

AMENDMENTS TO LB1417

Introduced by Government, Military and Veterans Affairs.

1           1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3           Section 1. Section 2-1803, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
4 amended to read:

5           2-1803   (1) With the exception of the ex officio member, the  
6 Governor shall appoint an advisory committee to be known as the Nebraska  
7 Potato Development Committee. The committee shall be composed of three  
8 shippers and four growers from the industry and the vice chancellor of  
9 the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
10 who shall be an ex officio member. The Director of Agriculture shall be  
11 the chairperson. The committee shall adopt and provide rules and  
12 regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the Division of Potato  
13 Development and advise the director regarding the appointment of the  
14 division head and any assistants as may be appointed. The members of the  
15 committee shall serve without pay but shall receive expenses incurred  
16 while on official business as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. As  
17 the terms of office of such appointees expire, successors shall be  
18 appointed by the Governor for a period of two years and until their  
19 successors are appointed and qualified.

20           (2) The Nebraska Potato Development Committee terminates on July 1,  
21 2025. Sections 2-1801 to 2-1811 terminate on July 1, 2025.

22           Sec. 2. Section 2-4901, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
23 amended to read:

24           2-4901 (1) The Climate Assessment Response Committee is hereby  
25 created. The office of the Governor shall be the lead agency and shall  
26 oversee the committee and its activities. The committee shall be composed  
27 of representatives appointed by the Governor with the approval of a

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

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

24 (3) The chairperson may establish subcommittees and may invite  
25 representatives of agencies other than those with members on the  
26 committee to serve on such subcommittees.

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

31 (5) The Climate Assessment Response Committee terminates on July 1,

1 2025. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

2 Sec. 3. Section 2-5003, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
3 amended to read:

4 2-5003 (1) There is hereby created the Nebraska Aquaculture Board.  
5 The board shall consist of (a) ~~(1)~~ one employee of the commission who is  
6 familiar with aquatic disease, appointed by the secretary of the  
7 commission, (b) ~~(2)~~ one employee of the department appointed by the  
8 director, (c) ~~(3)~~ three aquaculturists, appointed by the Governor, and  
9 (d) ~~(4)~~ a representative of an industry or product which is related to or  
10 used in aquaculture, appointed by the Governor. The board shall elect  
11 from its members a chairperson. The terms of the members of the board  
12 shall be three years, except that the terms of the initial aquaculturist  
13 members of the board appointed by the Governor shall be staggered so that  
14 one member is appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two  
15 years, and one for a term of three years, as determined by the Governor.  
16 Members appointed under subdivisions (c) ~~(3)~~ and (d) ~~(4)~~ of this  
17 subsection ~~section~~ shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in  
18 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

19 (2) The Nebraska Aquaculture Board terminates on July 1, 2025.

20 Sec. 4. Section 20-506, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
21 amended to read:

22 20-506 (1) The Racial Profiling Advisory Committee is created. The  
23 committee shall terminate on July 1, 2025.

24 (2)(a) The committee shall consist of:

25 (i) The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law  
26 Enforcement and Criminal Justice, who also shall be the chairperson of  
27 the committee;

28 (ii) The Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his  
29 or her designee;

30 (iii) The director of the Commission on Latino-Americans or his or  
31 her designee; and

1 (iv) The executive director of the Commission on Indian Affairs or  
2 his or her designee.

3 (b) The committee shall also consist of the following persons, each  
4 appointed by the Governor from a list of five names submitted to the  
5 Governor for each position:

6 (i) A representative of the Fraternal Order of Police;

7 (ii) A representative of the Nebraska County Sheriffs Association;

8 (iii) A representative of the Police Officers Association of  
9 Nebraska;

10 (iv) A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of  
11 Nebraska;

12 (v) A representative of the AFL-CIO;

13 (vi) A representative of the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska;

14 (vii) A representative of the Nebraska branches of the National  
15 Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

16 (viii) A representative of the Nebraska State Bar Association  
17 appointed by the Governor from a list of attorneys submitted by the  
18 executive council of the Nebraska State Bar Association.

19 (3) The committee shall meet and organize within thirty days after  
20 the appointment of the members. The committee shall meet semiannually at  
21 a time and place to be fixed by the committee. Special meetings may be  
22 called by the chairperson or at the request of two or more members of the  
23 committee.

24 (4) Until July 1, 2025, the The committee shall advise the  
25 commission and its executive director in the conduct of their duties  
26 regarding (a) the completeness and acceptability of written racial  
27 profiling prevention policies submitted by individual law enforcement  
28 agencies as required by subsection (1) of section 20-504, (b) the  
29 collection of data by law enforcement agencies, any needed additional  
30 data, and any needed additional analysis, investigation, or inquiry as to  
31 the data provided pursuant to subsection (3) of section 20-504, (c) the

1 review, analysis, inquiry, study, and recommendations required pursuant  
2 to subsection (7) of section 20-504, including an analysis of the review,  
3 analysis, inquiry, study, and recommendations, and (d) policy  
4 recommendations with respect to the prevention of racial profiling and  
5 the need, if any, for enforcement by the Department of Justice of the  
6 prohibitions found in section 20-502.

7 (5) Beginning July 1, 2025, the Nebraska Commission on Law  
8 Enforcement and Criminal Justice shall carry out the duties of the  
9 advisory committee.

10 Sec. 5. Section 28-712, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
11 2022, is amended to read:

12 28-712 (1) Upon receipt of a report pursuant to section 28-711, the  
13 department shall determine whether to (a) accept the report for  
14 traditional response and an investigation pursuant to section 28-713, (b)  
15 accept the report for alternative response pursuant to section 28-712.01,  
16 (c) accept the report for screening by the Review, Evaluate, and Decide  
17 Team to determine eligibility for alternative response, or (d) classify  
18 the report as requiring no further action by the department.

19 (2)(a) Until July 1, 2025, the ~~The~~ Nebraska Children's Commission  
20 shall appoint an advisory committee to carry out this section. The  
21 advisory committee shall, until July 1, 2025, and beginning July 1, 2025,  
22 the Nebraska Children's Commission shall examine the department's  
23 alternative response to reports of child abuse or neglect and to make  
24 recommendations to the Legislature, the department, and the commission  
25 regarding (i) the receipt and screening of reports of child abuse or  
26 neglect by the department, (ii) the ongoing use of alternative response,  
27 (iii) the ongoing use of traditional response, and (iv) the provision of  
28 services within alternative response and non-court-involved cases to  
29 ensure child safety, to reduce the risk of child abuse or neglect, and to  
30 engage families. The advisory committee may request, receive, and review  
31 data from the department regarding such processes.

1 (b) The members of the advisory committee shall include, but not be  
2 limited to, a representative of (i) the department, (ii) law enforcement  
3 agencies, (iii) county attorneys or other prosecutors, (iv) the state  
4 chapter of child advocacy centers as defined in 34 U.S.C. 20302, (v)  
5 attorneys for parents, (vi) guardians ad litem, (vii) a child welfare  
6 advocacy organization, (viii) families with experience in the child  
7 welfare system, (ix) family caregivers, (x) the Foster Care Review  
8 Office, and (xi) the office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child  
9 Welfare. Members of the advisory committee shall be appointed for terms  
10 of two years. The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint the  
11 chairperson of the advisory committee and may fill vacancies on the  
12 advisory committee as they occur.

13 (3) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations  
14 to carry out this section and sections 28-710.01, 28-712.01, and 28-713.  
15 Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to,  
16 provisions on (a) the transfer of cases from alternative response to  
17 traditional response, (b) notice to families subject to a comprehensive  
18 assessment and served through alternative response of the alternative  
19 response process and their rights, including the opportunity to challenge  
20 agency determinations, (c) the provision of services through alternative  
21 response, and (d) the collection, sharing, and reporting of data.

22 Sec. 6. Section 38-167, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is  
23 amended to read:

24 38-167 (1) Boards shall be designated as follows:

25 (a) Until July 1, 2025, Board of Advanced Practice Registered  
26 Nurses;

27 (b) Until July 1, 2025, Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling;

28 (c) Board of Athletic Training;

29 (d) Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology;

30 (e) Board of Behavior Analysts;

31 (f) Board of Chiropractic;

- 1 (g) Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology,  
2 and Body Art;  
3 (h) Board of Dentistry;  
4 (i) Board of Emergency Medical Services;  
5 (j) Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists;  
6 (k) Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming;  
7 (l) Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists;  
8 (m) Board of Massage Therapy;  
9 (n) Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy;  
10 (o) Board of Medical Radiography;  
11 (p) Board of Medicine and Surgery;  
12 (q) Board of Mental Health Practice;  
13 (r) Board of Nursing;  
14 (s) Board of Nursing Home Administration;  
15 (t) Board of Occupational Therapy Practice;  
16 (u) Board of Optometry;  
17 (v) Board of Pharmacy;  
18 (w) Board of Physical Therapy;  
19 (x) Board of Podiatry;  
20 (y) Board of Psychology;  
21 (z) Board of Respiratory Care Practice; and  
22 (aa) Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

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

28 Sec. 7. Section 38-204, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
29 amended to read:

30 38-204 Until July 1, 2025, board Board means the Board of Advanced  
31 Practice Registered Nurses. On and after July 1, 2025, board means the

1 Board of Nursing.

2 Sec. 8. Section 38-308, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
3 amended to read:

4 38-308 Until July 1, 2025, board Board means the Board of Alcohol  
5 and Drug Counseling. On and after July 1, 2025, board means the Board of  
6 Mental Health Practice.

