, two members of the Legislature's Planning Committee, two members of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature, and three at-large members of the Legislature. At least three members shall be appointed from each congressional district. The chairperson of the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be one of the members appointed from such committee and shall serve as the chairperson of the School Finance Study Committee.

The study shall include an examination of the following:

(1) Methods of financing public elementary and secondary schools, including methods used in other states, which would provide equitable educational opportunities across the state and offer alternatives to a heavy reliance on property tax;

(2) The option of using a measure of income as a component in the financing of public elementary and secondary schools;

(3) The option of using sales tax as a component in the financing of public elementary and secondary schools, including, but not limited to, an examination of the experience of any other states with such option;

(4) Financing issues as they relate to the quality and performance of public elementary and secondary schools;

(5) Funding methods for public prekindergarten services;

(6) Funding methods for college-readiness and career-readiness programs, including, but not limited to, programs of excellence, dual-enrollment courses, and career academies;

(7) The costs and resources necessary to meet the diverse and growing needs of students across the state, including, but not limited to, the needs of poverty students and limited English proficiency students;

(8) Methods used by other states to fund public elementary and secondary school infrastructure needs; and

(9) Other issues related to public elementary and secondary school finance as necessary and as determined by the chairperson of the committee.

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

1. That a select interim committee of the Legislature, to be known as the School Finance Study Committee, shall be designated as provided in this resolution to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 142. Introduced by Cavanaugh, M., 6.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to determine whether legislation should be enacted to provide for additional supports and further address the issue of maternal depression in Nebraska. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) The rate of depression among mothers in Nebraska;

(2) The impact of maternal depression on babies, young children, and families;

(3) The types of screening available for maternal depression;

(4) The percentage and types of providers offering screening for maternal depression;

(5) The availability of services for new mothers with a diagnosis of maternal depression; and

(6) Private and public coverage options available for new mothers to maternal depression screening and necessary services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 143. Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the mental and behavioral health needs of Nebraskans, assess the current shortages of providers, services, and resources, and determine what is needed to ensure an adequate behavioral health service delivery system.

The issues addressed by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The number and location of mental and behavioral health providers in Nebraska;
- (2) Areas of the state where there are specific shortages of mental and behavioral health providers or specific services;
- (3) What educational and residency programs are available to prepare mental and behavioral health providers;
- (4) Ways to recruit and keep mental and behavioral health providers in areas where there are provider and service shortages; and
- (5) The impact of telehealth availability.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 145. Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the adequacy of current aged and disabled medicaid waiver assisted-living provider rates. Providers of assisted-living services serve an important function in meeting the home and community-based care needs of some of the most vulnerable Nebraskans due to age or disability. To continue providing access, the payment rates for these services must be sufficient to cover the cost of the care and services required by the participants in the aged and disabled medicaid waiver program.

The Department of Health and Human Services established the initial medicaid waiver assisted-living provider rates thirty years ago based on an informal process. No formal rate study has ever been performed and the only rate changes implemented have been the annual provider rate changes approved by the Legislature. It is critical for the Legislature, as well as the providers and consumers, to understand if there are medicaid beneficiaries who do not have access to services and whether it is a result of current provider payment rates. Reports of medicaid waiver program participants having difficulty accessing assisted-living services and specifically living memory care, especially in certain areas of the state, may indicate a concern with provider rate adequacy.

This study shall seek data currently gathered by the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care of the Department of Health and Human Services to

examine the adequacy of current aged and disabled medicaid waiver assisted-living provider rates and any needed changes, including whether a formal rate study is needed.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 147. Introduced by Cavanaugh, J., 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the transfer of state-owned property to local political subdivisions. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of the applicable laws, regulations, and policies regarding the sale or transfer of a state-owned right-of-way to a local political subdivision;

(2) A review of policies and exceptions regarding the sale or transfer of real property purchased by the state using federal funds;

(3) An examination of whether a transfer of real property from the state to a local political subdivision at a price below the market value would contribute to economic development and transportation system design; and

(4) Input from stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the Department of Transportation, economic development organizations, and local political subdivisions.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 148. Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the duties of education support professionals in Nebraska. The study may include, but is not limited to:

(1) A review of the role education support professionals have in the operation of schools;

(2) A review of the nine primary career classifications of education support professionals;

(3) Available opportunities for professional growth for education support professionals; and

(4) Whether a statutory definition of education support professional would contribute to improving education in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 149. Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the potential for statewide early childhood autism spectrum disorder screening in a similar manner to the current statewide mandates on early childhood audiology and vision screenings.

The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of Nebraska's responsibilities under the Child Find mandate in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

(2) The significance of early identification of autism spectrum disorder;

(3) Identification of the age at which children should first be screened for autism spectrum disorder; and

(4) An examination of current strategies to increase early childhood autism spectrum disorder screening.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 151. Introduced by Murman, 38; Arch, 14; Blood, 3; Day, 49; Gragert, 40; Hansen, B., 16; Slama, 1; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases compact should be adopted. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of issues raised during consideration of LB418, which was introduced by Senator Murman and is pending in the Health and Human Services Committee. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the committee shall consider, but not be limited to, the input of interested individuals, public officials, and such entities as the committee deems necessary or beneficial.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 152. Introduced by Bostelman, 23; Cavanaugh, J., 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to evaluate the need for laws that would allow the Department of Environment and Energy to expeditiously respond to emergency situations that threaten the health of agricultural land, water and air quality, livestock, and other plant and animal life from toxic or harmful products that are a part of or created by pesticide-treated seed or grain.

The study may include, but is not limited to, the:

(1) Gathering of information about various uses of pesticide-treated seed or grain throughout Nebraska;

(2) Identification of the current state of regulatory and statutory environmental emergency response and enforcement options available to the Department of Environment and Energy to protect against harmful materials or byproducts resulting from use of pesticide-treated seed or grain; and

(3) Acquisition and review of information about potential additional options that would enable the state to order, enforce, and facilitate expedited cleanup or removal of pesticide-treated seed or grain and material or byproducts resulting from the use of such seed or grain.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 154. Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the impact of COVID-19 on Nebraska's workforce and the ability to find sustainable employment after the pandemic subsides. Individuals will return to a very different workplace and experience a recovering economy that will require different workforce demands, including different skills, knowledge, and abilities. While Nebraska's unemployment rate has remained one of the lowest in the country, it is understood that a high number of individuals have stopped looking for gainful employment or dropped out of the labor

force altogether. It can be challenging for unemployed or underemployed individuals to navigate and understand all available resources, both public and private, to successfully return to the workforce. Throughout the pandemic, Nebraska's 211 Information and Referral Network has been instrumental in aiding response to and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 by providing statewide resources for basic needs, housing supports, COVID-19 testing, vaccination referrals, and other referrals connecting individuals with supports with its vast data base of nonprofit agencies and programs. This same model can be used to help Nebraska's residents return to gainful employment.

The issues addressed by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Identifying the needs and number of individuals no longer being counted in the labor force that could benefit from a career navigation network administered through Nebraska's 211 Information and Referral Network;

(2) Identifying the number of underemployed individuals that could improve their employment situation by gaining new skills and understanding the training necessary to fill high-demand jobs and careers;

(3) Determining the number of public, private, and nonprofit agencies that provide employment programs, work to fill high-demand jobs, offer job-specific training, and recruit and coach individuals on gaining employment or improving their earning potential;

(4) Identifying the most effective programs and determine the scalability of such programs;

(5) Assessing how utilizing Nebraska's 211 Information and Referral Network can help individuals find the most useful career training programs to improve their employment, underemployment, or unemployment situation; and

(6) Assessing how building upon the existing infrastructure and the contact-center model of Nebraska's 211 Information and Referral Network could improve efficiency through partnerships with the entities identified in subdivision (3) of this resolution to return thousands of Nebraska's residents back to work by filling high-demand jobs leading to careers.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 155. Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine a comprehensive list of issues related to the operation of autonomous vehicles in Nebraska. Issues to be examined shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Automated vehicle classifications;

- (2) Testing of automated vehicles;
- (3) Automated vehicle registration, titling, and branding;
- (4) Financial responsibility;
- (5) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and state and local safety standards;
- (6) The role of a driver and of the passengers or occupants in an autonomous vehicle;
- (7) Operator license requirements for testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles;
- (8) Training for consumers, examiners, driver education instructors, and driver schools;
- (9) Endorsements and restrictions;
- (10) Crash and incident reporting;
- (11) Autonomous vehicle use in criminal activity;
- (12) Distracted driving;
- (13) Establishment of legal responsibility for enforcement actions;
- (14) First responder safety and autonomous vehicle response to emergency vehicles;
- (15) Manual traffic controls and extraordinary road conditions;
- (16) Access to autonomous vehicle electronic data for investigatory purposes;
- (17) Autonomous vehicle identification;
- (18) Autonomous vehicle conformance to the Nebraska Rules of the Road;
- (19) Autonomous commercial motor vehicles;
- (20) Autonomous vehicles operated by transportation network companies;
- (21) Data privacy and security;
- (22) Cybersecurity;
- (23) Highway and other infrastructure utilized by autonomous vehicles;
- (24) Imported and exported autonomous vehicles;
- (25) Autonomous vehicle upfitter regulation;
- (26) Autonomous vehicle platooning;
- (27) Data collection and sharing; and
- (28) Liability for autonomous vehicles.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 156. Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine mental health and addiction issues within the Nebraska criminal justice system and alternative policy options and solutions.

