

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 346

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

Read first time January 16, 2025

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to government; to amend sections 2-1801,
2 2-1803, 2-1826, 2-4901, 2-5001, 2-5003, 20-506, 38-204, 38-205,
3 38-308, 38-310, 48-622.03, 58-202, 60-1401.06, 60-1402, 66-1605,
4 66-1618, 71-705, 71-706, 71-814, 71-815, 71-2454.01, 71-4503,
5 71-5311, 71-7102, 71-7107, 71-7108, 71-7109, 71-7110, 72-811,
6 72-812, 72-2101, 72-2206, 81-1108.41, 81-1348, 81-1430, 81-1431,
7 81-1503, 81-1504, 81-15,159.01, 81-15,210, 81-15,239, 81-15,245,
8 82-703, 82-706, 82-803, 85-1008, 85-1404, 85-1607, 86-444, 86-461,
9 86-511, 86-516, 86-521, 86-1025.01, 86-1101, 86-1102, and 86-1103,
10 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 28-712, 38-167,
11 39-2106, 39-2301.01, 39-2304, 43-1903, 43-3401, 43-4001, 43-4203,
12 43-4216, 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001, 71-702, 71-4504, and 71-7012,
13 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to change the
14 qualifications of the State Capitol Administrator; to eliminate,
15 terminate, and provide, change, eliminate, and transfer powers,
16 duties, and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils,
17 task forces, panels, and departments as prescribed; to provide for
18 termination of the advisory council for the Private Postsecondary
19 Career School Act, the Advisory Council on Public Water Supply, the
20 Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, the Board of Alcohol
21 and Drug Counseling, the Board of Examiners for County Highway and
22 City Street Superintendents, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory
23 Committee, the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee, the Chief

1 Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection Committee, the child
2 abuse advisory committee, the Children's Behavioral Health Task
3 Force, the Climate Assessment Response Committee, the Conservation
4 Corporation Act, the Critical Incident Stress Management Council,
5 the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board, the First Regiment
6 Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort Donelson Committee, the Foster
7 Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, the Governor's Keep Nebraska
8 Beautiful Committee, the Governor's Residence Advisory Commission,
9 the Interagency Management Committee, the Natural Gas Fuel Board,
10 the Nebraska Aquaculture Board, the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention
11 Fund Board, the Nebraska Conservation Corporation, the Nebraska
12 Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, the Nebraska Potato
13 Development Act, the Nebraska Potato Development Committee, the
14 Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council, the Nebraska Worker
15 Training Board, the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory
16 Council, the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory
17 Committee, the Racial Profiling Advisory Committee, the Rural
18 Broadband Task Force, the solid waste management advisory committee,
19 the State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services, the State
20 Comprehensive Capital Facilities Planning Committee, the State
21 Emergency Response Commission, the Suggestion Award Board, the task
22 force on human trafficking, the technical panel for the Nebraska
23 Information Technology Commission, the Vacant Building and Excess
24 Land Committee, the Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task
25 Force, the Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee,
26 the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council, and the Women's
27 Health Initiative Fund; to change provisions relating to the Board
28 of Mental Health Practice, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Public
29 Roads Classifications and Standards, the Coordinating Commission for
30 Postsecondary Education, the Critical Incident Stress Management
31 Act, the Department of Administrative Services, the Department of

1 Environment and Energy, the Department of Labor, the Department of
2 Motor Vehicles, the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating
3 Council, the Environmental Quality Council, the Nebraska Children's
4 Commission, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the Nebraska
5 Information Technology Commission, the 911 Service System Advisory
6 Committee, the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Act, the Propane
7 Education and Research Council, and the State Advisory Committee on
8 Mental Health Services; to change and eliminate funds; to eliminate
9 the Children and Juveniles Data Feasibility Study Advisory Group,
10 the Whiteclay Public Health Emergency Task Force; to eliminate
11 obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original
12 sections; and to outright repeal sections 2-4201, 2-4202, 2-4203,
13 2-4204, 2-4205, 2-4206, 2-4207, 2-4208, 2-4209, 2-4210, 2-4211,
14 2-4212, 2-4213, 2-4214, 2-4215, 2-4216, 2-4217, 2-4218, 2-4219,
15 2-4220, 2-4221, 2-4222, 2-4223, 2-4224, 2-4225, 2-4226, 2-4227,
16 2-4228, 2-4229, 2-4230, 2-4231, 2-4232, 2-4233, 2-4234, 2-4235,
17 2-4236, 2-4237, 2-4238, 2-4239, 2-4240, 2-4241, 2-4242, 2-4243,
18 2-4244, 2-4245, 2-4246, 43-4003, 50-601, 50-602, 50-603, 66-1617,
19 71-7105, and 71-7106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and
20 section 43-1306, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024.

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 2-1801, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 2-1801 Sections 2-1801 to 2-1811 may be cited as the Nebraska Potato
4 Development Act. The act terminates on July 1, 2026.

5 **Sec. 2.** Section 2-1803, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

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

22 (2) The Nebraska Potato Development Committee terminates on July 1,
23 2026.

24 **Sec. 3.** Section 2-1826, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 2-1826 This section terminates on July 1, 2026. The Nebraska Potato
27 Development Act and the Nebraska Potato Inspection Act shall become one
28 act in two parts with the Nebraska Potato Development Act designated as
29 Part I and the Nebraska Potato Inspection Act designated as Part II
30 thereof and the Revisor of Statutes shall make appropriate changes in the
31 statutes necessitated by such redesignation.

1 **Sec. 4.** Section 2-4901, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 2-4901 (1) The Climate Assessment Response Committee is hereby
4 created. The office of the Governor shall be the lead agency and shall
5 oversee the committee and its activities. The committee shall be composed
6 of representatives appointed by the Governor with the approval of a
7 majority of the Legislature from livestock producers, crop producers, the
8 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the Conservation and Survey
9 Division and Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska.
10 The Director of Agriculture or his or her designee, the chief executive
11 officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her
12 designee, and the Director of Natural Resources or his or her designee
13 shall be ex officio members of the committee. Representatives from the
14 federal Consolidated Farm Service Agency and Federal Crop Insurance
15 Corporation may also serve on the committee at the invitation of the
16 Governor. The chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture of the
17 Legislature and the chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources of
18 the Legislature shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of the committee.
19 The Governor may appoint a member of the Governor's Policy Research
20 Office and any other state agency representatives or invite any other
21 federal agencies to name representatives as he or she deems necessary.
22 The Governor shall appoint one of the Climate Assessment Response
23 Committee members to serve as the chairperson of the committee. Committee
24 members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174
25 to 81-1177.

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

30 (3) The chairperson may establish subcommittees and may invite
31 representatives of agencies other than those with members on the

1 committee to serve on such subcommittees.

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

6 (5) The Climate Assessment Response Committee terminates on July 1,
7 2026. Sections 2-4901 and 2-4902 terminate on July 1, 2026.

8 **Sec. 5.** Section 2-5001, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
9 amended to read:

10 2-5001 Sections 2-5001 to 2-5006 terminate on July 1, 2026. The
11 Legislature finds that it is in the interest of the people of the state
12 that the practice of aquaculture be encouraged in order to promote
13 agricultural diversification, augment food supplies, expand employment
14 opportunities, promote economic activity, increase stocks of fish and
15 other aquatic life, protect and better use and manage the natural
16 resources of the state, and provide other benefits to the state.

17 **Sec. 6.** Section 2-5003, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 2-5003 There is hereby created the Nebraska Aquaculture Board. The
20 board shall consist of (1) one employee of the commission who is familiar
21 with aquatic disease, appointed by the secretary of the commission, (2)
22 one employee of the department appointed by the director, (3) three
23 aquaculturists, appointed by the Governor, and (4) a representative of an
24 industry or product which is related to or used in aquaculture, appointed
25 by the Governor. The board shall elect from its members a chairperson.
26 The terms of the members of the board shall be three years, except that
27 the terms of the initial aquaculturist members of the board appointed by
28 the Governor shall be staggered so that one member is appointed for a
29 term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of
30 three years, as determined by the Governor. Members appointed under
31 subdivisions (3) and (4) of this section shall be reimbursed for expenses

1 as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

2 The Nebraska Aquaculture Board terminates on July 1, 2026.

3 **Sec. 7.** Section 20-506, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 20-506 (1) The Racial Profiling Advisory Committee is created. The
6 committee shall terminate on July 1, 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (iii) A representative of the Police Officers Association of
23 Nebraska;

24 (iv) A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of
25 Nebraska;

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

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

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

30 (viii) A representative of the Nebraska State Bar Association
31 appointed by the Governor from a list of attorneys submitted by the

1 executive council of the Nebraska State Bar Association.

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

7 (4) Prior to July 1, 2026, the The committee shall advise the
8 commission and its executive director in the conduct of their duties
9 regarding (a) the completeness and acceptability of written racial
10 profiling prevention policies submitted by individual law enforcement
11 agencies as required by subsection (1) of section 20-504, (b) the
12 collection of data by law enforcement agencies, any needed additional
13 data, and any needed additional analysis, investigation, or inquiry as to
14 the data provided pursuant to subsection (3) of section 20-504, (c) the
15 review, analysis, inquiry, study, and recommendations required pursuant
16 to subsection (7) of section 20-504, including an analysis of the review,
17 analysis, inquiry, study, and recommendations, and (d) policy
18 recommendations with respect to the prevention of racial profiling and
19 the need, if any, for enforcement by the Department of Justice of the
20 prohibitions found in section 20-502.

21 (5) Beginning July 1, 2026, the Nebraska Commission on Law
22 Enforcement and Criminal Justice shall carry out the duties of the
23 advisory committee under this section.

24 **Sec. 8.** Section 28-712, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
25 2024, is amended to read:

26 28-712 (1) Upon receipt of a report pursuant to section 28-711, the
27 department shall determine whether to (a) accept the report for
28 traditional response and an investigation pursuant to section 28-713, (b)
29 accept the report for alternative response pursuant to section 28-712.01,
30 (c) accept the report for screening by the Review, Evaluate, and Decide
31 Team to determine eligibility for alternative response, or (d) classify

1 the report as requiring no further action by the department.

2 (2)(a) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint an advisory
3 committee pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subsection prior to July 1,
4 2026. Beginning July 1, 2026, the commission shall have the powers and
5 duties of the advisory committee under this subdivision. The powers and
6 duties shall be to examine the department's alternative response to
7 reports of child abuse or neglect and to make recommendations to the
8 Legislature, the department, and the commission regarding (i) the receipt
9 and screening of reports of child abuse or neglect by the department,
10 (ii) the ongoing use of alternative response, (iii) the ongoing use of
11 traditional response, and (iv) the provision of services within
12 alternative response and non-court-involved cases to ensure child safety,
13 to reduce the risk of child abuse or neglect, and to engage families. The
14 advisory committee or commission, as applicable, may request, receive,
15 and review data from the department regarding such processes.