7 Sec. 9. Section 39-2106, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
8 2022, is amended to read:

9 39-2106 (1) There To assist in developing the functional  
10 classification system, there is hereby established the Board of Public  
11 Roads Classifications and Standards which shall consist of eleven members  
12 to be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature. The  
13 board shall assist in developing the functional classification system.  
14 Beginning on July 1, 2025, the board shall be solely responsible for  
15 overseeing the County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act.

16 (2) Of the members of such board:

17 (a) Two shall be representatives of the Department of  
18 Transportation;

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

23 (c) Three shall be representatives of the municipalities. Until July  
24 1, 2025, each Each of such members shall be a city engineer, village  
25 engineer, public works director, city manager, city administrator, street  
26 commissioner, or city street superintendent licensed pursuant to the  
27 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act. Beginning July 1,  
28 2025, one of such members shall be a city street superintendent licensed  
29 pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act, and  
30 the remaining representatives of municipalities shall be a city engineer,  
31 village engineer, public works director, city manager, city



1 administrator, street commissioner, or city street superintendent  
2 licensed pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents  
3 Act; and

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

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

9 (a) One shall be a representative from either a Class 1 or Class 2  
10 county;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay  
2 citizens shall be appointed for terms of four years. One representative  
3 from the department shall be appointed for a two-year term and the other  
4 representative shall be appointed for a four-year term. Thereafter, all  
5 such appointments shall be for terms of four years each.

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

12 Sec. 10. Section 39-2301.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
13 2022, is amended to read:

14 39-2301.01 For purposes of the County Highway and City Street  
15 Superintendents Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

16 (1) Board of examiners means:

17 (a) Prior to July 1, 2025, the Board of Examiners for County Highway  
18 and City Street Superintendents; and

19 (b) Beginning July 1, 2025, the Board of Public Roads  
20 Classifications and Standards;

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

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

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

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

29 (b) Developing annual programs for design, construction, and  
30 maintenance;

31 (c) Developing annual budgets based on programmed projects and

1 activities;

2 (d) Implementing the capital improvements and maintenance activities  
3 provided in the approved plans, programs, and budgets; and

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

6 Sec. 11. Section 39-2304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
7 2022, is amended to read:

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

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

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

19 (c) Of the municipal representatives:

20 (i) No more than one shall be appointed from each congressional  
21 district;

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

24 (iii) One shall be a representative of a city of the second class;  
25 and

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

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

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

1 Officials; and

2 (b) A list of city street superintendents, city managers, city  
3 administrators, street commissioners, city engineers, village engineers,  
4 and public works directors submitted by the League of Nebraska  
5 Municipalities.

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

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

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

25 (7) The Board of Examiners for County Highway and City Street  
26 Superintendents terminates on July 1, 2025. This section terminates on  
27 July 1, 2025.

28 Sec. 12. Section 43-1903, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
29 2022, is amended to read:

30 43-1903 (1) ~~Until July 1, 2025, There is hereby created within the~~  
31 ~~department~~ the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board is created

1 within the department which shall be composed of nine members as follows:

2 Two representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services  
3 appointed by the chief executive officer and seven members to be  
4 appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature. The  
5 Governor shall appoint two members from each of the three congressional  
6 districts and one member from the state at large. As a group, the  
7 appointed board members (a) shall demonstrate knowledge in the area of  
8 child abuse and neglect prevention, (b) shall be representative of the  
9 demographic composition of this state, and (c) to the extent practicable,  
10 shall be representative of all of the following categories (i) the  
11 business community, (ii) the religious community, (iii) the legal  
12 community, (iv) professional providers of child abuse and neglect  
13 prevention services, and (v) volunteers in child abuse and neglect  
14 prevention services.

15 (2) The term of each appointed board member shall be three years,  
16 except that of the board members first appointed, two, including the at-  
17 large member, shall serve for three years, three shall serve for two  
18 years, and two shall serve for one year. The Governor shall designate the  
19 term which each of the members first appointed shall serve when he or she  
20 makes the appointments. An appointed board member shall not serve more  
21 than two consecutive terms whether partial or full. A vacancy shall be  
22 filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the  
23 original appointment.

24 (3) The board shall elect a chairperson from among the appointed  
25 board members who shall serve for a term of two years. The board may  
26 elect the other officers and establish committees as it deems  
27 appropriate.

28 (4) The members of the board shall not receive any compensation for  
29 their services but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the  
30 performance of their duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.  
31 The reimbursement shall be paid from the fund. In any one fiscal year, no

1 more than five percent of the annually available funds as provided in  
2 section 43-1906 shall be used for the purpose of reimbursement of board  
3 members.

4 (5) Any board member may be removed by the Governor for misconduct,  
5 incompetency, or neglect of duty after first being given the opportunity  
6 to be heard in his or her own behalf.

7 (6) Beginning July 1, 2025, the board is terminated and the  
8 department shall take over the duties of the board regarding awarding  
9 grants.

10 Sec. 13. Section 43-3401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
11 2022, is amended to read:

12 43-3401 (1) The Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council is  
13 created. The council shall advise and assist the collaborating agencies  
14 in carrying out the provisions of the Early Intervention Act, the Quality  
15 Child Care Act, sections 79-1101 to 79-1104, and other early childhood  
16 care and education initiatives under state supervision. Membership and  
17 activities of the council shall comply with all applicable provisions of  
18 federal law. Beginning July 1, 2025, there shall be eleven members of the  
19 council. Members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor and  
20 shall include, but not be limited to:

21 (a) (1) Parents of children who require early intervention services,  
22 early childhood special education, or ~~and~~ other early childhood care and  
23 education services; and

24 (b) (2) Representatives of school districts, social services, health  
25 and medical services, family child care or ~~and~~ center-based early  
26 childhood care and education programs, ~~agencies providing training to~~  
27 ~~staff of child care programs, resource and referral agencies, mental~~  
28 ~~health services, developmental disabilities services, educational service~~  
29 ~~units, Head Start, higher education, physicians, the Legislature,~~  
30 ~~business persons, and the collaborating agencies.~~

31 (2) Terms of the members shall be for three years, and a member

1 shall not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members shall  
2 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177,  
3 including child care expenses, with funds provided for such purposes  
4 through the Early Intervention Act, the Quality Child Care Act, and  
5 sections 79-1101 to 79-1104.

6 (3) Members of the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council serving  
7 on July 13, 2000, shall constitute the Early Childhood Interagency  
8 Coordinating Council and shall serve for the remainder of their terms.  
9 The Governor shall make additional appointments as required by this  
10 section and to fill vacancies as needed. The Governor shall set the  
11 initial terms of additional appointees to result in staggered terms for  
12 members of the council. The Department of Health and Human Services and  
13 the State Department of Education shall provide and coordinate staff  
14 assistance to the council.

15 Sec. 14. Section 43-4001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
16 2022, is amended to read:

17 43-4001 (1) The Children's Behavioral Health Task Force is created.  
18 The task force shall consist of the following members:

19 (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of  
20 the Legislature or another member of the committee as his or her  
21 designee;

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

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

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

30 (e) Two representatives of organizations advocating on behalf of  
31 consumers of children's behavioral health services and their families,

1 appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee  
2 of the Legislature;

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

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

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

9 (3) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of  
10 the Legislature or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of the  
11 task force. Administrative and staff support for the task force shall be  
12 provided by the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature  
13 and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature.

14 (4) Effective July 1, 2025, the Children's Behavioral Health Task  
15 Force is terminated. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

16 Sec. 15. Section 43-4203, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
17 2022, is amended to read:

18 43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a  
19 committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile  
20 Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration. Such  
21 committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home  
22 placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth  
23 rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the  
24 commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what  
25 populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment  
26 services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately  
27 serve those populations. Such committee shall also review how mental and  
28 behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential  
29 placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make  
30 recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in  
31 the juvenile justice system. The committee shall collaborate with the



1 Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the  
2 Center for Health Policy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center,  
3 the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state  
4 and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations. The  
5 recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in  
6 the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families,  
7 including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment  
8 model. The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and  
9 electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by  
10 September 1.

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

16 (3) The commission shall analyze case management workforce issues  
17 and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of  
18 the Legislature regarding:

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

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

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

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

27 (4) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee created pursuant to  
28 section 43-4216, the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act Committee  
29 created pursuant to section 43-4716, and the Bridge to Independence  
30 Advisory Committee created pursuant to section 43-4513 shall be under the  
31 jurisdiction of the commission. The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate

1 Committee and the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee terminate  
2 July 1, 2025, and the commission shall take over their duties.

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

6 (6) The commission shall work with administrators from each of the  
7 service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116, the teams created  
8 pursuant to section 28-728, local foster care review boards, child  
9 advocacy centers, the teams created pursuant to the Supreme Court's  
10 Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, community stakeholders, and  
11 advocates for child welfare programs and services to establish networks  
12 in each of such service areas. Such networks shall permit collaboration  
13 to strengthen the continuum of services available to child welfare  
14 agencies and to provide resources for children and juveniles outside the  
15 child protection system.

16 (7) Beginning on July 1, 2025, the commission shall examine the  
17 alternative response to reports of child abuse or neglect pursuant to  
18 section 28-712.

19 (8) ~~(7)~~ The commission may organize subcommittees as it deems  
20 necessary. Members of the subcommittees may be members of the commission  
21 or may be individuals who have knowledge of the subcommittee's subject  
22 matter, professional expertise to assist the subcommittee in completing  
23 its assigned responsibilities, or the ability to collaborate within the  
24 subcommittee and with the commission to carry out the powers and duties  
25 of the commission. A subcommittee shall meet as necessary to complete the  
26 work delegated by the commission and shall report its findings to the  
27 relevant committee within the commission.