Like other states, Nebraska's jails and prisons are often required to accommodate detainees or prisoners who struggle with mental illness. A disproportionate number of individuals in Nebraska's jails and prisons have a history of mental illness, and some estimate that approximately fifty-six percent of state prisoners have at least one mental health diagnosis. The number of prisoners who have alcohol or drug problems is also disproportionate. As a consequence, much of the responsibility for responding to people who are in distress due to mental health is on our law enforcement agencies.

Policymakers support reducing the use of our jails and prisons for people who struggle with mental illness, including addiction, when such individuals could instead be receiving community treatment. Additional efforts should also be made to minimize the frequency of negative interaction between law enforcement and individuals in mental health crisis during police encounters. Public health problems, like untreated mental illness and addiction, should be met with a public health response and not a criminal justice response. Investment in mental health services costs less than building prisons and has more effective and safer outcomes for vulnerable Nebraskans and front line law enforcement officers and is proven to advance our shared public safety goals. There are successful innovations in this area in Nebraska and in other states that we can learn from and implement with new funding sources.

Some jurisdictions across the country have invested in community-based mobile crisis intervention services in which mental health professionals or other providers of behavioral health services are deployed in real time to the location of the person in crisis in order to achieve the needed and best outcomes for that individual. These mobile crisis teams are intended to be dispatched as an alternative to law enforcement.

The federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a federal relief package that became law on March 11, 2021, contains a number of provisions designed to increase coverage, expand benefits, and adjust federal financing for state medicaid programs. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes a provision to expand mental health services in states and communities by providing for mobile crisis intervention and community mental health funding. These services are to be covered by medicaid and provided by a multidisciplinary team to enrollees experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis outside a hospital or other facility setting. This new option is available to states for five years, beginning April 1, 2022.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) An examination of whether Nebraska can pursue the new option under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to provide community-based mobile crisis intervention services with federal funds;
- (2) An examination of how the state can provide assistance in supporting measures to improve mental health care in our communities;
- (3) Consideration of any statutory changes necessary to enhance community mental health treatment and addiction services instead of meeting these public health challenges with a criminal response; and

(4) Receiving input from the public and impacted individuals regarding the subject matters of this resolution.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 157. Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Day, 49; McKinney, 11; Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to explore how Nebraska schools could recruit a teaching and administrative force that accurately reflects the proportion of students of color attending Nebraska schools. Many studies have proved the beneficial aspects of having a diverse teacher and administrative workforce, especially regarding closing achievement gaps for students of color. Furthermore, a more diverse teacher and administrative workforce that better represents our state's demographics benefits students of all racial backgrounds. Data shows that our teachers and administrators are not representative of the communities our students come from. Research shows us that there is a need to rectify this imbalance for the sake of our children and for the economic and social well-being of the state.

The issues examined by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Different approaches to informing minority students and people of color on the importance and benefits of entering the field of education;

(2) Methods of seeking out cooperative relationships or partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic and Latino Serving Institutions, and Native American Serving Institutions, that may lead to more diverse teacher and administrative staffs;

(3) Relevant research and best practices to enhance minority teacher and administrator recruitment and retention throughout the state;

(4) How to establish more public, private, and philanthropic partnerships to increase minority teacher and administrator recruitment, including, but not limited to, teacher and administrator preparation programs;

(5) How to support and encourage local boards of education and educational service units to prioritize minority teacher recruitment and innovative strategies to attract and retain minority teachers within their districts;

(6) Any requirements that prevent persons of color from choosing and remaining in the education professions, including, but not limited to, teacher preparation programs, certification requirements, testing of teachers, and teacher organization leadership;

(7) Identification of methods to prepare, support, and encourage school leadership to increase retention of teachers of color; and

(8) Input from members of the Legislature from the various regions of the state, members of the various teacher and administrator associations in

Nebraska, faculty and administration of the various institutions training teachers, and organizations representing persons of color.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 158. Introduced by Blood, 3; Aguilar, 35; Bostar, 29; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; DeBoer, 10; Friesen, 34; Hansen, M., 26; Hilkemann, 4; Lathrop, 12; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; McKinney, 11; Morfeld, 46; Pahls, 31; Pansing Brooks, 28; Sanders, 45; Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the accuracy of payments made by the Department of Labor to recipients of state and federal benefit programs, including, but not limited to, unemployment insurance.

The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Policies and procedures of state and federal agencies when benefits are overpaid, including, but not limited to, methods of recuperating overpaid amounts;

(2) The impact of inaccurate benefit payments on benefit recipients;

(3) The frequency, number, and agency impact of inaccurate benefit payments made within the last two years;

(4) The underlying causes of inaccurate benefit payments; and

(5) The ways in which Nebraska can ensure greater accuracy of benefit payments.

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

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 161. Introduced by McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the impact of natural hair discrimination in Nebraska educational settings and to support all schools in creating equitable policies and practices as such relate to students' racial, ethnic, and cultural identity.

Restrictions on natural hair or hairstyles have historically been rooted in European standards of appearance and can perpetuate racist and hurtful

stereotypes. Such policies exacerbate bias in educational settings by limiting an individual's ability to thrive in classroom settings, sports, and other extracurricular activities.

It is vital that students and other individuals have the confidence needed to thrive and succeed. Such confidence is hindered when suspensions and other consequences are given for the way hair naturally grows from a person's head.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A review of existing dress code, hairstyle, and other related policies in schools across the state;
- (2) An examination of model school policies that promote equitable educational environments as such relates to natural hair and protective hairstyles;
- (3) Identifying training and resources necessary to support schools in creating policies promoting equitable educational environments, free of natural hair discrimination, and accountability for such policies; and
- (4) Examining potential legislative solutions to ban race-based discriminatory policies and practices in schools that penalize students for their natural hair and protective hairstyles.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 162. Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the School Readiness Tax Credit Act.

This study shall include, but is not limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) The number of tax credits claimed pursuant to the School Readiness Tax Credit Act;
- (2) Whether the School Readiness Tax Credit Act incentivizes child care employees to remain in the child care industry;
- (3) Whether the School Readiness Tax Credit Act incentivizes child care providers to become enrolled under the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act;
- (4) Barriers that prevent child care employees and child care providers from claiming tax credits pursuant to the School Readiness Tax Credit Act; and
- (5) How the amount of the tax credit currently available relates to education, professional development, and work experience requirements.

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

1. That the Revenue Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 163. Introduced by Stinner, 48.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study postacute placement challenges in Nebraska's health care system. The study will examine current barriers to timely placement and determine possible legislative or administrative actions to improve the transition to postacute care for patients in Nebraska.

The interim study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) The capacity of postacute placement beds in Nebraska, especially for skilled-nursing capacity for medicaid patients;
- (2) The capacity of community-based and residential behavioral health services;
- (3) The capacity of the Office of Public Guardian to process health care referrals in a timely manner;
- (4) A review of postacute placement challenges for specific populations, such as prison inmates, homeless Nebraskans, and undocumented residents; and
- (5) The impact of postacute placement challenges on health care costs in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 164. Introduced by Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine problem solving courts. For almost two decades, the Legislature has worked with key stakeholders in each branch of government to authorize, invest in, and expand problem solving courts as a sound alternative to the traditional criminal justice and juvenile justice systems. Problem solving courts are heralded for their effect on reducing recidivism, improving outcomes, lessening taxpayer burdens, and advancing public safety. Problem solving courts in Nebraska are subject to rules promulgated by the Supreme Court and utilize innovative court programs through which individuals and families thrive and all Nebraska communities become safer.

Problem solving courts and similar programs relating to alternatives to detention and incarceration, including, but not limited to, drug courts,

veteran treatment courts, mental health courts, mediation courts, reentry courts, and diversionary programs, have been used in Nebraska and in many other jurisdictions.

This study may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) An assessment of barriers to participation in problem solving courts;
- (2) An identification of the number of Nebraskans who could benefit from problem solving courts;
- (3) An identification of other problem solving courts that could be developed;
- (4) An examination of the fiscal effect of problem solving courts on individuals and to Nebraska;
- (5) An examination of the fiscal effect of incarceration on individuals and to Nebraska;
- (6) An assessment of how to best expand innovative programs throughout Nebraska;
- (7) An identification of how additional criminal defendants can participate in such programs throughout the state;
- (8) A determination of legislation necessary to encourage increased participation in such programs;
- (9) An examination of the extent to which problem solving courts are a permanent component of the judicial system in Nebraska; and
- (10) An investigation into other areas of importance to the Legislature as it contemplates investment in the prison system of Nebraska and examines reformation of the criminal justice system and sentencing reform.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 165. Introduced by Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to explore ways of improving dental benefits under the medical assistance program through increasing engagement by dentists. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Better training for dentists on oral health disparities, the challenges faced by Nebraskans receiving medicaid benefits, and how to navigate dental benefits under the medical assistance program effectively;
- (2) The role that fees play in the choice to participate in the medical assistance program or accept new patients who are enrolled in medicaid;
- (3) Reducing administrative burdens in dental practices that deter dentists from participating in the medical assistance program;
- (4) Establishing payments to dental schools that consider adding a multiplier based on the number of medicaid-eligible patients cared for and consider other ways that the Department of Health and Human Services and

dental schools could support and encourage student learning regarding medicaid-eligible patients and the medical assistance program;

(5) Engaging new dentists in caring for medicaid-eligible patients, including the feasibility of supporting loan repayments for new graduates that remain in Nebraska and treat a certain numbers of medicaid-eligible Nebraskans;

(6) Engaging new and practicing dentists in caring for medicaid-eligible patients by allowing medicaid payments to be considered deferred income for state taxation purposes; and

(7) How the threat of audits have potentially deterred participation by dentists in the medical assistance program and how to create an audit process that aims to help educate dental providers and provide opportunities for positive change.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 166. Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to review the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Changes in employee protections brought about by changes to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; and

(2) A review of the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act's compatibility with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

This study may include a review of all state statutes, case law, administrative rules, memos, directives, and guidance published or distributed by any agency or entity of the state in furtherance of the public policy of fostering the employment of individuals with disabilities as outlined in the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act.