16 (b) The members of the advisory committee shall include, but not be
17 limited to, a representative of (i) the department, (ii) law enforcement
18 agencies, (iii) county attorneys or other prosecutors, (iv) the state
19 chapter of child advocacy centers as defined in 34 U.S.C. 20302, (v)
20 attorneys for parents, (vi) guardians ad litem, (vii) a child welfare
21 advocacy organization, (viii) families with experience in the child
22 welfare system, (ix) family caregivers, (x) the Foster Care Review
23 Office, and (xi) the office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child
24 Welfare. Members of the advisory committee shall be appointed for terms
25 of two years. The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint the
26 chairperson of the advisory committee and may fill vacancies on the
27 advisory committee as they occur. This subdivision (2)(b) terminates on
28 July 1, 2026.

29 (3) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
30 to carry out this section and sections 28-710.01, 28-712.01, and 28-713.
31 Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to,

1 provisions on (a) the transfer of cases from alternative response to
2 traditional response, (b) notice to families subject to a comprehensive
3 assessment and served through alternative response of the alternative
4 response process and their rights, including the opportunity to challenge
5 agency determinations, (c) the provision of services through alternative
6 response, and (d) the collection, sharing, and reporting of data.

7 **Sec. 9.** Section 38-167, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
8 2024, is amended to read:

9 38-167 (1) Boards shall be designated as follows:

- 10 (a) Prior to July 1, 2026, Board of Advanced Practice Registered
11 Nurses;
- 12 (b) Prior to July 1, 2026, Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling;
- 13 (c) Board of Athletic Training;
- 14 (d) Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology;
- 15 (e) Board of Behavior Analysts;
- 16 (f) Board of Chiropractic;
- 17 (g) Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology,
18 and Body Art;
- 19 (h) Board of Dentistry;
- 20 (i) Board of Emergency Medical Services;
- 21 (j) Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists;
- 22 (k) Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming;
- 23 (l) Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists;
- 24 (m) Board of Massage Therapy;
- 25 (n) Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy;
- 26 (o) Board of Medical Radiography;
- 27 (p) Board of Medicine and Surgery;
- 28 (q) Board of Mental Health Practice;
- 29 (r) Board of Nursing;
- 30 (s) Board of Nursing Home Administration;
- 31 (t) Board of Occupational Therapy Practice;

- 1 (u) Board of Optometry;
- 2 (v) Board of Pharmacy;
- 3 (w) Board of Physical Therapy;
- 4 (x) Board of Podiatry;
- 5 (y) Board of Psychology;
- 6 (z) Board of Respiratory Care Practice; and
- 7 (aa) Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

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

13 **Sec. 10.** Section 38-204, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 38-204 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of
16 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means
17 the Board of Nursing.

18 **Sec. 11.** Section 38-205, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
19 amended to read:

20 38-205 (1) The Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
21 terminates on July 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.
22 ~~Until July 1, 2007, the board shall consist of (a) five advanced practice~~
23 ~~registered nurses representing different advanced practice registered~~
24 ~~nurse specialties for which a license has been issued, (b) five~~
25 ~~physicians licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law to practice medicine~~
26 ~~in Nebraska, at least three of whom shall have a current collaborating~~
27 ~~relationship with an advanced practice registered nurse, (c) three~~
28 ~~consumer members, and (d) one licensed pharmacist.~~

29 (2) Prior to July 1, 2026 ~~On and after July 1, 2007,~~ the board shall
30 consist of:

- 31 (a) One nurse practitioner holding a license under the Nurse

1 Practitioner Practice Act, one certified nurse midwife holding a license
2 under the Certified Nurse Midwifery Practice Act, one certified
3 registered nurse anesthetist holding a license under the Certified
4 Registered Nurse Anesthetist Practice Act, and one clinical nurse
5 specialist holding a license under the Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice
6 Act, except that the initial clinical nurse specialist appointee may be a
7 clinical nurse specialist practicing pursuant to the Nurse Practice Act
8 as such act existed prior to July 1, 2007. Of the initial appointments
9 under this subdivision, one shall be for a two-year term, one shall be
10 for a three-year term, one shall be for a four-year term, and one shall
11 be for a five-year term. All subsequent appointments under this
12 subdivision shall be for five-year terms;

13 (b) Three physicians, one of whom shall have a professional
14 relationship with a nurse practitioner, one of whom shall have a
15 professional relationship with a certified nurse midwife, and one of whom
16 shall have a professional relationship with a certified registered nurse
17 anesthetist. Of the initial appointments under this subdivision, one
18 shall be for a three-year term, one shall be for a four-year term, and
19 one shall be for a five-year term. All subsequent appointments under this
20 subdivision shall be for five-year terms; and

21 (c) Two public members. Of the initial appointments under this
22 subdivision, one shall be for a three-year term, and one shall be for a
23 four-year term. All subsequent appointments under this subdivision shall
24 be for five-year terms.

25 (3) Members of the board serving immediately before July 1, 2007,
26 shall serve until members are appointed and qualified under subsection
27 (2) of this section.

28 **Sec. 12.** Section 38-308, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 38-308 Prior to July 1, 2026, board ~~Board~~ means the Board of Alcohol
31 and Drug Counseling. Beginning July 1, 2026, board means the Board of

1 Mental Health Practice.

2 **Sec. 13.** Section 38-310, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 38-310 (1) Membership on the board shall consist of seven
5 professional members and two public members appointed pursuant to section
6 38-158. The members shall meet the requirements of sections 38-164 and
7 38-165. Three of the professional members shall be licensed alcohol and
8 drug counselors who may also be licensed as psychologists or mental
9 health practitioners, three of the professional members shall be licensed
10 alcohol and drug counselors who are not licensed as psychologists or
11 mental health practitioners, and one of the professional members shall be
12 a psychiatrist, psychologist, or mental health practitioner.

13 (2) The Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling terminates on July 1,
14 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

15 **Sec. 14.** Section 39-2106, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
16 2024, is amended to read:

17 39-2106 (1) There ~~To assist in developing the functional~~
18 ~~classification system,~~ there is hereby established the Board of Public
19 Roads Classifications and Standards which shall consist of eleven members
20 to be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature. The
21 board shall assist in developing the functional classification system.
22 Beginning on July 1, 2026, another duty of the board shall be to have
23 sole responsibility for overseeing the County Highway and City Street
24 Superintendents Act.

25 (2) Of the members of such board:

26 (a) Two shall be representatives of the Department of
27 Transportation;

28 (b) Three shall be representatives of the counties. One of such
29 members shall be a county highway superintendent licensed pursuant to the
30 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act and two of such
31 members shall be county board members;

1 (c) Three shall be representatives of the municipalities. Prior to
2 July 1, 2026, each ~~Each~~ of such members shall be a city engineer, village
3 engineer, public works director, city manager, city administrator, street
4 commissioner, or city street superintendent licensed pursuant to the
5 County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act. Beginning July 1,
6 2026, one of such members shall be a city street superintendent licensed
7 pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act, and
8 the remaining representatives of municipalities shall be a city engineer,
9 village engineer, public works director, city manager, city
10 administrator, street commissioner, or city street superintendent
11 licensed pursuant to the County Highway and City Street Superintendents
12 Act; and

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

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

18 (a) One shall be a representative from either a Class 1 or Class 2
19 county;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (6) At the expiration of the existing term, one member from the
8 county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
9 citizens shall be appointed for a term of two years; and two members from
10 the county representatives, the municipal representatives, and the lay
11 citizens shall be appointed for terms of four years. One representative
12 from the department shall be appointed for a two-year term and the other
13 representative shall be appointed for a four-year term. Thereafter, all
14 such appointments shall be for terms of four years each.

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

21 **Sec. 15.** Section 39-2301.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
22 2024, is amended to read:

23 39-2301.01 For purposes of the County Highway and City Street
24 Superintendents Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

25 (1) Board of examiners means:

26 (a) Prior to July 1, 2026, the Board of Examiners for County Highway
27 and City Street Superintendents; and

28 (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, the Board of Public Roads
29 Classifications and Standards;

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

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

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

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

7 (b) Developing annual programs for design, construction, and
8 maintenance;

9 (c) Developing annual budgets based on programmed projects and
10 activities;

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

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

15 **Sec. 16.** Section 39-2304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
16 2024, is amended to read:

17 39-2304 (1) The Board of Examiners for County Highway and City
18 Street Superintendents is created. The board terminates on July 1, 2026.
19 The board shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Governor.
20 Four of such members shall be county representatives and three of such
21 members shall be municipal representatives.

22 (2)(a) Immediately preceding appointment to the board, each county
23 and municipal representative shall hold a county highway and city street
24 superintendent license pursuant to the County Highway and City Street
25 Superintendents Act.

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

28 (c) Of the municipal representatives:

29 (i) No more than one shall be appointed from each congressional
30 district;

31 (ii) One shall be a representative of a city of the metropolitan

1 class, primary class, or first class;

2 (iii) One shall be a representative of a city of the second class;
3 and

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

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

8 (a) A list of county engineers, county highway superintendents, and
9 county surveyors submitted by the Nebraska Association of County
10 Officials; and

11 (b) A list of city street superintendents, city managers, city
12 administrators, street commissioners, city engineers, village engineers,
13 and public works directors submitted by the League of Nebraska
14 Municipalities.

15 (4) Two county representatives shall initially be appointed for
16 terms of two years each, and two county representatives shall initially
17 be appointed for terms of four years each. One municipal representative
18 shall initially be appointed for a term of two years, and two municipal
19 representatives shall initially be appointed for terms of four years
20 each. Thereafter, all such appointments shall be for terms of four years
21 each.

22 (5) In the event a county or municipal representative loses his or
23 her county highway and city street superintendent license, such person
24 shall no longer be qualified to serve on the board and such seat shall be
25 vacant. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the board for any reason,
26 such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the
27 remainder of the unexpired term. Such appointed person shall meet the
28 same requirements and qualifications as the member whose vacancy he or
29 she is filling.