28 (9) ~~(8)~~ No member of any committee or subcommittee created pursuant  
29 to this section shall have any private financial interest, profit, or  
30 benefit from any work of such committee or subcommittee.

31 Sec. 16. Section 43-4216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2022, is amended to read:

2 43-4216 (1) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee is created.  
3 The committee shall be convened at least once every four years. Beginning  
4 on July 1, 2025, the committee is terminated. This section terminates on  
5 July 1, 2025.

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

8 (a) The following voting members: (i) Representatives from a child  
9 welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents, from each of  
10 the service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116; (ii) a  
11 representative from an advocacy organization which deals with legal and  
12 policy issues that include child welfare; (iii) a representative from an  
13 advocacy organization, the singular focus of which is issues impacting  
14 children; (iv) a representative from a foster and adoptive parent  
15 association; (v) a representative from a lead agency; (vi) a  
16 representative from a child advocacy organization that supports young  
17 adults who were in foster care as children; (vii) a foster parent who  
18 contracts directly with the Department of Health and Human Services; and  
19 (viii) a foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency; and

20 (b) The following nonvoting, ex officio members: (i) The chief  
21 executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his  
22 or her designee and (ii) representatives from the Division of Children  
23 and Family Services of the department from each service area designated  
24 pursuant to section 81-3116, including at least one division employee  
25 with a thorough understanding of the current foster care payment system  
26 and at least one division employee with a thorough understanding of the  
27 N-FOCUS electronic data collection system. The nonvoting, ex officio  
28 members of the committee may attend committee meetings and participate in  
29 discussions of the committee and shall gather and provide information to  
30 the committee on the policies, programs, and processes of each of their  
31 respective bodies. The nonvoting, ex officio members shall not vote on

1 decisions or recommendations by the committee.

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

7 Sec. 17. Section 43-4406, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
8 2022, is amended to read:

9 43-4406 On or before each September 15, the department shall report  
10 electronically to the Health and Human Services Committee of the  
11 Legislature the following information regarding child welfare services,  
12 with respect to children served by the department:

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

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

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

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

22 (3) The number of waivers granted under subsection (2) of section  
23 71-1904;

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

27 ~~(a) The number of children receiving mental health and substance~~  
28 ~~abuse services annually by the Division of Behavioral Health of the~~  
29 ~~department;~~

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

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

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

5           ~~(e) Expenditures in the immediately preceding fiscal year by the~~  
6 ~~division, categorized by category of behavioral health service and by~~  
7 ~~behavioral health region; and~~

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

12           ~~(4) (5)~~ The following information as obtained for each service area:

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

15           (b) Average caseload per case manager;

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

18           (d) Average number of case managers per child for children who have  
19 been in the child welfare system for three months, for six months, for  
20 twelve months, and for eighteen months and the consecutive yearly average  
21 for children until the age of majority or permanency is attained;

22           (e) Monthly case manager turnover;

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

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

27           (h) Case documentation of monthly consecutive team meetings per  
28 quarter;

29           (i) Case documentation of monthly consecutive parent contacts per  
30 quarter;

31           (j) Case documentation of monthly consecutive child contacts with

1 case manager per quarter;

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

4 (l) Timeliness of court reports; and

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

8 ~~(5)~~ ~~(6)~~ All placements in residential treatment settings made or  
9 paid for by the child welfare system, the Office of Juvenile Services,  
10 the State Department of Education or local education agencies, and the  
11 medical assistance program, including, but not limited to:

12 (a) Child variables;

13 (b) Reasons for placement;

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

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

17 (i) If there was a denial of initial placement request, the length  
18 and level of each placement subsequent to denial of initial placement  
19 request and the status of each child before and immediately after, six  
20 months after, and twelve months after placement;

21 (ii) Funds expended and length of placements;

22 (iii) Number and level of placements;

23 (iv) Facility variables; and

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

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

29 ~~(6)~~ ~~(7)~~ For any individual involved in the child welfare system  
30 receiving a service or a placement through the department or its agent  
31 for which referral is necessary, the date when such referral was made by

1 the department or its agent and the date and the method by which the  
2 individual receiving the services was notified of such referral. To the  
3 extent the department becomes aware of the date when the individual  
4 receiving the referral began receiving such services, the department or  
5 its agent shall document such date;

6 (7) ~~(8)~~ The number of sexual abuse allegations that occurred for  
7 children being served by the Division of Children and Family Services of  
8 the Department of Health and Human Services and placed at a residential  
9 child-caring agency and the number of corresponding (a) screening  
10 decision occurrences by category, (b) open investigations by category,  
11 and (c) agency substantiations, court substantiations, and court-pending  
12 status cases; and

13 (8) ~~(9)~~ Information on children who are reported or suspected  
14 victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor, as  
15 defined in section 28-830, including:

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

19 (b) The number of substantiated victims of sex trafficking of a  
20 minor or labor trafficking of a minor, including demographic information  
21 and information on whether the children were already served by the  
22 department;

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

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

30 (e) The number of ongoing cases opened due to allegations of sex  
31 trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor and number of

1 children and families served through these cases.

2 Sec. 18. Section 43-4513, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
3 2022, is amended to read:

4 43-4513 (1) The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee is created  
5 within the Nebraska Children's Commission to advise and make  
6 recommendations to the Legislature and the Nebraska Children's Commission  
7 regarding ongoing implementation of the bridge to independence program,  
8 extended guardianship assistance described in section 43-4511, and  
9 extended adoption assistance described in section 43-4512. The Bridge to  
10 Independence Advisory Committee shall provide a written report regarding  
11 ongoing implementation, including participation in the bridge to  
12 independence program, extended guardianship assistance described in  
13 section 43-4511, and extended adoption assistance described in section  
14 43-4512 and early discharge rates and reasons obtained from the  
15 department, to the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Health and Human  
16 Services Committee of the Legislature, the department, and the Governor  
17 by September 1 of each year. The report to the Health and Human Services  
18 Committee of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

19 (2) The members of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee  
20 shall include, but not be limited to, (a) representatives from all three  
21 branches of government, and the representatives from the legislative and  
22 judicial branches of government shall be nonvoting, ex officio members,  
23 (b) no less than three young adults currently or previously in foster  
24 care, which may be filled on a rotating basis by members of Project  
25 Everlast or a similar youth support or advocacy group, (c) one or more  
26 representatives from a child welfare advocacy organization, (d) one or  
27 more representatives from a child welfare service agency, and (e) one or  
28 more representatives from an agency providing independent living  
29 services.

30 (3) Members of the committee shall be appointed for terms of two  
31 years. The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint the chairperson



1 of the committee and may fill vacancies on the committee as they occur.

2 (4) The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee terminates on July  
3 1, 2025, and the Nebraska Children's Commission shall carry out the  
4 duties under this section.

5 Sec. 19. Section 48-622.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
6 amended to read:

7 48-622.03 (1) There is hereby created the Nebraska Worker Training  
8 Board. The board shall consist of seven members appointed and serving for  
9 terms determined by the Governor as follows:

- 10 (a) A representative of employers in Nebraska;
- 11 (b) A representative of employees in Nebraska;
- 12 (c) A representative of the public;
- 13 (d) The Commissioner of Labor or a designee;
- 14 (e) The Director of Economic Development or a designee;
- 15 (f) The Commissioner of Education or a designee; and
- 16 (g) The chairperson of the governing board of the Nebraska Community  
17 College Association or a designee.

18 (2) The chairperson of the Nebraska Worker Training Board shall be  
19 the representative of the employers in Nebraska.

20 (3) By July 1 of each year, the board shall prepare an annual  
21 program plan for the upcoming fiscal year containing guidelines for the  
22 program financed by the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund. The  
23 guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, guidelines for  
24 certifying training providers, criteria for evaluating requests for the  
25 use of money under section 48-622.02, and guidelines for requiring  
26 employers to provide matching funds. The guidelines shall give priority  
27 to training that contributes to the expansion of the Nebraska workforce  
28 and increasing the pool of highly skilled workers in Nebraska.

29 (4) By December 31 of each year, the Department of Labor shall  
30 provide a report to the Governor covering the activities of the program  
31 financed by the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund for the previous

1 fiscal year. The report shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness  
2 of the program and its administration.

3 (5) The Nebraska Worker Training Board terminates on July 1, 2025.  
4 Beginning on such date, the duties of the board shall be carried out by  
5 the Department of Labor.

6 Sec. 20. Section 66-2001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
7 2022, is amended to read:

8 66-2001 (1) The Natural Gas Fuel Board is hereby established to  
9 advise the Department of Environment and Energy regarding the promotion  
10 of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel in Nebraska. The board shall  
11 provide recommendations relating to:

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

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

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

18 (2) The board shall consist of eight members appointed by the  
19 Governor. The Governor shall make the initial appointments by October 1,  
20 2012. The board shall include:

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

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

24 (c) One member representing the interests of the transportation  
25 industry in the state;

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

28 (e) One member representing natural gas marketers or pipelines in  
29 the state;

30 (f) One member representing automobile dealerships or repair  
31 businesses in the state;

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

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

4 (3) All appointments shall be subject to the approval of a majority  
5 of the members of the Legislature if the Legislature is in session, and  
6 if the Legislature is not in session, any appointment to fill a vacancy  
7 shall be temporary until the next session of the Legislature, at which  
8 time a majority of the members of the Legislature may approve or  
9 disapprove such appointment.