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

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 167. Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine possible solutions to address conflicts that arise between decisions made in the child welfare system and custody decisions made in civil cases, which can affect the safety of children. In some child welfare cases, one parent is found to be abusive while the other parent is not abusive. In the child welfare system, if the nonabusive parent demonstrates protective capacity and the child lives with the nonabusive parent apart from the abuser, the child may be considered safe, and the case may be closed. However, the abusive parent may still have existing legal rights to visitation and custody through a civil custody case, thereby maintaining access to the child and risking the child's safety. The nonabusive parent often cannot afford or does not have access to legal representation to alter the civil custody order to reflect the findings in the child welfare case. Bridging the gap between these two systems, particularly in non-court-involved child welfare cases, is important for child safety.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 170. Introduced by McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the potential impact that innovation hubs, similar to those in California and other states, could have in Nebraska.

The study should include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) The need for innovation hubs to assist the growth of small businesses and entrepreneurs;
- (2) The benefits that collaboration between multiple government and community agencies could have in assisting the growth and innovation of small businesses and entrepreneurs; and
- (3) The centralization of resources necessary to successfully implement an innovation hub for small businesses and entrepreneurs in a variety of industries in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 171. Introduced by McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to complete a comprehensive study of the rights, roles, and responsibilities of Nebraska county election officials, state election officials, and relevant court and corrections personnel in carrying out state law regarding voting rights for former felony offenders.

As documented recently, data and system errors have impermissibly disenfranchised eligible voters from participation in the election process. While some important reforms have been implemented at the state and local levels, it remains to be seen how widespread these issues are and whether or not all relevant stakeholders are actively addressing errors and fully implementing the letter and spirit of the law.

Voting rights are critical to democracy and should not be suppressed or diminished. Current Nebraska law includes a two-year waiting period after completion of a felony sentence and is among the longest in the country. Such laws not only disenfranchise potential voters, but also have disparate impacts on low-income Nebraskans and Nebraskans of color.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) Potential administrative and statutory reforms to voting and election laws in Nebraska for former felony offenders, including the elimination of the two-year waiting period to vote;

(2) How relevant stakeholders are addressing the consequences of any errors regarding the restoration of voting rights;

(3) How widespread system and data errors are across the state, how many Nebraskans are impacted by these errors, and relevant demographic information about the impacted voters;

(4) Whether additional funding, training, or other solutions should be implemented by election officials to address these issues; and

(5) Any other related issues necessary to protect and defend the right to vote for eligible Nebraska voters.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 172. Introduced by McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to look at the negative impacts of an oversaturation of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy in densely populated areas of high poverty.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) How an oversaturation of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy may stifle economic growth and independence in areas of high poverty;
- (2) How decisions in communities of high poverty are affected based on different philanthropic donors and nonprofit organizations;
- (3) Possible solutions to create more balance and lessen any negative impacts of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy in areas of high poverty; and
- (4) How other states and nations handle this issue to promote economic growth and independence in areas of high poverty.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 173. Introduced by Blood, 3; Brewer, 43; Clements, 2; Day, 49; Sanders, 45.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the organizational structure and funding of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.

The study should include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) The effects of reduced staffing at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center;
- (2) The Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center's ability to provide both basic and advanced training;
- (3) The potential effect LB51, introduced in 2021, may have on the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center; and
- (4) The current needs for instructor staffing, equipment, and facilities at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 174. Introduced by Briese, 41.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature.

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

1. That the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 175. Introduced by Briese, 41.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine and review the game of keno, governed by the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act, and any potential administrative or statutory revisions which may be necessary.

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

1. That the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 176. Introduced by Briese, 41.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the statutes governing horseracing and the State Racing Commission in Nebraska to determine if any updates or revisions are necessary, including, but not limited to, the removal of any obsolete, antiquated, or duplicate provisions.

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

1. That the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 177. Introduced by Briese, 41.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the State Athletic Commissioner and review occupational licenses and regulations for professional boxers and professional boxing promoters. The study shall be conducted to fulfill the requirements of section 84-948 and the Occupational Board Reform Act.

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

1. That the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 178. Introduced by Wishart, 27; Clements, 2; Dorn, 30; Erdman, 47; Hilkemann, 4; Kolterman, 24; McDonnell, 5; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to solicit input from Nebraskans into how funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, would best be utilized and which funds the State of Nebraska should apply for. Nebraska will receive significant dollars from the federal government to help Nebraska recover from the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, education, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. Public input will include, but not be limited to, experts in the public and private sectors, the Governor, state agencies, governmental subdivisions, and the general public.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 179. Introduced by Cavanaugh, M., 6.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the funding mechanisms in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, that are available to provide services and benefits to the people of the State of Nebraska. The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Identifying federal funding available for providing services and benefits to the people of Nebraska; and

(2) Identifying the appropriations necessary to maximize the use of the available funds.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 180. Introduced by Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to conduct an indepth review of how at-risk and economically disadvantaged students are identified as a qualification factor for state-funded, education-related programs at the primary, secondary, and postsecondary education levels. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The use of the federal National School Lunch Program administered by the federal Department of Agriculture as a proxy to identify poverty;

(2) The impact changes in such program, specifically the implementation of the community-eligibility provision and direct certification, have had on current and future student eligibility for state programs;

(3) How poverty is identified and program qualification factors are written in other states;

(4) Relevant studies and literature with a focus on the best practices for determinations of poverty for education-related funding programs; and

(5) Whether a need exists to update current state statutes to meet the legislative intent for the various funding programs in light of changes in federal policy and, if so, what options are available for such statutory updates.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 181. Introduced by Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine home visitation for families in Nebraska. Home visitation is a prevention strategy used to support pregnant moms and new parents which promotes infant and child health, fosters educational development and school readiness, and prevents abuse and neglect. This interim study shall assess the status of home visitation in this state and explore ways to expand programming to more families.

This study shall maintain the confidentiality of program participants and shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A collection of existing data on the type and location of available home-visitation programs, and to what extent each program aligns with evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, including training or professional credentials required for each program model;

(2) A review of the parents and children impacted by home visitation, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Data regarding the parents and children served;
- (b) Outcome measures, if available;
- (c) Details on the waitlists for programs, if applicable; and
- (d) Impact stories related to current and former program participants.

(3) An examination of existing federal, state, and local funding sources for home visitation in the State of Nebraska, including, but not limited to:

- (a) The Nebraska Early Childhood Endowment Fund;
- (b) Federal Head Start funds;
- (c) Private funds;
- (d) Federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program funds;
- (e) Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds;
- (f) State and federal medicaid funds;
- (g) Federal Family First Prevention Services Act funds;
- (h) Funds appropriated to the State Department of Education for early childhood education; and
- (i) The state General Fund;

(4) A review of potential statutory or administrative changes that would support current models or establish new models of home visitation in this state, as well as, a consideration of the status of home visitation in other states; and

(5) A determination of whether additional state funding is needed to increase development and access to home visitation.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 182. Introduced by Walz, 15.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the school enrollment options available to students, including virtual learning and distance education, and how these options influence public school enrollment decisions.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) The enrollment option program, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Whether the current statutory limits and exceptions meet the needs of students and families, along with the needs of school districts, or if current statutes create undue hardships for students, families, or school districts;
 - (b) The benefits and consequences of allowing part-time participation in the enrollment option program and how such enrollment could be reflected in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act;

(c) Whether the current school finance formula accurately accounts for the fiscal impact of the enrollment option program on school districts, incentivizes the recruitment of option students by school districts, or creates a discriminatory effect;

(d) Whether the current program unfairly limits opportunities for students enrolled in an exempt or nonpublic school by restricting any part-time enrollment to the school district in which they reside;

(e) Whether current statutes properly balance the needs of special education students with the combined capacity limitations of the school district and its affiliated educational service unit;

(f) Whether the appeal process for students whose application for option enrollment has been denied provides appropriate protections for students and families;

(g) How the enrollment option program compares to public school choice programs in other states; and

(h) Any other issues related to the enrollment option program that the committee deems necessary; and

(2) Student participation in virtual learning and distance education offered by school districts, including, but not limited to:

(a)(i) Courses school districts offer or intend to offer using virtual learning and distance education during the school year, (ii) the parameters that surround enrollment in such options during a summer session, and (iii) whether there are enough options statewide to meet the needs of students, families, and school districts;

(b) How students enrolled in virtual learning and distance education are accounted for in Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act formula needs and a determination of whether this method is sufficient to timely and accurately reflect the fiscal impact on school districts;

(c) Whether the formula for distance education incentives paid from lottery dollars accurately reflects the net costs associated with providing such services;

(d) Whether there are duplicative components in the school finance formula related to virtual learning and distance education;

(e) Whether a more streamlined mechanism exists for offsetting the net costs associated with virtual learning and distance education;

(f) How public school virtual learning and distance education are accounted for in the school finance funding formulas of other states; and

(g) Any other issues related to virtual learning or distance education that the committee deems necessary.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 183. Introduced by Cavanaugh, J., 9; Hansen, M., 26; McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine Nebraska law relating to body-worn cameras worn by law enforcement agents.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Nebraska law relating to body-worn cameras worn by law enforcement agents;
- (2) Whether there is a clear and uniform practice among law enforcement agencies to make such recordings available to the public in a manner consistent with the interests of transparency, public accountability, and public safety;
- (3) Whether revision to Nebraska law relating to body-worn cameras worn by law enforcement agents is necessary to ensure that recordings from such cameras are available to the public; and
- (4) Laws in other states relating to videos recorded on body-worn cameras worn by law enforcement agents.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 184. Introduced by Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine the contract process and the rates paid to family service providers who serve children and families in the Northern, Southeast, Central and Western Service Areas of Nebraska. Providers in the 91 counties who comprise these service areas contract directly with the Department of Health and Human Services to serve forty-eight percent of the vulnerable children and families who are in the child welfare system across the state. Over the last twelve years, family service providers in these service areas have experienced significant changes to their contracts, resulting in increased expenses and decreased revenue, while only receiving a four-percent rate increase. These circumstances, along with increasing operating expenses, have created a fragile child welfare system that is not sustainable. The contract changes and nearly stagnant rate have left providers struggling to recruit the talent required in Department of Health and Human Services contracts and to provide a competitive wage and benefits package to their current employees. The department has shown no signs of addressing the instability in the system.

The study shall examine:

- (1) Services such as: family support, drug test collections, intensive family preservation and intensive family reunification, parenting time and

supervised visitation, and travel time for family support and parenting time and supervised visitation;

(2) The annual contracting process that the Department of Health and Human Services utilizes in procuring the services described in this resolution, including, but not limited to, the basis for making changes to each contract, who approves such changes, how the cost and savings of any change to a provider or the department is calculated, and how those changes are communicated to providers;

(3) The financial impact to both providers and the department of any change to the contract using 2010 as a base year;

(4) The history of any rate increase since 2010;

(5) The annual increase in the budget of the Division of Children and Family Services of the department compared to the annual rate increases for providers since 2010;

(6) The cost of living in Nebraska compared to the annual rate increases for providers since 2010;

(7) The employee benefits, annual starting pay rate, and the rate paid after training by the department for a child and family services specialist since 2010;

(8) The education and experience requirements mandated by the department for employees who work directly with children and families;

(9) The steps the department intends to take, if any, and the timeline in taking those steps, to determine a fair rate to pay providers for the services described in this resolution; and

(10) All other health care, behavioral health, and long-term care provider rates.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 185. Introduced by Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; McKinney, 11; Vargas, 7.

PURPOSE: Agriculture is the primary economic driver in Nebraska and the backbone of the economy. According to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, twenty-five percent of jobs in the state are related to agriculture. A majority of these jobs exist in support of traditional livestock and crop production operations, but more than three hundred career fields exist to support agriculture. Twenty-first century career opportunities in food systems, technology, research, environmental conservation and sustainability, international trade and policy, and finance, require a highly technical educational curriculum in order for students to succeed. Such a curriculum could include the study of the farm to table movement, the

culinary arts, and the environmental effects of food production. Nearly every academic subject can be viewed through the lens of agriculture. However, there is a lack of focus in the education system, especially for students in urban areas, about where food comes from and the skills and knowledge needed for careers in agriculture. This study shall examine the feasibility of, and interest in, an agricultural school or educational center in Nebraska, particularly in an urban location. An agricultural educational center or magnet school could provide a solution to the brain drain problem that has long siphoned young professionals away from our state in search of jobs elsewhere. Moreover, because of this state's unique geographic and historic connection to agriculture, providing educational opportunities in support of food systems will prepare students for careers right here in Nebraska.

The issues addressed by this interim study may include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) The feasibility and interest in creating an agricultural school or educational center;
- (2) The benefits of an agricultural school with a focus on economics, food, health, and environmental studies;
- (3) The potential costs associated with creating an agricultural school or educational center and the process required to do so; and
- (4) Possible criteria for determining the best locations for a Nebraska agricultural school or educational center.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 186. Introduced by Brandt, 32.

PURPOSE: The economic survival of many towns in Nebraska is dependent on features that encourage residents to continue living there. For some towns, a nonprofit movie theatre is one such feature. However, nonprofit movie theaters in certain jurisdictions in this state have been granted an exemption from state taxes, while others have not. This interim study seeks to improve consistency in granting a tax-exempt status to nonprofit movie theaters based on criteria that uses a clear definition of what constitutes a charitable or educational organization for such purposes and considers whether the nonprofit movie theatre holds a certificate of exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The issues addressed by this interim study may include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Identifying the location of operating nonprofit movie theaters in Nebraska;

(2) Ascertaining the tax exempt status of identified nonprofit movie theaters;

(3) Evaluating the criteria used to assign and reject a tax exemption for such nonprofit movie theaters; and

(4) Examining the use of terms charitable and educational in designating a tax exempt status.

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

1. That the Revenue Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 187. Introduced by Cavanaugh, J., 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine and review liquor laws in Nebraska, including the Nebraska Liquor Control Act, to determine if any updates or revisions are necessary.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) Laws relating to liquor license retail applications and requirements;

(2) Laws regarding new liquor license retail applications and additions to current licenses regarding contiguous spaces of licensed premises and outdoor areas; and

(3) The ability for the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission to allow exceptions for transferring alcohol between retail locations with the same ownership.

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

1. That the General Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 188. Introduced by Cavanaugh, J., 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to adopting reward-based conservation programs that provide incentives to landowners and operators to adopt conservation practices.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Mechanisms to provide property tax relief for those individuals who voluntarily implement conservation practices that provide soil, water, and habitat conservation benefits;

(2) The benefits provided by such mechanisms, including increased irrigation efficiency, reduced regulatory oversight, and improved groundwater and surface water quality; and

(3) How to best structure a reward-based conservation program that recognizes and builds on the important role played by counties and the natural resources districts in setting local priorities.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 189. Introduced by McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine sex offender registration in Nebraska.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Whether juveniles adjudicated as sex offenders outside Nebraska should register as sex offenders if they move to Nebraska;

(2) Whether a tier-based system of differentiated public notification based on the individual's risk level, seriousness of conviction, and age should be used in sex offender registration; and

(3) Changes that could be made to the Sex Offender Registration Act.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 190. Introduced by McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the work participation requirements in the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Nebraska.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) A review of the number of parents and children impacted by the TANF program in Nebraska, and the length of time families remain in the program;

(2) An examination of resources available to families through the TANF program, including, but not limited to, service referrals;

(3) A consideration of how funding through the TANF program block grant is allocated, including, but not limited to, how the TANF program "rainy day funds" are utilized;

(4) A comparison of other state work requirements within the TANF program;

(5) A review of potential statutory or administrative changes that would support ensuring that the TANF program work participation requirements meet the goals of the program; and

(6) A review of whether the TANF program work requirements could be expanded.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 191. Introduced by McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of universal recognition of occupational licenses on populations frequently negatively impacted by occupational licensing in the state, including, low-income workers, military members and their spouses, and those with a criminal history.

Expanding pathways to well-compensated jobs is critical for economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, professional licenses are required for nearly twenty-four percent of jobs in Nebraska, encompassing nearly two hundred different professions. Occupational licensing disproportionately affects those of lower socioeconomic status and restricts low-skill employment opportunities.

Military servicemembers, veterans, and spouses and other family members of servicemembers and veterans are acutely impacted by state occupational licensure due to their frequent movement between the several states. Occupational licensure programs have historically been poorly understood by the regulated public. Furthermore, expenditures under public contracts are often contingent on the occupational licensure of providers and implicate the efficiency of the entire state enterprise.

Likewise, Nebraskans with criminal records may face additional barriers to obtaining professional licenses that limit their economic opportunities and prevent employers from hiring qualified workers in high-demand fields.

Improving licensing access may help strengthen state and local economies, encourage migration into the state, promote successful reentry, and reduce incarceration costs.

At least ten states have passed universal recognition of licensing and over one-half of the states in the nation have adopted best practices that provide fair licensing access for qualified individuals with criminal records while

still maintaining public safety. Nebraska adopted some best practices in 2018 through the Occupational Board Reform Act. Subsequently, other states have adopted additional measures to improve licensing for justice-impacted individuals.