30 (6) Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their
31 services as members of the board but shall be reimbursed for expenses

1 incurred while engaged in the performance of their official duties as
2 provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

3 (7) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

4 **Sec. 17.** Section 43-1903, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
5 2024, is amended to read:

6 43-1903 (1) There is hereby created within the department the
7 Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. The board terminates on July
8 1, 2026. Prior to July 1, 2026, the board ~~which~~ shall be composed of nine
9 members as follows: Two representatives of the Department of Health and
10 Human Services appointed by the chief executive officer and seven members
11 to be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature. The
12 Governor shall appoint two members from each of the three congressional
13 districts and one member from the state at large. As a group, the
14 appointed board members (a) shall demonstrate knowledge in the area of
15 child abuse and neglect prevention, (b) shall be representative of the
16 demographic composition of this state, and (c) to the extent practicable,
17 shall be representative of all of the following categories (i) the
18 business community, (ii) the religious community, (iii) the legal
19 community, (iv) professional providers of child abuse and neglect
20 prevention services, and (v) volunteers in child abuse and neglect
21 prevention services.

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

31 (3) The board shall elect a chairperson from among the appointed

1 board members who shall serve for a term of two years. The board may
2 elect the other officers and establish committees as it deems
3 appropriate.

4 (4) The members of the board shall not receive any compensation for
5 their services but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the
6 performance of their duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.
7 The reimbursement shall be paid from the fund. In any one fiscal year, no
8 more than five percent of the annually available funds as provided in
9 section 43-1906 shall be used for the purpose of reimbursement of board
10 members.

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

14 (6) Prior to July 1, 2026, the department shall recommend to the
15 Governor changes to sections 43-1901 to 43-1906 to provide for an
16 efficient and effective grant process.

17 (7) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

18 **Sec. 18.** Section 43-3401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
19 2024, is amended to read:

20 43-3401 (1) The Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council is
21 created. The council shall advise and assist the collaborating agencies
22 in carrying out the provisions of the Early Intervention Act, the Quality
23 Child Care Act, sections 79-1101 to 79-1104, and other early childhood
24 care and education initiatives under state supervision. Membership and
25 activities of the council shall comply with all applicable provisions of
26 federal law. Beginning July 1, 2026, there shall be eleven members of the
27 council. Members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor and
28 shall include, but not be limited to:

29 (a) {1} Parents of children who require early intervention services,
30 early childhood special education, or ~~and~~ other early childhood care and
31 education services; and

1 **(b) (2)** Representatives of school districts, social services, health
2 and medical services, family child care programs, or and center-based
3 early childhood care and education programs ~~, agencies providing training~~
4 ~~to staff of child care programs, resource and referral agencies, mental~~
5 ~~health services, developmental disabilities services, educational service~~
6 ~~units, Head Start, higher education, physicians, the Legislature,~~
7 ~~business persons, and the collaborating agencies.~~

8 **(2)** Terms of the members shall be for three years, and a member
9 shall not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members shall
10 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177,
11 including child care expenses, with funds provided for such purposes
12 through the Early Intervention Act, the Quality Child Care Act, and
13 sections 79-1101 to 79-1104.

14 **(3)** Members of the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council serving
15 on July 13, 2000, shall constitute the Early Childhood Interagency
16 Coordinating Council and shall serve for the remainder of their terms.
17 The Governor shall make additional appointments as required by this
18 section and to fill vacancies as needed. The Governor shall set the
19 initial terms of additional appointees to result in staggered terms for
20 members of the council.

21 **(4)** The Department of Health and Human Services and the State
22 Department of Education shall provide and coordinate staff assistance to
23 the council.

24 **Sec. 19.** Section 43-4001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
25 2024, is amended to read:

26 43-4001 (1) The Children's Behavioral Health Task Force is created.
27 The task force terminates on July 1, 2026. The task force shall consist
28 of the following members:

29 (a) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
30 the Legislature or another member of the committee as his or her
31 designee;

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

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

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

9 (e) Two representatives of organizations advocating on behalf of
10 consumers of children's behavioral health services and their families,
11 appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee
12 of the Legislature;

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

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

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

19 (3) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of
20 the Legislature or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of the
21 task force. Administrative and staff support for the task force shall be
22 provided by the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature
23 and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature.

24 (4) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

25 **Sec. 20.** Section 43-4203, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
26 2024, is amended to read:

27 43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a
28 committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile
29 Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration. Such
30 committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home
31 placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth

1 rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the
2 commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what
3 populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment
4 services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately
5 serve those populations. Such committee shall also review how mental and
6 behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential
7 placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make
8 recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in
9 the juvenile justice system. The committee shall collaborate with the
10 Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the
11 Center for Health Policy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center,
12 the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state
13 and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations. The
14 recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in
15 the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families,
16 including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment
17 model. The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and
18 electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by
19 September 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (4) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee created pursuant to
6 section 43-4216, the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act Committee
7 created pursuant to section 43-4716, and the Bridge to Independence
8 Advisory Committee created pursuant to section 43-4513 shall be under the
9 jurisdiction of the commission. The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate
10 Committee and the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee terminate on
11 July 1, 2026, and the commission shall take over their duties pursuant to
12 sections 43-4215, 43-4217, and 43-4513.

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

16 (6) The commission shall work with administrators from each of the
17 service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116, the teams created
18 pursuant to section 28-728, local foster care review boards, child
19 advocacy centers, the teams created pursuant to the Supreme Court's
20 Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, community stakeholders, and
21 advocates for child welfare programs and services to establish networks
22 in each of such service areas. Such networks shall permit collaboration
23 to strengthen the continuum of services available to child welfare
24 agencies and to provide resources for children and juveniles outside the
25 child protection system.

26 (7) Beginning on July 1, 2026, the commission shall examine the
27 alternative response to reports of child abuse or neglect pursuant to
28 section 28-712.

29 (8) ~~(7)~~ The commission may organize subcommittees as it deems
30 necessary. Members of the subcommittees may be members of the commission
31 or may be individuals who have knowledge of the subcommittee's subject

1 matter, professional expertise to assist the subcommittee in completing
2 its assigned responsibilities, or the ability to collaborate within the
3 subcommittee and with the commission to carry out the powers and duties
4 of the commission. A subcommittee shall meet as necessary to complete the
5 work delegated by the commission and shall report its findings to the
6 relevant committee within the commission.

7 ~~(9) (8)~~ No member of any committee or subcommittee created pursuant
8 to this section shall have any private financial interest, profit, or
9 benefit from any work of such committee or subcommittee.

10 **Sec. 21.** Section 43-4216, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2024, is amended to read:

12 43-4216 (1) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee is created.
13 The committee shall be convened at least once every four years. The
14 committee terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

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

29 (b) The following nonvoting, ex officio members: (i) The chief
30 executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his
31 or her designee and (ii) representatives from the Division of Children

1 and Family Services of the department from each service area designated
2 pursuant to section 81-3116, including at least one division employee
3 with a thorough understanding of the current foster care payment system
4 and at least one division employee with a thorough understanding of the
5 N-FOCUS electronic data collection system. The nonvoting, ex officio
6 members of the committee may attend committee meetings and participate in
7 discussions of the committee and shall gather and provide information to
8 the committee on the policies, programs, and processes of each of their
9 respective bodies. The nonvoting, ex officio members shall not vote on
10 decisions or recommendations by the committee.

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

16 (4) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

17 **Sec. 22.** Section 43-4406, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
18 2024, is amended to read:

19 43-4406 On or before each September 15, the department shall report
20 electronically to the Health and Human Services Committee of the
21 Legislature the following information regarding child welfare services,
22 with respect to children served by the department:

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

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

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

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

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

3 ~~(4) An update of the information in the report of the Children's~~
4 ~~Behavioral Health Task Force pursuant to sections 43-4001 to 43-4003,~~
5 ~~including;~~

6 ~~(a) The number of children receiving mental health and substance~~
7 ~~abuse services annually by the Division of Behavioral Health of the~~
8 ~~department;~~

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

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

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

15 ~~(e) Expenditures in the immediately preceding fiscal year by the~~
16 ~~division, categorized by category of behavioral health service and by~~
17 ~~behavioral health region; and~~

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

22 ~~(4) (5) The following information as obtained for each service area:~~

23 ~~(a) Case manager education, including college degree, major, and~~
24 ~~level of education beyond a baccalaureate degree;~~

25 ~~(b) Average caseload per case manager;~~

26 ~~(c) Average number of case managers per child during the preceding~~
27 ~~twelve months;~~

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

1 (e) Monthly case manager turnover;

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

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

6 (h) Case documentation of monthly consecutive team meetings per
7 quarter;

8 (i) Case documentation of monthly consecutive parent contacts per
9 quarter;

10 (j) Case documentation of monthly consecutive child contacts with
11 case manager per quarter;

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

14 (l) Timeliness of court reports; and

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

18 (5) ~~(6)~~ All placements in residential treatment settings made or
19 paid for by the child welfare system, the Office of Juvenile Services,
20 the State Department of Education or local education agencies, and the
21 medical assistance program, including, but not limited to:

22 (a) Child variables;

23 (b) Reasons for placement;

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

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

27 (i) If there was a denial of initial placement request, the length
28 and level of each placement subsequent to denial of initial placement
29 request and the status of each child before and immediately after, six
30 months after, and twelve months after placement;

31 (ii) Funds expended and length of placements;

1 (iii) Number and level of placements;

2 (iv) Facility variables; and

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

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

8 (6) ~~(7)~~ For any individual involved in the child welfare system
9 receiving a service or a placement through the department or its agent
10 for which referral is necessary, the date when such referral was made by
11 the department or its agent and the date and the method by which the
12 individual receiving the services was notified of such referral. To the
13 extent the department becomes aware of the date when the individual
14 receiving the referral began receiving such services, the department or
15 its agent shall document such date;

16 (7) ~~(8)~~ The number of sexual abuse allegations that occurred for
17 children being served by the Division of Children and Family Services of
18 the Department of Health and Human Services and placed at a residential
19 child-caring agency and the number of corresponding (a) screening
20 decision occurrences by category, (b) open investigations by category,
21 and (c) agency substantiations, court substantiations, and court-pending
22 status cases; and

23 (8) ~~(9)~~ Information on children who are reported or suspected
24 victims of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor, as
25 defined in section 28-830, including:

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

29 (b) The number of substantiated victims of sex trafficking of a
30 minor or labor trafficking of a minor, including demographic information
31 and information on whether the children were already served by the

1 department;

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

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

9 (e) The number of ongoing cases opened due to allegations of sex
10 trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor and number of
11 children and families served through these cases.

12 **Sec. 23.** Section 43-4513, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
13 2024, is amended to read:

14 43-4513 (1) The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee is created
15 within the Nebraska Children's Commission to advise and make
16 recommendations to the Legislature and the Nebraska Children's Commission
17 regarding ongoing implementation of the bridge to independence program,
18 extended guardianship assistance described in section 43-4511, and
19 extended adoption assistance described in section 43-4512. The Bridge to
20 Independence Advisory Committee terminates on July 1, 2026, and the
21 Nebraska Children's Commission shall carry out the duties under this
22 section. The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee shall provide a
23 written report regarding ongoing implementation, including participation
24 in the bridge to independence program, extended guardianship assistance
25 described in section 43-4511, and extended adoption assistance described
26 in section 43-4512 and early discharge rates and reasons obtained from
27 the department, to the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Health and
28 Human Services Committee of the Legislature, the department, and the
29 Governor by September 1 of each year. The report to the Health and Human
30 Services Committee of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.