10 (4) Members shall be appointed for terms of four years, except that  
11 of the initial appointees the terms of the members representing a  
12 jurisdictional utility and a metropolitan utilities district shall expire  
13 on September 30, 2015, the terms of the members representing the  
14 transportation industry, the business community, natural gas marketers or  
15 pipelines, and automobile dealerships or repair businesses shall expire  
16 on September 30, 2014, and the terms of the members representing labor  
17 and environmental interests shall expire on September 30, 2013. Members  
18 may be reappointed. A member shall serve until a successor is appointed  
19 and qualified.

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

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

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

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

1           (9) The Natural Gas Fuel Board terminates on July 1, 2025. This  
2 section terminates on July 1, 2025.

3           Sec. 21. Section 71-814, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
4 amended to read:

5           71-814 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services is  
6 created. Members of the committee shall have a demonstrated interest and  
7 commitment and specialized knowledge, experience, or expertise relating  
8 to the provision of mental health services in the State of Nebraska. The  
9 committee shall consist of twenty-three members appointed by the Governor  
10 as follows: (a) One regional governing board member, (b) one regional  
11 administrator, (c) twelve consumers of behavioral health services or  
12 their family members, (d) two providers of behavioral health services,  
13 (e) two representatives from the State Department of Education, including  
14 one representative from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the  
15 State Department of Education, (f) three representatives from the  
16 Department of Health and Human Services representing mental health,  
17 social services, and medicaid, (g) one representative from the Nebraska  
18 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and (h) one  
19 representative from the Housing Office of the Community and Rural  
20 Development Division of the Department of Economic Development.

21           (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)  
22 serve as the state's mental health planning council as required by Public  
23 Law 102-321, (b) conduct regular meetings, (c) provide advice and  
24 assistance to the division relating to the provision of mental health  
25 services and substance use disorder services in the State of Nebraska,  
26 including, but not limited to, the development, implementation,  
27 provision, and funding of organized peer support services, (d) promote  
28 the interests of consumers and their families, including, but not limited  
29 to, their inclusion and involvement in all aspects of services design,  
30 planning, implementation, provision, education, evaluation, and research,  
31 (e) provide reports as requested by the division, and (f) engage in such

1 other activities as directed or authorized by the division.

2 (3) Beginning on July 1, 2025, the duties of the State Advisory  
3 Committee on Substance Abuse Services shall be performed by the State  
4 Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services.

5 Sec. 22. Section 71-815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
6 amended to read:

7 71-815 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services  
8 is created. Members of the committee shall have a demonstrated interest  
9 and commitment and specialized knowledge, experience, or expertise  
10 relating to the provision of substance abuse services in the State of  
11 Nebraska. The committee shall consist of twelve members appointed by the  
12 Governor and shall include at least three consumers of substance abuse  
13 services.

14 (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)  
15 conduct regular meetings, (b) provide advice and assistance to the  
16 division relating to the provision of substance abuse services in the  
17 State of Nebraska, (c) promote the interests of consumers and their  
18 families, (d) provide reports as requested by the division, and (e)  
19 engage in such other activities as directed or authorized by the  
20 division.

21 (3) Beginning on July 1, 2025, the State Advisory Committee on  
22 Substance Abuse Services is terminated. This section terminates on July  
23 1, 2025.

24 Sec. 23. Section 71-2454.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,  
25 is amended to read:

26 71-2454.01 (1) The Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task  
27 Force is created. The task force shall conduct a study to develop  
28 recommendations of which controlled substances shall be reported by a  
29 veterinarian to the prescription drug monitoring program created under  
30 section 71-2454 when dispensing drugs from a veterinarian's office or an  
31 animal shelter. The study shall include appropriate methods and

1 procedures of reporting by the veterinarians with the necessary database  
2 field information. The task force shall utilize nationally available  
3 resources afforded by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards  
4 and the Department of State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs of the  
5 American Veterinary Medical Association in development of the  
6 recommendations.

7 (2) The task force shall consist of at least ten members appointed  
8 by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the  
9 Legislature as follows: One member of the Health and Human Services  
10 Committee; two at-large members of the Legislature; three members  
11 selected from a list of six veterinarians provided by the Board of  
12 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, one of whom is employed by or provides  
13 services at an animal shelter; one pharmacist nominated by the Nebraska  
14 Pharmacists Association or its successor organization; and two members  
15 nominated by the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association or its successor  
16 organization. The task force shall also include a representative of the  
17 prescription drug monitoring program who shall be a nonvoting member and  
18 serve in an advisory capacity only.

19 (3) The members of the task force shall be appointed within one  
20 hundred twenty days after February 25, 2016. The initial meeting of the  
21 task force shall be convened within one hundred eighty days after  
22 February 25, 2016. The task force shall elect a chairperson and may elect  
23 any additional officers from among its members. All task force members  
24 shall serve without compensation.

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

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

30 (6) The Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force  
31 terminates on July 1, 2025. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

1           Sec. 24. Section 71-5311, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3           71-5311 (1) There is hereby established the Advisory Council on  
4 Public Water Supply which shall advise and assist the department in  
5 administering the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act.

6           (2) The council shall be composed of seven members appointed by the  
7 Governor, (a) one of whom shall be a professional engineer, (b) one of  
8 whom shall be a licensed physician, (c) two of whom shall be consumers of  
9 a public water system, (d) two of whom shall be operators of a public  
10 water system who possess a license issued by the department to operate a  
11 public water system. One such operator shall represent a system serving a  
12 population of five thousand or less, and one such operator shall  
13 represent a system serving a population of more than five thousand, and  
14 (e) one of whom shall be, at the time of appointment, (i) an individual  
15 who owns a public water system, (ii) a member of the governing board of a  
16 public or private corporation which owns a public water system, or (iii)  
17 in the case of a political subdivision which owns a public water system,  
18 a member of the subdivision's governing board or board of public works or  
19 similar board which oversees the operation of a public water system.

20           (3) All members shall be appointed for three-year terms. No member  
21 shall serve more than three consecutive three-year terms. Each member  
22 shall hold office until the expiration of his or her term or until a  
23 successor has been appointed. Any vacancy occurring in council  
24 membership, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled within  
25 sixty days by the Governor by appointment from the appropriate category  
26 for the unexpired term.

27           (4) The council shall meet not less than once each year. Special  
28 meetings of the council may be called by the director or upon the written  
29 request of any two members of the council explaining the reason for such  
30 meeting. The place of the meeting shall be set by the director. Such  
31 officers as the council deems necessary shall be elected every three

1 years beginning with the first meeting in the year 1990. A majority of  
2 the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction  
3 of business. Representatives of the department shall attend each meeting.  
4 Every act of the majority of the members of the council shall be deemed  
5 to be the act of the council.

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

11 (6) The Advisory Council on Public Water Supply terminates on July  
12 1, 2025. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

13 Sec. 25. Section 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
14 2022, is amended to read:

15 71-7012 (1)(a) The Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee is  
16 established. The committee consists of the members of the Mammography  
17 Screening Committee serving immediately prior to September 9, 1995, and  
18 eight additional members appointed by the chief executive officer of the  
19 department or his or her designee who have expertise or a personal  
20 interest in cervical cancer. The committee shall consist of not more than  
21 twenty-four volunteer members, at least eight of whom are women,  
22 appointed by the chief executive officer or his or her designee. Members  
23 of the committee shall be persons interested in health care, the  
24 promotion of breast cancer screening, and cervical cancer and shall be  
25 drawn from both the private sector and the public sector. At least one  
26 member shall be a person who has or who has had breast cancer.

27 (b) Of the initial members of the committee, four shall be appointed  
28 for terms of one year and four shall be appointed for terms of two years.  
29 Thereafter all appointments shall be for terms of two years. All members  
30 shall serve until their successors are appointed. No member shall serve  
31 more than two successive two-year terms. Vacancies in the membership of



1 the committee for any cause shall be filled by appointment by the chief  
2 executive officer or his or her designee for the unexpired term.