The issues addressed by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Best practices for the consideration of criminal history in occupational and professional licensing determinations;
- (2) The extent to which current licensing policies governing the consideration of criminal history and other individual characteristics promote efficiency, economic development, public safety, and equitable, consistent, and transparent licensing outcomes; and
- (3) Any substantial and demonstrated risks to public health and safety which could accrue as a result of potentially diminished standards in assorted occupations if universal recognition of occupational licenses across state lines is adopted.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 192. Introduced by Groene, 42.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review methods of water augmentation for preserving or enhancing stream flows, redirecting excess water, recharging ground water aquifers, or complying with compact and interstate agreements with an intent to develop statutory definitions and determine how water augmentation relates to section 46-252 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes and other permitting processes.

This interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Development of a method to integrate water augmentation projects into the existing permitting process;
- (2) Determination of unique features of natural resources district water augmentation projects that need to be addressed in the permitting process;
- (3) Determination of the best procedures to ensure that water augmentation projects are correctly planned to best fit into Nebraska's overall water management plan;
- (4) Preparation of a cost-benefit analysis for implementation of a permitting system designed to integrate water augmentation projects into the existing process and the potential effect on taxpayers;
- (5) Evaluation of whether natural resources districts should be exempt from liability for damage resulting from stream overflow caused by a water augmentation project;
- (6) Identification of the number of current and potential water augmentation projects;

(7) Analysis of the role played by the Department of Natural Resources in enforcement, reporting, and oversight of water augmentation projects; and

(8) Development of statutory definitions applicable to water augmentation projects.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 193. Introduced by DeBoer, 10; Albrecht, 17; Bostelman, 23; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Geist, 25; Hughes, 44.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine broadband mapping and broadband speed testing in Nebraska.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The current methods used to create Nebraska's broadband coverage maps;

(2) Various methods of collecting broadband coverage data;

(3) The broadband mapping program used by the Federal Communications Commission;

(4) Ways to improve Nebraska's broadband coverage maps;

(5) The current methods used to measure broadband speeds in Nebraska;

(6) Various methods of broadband speed testing used nationwide; and

(7) Methods that could be used in Nebraska to improve accuracy of broadband speed tests.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 194. Introduced by DeBoer, 10; Blood, 3.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine methods of ending domestic and sexual violence in Nebraska.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Identification of data on domestic and sexual violence collected by the state, including, but not limited to, police reports, 911 and law enforcement response, and protection orders;

(2) Examination of the reporting of domestic abuse data by the law enforcement agencies statewide to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice as required under section 42-930 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes;

(3) A review of domestic abuse data, including, but not limited to:

(a) Law enforcement agencies reporting and failing to report dating back to 1997;

(b) Decisions by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice to enforce or not enforce section 81-1426 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes; and

(c) Efforts of the commission to ensure compliance by law enforcement agencies;

(4) A review of law enforcement agency data reported, including, but not limited to:

(a) Identification of law enforcement agencies that did not report domestic abuse data required under section 42-930 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, reasons for failure to comply with the requirement, and any resources needed to provide accurate data;

(b) The effect such failure has on survivors of these crimes and the impact of missing data on the State of Nebraska; and

(c) In the event of a failure by a law enforcement agency to comply with reporting requirements, a determination of whether such failure to comply was willful or repeated;

(5) A review of protection orders, including, but not limited to:

(a) Data collected by the State Court Administrator regarding protection order filings under sections 28-311.09, 28-311.11, and 42-924 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes;

(b) Protection order data that is not collected, but is needed to advance policies that support survivors of domestic and sexual violence; and

(c) Solutions for collecting such protection order data in an effort to advance policies that support survivor autonomy and safety;

(6) Whether data related to domestic and sexual violence collected by state agencies contains complete and accurate data that is accessible by the Legislature, state agencies, and the public; and

(7) Solutions to end domestic and sexual violence in Nebraska.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 196. Introduced by Blood, 3; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Day, 49; DeBoer, 10; Flood, 19; Friesen, 34; Halloran, 33; Hansen, B., 16; Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the potential applications for blockchain technology in agricultural operations. The study should include, but is not limited to, an examination of:

- (1) How blockchain technology can be used to trace the origin of products from farm to shelf;
- (2) How blockchain can be used for inventory control;
- (3) The potential use of blockchain to monitor farm conditions, including, but not limited to, weather, soil quality, and the functioning of irrigation equipment;
- (4) The potential use of blockchain technology for maintenance records of production and transportation equipment;
- (5) Implementing the use of blockchain for data verification and certification for organic products;
- (6) The potential use of blockchain for tracking and ordering supplies such as fertilizer and seeds; and
- (7) The potential use of blockchain as a tool for asset exchange, including payments for sales and storage of products and equipment.

The study shall be conducted by a select committee of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The select committee shall consist of: The chairperson of the Agriculture Committee or another member of the committee designated by the chairperson, the chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee or another member of the committee designated by the chairperson, the chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee or another member of the committee designated by the chairperson, and three additional members of the Legislature appointed by the executive board to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

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

1. That a select committee of the Legislature shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council as provided in this resolution to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the select committee shall upon conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 198. Introduced by Hunt, 8; Cavanaugh, J., 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine Nebraska's practices relating to social security benefits owed to certain children in the foster care system. Recent independent nationwide investigations by the Marshall Project and National Public Radio found that, in at least thirty-six states, foster care agencies look for children in their care who are entitled to

social security benefits and apply to become the financial representative of those children in order for the agency to keep the money owed to those children, without notifying those children of such practices.

The investigations further found that at least ten state foster care agencies hired for-profit companies to seek and obtain social security benefits owed to children currently in foster care agencies within those states. Such foster care agencies profited millions of dollars under the guise of reimbursement for the costs of providing foster care services to those children.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An investigation into whether the foster care system in Nebraska hired Maximus Inc. or a similar contractor for the purpose of identifying children in Nebraska who are eligible for social security benefits and helping the Nebraska foster care system acquire such funds;

(2) An examination of whether the foster care system in Nebraska has retained social security benefits intended for children in its care by way of serving as the financial representative for those children;

(3) An analysis of notification practices used by the foster care system in Nebraska to alert a child and that child's guardian or lawyer of the child's eligibility for social security benefits;

(4) An examination of the amount of social security benefits retained by the foster care system in Nebraska over the last five fiscal years, and, if applicable, the categorical breakdown of such benefits; and

(5) A determination of regulatory or statutory changes necessary to ensure that all children in the foster care system in Nebraska are made aware of social security benefits for which those children are eligible and how to receive such benefits.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 199. Introduced by Slama, 1.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the creation of a rural economic development program to encourage larger development projects to locate in rural parts of Nebraska and reduce barriers to project approval and completion.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the United States' need for reliable, domestic supply chains for essential products and services. The pandemic is likely to have accelerated the already burgeoning trend of vertical integration for food processing and certainly demonstrated that e-commerce, telework, and other shifts in business and industry practices can provide more flexibility for individuals to live and work in rural areas without sacrificing employment opportunities.

Unfortunately, complicated regulations and labor shortages can impede large-scale development in rural areas. The state must act swiftly to identify opportunities to improve its appeal to companies considering locating in rural areas and to capitalize on these trends in order to grow the state's economy and preserve rural communities.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 200. Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Arch, 14, Chairperson; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund was initially created with an endowment of fifty million dollars for health care programs using the principal and investment income from the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund and the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund. The purpose of this endowment was to create an ongoing funding mechanism for health care in Nebraska. The purpose of this interim study is to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) A review of the annual Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund reports provided by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) Input from interested parties regarding the funds necessary to continue using the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to pay for health care and related services; and

(3) Recommendations for any statutory or funding changes that the Legislature should make in order to protect the ongoing viability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 201. Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Arch, 14, Chairperson; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 202. Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Arch, 14, Chairperson; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine federal legislation intended to provide assistance for state, local, and tribal governments affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Families First Coronavirus Response Act; the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act; the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act; and the American Rescue Plan Act. Portions of funding appropriated under these federal acts were directed to state relief, recovery, and entitlement programs under the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) How Nebraska has utilized federal funding provided for pandemic-related relief, recovery, and entitlement programs under the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature;

(2) Plans to utilize unexpended federal funding provided for pandemic-related relief, recovery, and entitlement programs under the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature; and

(3) How federal pandemic-related relief and recovery funds have affected Nebraska's utilization of other state and federal funding sources for programs under the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, including, but not limited to, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 203. Introduced by Flood, 19.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine medicaid expansion and behavioral health.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The role and mission of behavioral health regions as they relate to medicaid expansion;

(2) The coordination of behavioral health services after the expansion of medicaid;

(3) The role of behavioral health regions in relation to individuals in need of long-term care for mental illness;

(4) The plan for care of such individuals;

(5) The current capacity to provide care for behavioral health patients who require locked, secure residential care; and

(6) The capacity and demand for behavioral health care services at the Lincoln Regional Center.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 204. Introduced by Flood, 19.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine a coding curriculum for students in Nebraska.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The benefits of coding knowledge for postsecondary education fields and employment opportunities;

(2) The employment opportunities in Nebraska relating to coding;

(3) The role of elementary and secondary schools in preparing students for the workforce who are capable of coding; and

(4) The role of community colleges in preparing students for the workforce who are capable of coding.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 205. Introduced by DeBoer, 10.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to complete a comprehensive study of the use of mediation as a supplement or alternative to residential eviction actions. As residential eviction actions are disruptive to both landlords and tenants and in some situations may be the result of a lack of communication between parties, mediation may provide an opportunity for issues to be discussed and resolved without the need for an eviction order. Mediation centers may provide an available forum for such mediation efforts.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) The viability of using mediation to reduce eviction orders;
- (2) Anticipated levels of participation if mediation opportunities existed;
- (3) The scheduling or timeframes necessary to add mediation within the current residential eviction process without extending the time necessary to complete an eviction;
- (4) The resources available through mediation centers or other mediation providers; and
- (5) The methods used in eviction mediation proceedings in other jurisdictions and the success of these methods in reducing eviction orders.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 206. Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine workers' compensation.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Statutes of other states relating to workers' compensation; and
- (2) The efficacy of increasing the amount of payments to individuals who are awarded benefits pursuant to workers' compensation statutes.