31 (2) The members of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee

1 shall include, but not be limited to, (a) representatives from all three
2 branches of government, and the representatives from the legislative and
3 judicial branches of government shall be nonvoting, ex officio members,
4 (b) no less than three young adults currently or previously in foster
5 care, which may be filled on a rotating basis by members of Project
6 Everlast or a similar youth support or advocacy group, (c) one or more
7 representatives from a child welfare advocacy organization, (d) one or
8 more representatives from a child welfare service agency, and (e) one or
9 more representatives from an agency providing independent living
10 services.

11 (3) Members of the committee shall be appointed for terms of two
12 years. The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint the chairperson
13 of the committee and may fill vacancies on the committee as they occur.

14 **Sec. 24.** Section 48-622.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 48-622.03 (1) There is hereby created the Nebraska Worker Training
17 Board. The Nebraska Worker Training Board terminates on July 1, 2026.
18 Beginning on such date, the duties of the board under this section shall
19 be carried out by the Department of Labor. The board shall consist of
20 seven members appointed and serving for terms determined by the Governor
21 as follows:

- 22 (a) A representative of employers in Nebraska;
- 23 (b) A representative of employees in Nebraska;
- 24 (c) A representative of the public;
- 25 (d) The Commissioner of Labor or a designee;
- 26 (e) The Director of Economic Development or a designee;
- 27 (f) The Commissioner of Education or a designee; and
- 28 (g) The chairperson of the governing board of the Nebraska Community
29 College Association or a designee.

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

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

10 (4) By December 31 of each year, the Department of Labor shall
11 provide a report to the Governor covering the activities of the program
12 financed by the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund for the previous
13 fiscal year. The report shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness
14 of the program and its administration.

15 **Sec. 25.** Section 58-202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 58-202 (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

18 (a) The high cost of agricultural loans and the general
19 unavailability of such loans at favorable rates and terms for farmers,
20 particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural enterprises have
21 resulted in decreased crop, livestock, and business productivity and
22 prevented farmers and other agricultural enterprises from acquiring
23 modern agricultural equipment and processes. These problems have made it
24 difficult for farmers and other agricultural enterprises to maintain or
25 increase their present number of employees and have decreased the supply
26 of agricultural commodities available to fulfill the needs of the
27 citizens of this state; and

28 (b) There exists in this state an inadequate supply of and a
29 pressing need for farm credit and agricultural loan financing at interest
30 rates and terms which are consistent with the needs of farmers,
31 particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural enterprises.

1 (2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 (a) From time to time the high rates of interest charged by mortgage
3 lenders seriously restrict existing housing transfers and new housing
4 starts and the resultant reduction in residential construction starts
5 causes a condition of substantial unemployment and underemployment in the
6 construction industry;

7 (b) Such conditions generally result in and contribute to the
8 creation of slums and blighted areas in the urban and rural areas of this
9 state and a deterioration of the quality of living conditions within this
10 state and necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of
11 public funds for crime prevention and punishment, public health and
12 safety, fire and accident prevention, and other public services and
13 facilities; and

14 (c) There exists in the urban and rural areas of this state an
15 inadequate supply of and a pressing need for sanitary, safe, and
16 uncrowded housing at prices at which low-income and moderate-income
17 persons, particularly first-time homebuyers, can afford to purchase,
18 construct, or rent and as a result such persons are forced to occupy
19 unsanitary, unsafe, and overcrowded housing.

20 (3) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

21 (a) Adequate and reliable energy supplies are a basic necessity of
22 life and sufficient energy supplies are essential to supplying adequate
23 food and shelter;

24 (b) The cost and availability of energy supplies has been and will
25 continue to be a matter of state and national concern;

26 (c) The increasing cost and decreasing availability of energy
27 supplies for purposes of residential heating will limit the ability of
28 many of Nebraska's citizens to provide the basic necessities of life and
29 will result in a deterioration in living conditions and a threat to the
30 health and welfare of the citizens of this state;

31 (d) Energy conservation through building modifications including,

1 but not limited to, insulation, weatherization, and the installation of
2 alternative energy devices has been shown to be a prudent means of
3 reducing energy consumption costs and the need for additional costly
4 facilities to produce and supply energy;

5 (e) Because of the high cost of available capital, the purchase of
6 energy conservation devices is not possible for many Nebraskans. The
7 prohibitively high interest rates for private capital create a situation
8 in which the necessary capital cannot be obtained solely from private
9 enterprise sources and there is a need for the stimulation of investment
10 of private capital, thereby encouraging the purchase of energy
11 conservation devices and energy conserving building modifications;

12 (f) The increased cost per capita of supplying adequate life-
13 sustaining energy needs has reduced the amount of funds, both public and
14 private, available for providing other necessities of life, including
15 food, health care, and safe, sanitary housing; and

16 (g) The continuing purchase of energy supplies results in the
17 transfer of ever-increasing amounts of capital to out-of-state energy
18 suppliers.

19 (4) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

20 (a) There exist within this state unemployment and underemployment
21 especially in areas of basic economic activity, caused by economic
22 decline and need for diversification of the economic base, needlessly
23 increasing public expenditures for unemployment compensation and welfare,
24 decreasing the tax base, reducing tax revenue, and resulting in economic
25 and social liabilities to the entire state;

26 (b) Such unemployment and underemployment cause areas of the state
27 to deteriorate and become substandard and blighted and such conditions
28 result in making such areas economic or social liabilities harmful to the
29 economic and social well-being of the entire state and the communities in
30 which they exist, needlessly increasing public expenditures, imposing
31 onerous state and municipal burdens, decreasing the tax base, reducing

1 tax revenue, substantially impairing or arresting the sound growth of the
2 state and the municipalities, depreciating general state and community-
3 wide values, and contributing to the spread of disease and crime which
4 necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of public funds
5 for the preservation of the public health and safety, for crime
6 prevention, correction, prosecution, and punishment, for the treatment of
7 juvenile delinquency, for the maintenance of adequate police, fire, and
8 accident protection, and for other public services and facilities;

9 (c) There exist within this state conditions resulting from the
10 concentration of population of various counties, cities, and villages
11 which require the construction, maintenance, and operation of adequate
12 hospital and nursing facilities for the care of the public health. Since
13 these conditions cannot be remedied by the ordinary operations of private
14 enterprises and since provision of adequate hospital, nursing, and
15 medical care is a public use, it is in the public interest that adequate
16 hospital and medical facilities and care be provided in order to care for
17 and protect the public health and welfare;

18 (d) Creation of basic economic jobs in the private sector and the
19 promotion of health and welfare by the means provided under the Nebraska
20 Investment Finance Authority Act and the resulting reduction of needless
21 public expenditures, expansion of the tax base, provision of hospitals
22 and health care and related facilities, and increase of tax revenue are
23 needed within this state; and

24 (e) Stimulation of economic development throughout the state and the
25 provision of health care at affordable prices are matters of state
26 policy, public interest, and statewide concern and within the powers and
27 authority inherent in and reserved to the state in order that the state
28 and its municipalities shall not continue to be endangered by areas which
29 consume an excessive proportion of their revenue, in order that the
30 economic base of the state may be broadened and stabilized thereby
31 providing jobs and necessary tax base, and in order that adequate health

1 care services be provided to all residents of this state.

2 (5) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

3 (a) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
4 municipalities, as defined in section 81-15,149, in providing wastewater
5 treatment facilities and safe drinking water facilities. The federal
6 funding provided for wastewater treatment facilities is extremely limited
7 while the need to provide and improve wastewater treatment facilities and
8 safe drinking water facilities is great;

9 (b) The construction, development, rehabilitation, and improvement
10 of modern and efficient sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities
11 are essential to protecting and improving the state's water quality, the
12 provision of adequate wastewater treatment facilities and safe drinking
13 water facilities is essential to economic growth and development, and new
14 sources of financing for such projects are needed;

15 (c) The federal government has acted to end the system of federal
16 construction grants for clean water projects and has instead provided for
17 capitalization grants to capitalize state revolving funds for wastewater
18 treatment projects and will soon expand that to include safe drinking
19 water facilities, and the state has created or is expected to create
20 appropriate funds or accounts for such purpose. The state is required or
21 expected to be required to provide matching funds for deposit into such
22 funds or accounts, and there is a need for financing in excess of the
23 amount which can be provided by the federal money and the state match;
24 and

25 (d) Additional assistance can be provided to municipalities as
26 defined in section 81-15,149 to alleviate the problems of water pollution
27 or the provision of safe drinking water by providing for the issuance of
28 revenue bonds, the proceeds of which shall be deposited into the
29 Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund or the comparable
30 state fund to finance safe drinking water facilities. Nothing in this
31 section shall prohibit the provision of loans, including loans made

1 pursuant to the Conservation Corporation Act prior to July 1, 2026, to a
2 municipality as defined in section 81-15,149 for the construction,
3 development, rehabilitation, operation, maintenance, and improvement of
4 wastewater treatment facilities or safe drinking water facilities.

5 (6) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

6 (a) There is a need within this state for financing to assist public
7 school boards and school districts and private for-profit or not-for-
8 profit schools in connection with removal of materials determined to be
9 hazardous to the health and well-being of the residents of the state and
10 the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers and that the
11 federal funding provided for such projects is extremely limited and the
12 need and requirement to remove such materials and to reduce or eliminate
13 accessibility barriers from school buildings is great;

14 (b) The financing of the removal of such environmental hazards and
15 the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers is essential to
16 protecting and improving the facilities in the state which provide
17 educational benefits and services;

18 (c) The federal government has directed schools to remove such
19 hazardous materials and to reduce or eliminate accessibility barriers;
20 and

21 (d) The problems enumerated in this subsection cannot be remedied
22 through the operation of private enterprise or individual communities or
23 both but may be alleviated through the assistance of the authority to
24 encourage the investment of private capital and assist in the financing
25 of the removal of environmental hazards and the reduction or elimination
26 of accessibility barriers in educational facilities in this state in
27 order to provide for a clean, safe, and accessible environment to protect
28 the health and welfare of the citizens and residents of this state.