3 (c) Duties of the committee shall include, but not be limited to,  
4 encouraging payment of public and private funds to the Breast and  
5 Cervical Cancer Cash Fund, researching and recommending to the department  
6 reimbursement limits, planning and implementing outreach and educational  
7 programs to Nebraska women, advising the department on its operation of  
8 the early detection of breast and cervical cancer grant from the United  
9 States Department of Health and Human Services, and encouraging payment  
10 of public and private funds to the fund. Members of the committee shall  
11 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

12 (2) The Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee terminates on  
13 July 1, 2025. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

14 Sec. 26. Section 72-224.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
15 2022, is amended to read:

16 72-224.03 Except as otherwise provided in section 72-222.02, any  
17 public body that has or hereafter shall be granted by the Legislature the  
18 authority to acquire educational lands for public use shall be required  
19 to condemn the interest of the state, as trustee for the public schools,  
20 in educational lands in the following manner:

21 (1) The proceedings shall be had before a board consisting of (a)  
22 the superintendent of a school district offering instruction in grades  
23 kindergarten through twelve, (b) a certified public accountant, and (c) a  
24 credentialed real property appraiser, all appointed by the Governor for a  
25 term of six years, except that of the initial appointees one shall serve  
26 for a term of two years, one for a term of four years, and one for a term  
27 of six years as designated by the Governor. The members of the board  
28 shall each receive fifty dollars for each day actually engaged in the  
29 performance of official duties and shall be reimbursed for expenses as  
30 provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 to be paid by the Board of  
31 Educational Lands and Funds. Such board shall be known as the board of

1 appraisers;

2 (2) The condemnation proceedings shall be commenced by the filing of  
3 a plat and complete description of the lands to be acquired together with  
4 an application for that purpose with the secretary of the Board of  
5 Educational Lands and Funds. Notice of the pendency of such application  
6 and the date of hearing shall be given by serving a copy of the  
7 application, together with notice of the date of hearing, upon the  
8 Governor and the Attorney General. The date of hearing shall be not less  
9 than ten days from the date of the filing of the application;

10 (3) The condemner and the Board of Educational Lands and Funds may  
11 present evidence before the board of appraisers. The board shall have the  
12 power to administer oaths and subpoena witnesses at the request of either  
13 party or on its own motion;

14 (4) After hearing the evidence, the board of appraisers shall make  
15 the award and file same in the office of the Board of Educational Lands  
16 and Funds. Such award may be appealed, and the appeal shall be in  
17 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act; and

18 (5) Upon payment of the amount of the award by the condemner, it  
19 shall be the duty of the secretary of the Board of Educational Lands and  
20 Funds to transmit a certified copy of the award to the condemner for  
21 filing in the office of the register of deeds in the county or counties  
22 where the land is located. The filing of such certified copy of the award  
23 shall have the force and effect of a deed of conveyance of the real  
24 estate and shall constitute a transfer of the title thereto.

25 Sec. 27. Section 72-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
26 amended to read:

27 72-812 (1) The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee is hereby  
28 created. The committee shall be composed of the Director of  
29 Administrative Services, the State Building Administrator, and the  
30 administrator of the Task Force for Building Renewal created pursuant to  
31 section 81-174. When reviewing and considering action to be taken in

1 regard to a particular building or piece of land, the committee shall  
2 also include a representative of the state agency responsible for the  
3 building or land as a nonvoting member.

4 (2) The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee terminates July 1,  
5 2025. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

6 Sec. 28. Section 72-2101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
7 amended to read:

8 72-2101 (1) The Governor's Residence Advisory Commission is  
9 created. The commission shall conduct an annual inspection of the  
10 Governor's residence. A report on the inspection shall be submitted to  
11 the Governor within thirty days after the day of the inspection. The  
12 report shall include recommendations for major maintenance or repair  
13 projects, if needed. Implementation and priority of an approved major  
14 maintenance or repair project shall be determined by the Governor in  
15 cooperation with the Director of Administrative Services. Additionally,  
16 no changes, additions, deletions, or other alterations to the residence,  
17 including its exterior, interior, decorative objects, contents, or  
18 grounds shall be made without the prior approval of the commission,  
19 except for the Governor's private living quarters located on the second  
20 floor of the residence.

21 (2) Effective July 1, 2025, the Governor's Residence Advisory  
22 Commission is terminated. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

23 Sec. 29. Effective July 1, 2025, the Department of Administrative  
24 Services shall assume the duties of:

25 (1) The Suggestion Award Board; and

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

27 Sec. 30. Section 81-1348, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
28 2022, is amended to read:

29 81-1348 There is hereby created the Suggestion Award Board. The  
30 membership of such board shall consist of the Director of Personnel, the  
31 Director of Administrative Services, the Auditor of Public Accounts or

1 his or her designee, and three persons, each to serve a term of three  
2 years, selected and appointed by the Governor from the bargaining units  
3 listed in section 81-1373, except that the first three appointments made  
4 after February 23, 2000, shall be for terms of one year, two years, and  
5 three years, as designated by the Governor. Of the persons selected from  
6 such bargaining units, one person shall be selected from each of such  
7 bargaining units as follows:

8 (1) The first term from the bargaining units listed in subdivisions  
9 (1)(a), (b), and (l) of such section;

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

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

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

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

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

21 The members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections  
22 81-1174 to 81-1177.

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

25 Effective July 1, 2025, the Suggestion Award Board is terminated.  
26 This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

27 Sec. 31. Section 81-1503, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
28 2022, is amended to read:

29 81-1503 (1) The Environmental Quality Council is hereby created. The  
30 council shall consist of seventeen members to be appointed by the  
31 Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature as follows:

- 1 (a) One representative of the food products manufacturing industry;
  - 2 (b) One representative of conservation;
  - 3 (c) One representative of the agricultural processing industry;
  - 4 (d) One representative of the automotive or petroleum industry;
  - 5 (e) One representative of the chemical industry;
  - 6 (f) One representative of heavy industry;
  - 7 (g) One representative of the power generating industry;
  - 8 (h) One representative of agriculture actively engaged in crop  
9 production;
  - 10 (i) One representative of labor;
  - 11 (j) One professional engineer experienced in control of air and  
12 water pollution and solid wastes;
  - 13 (k) One physician knowledgeable in the health aspects of air, water,  
14 and land pollution;
  - 15 (l) One representative from county government;
  - 16 (m) Two representatives from municipal government, one of whom shall  
17 represent cities other than those of the primary or metropolitan class;
  - 18 (n) One representative of the livestock industry;
  - 19 (o) One representative of minority populations; and
  - 20 (p) One biologist.
- 21 (2) Members shall serve for terms of four years. All appointments  
22 shall be subject to confirmation by the Legislature when initially made.  
23 As the term of an appointee to the council expires, the succeeding  
24 appointee shall be a representative of the same segment of the public as  
25 the previous appointee. In the case of appointees to vacancies occurring  
26 from unexpired terms, each successor shall serve out the term of his or  
27 her predecessor. Members whose terms have expired shall continue to serve  
28 until their successors have been appointed. All members shall be citizens  
29 and residents of the State of Nebraska.
- 30 (3) Members may be removed by the Governor for inefficiency, neglect  
31 of duty, or misconduct in office but only after delivering to the member

1 a copy of the charges and affording him or her an opportunity to be  
2 publicly heard in person or by counsel, in his or her own defense, upon  
3 not less than ten days' notice. Such hearing shall be held before the  
4 Governor. When a member is removed, the Governor shall file, in the  
5 office of the Secretary of State, a complete statement of all charges  
6 made against such member and the findings thereon, together with a  
7 complete record of the proceedings.

8 (4) The council shall elect from its members a chairperson and a  
9 vice-chairperson, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the council.  
10 The vice-chairperson shall serve as chairperson in case of the absence or  
11 disability of the chairperson. The director shall serve as secretary of  
12 the council and shall keep all records of meetings of and actions taken  
13 by the council. He or she shall be promptly advised as to such actions by  
14 the chairperson.

15 (5) The members of the council, while engaged in the performance of  
16 their official duties, shall receive a per diem of forty dollars while so  
17 serving, including travel time. In addition, members of the council shall  
18 receive reimbursement for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to  
19 81-1177.

20 (6) The council shall hold at least two regular meetings each year,  
21 at a time and place fixed by the council and shall keep a record of its  
22 proceedings which shall be open to the public for inspection. Special  
23 meetings may be called by the chairperson. Such special meetings must be  
24 called by him or her upon receipt of a written request signed by two or  
25 more members of the council. Written notice of the time and place of all  
26 meetings shall be mailed in advance to the office of each member of the  
27 council by the secretary. A majority of the members of the council shall  
28 constitute a quorum.

29 (7) The council shall submit to the Governor a list of names from  
30 which he or she shall appoint the Director of Environment and Energy who  
31 shall be experienced in air, water, and land pollution control and who

1 may be otherwise an employee of state government. The director shall be  
2 responsible for administration of the department and all standards,  
3 rules, and regulations adopted pursuant to Chapter 81, article 15, the  
4 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management  
5 Act. All such standards, rules, and regulations shall be adopted by the  
6 council after consideration of the recommendations of the director. All  
7 grants to political subdivisions under the control of the department  
8 shall be made by the director in accordance with priorities established  
9 by the council, unless otherwise directed by statute. A majority of the  
10 members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of  
11 business. The affirmative vote of a majority of all members of the  
12 council shall be necessary for the adoption of standards, rules, and  
13 regulations.

14 (8) Before the director enters upon the duties of his or her office,  
15 he or she shall take and subscribe to the constitutional oath of office  
16 and shall, in addition thereto, swear and affirm that he or she holds no  
17 other public office nor any position under any political committee or  
18 party, that he or she has not during the two years immediately prior to  
19 his or her appointment received a significant portion of his or her  
20 income directly or indirectly from permitholders or applicants for a  
21 permit under the Environmental Protection Act, and that he or she will  
22 not receive such income during his or her term as director, except that  
23 such requirements regarding income prior to the term of office shall not  
24 apply to employees of any agency of the State of Nebraska or any  
25 political subdivision which may be a permitholder under the Environmental  
26 Protection Act. Such oath and affirmation shall be filed with the  
27 Secretary of State.