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

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 207. Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine methods for preventing the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The best practices for making pre-exposure prophylaxis treatment available to those most at risk for contracting the human immunodeficiency virus; and

(2) Legislation in other states relating to preventative health education and treatment for those at risk of contracting the human immunodeficiency virus.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 208. Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine how commercial property assessed clean energy financing has been utilized in Nebraska compared to other states with active property assessed clean energy programs.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The Property Assessed Clean Energy Act;

(2) Statutes in states that have authorized property assessed clean energy financing to fund qualifying energy conservation measures for commercial real estate projects and the effect of those statutes in such states;

(3) The effect of retroactive financing relating to property assessed clean energy in states that allow for such projects; and

(4) Changes to the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act that could benefit commercial real estate projects.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 209. Introduced by McDonnell, 5; McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the appropriations necessary for creating public health crisis zones for certain areas in Nebraska.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Criteria related to public health, behavioral health, poverty, substance abuse rates, and any other relevant criteria, that would be included in a public health crisis zone program;

(2) Statutes and funding applicable to natural disasters and if such statutes and funding could be used as a framework for creating a public health crisis zone program;

(3) Public health crisis zone programs in other states; and

(4) The funding, resources, and process needed to create a public health crisis zone program and the role of the Legislature in:

(a) Stopping or diminishing a public health crisis in the defined area; and

(b) Providing funding to local public health departments, counties, municipalities, and other entities that would play a role in implementing a public health crisis zone program.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 210. Introduced by McKinney, 11; McDonnell, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the connections that exist between poverty and incarceration and the appropriations necessary to reduce both in Nebraska.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Resources appropriated to incarcerating people compared to treating the underlying cause resulting in their involvement in the criminal justice system;

(2) Costs of decreasing the prison population through investment in preventative measures;

(3) How poverty affects an individual's life trajectory;

(4) Children who live in poverty and their lives outside of formal educational institutions;

(5) How a criminal record affects the ability to overcome poverty, find housing, earn a livable income, and attain higher education and job skills;

(6) Compare the cost of paying for an individual to go through the criminal justice system with the cost of providing resources to an individual in poverty in an attempt to keep that individual out of the criminal justice system; and

(7) Practices in other states and countries that attempt to address the link between poverty and incarceration.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 211. Introduced by Lowe, 37.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to adopting construction codes. The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Whether the state might be best served by creating and appointing a task force or code review committee to make regular recommendations to the Legislature about updates and revisions to the state's default codes;

(2) Examining the composition of such task force or review committee including experts in codes, code officials tasked with enforcing codes, and contractors and trades people who interpret and implement codes;

(3) Examining the work and success of review committees and task forces in other states, including North Dakota and Utah.

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

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 212. Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to assess the health care workforce shortage in Nebraska, with a focus on nursing and entry-level health care support positions such as medical technicians and assistants. The study will analyze state and local funding, policy, and initiatives addressing the shortage to meet and anticipate Nebraska's growing health needs. The study shall further examine how to increase opportunities for all Nebraskans to enter and advance in these health care professions, align and expand education and training, and strengthen the capacity, diversity, well-being, and retention of the health care workforce.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Existing pathway programs and educational initiatives that encourage individuals to become health care professionals in Nebraska;
- (2) Current state funding priorities and programs that invest in the health care workforce in Nebraska;
- (3) Opportunities to align or improve systems that support Nebraska's health care workforce in underserved and high-need communities across the state; and
- (4) Future health care workforce needs and requirements.

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

1. That the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 213. Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the mental and behavioral health needs of Nebraska students and the role of school psychologists in meeting such needs.

This study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A review of the prevalence of student mental and behavioral health needs in Nebraska, including the prevalence of internalizing and externalizing disorders in school-aged youth, suicide prevalence, the amount of alcohol and controlled substance use, and the number of students served through special education under the verification category of emotional disturbance;
- (2) An examination of the current mental and behavioral health workforce, including the total number of certified school psychologists in Nebraska schools, student-to-school psychologist ratios, and the current number of faculty and student trainees in school psychology training programs;
- (3) Evaluation and comparison of urban and rural barriers to school-based mental health access;

(4) Evaluation of professional development challenges and opportunities for school psychologists, including job satisfaction and graduate training opportunities; and

(5) Existing efforts to retain and expand Nebraska's mental and behavioral health workforce and opportunities to increase the number of certified school psychologists.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 214. Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine and analyze how state regulated health plans and state employee health plans use programs to limit contributions made by, or on behalf of, a consumer, known as copay accumulator adjustment programs. The issues addressed by this interim study include, but are not limited to, an examination of:

(1) What year such health plan or pharmacy benefit manager initiated a copay accumulator adjustment program;

(2) All years the health plan or pharmacy benefit manager utilized copay accumulator adjustment programs;

(3) The number of consumers affected by a copay accumulator adjustment program for each year the program has been in place;

(4) The average deductible and out-of-pocket maximums of consumers affected by a copay accumulator adjustment program, per tier level if applicable;

(5) Whether copay accumulator adjustment programs are implemented across all health plan policies or restricted based on other factors including, but not limited to, disease state, type of plan, type of drug or treatment, and whether such drug or treatment has a generic equivalent;

(6) The yearly amount of money excluded from all consumers' out-of-pocket costs per health plan and how the savings were utilized; and

(7) The premium amounts paid by health plans, employers, and consumers for the two years before the copay accumulator adjustment program and all years after the copay accumulator adjustment programs were implemented.

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

1. That the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 215. Introduced by Hansen, M., 26.

PURPOSE: As partners in delivering essential government services to residents of Nebraska, county governments undertake implementing statutorily required services on a daily basis. Numerous required services rely on statutorily set fees or fines. This study shall examine how the set fee and fine amounts relate to the costs experienced by county governments for administering the associated services.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 218. Introduced by DeBoer, 10; Aguilar, 35; Albrecht, 17; Arch, 14; Blood, 3; Bostar, 29; Bostelman, 23; Brandt, 32; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Day, 49; Dorn, 30; Flood, 19; Friesen, 34; Geist, 25; Gragert, 40; Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Hansen, M., 26; Hilgers, 21; Hilkemann, 4; Hughes, 44; Hunt, 8; Kolterman, 24; Lathrop, 12; Lindstrom, 18; Linehan, 39; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; McKinney, 11; Morfeld, 46; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Pahls, 31; Pansing Brooks, 28; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36; Wishart, 27.; Lowe, 37; Brewer, 43.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine issues related to pay and benefits of legislative staff.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Review of the compensation and benefit structure for legislative staff;
- (2) Impact of the compensation and benefit structure for recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce at the Legislature;
- (3) Review of public assistance benefits eligible to legislative staff based on compensation structure;
- (4) Review of gender and racial pay equity among legislative staff; and
- (5) Potential changes to the compensation and benefit structure needed to support the recruitment, retention, and economic security of legislative staff.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 221. Introduced by Vargas, 7.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and make recommendations that will improve the quality of care for mothers and babies.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, a consideration of the following:

(1) National best practices relating to maternal and infant health care and mortality and morbidity monitoring;

(2) The known causes and rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in this state;

(3) The known causes and rates of infant mortality in this state;

(4) The status of the state's current system of monitoring maternal and infant mortality and morbidity;

(5) Racial, economic, and geographic disparities that exist in maternal and child mortality in Nebraska;

(6) Potential programs to address maternal and infant health care and improve outcomes, as well as funding opportunities for these programs; and

(7) A review of potential statutory or administrative changes that would support improved outcomes for maternal and infant health care.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 223. Introduced by Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine how to slow or stop the spread of the emerald ash borer.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The effect of the emerald ash borer on the ecological environment;

(2) Economic costs associated with the spread of the emerald ash borer; and

(3) Ways to reduce the spread of the emerald ash borer.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 225. Introduced by Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee: Brewer, 43, Chairperson; Halloran, 33; Hansen, M., 26; Hunt, 8; Lowe, 37; Sanders, 45.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to review the occupational regulation of truth and deception examiners pursuant to the Occupational Board Reform Act.