29 (7) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

30 (a) The rapidly rising volume of waste deposited by society
31 threatens the capacity of existing and future landfills. The nature of

1 waste disposal means that unknown quantities of potentially toxic and
2 hazardous materials are being buried and pose a constant threat to the
3 ground water supply. In addition, the nature of the waste and the
4 disposal methods utilized allow the waste to remain basically inert for
5 decades, if not centuries, without decomposition;

6 (b) Wastes filling Nebraska's landfills may at best represent a
7 potential resource, but without proper management wastes are hazards to
8 the environment and to the public health and welfare;

9 (c) The growing concern with ground water protection and the desire
10 to avoid financial risks inherent in ground water contamination have
11 caused many smaller landfills to close in favor of using higher-volume
12 facilities. Larger operations allow for better ground water protection at
13 a relatively lower and more manageable cost;

14 (d) The reduction of solid waste at the source and the recycling of
15 reusable waste materials will reduce the flow of waste to landfills and
16 increase the supply of reusable materials for the use of the public;

17 (e) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
18 counties, cities, villages, entities created under the Interlocal
19 Cooperation Act and the Joint Public Agency Act, and private persons with
20 the construction and operation of new solid waste disposal areas or
21 facilities and with the closure, monitoring, and remediation of existing
22 solid waste disposal areas and facilities;

23 (f) Financing the construction and operation of new solid waste
24 disposal areas and facilities and financing the closure, monitoring, and
25 remediation of existing and former solid waste disposal areas and
26 facilities in the state is essential to protect the environment and the
27 public health and welfare;

28 (g) The federal government has directed that effective October 1,
29 1993, all solid waste disposal areas and facilities shall be upgraded to
30 meet stringent siting, design, construction, operation, closure,
31 monitoring, and remediation requirements; and

1 (h) The problems enumerated in this subsection cannot be remedied
2 through the operation of private enterprise or individual communities or
3 both but may be alleviated through the assistance of the authority to
4 encourage the investment of private capital and to assist in the
5 financing of solid waste disposal areas and facilities and in the removal
6 of environmental hazards in solid waste disposal areas and facilities in
7 this state in order to provide for a clean environment to protect the
8 health and welfare of the citizens and residents of this state.

9 (8) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

10 (a) During emergencies the resources of political subdivisions must
11 be effectively directed and coordinated to public safety agencies to save
12 lives, to protect property, and to meet the needs of citizens;

13 (b) There exists a need for public safety communication systems for
14 use by Nebraska's public safety agencies as defined in the Nebraska
15 Public Safety Communication System Act;

16 (c) Investment in the public safety communication infrastructure is
17 required to ensure the effectiveness of such public safety agencies.
18 Since the maintenance of public safety is a paramount concern but the
19 cost of purchasing and operating multiple communication infrastructures
20 is prohibitive, it is imperative that political subdivisions cooperate in
21 their efforts to obtain real and personal property to establish, operate,
22 maintain, and manage public safety communication systems; and

23 (d) There is a need within this state for financing to assist
24 political subdivisions and any entities created under the Interlocal
25 Cooperation Act and the Joint Public Agency Act with the acquisition,
26 construction, and operation of real and personal property of public
27 safety communication systems.

28 (9) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that, as of May 27,
29 2005, and in connection with the financing of agricultural projects,
30 there is a need to increase both the limit on individual net worth and
31 the limit on the aggregate loan amount that may be provided by the

1 authority. Such adjustments are necessary to address the inadequate
2 supply of and pressing need for farm credit and agricultural loan
3 financing at interest rates and terms that are consistent with the needs
4 of farmers, particularly beginning farmers, and other agricultural
5 enterprises.

6 (10) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

7 (a) The amount of funding and other resources available to remedy
8 the problems identified in this section has been, and continues to be,
9 insufficient. Accordingly, the authority must be provided with additional
10 powers to adequately address the problems identified in this section with
11 funding derived from public and private sources and state and federal
12 sources;

13 (b) Carrying out the purposes of the Nebraska Investment Finance
14 Authority Act may necessitate innovative agreements with public agencies
15 and private entities and it is the policy of this state to encourage such
16 public-private and intergovernmental cooperation; and

17 (c) Better, more broad-based sources of financing must be made
18 available to the authority and by the authority to the private sector of
19 the economy to enable the authority to address the problems identified in
20 this section.

21 **Sec. 26.** Section 60-1401.06, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
22 is amended to read:

23 60-1401.06 Board means:

24 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry
25 Licensing Board; and -

26 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Motor Vehicles.

27 **Sec. 27.** Section 60-1402, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
28 amended to read:

29 60-1402 (1) There is hereby established the Nebraska Motor Vehicle
30 Industry Licensing Board. The board terminates July 1, 2026. Prior to
31 July 1, 2026, the board ~~which~~ shall consist of the Director of Motor

1 Vehicles, who shall be the chairperson of the board, and nine members
2 appointed by the Governor as follows: One factory representative, one
3 member of the general public, and one motorcycle dealer, all of whom
4 shall be appointed from the state at large, one new motor vehicle dealer
5 from each of the three congressional districts of the state as the
6 districts are constituted on October 19, 1963, and two used motor vehicle
7 dealers and one trailer dealer or combination motor vehicle or trailer
8 dealer, not more than one used motor vehicle dealer being appointed from
9 the same congressional district as they are constituted on October 19,
10 1963, and the trailer dealer or combination motor vehicle or trailer
11 dealer being appointed from the state at large. No member of the board
12 shall participate in any manner in a proceeding before the board
13 involving his or her licensed business.

14 (2) On October 19, 1963, the Governor shall appoint a new motor
15 vehicle dealer and a trailer dealer or combination motor vehicle or
16 trailer dealer to the board. In making the appointments, the Governor
17 shall appoint one of the new members for one year and one for two years
18 as designated by the Governor in making the appointments. On January 1,
19 1972, the Governor shall appoint one factory representative and one
20 member of the general public to the board, designating one to serve for a
21 term of one year and one for a term of two years. On January 1, 1974, the
22 Governor shall appoint one motorcycle dealer to serve for a term of three
23 years. At the expiration of the term of any appointed member of the
24 board, the Governor shall appoint a successor for a term of three years.
25 In the event of a vacancy on the board, the Governor shall fill such
26 vacancy by appointing a member to serve during the unexpired term of the
27 member whose office has become vacant. No member appointed shall serve
28 more than two consecutive terms. The action of the majority of the
29 members of the board shall be deemed the action of the board. All
30 appointments made to the board, except the Director of Motor Vehicles,
31 shall be confirmed by the Legislature if in session. In the event the

1 Legislature is not in session all appointments including appointments to
2 fill a vacancy shall be temporary appointments until the next meeting of
3 the Legislature when the Governor shall nominate some person to fill the
4 office. Any person so nominated who is confirmed by the Legislature shall
5 hold office during the remainder of the term. No appointed person may act
6 as a member of the board while holding any other elective or appointive
7 state or federal office except the Director of Motor Vehicles. All
8 appointed members of the board shall be paid fifty dollars for each day
9 actually engaged in the performance of their duties and be entitled to
10 their reasonable traveling expenses in the performance of their duties.

11 (3) Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall
12 take over the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the board.

13 **Sec. 28.** Section 66-1605, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 66-1605 Council means the Propane Education and Research Council
16 established under section ~~sections 66-1617 and~~ 66-1618.

17 **Sec. 29.** Section 66-1618, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
18 amended to read:

19 66-1618 (1)(a) ~~(1)~~ The council shall be appointed by the Governor
20 ~~within sixty days after the date the vote is certified to the Governor~~
21 ~~pursuant to section 66-1617.~~

22 (b) The council shall consist of five ~~nine~~ members, including two
23 ~~four~~ members representing retail marketers, one member representing
24 wholesalers, suppliers, and importers, one member representing
25 manufacturers and distributors of liquefied petroleum gas equipment, ~~one~~
26 ~~member representing the academic or propane research community, one~~
27 ~~propane user or consumer,~~ and the State Fire Marshal or his or her
28 designee. Other than the State Fire Marshal or his or her designee and
29 the representatives of the research community and consumers, members
30 shall be full-time employees or owners of businesses in the industry or
31 representatives of agriculture cooperatives. Only one person from any

1 company or an affiliated company may serve on the council at a time. All
2 members shall be Nebraska residents, except that the members representing
3 wholesalers, suppliers, and importers and manufacturers and distributors
4 of liquefied petroleum gas equipment may be residents of other states.

5 (2) Members of the council shall serve terms of four ~~three~~ years,
6 except that, of the initial members, three shall be appointed for terms
7 of one year and three shall be appointed for terms of two years. Members
8 filling unexpired terms shall be appointed in a manner consistent with
9 this section. Members may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms,
10 except that members filling unexpired terms may serve a maximum of seven
11 consecutive years. Members filling unexpired terms shall be appointed in
12 a manner consistent with this section. Former members may be reappointed
13 if they have not been members for a period of two years.

14 **Sec. 30.** Section 66-2001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
15 2024, is amended to read:

16 66-2001 (1) The Natural Gas Fuel Board is hereby established to
17 advise the Department of Environment and Energy regarding the promotion
18 of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel in Nebraska. The board terminates
19 on July 1, 2026. The board shall provide recommendations relating to:

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

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

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

26 (2) The board shall consist of eight members appointed by the
27 Governor. The Governor shall make the initial appointments by October 1,
28 2012. The board shall include:

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

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

1 (c) One member representing the interests of the transportation
2 industry in the state;

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

5 (e) One member representing natural gas marketers or pipelines in
6 the state;

7 (f) One member representing automobile dealerships or repair
8 businesses in the state;

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

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

12 (3) All appointments shall be subject to the approval of a majority
13 of the members of the Legislature if the Legislature is in session, and
14 if the Legislature is not in session, any appointment to fill a vacancy
15 shall be temporary until the next session of the Legislature, at which
16 time a majority of the members of the Legislature may approve or
17 disapprove such appointment.

18 (4) Members shall be appointed for terms of four years, except that
19 of the initial appointees the terms of the members representing a
20 jurisdictional utility and a metropolitan utilities district shall expire
21 on September 30, 2015, the terms of the members representing the
22 transportation industry, the business community, natural gas marketers or
23 pipelines, and automobile dealerships or repair businesses shall expire
24 on September 30, 2014, and the terms of the members representing labor
25 and environmental interests shall expire on September 30, 2013. Members
26 may be reappointed. A member shall serve until a successor is appointed
27 and qualified.

28 (5) A vacancy on the board shall exist in the event of death,
29 disability, resignation, or removal for cause of a member. Any vacancy on
30 the board arising other than from the expiration of a term shall be
31 filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. An

1 appointment to fill a vacancy shall be made by the Governor with the
2 approval of a majority of the Legislature, and any person so appointed
3 shall have the same qualifications as the person whom he or she succeeds.