28 (9) Effective July 1, 2025, the Environmental Quality Council shall  
29 assume the duties of:

30 (a) The Advisory Council on Public Water Supply; and

31 (b) The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory

1 Committee.

2           Sec. 32. Section 81-1504, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
3 2022, is amended to read:

4           81-1504 The department shall have and may exercise the following  
5 powers and duties:

6           (1) To exercise exclusive general supervision of the administration  
7 and enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid  
8 Waste Management Act, the Livestock Waste Management Act, and all rules  
9 and regulations and orders adopted and promulgated under such acts;

10           (2) To develop comprehensive programs for the prevention, control,  
11 and abatement of new or existing pollution of the air, waters, and land  
12 of the state;

13           (3) To advise and consult, cooperate, and contract with other  
14 agencies of the state, the federal government, and other states, with  
15 interstate agencies, and with affected groups, political subdivisions,  
16 and industries in furtherance of the purposes of the acts;

17           (4) To act as the state water pollution, air pollution, and solid  
18 waste pollution control agency for all purposes of the Clean Water Act,  
19 as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42  
20 U.S.C. 7401 et seq., the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as  
21 amended, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq., and any other federal legislation  
22 pertaining to loans or grants for environmental protection and from other  
23 sources, public or private, for carrying out any of its functions, which  
24 loans and grants shall not be expended for other than the purposes for  
25 which provided;

26           (5) To encourage, participate in, or conduct studies,  
27 investigations, research, and demonstrations relating to air, land, and  
28 water pollution and causes and effects, prevention, control, and  
29 abatement of such pollution as it may deem advisable and necessary for  
30 the discharge of its duties under the Environmental Protection Act, the  
31 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management



1 Act, using its own staff or private research organizations under  
2 contract;

3 (6) To collect and disseminate information and conduct educational  
4 and training programs relating to air, water, and land pollution and the  
5 prevention, control, and abatement of such pollution;

6 (7) To issue, modify, or revoke orders: (a) Prohibiting or abating  
7 discharges of wastes into the air, waters, or land of the state; (b)  
8 requiring the construction of new disposal systems or any parts thereof  
9 or the modification, extension, or adoption of other remedial measures to  
10 prevent, control, or abate pollution; and (c) prohibiting or abating the  
11 discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States;

12 (8) To administer state grants to political subdivisions for solid  
13 waste disposal facilities and for the construction of sewage treatment  
14 works and facilities to dispose of water treatment plant wastes;

15 (9) To (a) hold such hearings and give notice thereof, (b) issue  
16 such subpoenas requiring the attendance of such witnesses and the  
17 production of such evidence, (c) administer such oaths, and (d) take such  
18 testimony as the director deems necessary, and any of these powers may be  
19 exercised on behalf of the director by a hearing officer designated by  
20 the director;

21 (10) To require submission of plans, specifications, and other data  
22 relative to, and to inspect construction of, disposal systems or any part  
23 thereof prior to issuance of such permits or approvals as are required by  
24 the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management  
25 Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

26 (11) To issue, continue in effect, revoke, modify, or deny permits,  
27 under such conditions as the director may prescribe and consistent with  
28 the standards, rules, and regulations adopted by the council, (a) to  
29 prevent, control, or abate pollution, (b) for the discharge of wastes  
30 into the air, land, or waters of the state, (c) for the installation,  
31 modification, or operation of disposal systems or any parts thereof, and

1 (d) for the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the  
2 United States;

3 (12) To require proper maintenance and operation of disposal  
4 systems;

5 (13) To exercise all incidental powers necessary to carry out the  
6 purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste  
7 Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

8 (14) To establish bureaus, divisions, or sections for the control of  
9 air pollution, water pollution, mining and land quality, and solid wastes  
10 which shall be administered by full-time salaried bureau, division, or  
11 section chiefs and to delegate and assign to each such bureau, division,  
12 or section and its officers and employees the duties and powers granted  
13 to the department for the enforcement of Chapter 81, article 15, the  
14 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Livestock Waste Management  
15 Act, and the standards, rules, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto;

16 (15)(a) To require access to existing and available records relating  
17 to (i) emissions or discharges which cause or contribute to air, land, or  
18 water pollution or (ii) the monitoring of such emissions or discharges;  
19 and

20 (b) To require, for purposes of developing or assisting the  
21 development of any regulation or enforcing any of the provisions of the  
22 Environmental Protection Act which pertain to hazardous waste, any person  
23 who generates, stores, treats, transports, disposes of, or otherwise  
24 handles or has handled hazardous waste, upon request of any officer,  
25 employee, or representative of the department, to furnish information  
26 relating to such waste and any permit involved. Such person shall have  
27 access at all reasonable times to a copy of all results relating to such  
28 waste;

29 (16) To obtain such scientific, technical, administrative, and  
30 operational services including laboratory facilities, by contract or  
31 otherwise, as the director deems necessary;

1 (17) To encourage voluntary cooperation by persons and affected  
2 groups to achieve the purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, the  
3 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management  
4 Act;

5 (18) To encourage local units of government to handle air, land, and  
6 water pollution problems within their respective jurisdictions and on a  
7 cooperative basis and to provide technical and consultative assistance  
8 therefor;

9 (19) To consult with any person proposing to construct, install, or  
10 otherwise acquire an air, land, or water contaminant source or a device  
11 or system for control of such source, upon request of such person,  
12 concerning the efficacy of such device or system or concerning the air,  
13 land, or water pollution problem which may be related to the source,  
14 device, or system. Nothing in any such consultation shall be construed to  
15 relieve any person from compliance with the Environmental Protection Act,  
16 the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, the Livestock Waste Management  
17 Act, rules and regulations in force pursuant to the acts, or any other  
18 provision of law;

19 (20) To require all persons engaged or desiring to engage in  
20 operations which result or which may result in air, water, or land  
21 pollution to secure a permit prior to installation or operation or  
22 continued operation;

23 (21) To enter and inspect, during reasonable hours, any building or  
24 place, except a building designed for and used exclusively for a private  
25 residence;

26 (22)(a) To receive or initiate complaints of air, water, or land  
27 pollution, hold hearings in connection with air, water, or land  
28 pollution, and institute legal proceedings in the name of the state for  
29 the control or prevention of air, water, or land pollution, and for the  
30 recovery of penalties, in accordance with the Environmental Protection  
31 Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste

1 Management Act; and

2 (b) To receive and initiate complaints of, hold hearings in  
3 connection with, and institute legal proceedings in the name of the state  
4 for the control, prevention, or abatement of the discharge of dredged and  
5 fill material into waters of the United States and for the recovery of  
6 penalties, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act;

7 (23) To delegate, by contract with governmental subdivisions which  
8 have adopted local air, water, or land pollution control programs  
9 approved by the council, the enforcement of state-adopted air, water, or  
10 land pollution control regulations within a specified region surrounding  
11 the jurisdictional area of the governmental subdivisions. Prosecutions  
12 commenced under such contracts shall be conducted by the Attorney General  
13 or county attorneys as provided in the Environmental Protection Act, the  
14 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management  
15 Act;

16 (24) To conduct tests and take samples of air, water, or land  
17 contaminants, fuel, process materials, or any other substance which  
18 affects or may affect discharges or emissions of air, water, or land  
19 contaminants from any source, giving the owner or operator a receipt for  
20 the sample obtained;

21 (25) To develop and enforce compliance schedules, under such  
22 conditions as the director may prescribe and consistent with the  
23 standards, rules, and regulations adopted by the council, to prevent,  
24 control, or abate pollution;

25 (26) To employ the Governor's Keep Nebraska Beautiful Committee for  
26 such special occasions and projects as the department may decide.  
27 Reimbursement of the committee shall be made from state and appropriate  
28 federal matching funds for each assignment of work by the department as  
29 provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The committee terminates on July  
30 1, 2025;

31 (27) To provide, to the extent determined by the council to be

1 necessary and practicable, for areawide, selective, and periodic  
2 inspection and testing of motor vehicles to secure compliance with  
3 applicable exhaust emission standards for a fee not to exceed five  
4 dollars to offset the cost of inspection;

5 (28) To enforce, when it is not feasible to prescribe or enforce any  
6 emission standard for control of air pollutants, the use of a design,  
7 equipment, a work practice, an operational standard, or a combination  
8 thereof, adequate to protect the public health from such pollutant or  
9 pollutants with an ample margin of safety;

10 (29) To establish the position of public advocate to be located  
11 within the department to assist and educate the public on departmental  
12 programs and to carry out all duties of the ombudsman as provided in the  
13 Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7661f;

14 (30) Under such conditions as it may prescribe for the review,  
15 recommendations, and written approval of the director, to require the  
16 submission of such plans, specifications, and other information as it  
17 deems necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Act, the  
18 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management  
19 Act or to carry out the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the  
20 acts. When deemed necessary by the director, the plans and specifications  
21 shall be prepared and submitted by a professional engineer licensed to  
22 practice in Nebraska;

23 (31) To carry out the provisions of the Petroleum Products and  
24 Hazardous Substances Storage and Handling Act;

25 (32) To consider the risk to human health and safety and to the  
26 environment in evaluating and approving plans for remedial action;

27 (33) To evaluate permits proposed to be issued to any political  
28 subdivision under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
29 created by the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., as  
30 provided in section 81-1517;

31 (34) To exercise such powers and duties as may be delegated by the

1 federal government to administer an individual and general permit program  
2 for the discharge of dredged or fill material consistent with section 404  
3 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1344;

4 (35) To serve as or assist in developing and coordinating a central  
5 repository within state government for the collection of data on energy;

6 (36) To undertake a continuing assessment of the trends in the  
7 availability, consumption, and development of all forms of energy;

8 (37) To collect and analyze data relating to present and future  
9 demands and resources for all sources of energy and to specify energy  
10 needs for the state;

11 (38) To recommend to the Governor and the Legislature energy  
12 policies and conservation measures for the state and to carry out such  
13 measures as are adopted;

14 (39) To provide for public dissemination of appropriate information  
15 on energy, energy sources, and energy conservation;

16 (40) To accept, expend, or disburse funds, public or private, made  
17 available to it for research studies, demonstration projects, or other  
18 activities which are related either to energy conservation and efficiency  
19 or development;