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

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 226. Introduced by Cavanaugh, M., 6.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine ways in which the Legislature provides oversight to hold state agencies accountable in the implementation of laws, and if legislation should be enacted to improve that oversight process. As a co-equal branch of government, it is the constitutional role of the Legislature to monitor state agencies as such agencies implement laws. Conducting oversight is every bit as important as passing legislation. A strong record of oversight will help maintain public confidence in the Legislature, and, more importantly, it will help the Legislature better serve Nebraska constituents and improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans.

The issues to be studied include, but are not limited to:

(1) The role of the Legislature and legislative committees in providing oversight of state agencies in the implementation of law; and

(2) Identification of resources and tools that might be needed to improve oversight functions.

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

1. That the Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 227. Introduced by Linehan, 39.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine learning communities and learning community coordinating councils.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) The history of learning communities;
- (2) The intent behind creating learning community coordinating councils;
- (3) The intended outcomes to be accomplished by learning communities and learning community coordinating councils;
- (4) The statutorily-required responsibilities of learning communities and learning community coordinating councils;
- (5) The current statutorily-required responsibilities of learning community coordinating councils; and
- (6) What the current learning community coordinating council does on an annual basis.

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

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 230. Introduced by Murman, 38.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study whether an amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska should be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval or rejection that would limit the application of property tax levies to support free instruction in the common schools to residential real property and not on agricultural land, horticultural land, or commercial property. In order to carry out the purpose of this resolution, the committee shall consider the input of interested individuals, public officials, and such entities as the committee deems necessary and beneficial.

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

1. That the Revenue Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 231. Introduced by Lathrop, 12.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim.

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

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 232. Introduced by Friesen, 34.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the assessment procedures of county assessors for each class of property and whether the assessment process would benefit from other parties assessing certain classes of property.

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

1. That the Revenue Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 233. Introduced by Friesen, 34; Albrecht, 17; Bostelman, 23; DeBoer, 10; Geist, 25; Hughes, 44.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review issues relating to the collection of agricultural data in precision farming. The issues addressed by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A review of precision agriculture technologies;
- (2) An examination of the importance and value of precision farming data and the collection of such data;
- (3) A review of issues relating to data ownership and the relationship between producers, manufacturers, landowners, retailers, and third-party purchasers in the collection, storage, use, and marketing of agricultural data;
- (4) An examination of data utilization, access, privacy, storage, and security for agricultural data;
- (5) An examination of data value;
- (6) An examination of data transfer;

(7) An analysis of the potential for monetization of agricultural data, both individually and in aggregate;

(8) The identification of concerns relating to the ownership and control of precision farming data, including privacy, security, and market manipulation;

(9) An analysis of telecommunications connectivity needs for the transmission and utilization of agricultural data, including through cellular, wireless, and satellite means; and

(10) The need, if any, for legislative action relating to agricultural data.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 234. Introduced by Friesen, 34; Albrecht, 17; Bostelman, 23; DeBoer, 10; Geist, 25; Hughes, 44.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to the regulation and taxation of electric vehicles.

The issues addressed by this study shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) A review of the number of electric vehicles currently in use in the state, and to what extent electric vehicle ownership and usage is projected to increase;

(2) A review of current taxes associated with the purchase, ownership, and operation of electric vehicles;

(3) An analysis of the most equitable way to tax electric vehicles in order to match the revenue generated by vehicles that use conventional fuels;

(4) A review of how revenue generated by vehicles that use conventional fuels is distributed and used;

(5) An examination of the potential impact of increased electric vehicle usage and improved fuel efficiency in conventional fuel vehicles on revenue generated;

(6) An examination of the potential impacts of adjusting the base, rate, administration, and disposition of the current taxation and regulatory systems of motor vehicles; and

(7) A review of the potential need for legislative action to further regulate or tax electric vehicles to maintain or replace the revenue currently generated by vehicles that use conventional fuels.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 235. Introduced by Friesen, 34; Albrecht, 17; Bostelman, 23; DeBoer, 10; Geist, 25; Hughes, 44.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review the occupational regulations for motor vehicle dealers. Such a review is required by section 84-948 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. This study shall fulfill the requirements of the Occupational Board Reform Act. The study shall include an examination of the guidelines issued by the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board to determine qualifications for motor vehicle dealers pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 236. Introduced by Friesen, 34; Albrecht, 17; Bostelman, 23; DeBoer, 10; Geist, 25; Hughes, 44; Moser, 22.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to review issues relating to the Nebraska Expressway System, including different methods of financing construction of such expressway and other highway construction projects. The issues addressed by this study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An analysis of the cost of issuing bonds immediately compared to issuing bonds at various dates into the future. Such analysis shall take into account factors including, but not limited to:

(a) Projected fluctuations in interest rates;
(b) Interest rates available to the state, counties, municipalities, and private parties; and

(c) Projected cost and availability of equipment, labor, and materials;
(2) An analysis of the projected reduction in accidents and fatalities associated with a completed expressway system; and

(3) An analysis of the projected value of economic development associated with a completed expressway system.

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

1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 237. Introduced by Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine the existing statutes authorizing and framework for directed health measures and examine whether changes are necessary.

The study may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) A review of existing state law and guidance regarding directed health measures and other pandemic planning documents;
- (2) An examination of the role of local public health departments, municipalities, counties, and the state when directed health measures are necessary;
- (3) Whether existing state statutes on directed health measures and public health responses need to be updated.

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

- 1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
- 2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 239. Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Arch, 14, Chairperson; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36; Geist, 25; Bostar, 29; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Hansen, M., 26; Clements, 2.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the effectiveness of medicaid waivers in Nebraska overseen and implemented by the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Health and Human Services, including, but not limited to, the aged and disabled waiver, the comprehensive developmental disabilities waiver, the developmental disabilities adult day waiver, and the traumatic brain injury waiver.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Whether the waivers currently administered by the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Health and Human Services meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities;
- (2) The need for services not currently covered by medicaid and home and community-based services waivers;

(3) Other waivers or alternative service delivery methods, which could provide a long-term cost savings to Nebraska by providing appropriate services to the appropriate population at the appropriate time;

(4) Strategies for (a) reducing the number of persons who are waiting to be provided services and (b) preventing an extensive addition to the current list of individuals waiting to be provided services;

(5) Identifying the number of individuals who are receiving services under a waiver;

(6) Identifying the number of individuals who are waiting to receive services under a waiver, including, but not limited to:

(a) An analysis of individual factors, including, but not limited to, age, gender, developmental disabilities, personal income, parental income, ethnicity, service needs, and availability and location of the nearest provider of such service needs; and

(b) The length of time individuals have to wait for services;

(7) The capacity of providers to provide waiver services; and

(8) Provider rates for such services.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 246. Introduced by Natural Resources Committee: Bostelman, 23, Chairperson; Aguilar, 35; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Gragert, 40; Groene, 42; Hughes, 44; Moser, 22; Wayne, 13.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim.

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

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 261. Introduced by Revenue Committee: Linehan, 39, Chairperson; Albrecht, 17; Bostar, 29; Briese, 41; Flood, 19; Friesen, 34; Lindstrom, 18; Pahls, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the structure and administration of and compliance with:

- (1) Individual and corporate income taxes;
- (2) Financial institution and insurance premiums taxes;
- (3) State and local sales and use taxes;
- (4) Real and personal property taxes; and
- (5) Any other taxes.

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

1. That the Revenue Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 406. Introduced by McDonnell, 5; Gragert, 40; Flood, 19; Lindstrom, 18; Sanders, 45.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to natural resources; to amend section 61-224, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force; to provide for a fund transfer; to change provisions relating to use of the Critical Infrastructure Facilities Cash Fund; to eliminate obsolete provisions; and to repeal the original section.

**SUBJECT INDEX
RESOLUTIONS
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
2021**

1

LR

INTERIM STUDIES

Agricultural school or educational center in Nebraska: examine feasibility of creating (Brandt).....	185
Assisted-living provider rates: examine adequacy of current aged and disabled medicaid waiver assisted-living provider rates (Stinner).....	145
Autism spectrum disorder: examine the potential for statewide screening (Day).....	149
Autonomous vehicles in Nebraska: examine issues relating to operation (McDonnell).....	155
Blighted areas and extremely blighted areas: examine issues relating to designation under the Community Development Law (Wayne).....	126
Blockchain technology in agricultural operations: examine the potential applications (Blood).....	196
Body-worn cameras worn by law enforcement agents: examine Nebraska law (Cavanaugh, J.).....	183
Boxing: examine the State Athletic Commissioner and review occupational licenses and regulations for professional boxers and professional boxing promoters (Briese).....	177
Broadband mapping and broadband speed testing in Nebraska: examine (DeBoer).....	193
Central Nebraska Veterans' Home: assess the operations and practices (Aguilar).....	137
Child welfare system and custody decisions made in civil cases: examine possible solutions to address conflicts (Day).....	167
Cities of the metropolitan class: examine governing statutes (Urban Affairs Committee: Wayne).....	122
Coding curriculum for students in Nebraska: examine (Flood).....	204
Colorectal cancer: examine barriers related to early detection of colorectal cancer in Nebraska (Pahls).....	104
Commercial property assessed clean energy financing in Nebraska: examine (Morfeld).....	208
Conservation programs: examine issues related to adopting reward-based conservation programs (Cavanaugh, J.).....	188
Construction codes: examine issues related to adopting codes (Lowe).....	211
Correctional Services, Dept. of: review staffing (Wishart).....	129
County assessors: examine the assessment procedures of county assessors for each class of property and whether the assessment process would benefit from other parties assessing certain classes of property (Friesen).....	232