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

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

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

9 (9) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

10 **Sec. 31.** Section 71-702, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2024, is amended to read:

12 71-702 (1) The Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council is
13 created. The advisory council terminates on July 1, 2026. Prior to July
14 1, 2026, the advisory council ~~and~~ shall consist of not more than thirty
15 members, at least three-fourths of whom are women. At least one member
16 shall be appointed from the following disciplines: (a) An obstetrician/
17 gynecologist; (b) a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant from a
18 rural community; (c) a geriatrics physician or nurse; (d) a pediatrician;
19 (e) a community public health representative from each congressional
20 district; (f) a health educator; (g) an insurance industry
21 representative; (h) a mental health professional; (i) a representative
22 from a statewide health volunteer agency; (j) a private health care
23 industry representative; (k) an epidemiologist or a health statistician;
24 (l) a foundation representative; and (m) a woman who is a health care
25 consumer from each of the following age categories: Eighteen to thirty;
26 thirty-one to forty; forty-one to sixty-five; and sixty-six and older.
27 The membership shall also include a representative of the University of
28 Nebraska Medical Center, a representative from Creighton University
29 Medical Center, the chief medical officer if one is appointed under
30 section 81-3115, and the Title V Administrator of the Department of
31 Health and Human Services.

1 (2) The Governor shall appoint advisory council members and shall
2 consider and attempt to balance representation based on political party
3 affiliation, race, and different geographical areas of Nebraska when
4 making appointments. The Governor shall appoint the first chairperson and
5 vice-chairperson of the advisory council. There shall be two ex officio,
6 nonvoting members from the Legislature, one of which shall be the
7 chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee.

8 (3) The terms of the initial members shall be as follows: One-third
9 shall serve for one-year terms, one-third shall serve for two-year terms,
10 and one-third shall serve for three-year terms including the members
11 designated chairperson and vice-chairperson. Thereafter members shall
12 serve for three-year terms. Members may not serve more than two
13 consecutive three-year terms.

14 (4) The Governor shall make the appointments within three months
15 after July 13, 2000.

16 (5) The advisory council shall meet quarterly the first two years.
17 After this time the advisory council shall meet at least every six months
18 or upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of the voting members.
19 A quorum shall be one-half of the voting members.

20 (6) The members of the advisory council shall be reimbursed for
21 expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 and pursuant to
22 policies of the advisory council. Funds for reimbursement for expenses
23 shall be from the Women's Health Initiative Fund.

24 (7) The advisory council shall advise the Women's Health Initiative
25 of Nebraska in carrying out its duties under section 71-701 and may
26 solicit private funds to support the initiative.

27 **Sec. 32.** Section 71-705, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
28 amended to read:

29 71-705 The Women's Health Initiative Fund is created. The fund
30 terminates on July 1, 2026. The fund shall consist of money received as
31 gifts or grants or collected as fees or charges from any federal, state,

1 public, or private source. Money in the fund shall be used to reimburse
2 the expenses of the Women's Health Initiative of Nebraska and expenses of
3 members of the Women's Health Initiative Advisory Council. Nothing in
4 sections 71-701 to 71-707 requires the Women's Health Initiative of
5 Nebraska to accept any private donations that are not in keeping with the
6 goals and objectives set forth by the initiative and the Department of
7 Health and Human Services. No funds expended or received by or through
8 the initiative shall pay for abortion referral or abortion services. Any
9 money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
10 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
11 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

12 **Sec. 33.** Section 71-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 71-706 The Department of Health and Human Services shall have all
15 powers necessary to implement the purposes and intent of sections 71-701
16 to 71-707, including applying for, receiving, and administering federal
17 and other public and private funds credited to the Women's Health
18 Initiative Fund prior to July 1, 2026. Any funds obtained for the Women's
19 Health Initiative of Nebraska shall be remitted to the State Treasurer
20 for credit to the Women's Health Initiative Fund prior to July 1, 2026.

21 **Sec. 34.** Section 71-814, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
22 amended to read:

23 71-814 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Mental Health Services is
24 created. Members of the committee shall have a demonstrated interest and
25 commitment and specialized knowledge, experience, or expertise relating
26 to the provision of mental health services in the State of Nebraska. The
27 committee shall consist of twenty-three members appointed by the Governor
28 as follows: (a) One regional governing board member, (b) one regional
29 administrator, (c) twelve consumers of behavioral health services or
30 their family members, (d) two providers of behavioral health services,
31 (e) two representatives from the State Department of Education, including

1 one representative from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the
2 State Department of Education, (f) three representatives from the
3 Department of Health and Human Services representing mental health,
4 social services, and medicaid, (g) one representative from the Nebraska
5 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and (h) one
6 representative from the Housing Office of the Community and Rural
7 Development Division of the Department of Economic Development.

8 (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)
9 serve as the state's mental health planning council as required by Public
10 Law 102-321, (b) conduct regular meetings, (c) provide advice and
11 assistance to the division relating to the provision of mental health
12 services and, beginning July 1, 2026, substance use disorder services in
13 the State of Nebraska, including, but not limited to, the development,
14 implementation, provision, and funding of organized peer support
15 services, (d) promote the interests of consumers and their families,
16 including, but not limited to, their inclusion and involvement in all
17 aspects of services design, planning, implementation, provision,
18 education, evaluation, and research, (e) provide reports as requested by
19 the division, and (f) engage in such other activities as directed or
20 authorized by the division.

21 (3) Beginning on July 1, 2026, the State Advisory Committee on
22 Mental Health Services shall also perform the duties of the State
23 Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services.

24 **Sec. 35.** Section 71-815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 71-815 (1) The State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services
27 is created. The State Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse Services
28 terminates on July 1, 2026. Members of the committee shall have a
29 demonstrated interest and commitment and specialized knowledge,
30 experience, or expertise relating to the provision of substance abuse
31 services in the State of Nebraska. The committee shall consist of twelve

1 members appointed by the Governor and shall include at least three
2 consumers of substance abuse services.

3 (2) The committee shall be responsible to the division and shall (a)
4 conduct regular meetings, (b) provide advice and assistance to the
5 division relating to the provision of substance abuse services in the
6 State of Nebraska, (c) promote the interests of consumers and their
7 families, (d) provide reports as requested by the division, and (e)
8 engage in such other activities as directed or authorized by the
9 division.

10 (3) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

11 **Sec. 36.** Section 71-2454.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
12 is amended to read:

13 71-2454.01 (1) The Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task
14 Force is created. The task force shall conduct a study to develop
15 recommendations of which controlled substances shall be reported by a
16 veterinarian to the prescription drug monitoring program created under
17 section 71-2454 when dispensing drugs from a veterinarian's office or an
18 animal shelter. The study shall include appropriate methods and
19 procedures of reporting by the veterinarians with the necessary database
20 field information. The task force shall utilize nationally available
21 resources afforded by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards
22 and the Department of State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs of the
23 American Veterinary Medical Association in development of the
24 recommendations.

25 (2) The task force shall consist of at least ten members appointed
26 by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the
27 Legislature as follows: One member of the Health and Human Services
28 Committee; two at-large members of the Legislature; three members
29 selected from a list of six veterinarians provided by the Board of
30 Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, one of whom is employed by or provides
31 services at an animal shelter; one pharmacist nominated by the Nebraska

1 Pharmacists Association or its successor organization; and two members
2 nominated by the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association or its successor
3 organization. The task force shall also include a representative of the
4 prescription drug monitoring program who shall be a nonvoting member and
5 serve in an advisory capacity only.

6 (3) The members of the task force shall be appointed within one
7 hundred twenty days after February 25, 2016. The initial meeting of the
8 task force shall be convened within one hundred eighty days after
9 February 25, 2016. The task force shall elect a chairperson and may elect
10 any additional officers from among its members. All task force members
11 shall serve without compensation.

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

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

17 (6) The Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program Task Force
18 terminates on July 1, 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

19 **Sec. 37.** Section 71-4503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 71-4503 The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish
22 the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education
23 Program. Until July 1, 2026, the ~~The~~ department shall consult with the
24 Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council created in section
25 71-4504 regarding the program. The department shall make information
26 regarding the program available on its website on or before June 30,
27 2018. The information shall include, but not be limited to:

28 (1) Continuing education opportunities regarding palliative care for
29 health care professionals;

30 (2) Delivery of palliative care in the home and in primary,
31 secondary, and tertiary environments;

- 1 (3) Best practices in palliative care delivery;
- 2 (4) Educational materials for consumers of palliative care;
- 3 (5) Referral information for palliative care; and
- 4 (6) Palliative care delivery systems.

5 **Sec. 38.** Section 71-4504, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
6 2024, is amended to read:

7 71-4504 (1) The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council
8 is created. The council terminates on July 1, 2026. Until July 1, 2026,
9 the council shall consult with and advise the Department of Health and
10 Human Services on matters relating to palliative care initiatives. The
11 council shall:

12 (a) Survey palliative care providers regarding best practices and
13 recommendations;

14 (b) Work with the department; and

15 (c) Make recommendations to the department regarding information on
16 the website pursuant to section 71-4503 as standards of care change.

17 (2) The council shall be composed of nine members appointed by the
18 Governor for three-year terms. At least two of the members shall be
19 physicians or nurses certified under the Hospice and Palliative Medicine
20 Certification Program administered by the American Board of Internal
21 Medicine. One member shall be an employee of the department familiar with
22 hospice and palliative medicine. The remaining members shall (a) have
23 palliative care work experience, (b) have experience with palliative care
24 delivery models in a variety of settings, such as acute care, long-term
25 care, and hospice care, and with a variety of populations, including
26 pediatric patients, youth patients, and adult patients, or (c) be
27 representatives of palliative care patients and their family caregivers.

28 (3) The council shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The
29 members shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The members shall
30 be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 but
31 shall not receive any other compensation for such services.

1 (4) The department shall provide a place and time for the council to
2 meet and provide staffing assistance as necessary for the meetings.

3 **Sec. 39.** Section 71-5311, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 71-5311 (1) There is hereby established the Advisory Council on
6 Public Water Supply which shall advise and assist the department in
7 administering the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act. The council
8 terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

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

30 (4) The council shall meet not less than once each year. Special
31 meetings of the council may be called by the director or upon the written

1 request of any two members of the council explaining the reason for such
2 meeting. The place of the meeting shall be set by the director. Such
3 officers as the council deems necessary shall be elected every three
4 years beginning with the first meeting in the year 1990. A majority of
5 the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
6 of business. Representatives of the department shall attend each meeting.
7 Every act of the majority of the members of the council shall be deemed
8 to be the act of the council.