20 (41) To study the impact and relationship of state energy policies  
21 to national and regional energy policies and engage in such activities as  
22 will reasonably insure that the State of Nebraska and its residents  
23 receive an equitable share of energy supplies, including the  
24 administration of any federally mandated or state-mandated energy  
25 allocation programs;

26 (42) To actively seek the advice of the residents of Nebraska  
27 regarding energy policies and programs;

28 (43) To prepare emergency allocation plans suggesting to the  
29 Governor actions to be taken in the event of serious shortages of energy;

30 (44) To design and maintain a state program for conservation of  
31 energy and energy efficiency;

1 (45) To provide technical assistance regarding energy to local  
2 subdivisions of government;

3 (46) To provide technical assistance to private persons desiring  
4 information on energy conservation and efficiency techniques and the use  
5 of renewable energy technologies;

6 (47) To develop a strategic state energy plan pursuant to section  
7 81-1604;

8 (48) To develop and disseminate transparent and objective energy  
9 information and analysis while utilizing existing energy planning  
10 resources of relevant stakeholder entities;

11 (49) To actively seek to maximize federal and other nonstate funding  
12 and support to the state for energy planning;

13 (50) To monitor energy transmission capacity planning and policy  
14 affecting the state and the regulatory approval process for the  
15 development of energy infrastructure and make recommendations to the  
16 Governor and electronically to the Legislature as necessary to facilitate  
17 energy infrastructure planning and development;

18 (51) To implement rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by  
19 the director pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to carry out  
20 subdivisions (35) through (58) of this section;

21 (52) To make all contracts pursuant to subdivisions (35) through  
22 (58) of this section and do all things to cooperate with the federal  
23 government, and to qualify for, accept, expend, and dispense public or  
24 private funds intended for the implementation of subdivisions (35)  
25 through (58) of this section;

26 (53) To contract for services, if such work or services cannot be  
27 satisfactorily performed by employees of the department or by any other  
28 part of state government;

29 (54) To enter into such agreements as are necessary to carry out  
30 energy research and development with other states;

31 (55) To carry out the duties and responsibilities relating to energy

1 as may be requested or required of the state by the federal government;

2 (56) To cooperate and participate with the approval of the Governor  
3 in the activities of organizations of states relating to the  
4 availability, conservation, development, and distribution of energy;

5 (57) To engage in such activities as will seek to insure that the  
6 State of Nebraska and its residents receive an equitable share of energy  
7 supplies at a fair price; and

8 (58) To form advisory committees of residents of Nebraska to advise  
9 the director on programs and policies relating to energy and to assist in  
10 implementing such programs. Such committees shall be of a temporary  
11 nature, and no member shall receive any compensation for serving on any  
12 such committee but, with the approval of the Governor, members shall  
13 receive reimbursement for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to  
14 81-1177. The minutes of meetings of and actions taken by each committee  
15 shall be kept and a record shall be maintained of the name, address, and  
16 occupation or vocation of every individual serving on any committee. The  
17 department shall maintain such minutes and records and shall make them  
18 available for public inspection during regular office hours.

19 Sec. 33. Section 81-15,159.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
20 Supplement, 2022, is amended to read:

21 81-15,159.01 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy shall  
22 conduct a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs  
23 operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and  
24 revise such programs. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (a)  
25 Whether existing state programs regarding litter and waste reduction and  
26 recycling should be amended or merged; (b) a needs assessment of the  
27 recycling and composting programs in the state, including the need for  
28 infrastructure development operating standards, market development,  
29 coordinated public education resulting in behavior change, and incentives  
30 to increase recycling and composting; (c) methods to partner with  
31 political subdivisions, private industry, and private, nonprofit



1 organizations to most successfully address waste management issues in the  
2 state; (d) recommendations regarding existing funding sources and  
3 possible new revenue sources at the state and local level to address  
4 existing and emerging solid waste management issues; and (e) revisions to  
5 existing grant programs to address solid waste management issues in a  
6 proactive manner.

7 (2) The Director of Environment and Energy shall establish an  
8 advisory committee to advise the department regarding the study described  
9 in this section. The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed  
10 by the director and shall include no more than nine members. The director  
11 shall designate a chairperson of the advisory committee. The members  
12 shall receive no compensation for their services. The advisory committee  
13 terminates on July 1, 2025.

14 (3) In addition to the advisory committee, the department may hire  
15 consultants and special experts to assist in the study described in this  
16 section. After completion of the study, the department shall submit a  
17 report, including recommendations, to the Executive Board of the  
18 Legislative Council and the chairpersons of the Natural Resources  
19 Committee, the Urban Affairs Committee, and the Appropriations Committee  
20 of the Legislature no later than December 15, 2017. The report shall be  
21 submitted electronically.

22 Sec. 34. Section 81-15,245, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
23 2022, is amended to read:

24 81-15,245 The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory  
25 Committee is created. The advisory committee shall be composed of the  
26 following eleven members:

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

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

30 (b) Two registered environmental health specialists or officials  
31 representing local public health departments which have established

1 programs for regulating private onsite wastewater treatment systems;

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

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

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

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

13 The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory Committee  
14 terminates on July 1, 2025. This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

15 Sec. 35. Section 82-703, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
16 2022, is amended to read:

17 82-703 (1) The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection  
18 Committee is created. The committee shall consist of members of the  
19 Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission created pursuant to section 72-724.

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

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

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

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

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

31 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United

1 States Capitol;

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

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

5 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

6 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary  
7 to incur.

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

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

11 (5) The committee terminates on July 1, 2025.

12 Sec. 36. Section 82-706, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
13 2022, is amended to read:

14 82-706 (1) The Chief Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection  
15 Committee is created. The committee shall consist of (a) a representative  
16 of the Commission on Indian Affairs, selected by the chairperson of the  
17 commission, (b) a member of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the  
18 Legislature, selected by the chairperson of the committee, (c) the  
19 chairperson of the Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development or its  
20 successor, and (d) the Historic Preservation Planner of the City of  
21 Lincoln.

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

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

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

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

- 1 (ii) The design and fabrication of the pedestal;
- 2 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
- 3 States Capitol;
- 4 (iv) The removal and transportation of the replaced statue;
- 5 (v) The temporary placement of the new statue in the Rotunda of the
- 6 United States Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;
- 7 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and
- 8 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
- 9 to incur.

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

11 (4) The committee shall execute the requirements of this section no

12 later than June 30, 2023.

13 (5) The committee terminates on July 1, 2025.

14 Sec. 37. Section 82-803, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

15 2022, is amended to read:

16 82-803 (1) The First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort

17 Donelson Committee is created. The purpose of the committee is to provide

18 for the creation, production, transportation, installation, and unveiling

19 of the monument. The committee shall consist of: An employee of the

20 Nebraska State Historical Society appointed by the Secretary of State;

21 two members of the public who are members of a local Civil War round

22 table organization appointed by the Secretary of State; a professor of

23 history from the University of Nebraska appointed by the Secretary of

24 State; and, as a nonvoting, ex officio member, the Chairperson of the

25 Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature or

26 his or her designee.

27 (2) The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-

28 chairperson from among its appointed members during the first meeting. A

29 member may be reelected to serve as chairperson or vice-chairperson. The

30 committee shall meet at least twice each calendar year. A majority of the

31 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

1 (3) The committee may conduct its meetings by virtual conferencing  
2 as defined in section 84-1409, if practicable.

3 (4) The First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort Donelson  
4 Committee shall, in conformance with regulations of the Fort Donelson  
5 National Battlefield:

6 (a) Select a designer, sculptor, and mason, as appropriate, to  
7 create a monument and approve the design of the monument;

8 (b) Approve the production of the monument;

9 (c) Approve the method of transportation of the monument to the  
10 battlefield and its installation;

11 (d) Approve the unveiling ceremony for the monument; and

12 (e) Approve any other action the committee determines is necessary  
13 to achieve its purpose.

14 (5) If there is a vacancy on the committee, the Secretary of State  
15 shall fill such vacancy by appointing a member to serve during the  
16 unexpired term of the member whose office has become vacant.

17 (6) Members of the committee shall not be paid.

18 (7) The committee shall issue electronically a report to the  
19 Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature on  
20 the progress of the creation, production, and installation of the  
21 monument and any other information the committee deems necessary before  
22 December 31 of each year.

23 (8) The committee shall terminate on July 1, 2025 ~~upon the~~  
24 ~~completion of its purpose.~~

25 Sec. 38. Section 85-1008, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
26 2022, is amended to read:

27 85-1008 (1) To assist the center in carrying out its purposes and  
28 functions, the Board of Regents may establish a Nebraska Safety Center  
29 Advisory Council composed of the following members:

30 (a) One representative from the Department of Transportation;

31 (b) One representative from the Department of Motor Vehicles;

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

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

27 (3) The Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council terminates on July  
28 1, 2025, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
29 shall take over its duties.

30 Sec. 39. Section 85-1404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
31 amended to read:

1           85-1404    (1) The purposes of the Coordinating Commission for  
2 Postsecondary Education established by Article VII, section 14, of the  
3 Constitution of Nebraska and section 85-1403 shall be to (a) ~~(1)~~ develop  
4 an ongoing comprehensive statewide plan for the operation of an  
5 educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and  
6 coordinated system of postsecondary education, (b) ~~(2)~~ identify and enact  
7 policies to meet the educational, research, and public service needs of  
8 the state, and (c) ~~(3)~~ effect the best use of available resources through  
9 the elimination of unnecessary duplication of programs and facilities  
10 among Nebraska's public institutions.