County fees and fines set by statute and the cost for administering the associated services: examine (Hansen, M.).....	215
Court fees as a funding source for the court system and the judicial branch: examine (Hansen, M.).....	76
COVID-19 pandemic: examine federal legislation intended to provide assistance (Health and Human Services Committee: Arch).....	202
COVID-19 pandemic: examine the financial health of individuals in Nebraska's workforce over one year into the COVID-19 pandemic (Hansen, M.).....	139
COVID-19: evaluate the impact on Nebraska's workforce (McDonnell).....	154
Dental benefits under the medical assistance program: examine ways of improving (Wishart).....	165
Directed health measures: examine existing statutes (Vargas).....	237
Domestic and sexual violence in Nebraska: examine methods of ending violence (DeBoer).....	194
Education support professionals in Nebraska: examine duties (Day).....	148
Educational environment in Nebraska: examine (Albrecht).....	228
Electric vehicles: examine issues related to regulation and taxation (Friesen).....	234
Electrical power outages: examine and evaluate the causes, costs, and impacts of rolling electrical power outages during the extreme weather events of February 2021 (Brewer).....	136
Emerald ash borer: examine how to slow or stop the spread (Wishart).....	223
Enhanced employment areas: examine issues relating to designation under the Community Development Law (Wayne).....	125
Enrollment options available to students: examine (Walz).....	182
Environmental Trust, Nebr.: examine the structure and funding (Slama).....	34
Extremely blighted areas: examine issues relating to designation under the Community Development Law (Wayne).....	124
Fair Employment Practice Act, Nebr.: review (Day).....	166
Family service providers: examine the contract process and rates paid to family service providers in the Northern, Southeast, Central, and Western Service Areas of Nebraska (Wishart).....	184
Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: examine funding mechanisms (Cavanaugh, M.).....	179
Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: solicit input from Nebraskans regarding funds (Wishart).....	178
Foster care system: examine Nebraska's practices relating to social security benefits owed to certain children in the foster care system (Hunt).....	198
General Affairs Committee: examine issues within the jurisdiction of the committee (Briese).....	174
Grand jury laws: determine whether further revision to the laws are necessary (Hansen, M.).....	97

Gubernatorial appointment process of members to boards, commissions, and similar entities: examine (Hansen, M.).....	83
Hair discrimination: examine the impact of natural hair discrimination in Nebraska educational settings (McKinney).....	161
Health and Human Services Committee: examine issues within the jurisdiction of the committee (Health and Human Services Committee: Arch).....	201
Health Care Cash Fund, Nebr.: examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of the fund (Health and Human Services Committee: Arch).....	200
Health care workforce shortage in Nebraska: examine (McDonnell).....	212
Home visitation for families in Nebraska: examine (Walz).....	181
Horseracing and the State Racing Commission: examine statutes (Briese).....	176
Housing: examine the lack of affordable housing in Nebraska (Hansen, M.).....	131
Human immunodeficiency virus: examine methods for preventing the spread (Morfeld).....	207
Incarcerated persons who have property lost, stolen, or damaged during their confinement: examine available remedies (Lathrop).....	138
Innovation hubs: examine potential impact in Nebraska (McKinney).....	170
Judiciary Committee: examine issues within the jurisdiction of the committee (Lathrop).....	231
Keno: examine and review the game (Briese).....	175
Labor, Dept. of: examine the accuracy of payments by the department to recipients of state and federal benefit programs (Blood).....	158
Law Enforcement Training Center, Nebr.: examine the organizational structure and funding (Blood).....	173
Law enforcement: examine Nebraska law relating to body-worn cameras worn by law enforcement agents (Cavanaugh, J.).....	183
Learning communities and learning community coordinating councils: examine (Linehan).....	227
Legislative staff: examine issues related to pay and benefits (DeBoer).....	218
Liquor laws in Nebraska: examine (Cavanaugh, J.).....	187
Liquor laws in Nebraska: examine and review (Lowe).....	115
Maternal and infant mortality and morbidity: examine (Vargas).....	221
Maternal depression: determine whether legislation should be enacted to provide for additional supports and further address the issue (Cavanaugh, M.).....	142
Medicaid expansion and behavioral health: examine (Flood).....	203
Medicaid waivers in Nebraska overseen by the Dept. of Health and Human Services: examine effectiveness (Health and Human Services Committee: Arch).....	239
Mental and behavioral health needs of Nebraska students and the role of school psychologists: examine (Day).....	213

Mental and behavioral health: examine the mental and behavioral health needs of Nebraskans, assess the shortages of providers, and determine what is need to ensure an adequate behavioral health service delivery system (Stinner).....	143
Mental health and addiction issues within the Nebraska criminal justice system: examine (Pansing Brooks).....	156
Motor vehicle dealers: review occupational regulations (Friesen).....	235
Motor vehicle taxation: identify a more equitable scale (Hilkemann).....	127
Movie theaters: examine nonprofit movie theaters and tax-exempt status (Brandt).....	186
Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act: receive reports and public input under the act (Wayne).....	69
Natural Resources Committee: examine issues within the jurisdiction of the committee (Natural Resources Committee: Bostelman).....	246
Natural resources districts: examine the progress of natural resources districts in fulfilling their originally intended purpose (Erdman).....	23
Nebraska Expressway System: examine issues (Friesen).....	236
Nonprofit organizations and philanthropy in densely populated areas of high poverty: examine the negative impacts of an oversaturation of organizations (McKinney).....	172
Occupational licenses: examine the effect of universal recognition of occupational licenses on populations frequently negatively impacted by occupational licensing in the state (McCollister).....	191
Pesticide-treated seed or grain: evaluate the need for laws that would allow the Dept. of Environment and Energy to respond to emergency situations (Bostelman).....	152
Pharmacy benefit managers: examine whether legislation should be enacted to provide for comprehensive regulation (Williams).....	101
Polygraph and deception examiners: review occupation regulation pursuant to the Occupational Board Reform Act (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee: Brewer).....	225
Postacute placement challenges in Nebraska's health care system: examine (Stinner).....	163
Poverty and incarceration: examine the connections that exist and the appropriations necessary to reduce both (McKinney).....	210
Precision farming: review issues relating to the collection of agricultural data (Friesen).....	233
Problem solving courts: examine (Wishart).....	164
Property taxation: examine a potential constitutional amendment to limit property taxation to residential property only (Murman).....	230
Public Accountancy Act: review the credentialing requirements in the act in furtherance of the purposes of the Occupational Board Reform Act (Williams).....	116
Public employees' retirement systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board: examine (Kolterman).....	105

Public health crisis zones: examine appropriations necessary for creating (McDonnell).....	209
Radon measurement specialists and radon mitigation specialists: review occupational regulations (Urban Affairs Committee: Wayne).....	123
Real Property Appraiser Act: determine whether the act should be updated (Williams).....	100
Residential eviction: examine the use of mediation as a supplement or alternative to eviction (DeBoer).....	205
Retirement: monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions as required by 13-2402 (Kolterman).....	106
Rural economic development program: examine creation of projects and encourage location in rural parts of Nebraska (Slama).....	199
School Finance Study Committee: interim study to create a select interim committee of the Legislature (DeBoer).....	141
School Readiness Tax Credit Act: examine (Stinner).....	162
Schools: examine the identification of at-risk and economically disadvantaged students as a qualification factor for state-funded, education-related programs (Walz).....	180
Sex offender registration in Nebraska: examine (McCollister).....	189
Social security benefits owed to certain children in the foster care system: examine Nebraska's practices (Hunt).....	198
Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases: examine whether the compact should be adopted (Murman).....	151
State agencies: examine ways the Legislature provides oversight to hold agencies accountable in the implementation of laws (Cavanaugh, M.).....	226
State Racing Commission and horseracing: examine statutes (Briese).....	176
State regulated health plans, state employee health plans, and copay accumulator adjustment programs: examine (Morfeld).....	214
State-owned property to local political subdivisions: examine regulations and policies regarding the sale or transfer (Cavanaugh, J.).....	147
Stem cell injections: investigate the advertisement and use of unproven stem cell injections as a therapy for health disorders (Lathrop).....	110
Surface water irrigation projects and infrastructure: examine (Bostelman).....	117
Taxes: examine the structure, administration, and compliance (Revenue Committee: Linehan).....	261
Teachers: examine how Nebraska schools can recruit teachers and administrators who accurately reflect the proportion of students of color attending Nebraska schools (Pansing Brooks).....	157
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Nebraska: examine the work participation requirements in the federal program (McCollister).....	190

Truth and deception examiners: review occupation regulation pursuant to the Occupational Board Reform Act (Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee: Brewer)..... 225

Unemployment insurance system in Nebraska: examine (Hansen, M.)..... 140

Voting rights for felony offenders: examine the rights, roles, and responsibilities of Nebraska county election officials, state election officials, and relevant court and corrections personnel in carrying out state law regarding voting rights (McKinney)..... 171

Water augmentation: review methods and develop statutory definitions (Groene)..... 192

Workers' compensation: examine (Morfeld)..... 206