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

14 (6) This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

15 **Sec. 40.** Section 71-7012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
16 2024, is amended to read:

17 71-7012 The Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee is
18 established. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The committee
19 consists of the members of the Mammography Screening Committee serving
20 immediately prior to September 9, 1995, and eight additional members
21 appointed by the chief executive officer of the department or his or her
22 designee who have expertise or a personal interest in cervical cancer.
23 The committee shall consist of not more than twenty-four volunteer
24 members, at least eight of whom are women, appointed by the chief
25 executive officer or his or her designee. Members of the committee shall
26 be persons interested in health care, the promotion of breast cancer
27 screening, and cervical cancer and shall be drawn from both the private
28 sector and the public sector. At least one member shall be a person who
29 has or who has had breast cancer.

30 Of the initial members of the committee, four shall be appointed for
31 terms of one year and four shall be appointed for terms of two years.

1 Thereafter all appointments shall be for terms of two years. All members
2 shall serve until their successors are appointed. No member shall serve
3 more than two successive two-year terms. Vacancies in the membership of
4 the committee for any cause shall be filled by appointment by the chief
5 executive officer or his or her designee for the unexpired term.

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

15 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

16 **Sec. 41.** Section 71-7102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 71-7102 For purposes of the Critical Incident Stress Management Act:

19 ~~(1) Committee means the Interagency Management Committee;~~

20 ~~(2) Council means the Critical Incident Stress Management Council;~~

21 (1) ~~(3)~~ Critical incident means a traumatic or crisis situation;

22 (2) ~~(4)~~ Critical incident stress means a strong emotional,
23 cognitive, or physical reaction which has the potential to interfere with
24 normal functioning, including physical and emotional illness, loss of
25 interest in the job, personality changes, marital discord, and loss of
26 ability to function;

27 (3) ~~(5)~~ Emergency service agency means any law enforcement agency,
28 fire department, emergency medical service, dispatcher, rescue service,
29 hospital as defined in section 71-419, or other entity which provides
30 emergency response services;

31 (4) ~~(6)~~ Emergency service personnel includes law enforcement

1 personnel, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and
2 hospital personnel; and

3 ~~(5) (7)~~ Program means the Critical Incident Stress Management
4 Program.

5 **Sec. 42.** Section 71-7107, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
6 amended to read:

7 71-7107 ~~(1)~~ The Department of Health and Human Services shall be the
8 lead agency for the program.

9 ~~(2)~~ Until July 1, 2026, the The department shall:

10 ~~(a) (1)~~ Provide office support to program activities;

11 ~~(b) (2)~~ Provide necessary equipment for the program and
12 participants;

13 ~~(c) (3)~~ Provide staff support to the Critical Incident Stress
14 Management Council ~~council~~;

15 ~~(d) (4)~~ Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement the
16 program;

17 ~~(e) (5)~~ Recruit hospital personnel and emergency medical workers to
18 be trained as critical incident stress management peers;

19 ~~(f) (6)~~ Participate in the training and continuing education of such
20 peers and mental health professionals; and

21 ~~(g) (7)~~ Appoint a director for the program who shall be an employee
22 of the department and shall be the chairperson of the Interagency
23 Management Committee ~~committee~~.

24 ~~(3)~~ On and after July 1, 2026, the department shall:

25 ~~(a)~~ Coordinate program activities and emergency response;

26 ~~(b)~~ Provide necessary equipment for the program and participants;

27 ~~(c)~~ Recruit hospital personnel and emergency medical workers to be
28 trained as critical incident stress management peers;

29 ~~(d)~~ Participate in the training and continuing education of such
30 peers and mental health professionals;

31 ~~(e)~~ Appoint a director for the program who shall be an employee of

1 the department;

2 (f) Specify the organizational and operational goals for the program
3 and provide overall policy direction for the program;

4 (g) Manage planning and budget development for the program;

5 (h) Manage program development and evaluation;

6 (i) Provide a mechanism for quality assurance that may include
7 certification of critical incident stress management team members;

8 (j) Identify critical incident stress management regions; and

9 (k) Provide backup to regional critical incident stress management
10 teams.

11 (4) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
12 implement the program.

13 **Sec. 43.** Section 71-7108, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 71-7108 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
16 ~~participate in the council and committee,~~ recruit mental health workers
17 for each critical incident stress management region ~~,~~ and participate in
18 the training and continuing education activities of critical incident
19 stress management peers and mental health professionals.

20 (2) The Nebraska State Patrol shall ~~participate in the council and~~
21 ~~committee,~~ receive all initial requests for stress management sessions,
22 coordinate transportation requirements for critical incident stress
23 management team members, recruit members of the law enforcement
24 profession in each region to be trained as critical incident stress
25 management peers, participate in the training and continuing education
26 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
27 professionals, and appoint a member of the patrol to each regional
28 management committee.

29 (3) The State Fire Marshal shall ~~participate in the council and~~
30 ~~committee,~~ cooperate in providing transportation for critical incident
31 stress management teams, recruit firefighters to be trained as critical

1 incident stress management peers in each critical incident stress
2 management region, participate in the training and continuing education
3 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
4 professionals, and appoint an individual who is employed by the State
5 Fire Marshal to be on each regional management committee.

6 (4) The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall ~~participate in~~
7 ~~the council and committee,~~ promote stress management planning as part of
8 emergency management preparedness, promote preincident education programs
9 to acquaint emergency service personnel with stress management
10 techniques, and participate in the training and continuing education
11 activities of critical incident stress management peers and mental health
12 professionals.

13 (5) Until July 1, 2026, the department, patrol, State Fire Marshal,
14 and agency shall participate in the Critical Incident Stress Management
15 Council and the Interagency Management Committee.

16 **Sec. 44.** Section 71-7109, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 71-7109 The ~~council shall appoint a~~ statewide clinical director
19 shall be appointed by the Critical Incident Stress Management Council
20 until July 1, 2026, and by the Department of Health and Human Services on
21 and after July 1, 2026. The statewide clinical director ~~shall be a member~~
22 ~~of the committee and, working with the committee,~~ shall supervise and
23 evaluate the professional and peer support team members, including the
24 regional clinical directors, and until July 1, 2026, shall be a member of
25 and work with the Interagency Management Committee for such purpose. The
26 statewide clinical director may conduct critical incident stress
27 management training and continuing education activities.

28 **Sec. 45.** Section 71-7110, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 71-7110 Each critical incident stress management region shall have a
31 regional management committee composed of representatives of the

1 Department of Health and Human Services, the State Fire Marshal, and the
2 Nebraska State Patrol and a regional clinical director. The regional
3 clinical director shall have a graduate degree in a mental health
4 discipline. The regional management committee shall be responsible for
5 the implementation and coordination of the program in the region
6 according to the specifications developed by the Critical Incident Stress
7 Management Council ~~council~~ and Interagency Management Committee prior to
8 July 1, 2026, and developed by the department on and after July 1, 2026.
9 The regional management committee shall develop critical incident stress
10 management teams to facilitate the stress management process.

11 **Sec. 46.** Section 72-811, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 72-811 For purposes of sections 72-811 to 72-818:

14 (1) Committee means: ~~shall mean~~

15 (a) The ~~the~~ Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee prior to July
16 1, 2026; and

17 (b) The Department of Administrative Services beginning on July 1,
18 2026;

19 (2) Excess, referring to land, means ~~shall mean~~ (a) unused in whole
20 or in part by any state agency for the purposes for which the land was
21 acquired or received or (b) without current defined plans by any state
22 agency for the use of the land for the agency's mission for the next
23 fiscal year; and

24 (3) Vacant, referring to buildings, means ~~shall mean~~ (a) unoccupied,
25 (b) unused in whole or in part by any state agency for the purposes for
26 which the building was designed, intended, or remodeled, or (c) without
27 current defined plans by any state agency for the use of the building for
28 the agency's mission for the next fiscal year.

29 **Sec. 47.** Section 72-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 72-812 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee is hereby

1 created. The committee shall be composed of the Director of
2 Administrative Services, the State Building Administrator, and the
3 administrator of the Task Force for Building Renewal created pursuant to
4 section 81-174. When reviewing and considering action to be taken in
5 regard to a particular building or piece of land, the committee shall
6 also include a representative of the state agency responsible for the
7 building or land as a nonvoting member.

8 The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee terminates July 1,
9 2026. This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

10 **Sec. 48.** Section 72-2101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
11 amended to read:

12 72-2101 The Governor's Residence Advisory Commission is created. The
13 commission terminates on July 1, 2026. The commission shall conduct an
14 annual inspection of the Governor's residence. A report on the inspection
15 shall be submitted to the Governor within thirty days after the day of
16 the inspection. The report shall include recommendations for major
17 maintenance or repair projects, if needed. Implementation and priority of
18 an approved major maintenance or repair project shall be determined by
19 the Governor in cooperation with the Director of Administrative Services.
20 Additionally, no changes, additions, deletions, or other alterations to
21 the residence, including its exterior, interior, decorative objects,
22 contents, or grounds shall be made without the prior approval of the
23 commission, except for the Governor's private living quarters located on
24 the second floor of the residence.

25 Sections 72-2101 to 72-2105 terminate on July 1, 2026.

26 **Sec. 49.** Section 72-2206, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

28 72-2206 The administrator shall have (1) a bachelor's degree or
29 higher degree in architecture from an accredited college or university or
30 ~~and~~ (2) at least five years of administrative experience in historic
31 preservation and planning, design, and construction of major construction

1 projects.

2 **Sec. 50.** Section 81-1108.41, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
3 is amended to read:

4 81-1108.41 (1) The division shall cause a state comprehensive
5 capital facilities plan to be developed. The plan shall project the
6 state's facilities needs for a period of six years and shall be based on
7 programmatic projections and input from each state agency. To aid in the
8 development of the plan prior to July 1, 2026, the Governor shall appoint
9 a State Comprehensive Capital Facilities Planning Committee with
10 representatives from various state agencies, and the ~~The~~ committee
11 shall develop and adopt comprehensive planning guidelines and a process
12 of project prioritization. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026.
13 Beginning July 1, 2026, the division shall be responsible for the
14 comprehensive planning guidelines and the process of project
15 prioritization. The state comprehensive capital facilities plan shall be
16 submitted electronically to the Committee on Building Maintenance for
17 review before such plan shall be submitted to the Governor and the
18 Legislative Fiscal Analyst on or before November 15 prior to the
19 beginning of each biennium. The plan submitted to the Legislative Fiscal
20 Analyst shall be submitted electronically. Prior to July 1, 2026, the The
21 plan shall be based on priorities developed by the State Comprehensive
22 Capital Facilities Planning Committee. The University of Nebraska and any
23 Nebraska state college shall not be required to comply with or be subject
24 to the provisions of this section since these agencies are subject to and
25 participate in statewide facilities planning developed by the
26 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education pursuant to the
27 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act.