11           (2) In carrying out its powers and duties, the commission shall  
12 consider the need for diversity of public institutions and the need for  
13 addressing regional needs but shall above all reflect a commitment to a  
14 perspective in decisionmaking and planning for postsecondary education  
15 which will best serve the state as a whole consistent with the role and  
16 mission assignment of each public institution.

17           (3) The commission shall work with the public institutions to  
18 encourage and sustain their aspirations consistent with the comprehensive  
19 statewide plan and in a manner designed to achieve a vision of statewide  
20 postsecondary education. The commission shall not be an advocate for any  
21 one public institution but shall strive for a balance and responsiveness  
22 among all public institutions.

23           (4) Beginning on July 1, 2025, the commission shall take over the  
24 duties of the Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council as provided in  
25 section 85-1008 and the advisory council appointed pursuant to the  
26 Private Postsecondary Career School Act as provided in section 85-1607.

27           Sec. 40. Section 85-1607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
28 amended to read:

29           85-1607   (1) The board shall appoint an advisory council of six  
30 representatives of private postsecondary career schools. Members of the  
31 council shall include representatives from a business school, a trade or

1 technical school, a better business bureau, and three other distinct  
2 areas of education. Members of the council shall serve staggered terms of  
3 three years each as established by the board at the time of initial  
4 appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the council, the board shall appoint  
5 a successor in the same category as the predecessor. The advisory council  
6 shall have the following responsibilities:

7 (a) ~~(1)~~ To advise the department in its administration of the  
8 Private Postsecondary Career School Act; and

9 (b) ~~(2)~~ To review the rules and regulations adopted or proposed for  
10 adoption by the department and make recommendations with respect thereto.

11 (2) The advisory council created pursuant to this section terminates  
12 on July 1, 2025, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary  
13 Education shall take over its duties.

14 Sec. 41. Section 86-444, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
15 amended to read:

16 86-444 Advisory board means:

17 (1) Prior to July 1, 2025, the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board;  
18 and -

19 (2) Beginning July 1, 2025, the 911 Service System Advisory  
20 Committee.

21 Sec. 42. Section 86-461, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
22 2022, is amended to read:

23 86-461 (1) The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board is created to  
24 advise the commission concerning the implementation, development,  
25 administration, coordination, evaluation, and maintenance of enhanced  
26 wireless 911 service. The advisory board shall be composed of nine  
27 individuals appointed by the Governor, including:

28 (a) One sheriff;

29 (b) Two county officials or employees;

30 (c) Two municipal officials or employees;

31 (d) One representative from the state's wireless telecommunications



1 industry;

2 (e) One manager of a public safety answering point not employed by a  
3 sheriff;

4 (f) One representative of the state's local exchange  
5 telecommunications service industry; and

6 (g) One member of the public.

7 (2) The advisory board shall also include two ex officio members:

8 (a) One commissioner from the Public Service Commission or his or  
9 her designee; and

10 (b) The Chief Information Officer or his or her designee.

11 (3) Members of the board as described in subdivisions (1)(a) through  
12 (1)(g) of this section shall be appointed for a term of three years. Each  
13 succeeding member of the board shall be appointed for a term of three  
14 years. The board shall meet as often as necessary to carry out its  
15 duties. Members of the board shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided  
16 in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

17 (4) The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board terminates on July 1,  
18 2025.

19 Sec. 43. Section 86-516, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
20 amended to read:

21 86-516 The commission shall:

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

24 (2) Create an information technology clearinghouse to identify and  
25 share best practices and new developments, as well as identify existing  
26 problems and deficiencies;

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

29 (4) Determine a broad strategy and objectives for developing and  
30 sustaining information technology development in Nebraska, including  
31 long-range funding strategies, research and development investment,

1 support and maintenance requirements, and system usage and assessment  
2 guidelines;

3 (5) Adopt guidelines regarding project planning and management and  
4 administrative and technical review procedures involving state-owned or  
5 state-supported technology and infrastructure. Governmental entities,  
6 state agencies, and noneducation political subdivisions shall submit all  
7 projects which use any combination of general funds, federal funds, or  
8 cash funds for information technology purposes to the process established  
9 by sections 86-512 to 86-524. The commission may adopt policies that  
10 establish the format and minimum requirements for project submissions.  
11 The commission may monitor the progress of any such project and may  
12 require progress reports;

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

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

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

26 (9) Approve grants from the Community Technology Fund and Government  
27 Technology Collaboration Fund;

28 (10) Adopt schedules and procedures for reporting needs, priorities,  
29 and recommended projects;

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

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

5 (13) Effective July 1, 2025, assume the duties of the technical  
6 panel.

7 Sec. 44. Section 86-521, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
8 amended to read:

9 86-521 (1) A technical panel is created. The technical panel shall  
10 be comprised of one representative from the Nebraska Educational  
11 Telecommunications Commission, one representative from the office of  
12 Chief Information Officer, one representative from the University of  
13 Nebraska Computing Services Network, and such other members as specified  
14 by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

15 (2) The technical panel shall review any technology project  
16 presented to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission including any  
17 recommendations by working groups established under sections 86-512 to  
18 86-524. Upon the conclusion of the review of a technology project or  
19 request for additional funding, the technical panel shall provide its  
20 analysis to the commission. The technical panel may recommend technical  
21 standards and guidelines to be considered for adoption by the commission.

22 (3) Effective July 1, 2025, the technical panel is terminated.

23 Sec. 45. Section 86-1101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
24 2022, is amended to read:

25 86-1101 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:

26 (a) ~~(1)~~ The availability, quality, and affordability of broadband  
27 telecommunications service is important to the residents of Nebraska; and

28 (b) ~~(2)~~ Because availability, quality, and affordability of  
29 broadband telecommunications service is lacking in certain rural areas in  
30 Nebraska, combined with greater investment in urban areas, the state may  
31 be facing a digital divide.

1           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that broadband  
2 telecommunications service in rural areas of the state should be  
3 comparable in download and upload speed and price to urban areas in the  
4 state where possible and that state resources should be utilized to  
5 ensure that the rural residents of the state should not be penalized  
6 simply because of their rural residence. It is further the intent of the  
7 Legislature that the residents of this state should have access to  
8 broadband telecommunications service at a minimum download speed of  
9 twenty-five megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of three  
10 megabits per second.

11           (3) This section terminates on July 1, 2025.

12           Sec. 46. Section 86-1102, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
13 2022, is amended to read:

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

1 for a term of two years and may be reappointed.

2 (2) The task force may appoint advisory groups to assist the task  
3 force in providing technical expertise and advice on any issue. The  
4 advisory groups may be composed of representatives of stakeholder groups  
5 which may include, but not necessarily be limited to, representatives  
6 from small and large wireline companies, wireless companies, public power  
7 districts, electric cooperative corporations, cable television companies,  
8 Internet service providers, low-income telecommunications and electric  
9 utility customers, health care providers, and representatives of  
10 educational sectors. No compensation or expense reimbursement shall be  
11 provided to any member of any advisory group appointed by the task force.

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

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

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

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

29 (d) Examine alternatives for deployment of broadband services to  
30 areas that remain unserved or underserved, such as funding redirection  
31 programs described in section 86-330, public-private partnerships,

1 funding for competitive deployment, and other measures, and make  
2 recommendations to the Public Service Commission to encourage deployment  
3 in such areas;

4 (e) Recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal  
5 service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support  
6 and other federal funding;

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

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

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

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

21 (6) For purposes of this section, broadband services means high-  
22 speed telecommunications capability at a minimum download speed of  
23 twenty-five megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of three  
24 megabits per second, and that enables users to originate and receive  
25 high-quality voice, data, and video telecommunications using any  
26 technology.

27 (7) The Rural Broadband Task Force terminates on July 1, 2025.

28 Sec. 47. Section 86-1103, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is  
29 amended to read:

30 86-1103 (1) The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund is created. The  
31 fund shall be used to carry out the purposes of the Rural Broadband Task

1 Force as described in section 86-1102. For administrative purposes, the  
2 fund shall be located in the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.  
3 The fund shall consist of money appropriated or transferred by the  
4 Legislature and gifts, grants, or bequests from any source, including  
5 federal, state, public, and private sources. Any money in the fund  
6 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment  
7 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska  
8 State Funds Investment Act.

9 (2) The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund terminates on July 1, 2025.  
10 The State Treasurer shall transfer any money remaining in the fund on  
11 such date to the General Fund.

12 Sec. 48. Original sections 2-1803, 2-4901, 2-5003, 20-506, 38-204,  
13 38-308, 48-622.03, 71-814, 71-815, 71-2454.01, 71-5311, 72-812, 72-2101,  
14 85-1404, 85-1607, 86-444, 86-516, and 86-521, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
15 Nebraska, sections 28-712, 39-2106, 39-2301.01, 39-2304, 43-1903,  
16 43-3401, 43-4001, 43-4203, 43-4216, 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001, 71-7012,  
17 72-224.03, 81-1348, 81-1503, 81-1504, 81-15,159.01, 81-15,245, 82-703,  
18 82-706, 82-803, 85-1008, 86-461, 86-1101, and 86-1102, Revised Statutes  
19 Cumulative Supplement, 2022, and sections 38-167 and 86-1103, Revised  
20 Statutes Supplement, 2023, are repealed.

21 Sec. 49. The following sections are outright repealed: Sections  
22 43-4003 and 50-603, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section  
23 43-1306, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022.