28 (2) An appropriation for drawings and construction may be made only
29 after submission of an acceptable program statement on or before
30 September 15 of the year previous to the initiation of such
31 appropriation. Such program statement shall include, but not be limited

1 to, (a) an assessment of the compatibility of the project with the state
2 comprehensive capital facilities plan and the agency or departmental
3 comprehensive capital facilities plan, (b) the identification of the
4 impact of the project on the space utilization of other facilities under
5 the control of the agency or department, and (c) the identification of
6 the future impact on the agency or departmental programmatic needs,
7 demand for utilities in excess of current capacity, parking needs, street
8 and road needs, and site acquisition needs. Such program statement shall
9 be submitted to the division and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The
10 program statement submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall be
11 submitted electronically.

12 (3) No contract for the planning, design, or construction of a new
13 facility or major modification or repair of an existing facility provided
14 for by any state appropriation may be initiated unless an acceptable
15 program statement has been approved by the Governor, the agency or
16 department has submitted to the division a certificate from the Committee
17 on Building Maintenance that there is no state-owned property which is
18 adequate or which through cost-effective renovation, as determined by the
19 division, could be made adequate to meet the agency's or department's
20 needs, and the conditions of the contracts are approved in writing by the
21 division, except that the provisions of this section shall not apply to
22 projects when the total design and construction cost of the project is
23 less than the limit established by the division. Such program statements
24 and contracts shall be reviewed by the division.

25 (4) The division shall file a written report on each program
26 statement and contract reviewed with the Governor and the Legislative
27 Fiscal Analyst. The report submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst
28 shall be submitted electronically. This report shall cover the
29 consistency of the project with the state comprehensive capital
30 facilities plan and the agency or departmental comprehensive capital
31 facilities plan. A subsequent review and report upon completion of the

1 planning or design phase of the project shall indicate the compatibility
2 of the project with the agency or departmental comprehensive capital
3 facilities plan, compare the probable cost of the project with accepted
4 cost standards for similar construction projects, and review the
5 relationship of the project to other state agency or departmental capital
6 facilities in the same complex.

7 **Sec. 51.** Beginning on July 1, 2026, the Department of
8 Administrative Services shall assume the duties of:

9 (1) The Suggestion Award Board; and

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

11 **Sec. 52.** Section 81-1348, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 81-1348 There is hereby created the Suggestion Award Board. The
14 membership of such board shall consist of the Director of Personnel, the
15 Director of Administrative Services, the Auditor of Public Accounts or
16 his or her designee, and three persons, each to serve a term of three
17 years, selected and appointed by the Governor from the bargaining units
18 listed in section 81-1373, except that the first three appointments made
19 after February 23, 2000, shall be for terms of one year, two years, and
20 three years, as designated by the Governor. Of the persons selected from
21 such bargaining units, one person shall be selected from each of such
22 bargaining units as follows:

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

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

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

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

31 After the fourth term, the appointments shall be made starting from

1 subdivision (1) of this section and following the same sequence.

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

5 The members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
6 81-1174 to 81-1177.

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

9 The Suggestion Award Board terminates on July 1, 2026. This section
10 terminates on July 1, 2026.

11 **Sec. 53.** Section 81-1430, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
12 amended to read:

13 81-1430 (1) A task force is hereby established within the Nebraska
14 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the purposes of
15 investigating and studying human trafficking, the methods for advertising
16 human trafficking services, and the victimization of individuals coerced
17 to participate in human trafficking. The task force terminates July 1,
18 2026.

19 (2) The task force shall examine the extent to which human
20 trafficking is prevalent in this state, the scope of efforts being taken
21 to prevent human trafficking from occurring, and the services available
22 to victims of human trafficking in this state. The task force shall
23 utilize information and research available from the Innocence Lost
24 National Initiative. The task force shall research and recommend a model
25 of rehabilitative services for victims of human trafficking that includes
26 input from the areas of law enforcement, social services, the legal
27 profession, the judiciary, mental health, and immigration. The task force
28 shall also investigate the limitations upon victims who wish to come
29 forward and seek medical attention; investigate the potential to stop
30 human trafficking; and investigate the potential to promote recovery, to
31 protect families and children who may be profoundly impacted by such

1 abuse, and to save lives.

2 (3)(a) The Department of Labor shall ~~work with the task force to~~
3 develop or select informational posters for placement around the state.
4 The posters shall be in English, Spanish, and any other language deemed
5 appropriate by the department ~~task force~~. The posters shall include a
6 toll-free telephone number a person may call for assistance, preferably
7 the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline (888)373-7888.

8 (b) Posters shall be placed in rest stops, strip clubs, and casinos.
9 The department ~~task force~~ shall work with local businesses and nonprofit
10 entities associated with the prevention of human trafficking to
11 voluntarily place additional signs in high schools, postsecondary
12 educational institutions, gas stations, hotels, hospitals, health care
13 clinics, urgent care centers, airports, train stations, bus stations, and
14 other locations around the state deemed appropriate by the department
15 ~~task force~~.

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

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

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

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

22 (c) The Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his
23 or her designee;

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

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

29 (f) The chief of police or director of public safety of a city of
30 less than two hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most
31 recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified

1 count by the United States Bureau of the Census;

2 (g) A county sheriff;

3 (h) A county attorney;

4 (i) A county commissioner;

5 (j) A mayor or city manager;

6 (k) A person involved with the control or prevention of juvenile
7 delinquency;

8 (l) A person involved with the control or prevention of child abuse;

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

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

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

14 (5) The Governor shall appoint the members of the task force listed
15 in subdivisions (4)(e) through (l) and (o) of this section for terms as
16 provided in subsection (6) of this section. The membership of the task
17 force shall represent varying geographic areas and large and small
18 political subdivisions. One member from the public at large shall be a
19 professional representing child welfare, and one member of the public at
20 large shall represent juvenile pretrial diversion programs.

21 (6) The members of the task force appointed by the Governor shall
22 serve six-year terms, except that of the members first appointed, four
23 shall serve initial two-year terms, four shall serve initial four-year
24 terms, and six shall serve initial six-year terms from January 1 next
25 succeeding their appointments. Thereafter, all members shall serve six-
26 year terms. A member may be reappointed at the expiration of his or her
27 term. Any vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall
28 be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the
29 original appointment.

30 (7) No member shall serve beyond the time when he or she holds the
31 office, employment, or status by reason of which he or she was initially

1 eligible for appointment. Any member of the task force appointed by the
2 Governor may be removed from the task force for cause upon notice and an
3 opportunity to be heard at a public hearing. One of the causes for
4 removal shall be absence from three regularly scheduled meetings of the
5 task force during any six-month period when the member has failed to
6 advise the task force in advance of such meeting that he or she will be
7 absent and stating a reason therefor.

8 (8) The chairperson of the task force shall be designated by the
9 Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairperson shall
10 be the chief executive officer of the task force but may delegate such of
11 his or her duties to other members of the task force as may be authorized
12 by the task force.

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

17 (10) The members of the task force shall serve on the task force
18 without compensation, but they shall be entitled to receive reimbursement
19 for expenses incurred incident to such service as provided in sections
20 81-1174 to 81-1177.

21 (11) Eleven members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for
22 the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the task
23 force. The task force shall have the power to act by a majority of the
24 members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.

25 (12) Every July 1 and December 1 until July 1, 2026, the task force
26 shall report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature the results
27 of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together
28 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into
29 effect by filing the report with the clerk.

30 **Sec. 54.** Section 81-1431, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 81-1431 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that law enforcement
2 agencies, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, juvenile detention
3 center staff, and others involved in the juvenile justice system and the
4 criminal justice system and other relevant officials be provided
5 mandatory training regarding issues in human trafficking. Prior to July
6 1, 2026, the ~~The~~ task force established in section 81-1430 shall work
7 with such agencies, persons, and staff to develop a proper curriculum for
8 the training and to determine how the training should be provided. The
9 determination and accompanying legislative recommendations shall be made
10 by December 1, 2012. Such training shall focus on:

11 (a) State and federal law regarding human trafficking;

12 (b) Methods used in identifying victims of human trafficking who are
13 United States citizens and foreign nationals, including preliminary
14 interview techniques and appropriate questioning methods;

15 (c) Methods for prosecuting human traffickers;

16 (d) Methods of increasing effective collaboration with
17 nongovernmental organizations and other relevant social service
18 organizations in the course of investigating and prosecuting a human
19 trafficking case;

20 (e) Methods for protecting the rights of victims of human
21 trafficking, taking into account the need to consider human rights and
22 the special needs of women and minor victims;

23 (f) The necessity of treating victims of human trafficking as crime
24 victims rather than as criminals; and

25 (g) Methods for promoting the safety and well-being of all victims
26 of human trafficking.

27 (2) Prior to July 1, 2026, the ~~The~~ task force shall also seek the
28 input and participation of appropriate nongovernmental organizations and
29 other relevant organizations regarding the provision, preparation, and
30 presentation of the training called for in this section.

31 **Sec. 55.** Section 81-1503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 81-1503 (1) The Environmental Quality Council is hereby created. The
3 council shall consist of seventeen members to be appointed by the
4 Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature as follows:

5 (a) One representative of the food products manufacturing industry;

6 (b) One representative of conservation;

7 (c) One representative of the agricultural processing industry;

8 (d) One representative of the automotive or petroleum industry;

9 (e) One representative of the chemical industry;

10 (f) One representative of heavy industry;

11 (g) One representative of the power generating industry;

12 (h) One representative of agriculture actively engaged in crop
13 production;

14 (i) One representative of labor;

15 (j) One professional engineer experienced in control of air and
16 water pollution and solid wastes;

17 (k) One physician knowledgeable in the health aspects of air, water,
18 and land pollution;

19 (l) One representative from county government;

20 (m) Two representatives from municipal government, one of whom shall
21 represent cities other than those of the primary or metropolitan class;

22 (n) One representative of the livestock industry;

23 (o) One representative of minority populations; and

24 (p) One biologist.

25 (2) Members shall serve for terms of four years. All appointments
26 shall be subject to confirmation by the Legislature when initially made.
27 As the term of an appointee to the council expires, the succeeding
28 appointee shall be a representative of the same segment of the public as
29 the previous appointee. In the case of appointees to vacancies occurring
30 from unexpired terms, each successor shall serve out the term of his or
31 her predecessor. Members whose terms have expired shall continue to serve

1 until their successors have been appointed. All members shall be citizens
2 and residents of the State of Nebraska.

3 (3) Members may be removed by the Governor for inefficiency, neglect
4 of duty, or misconduct in office but only after delivering to the member
5 a copy of the charges and affording him or her an opportunity to be
6 publicly heard in person or by counsel, in his or her own defense, upon
7 not less than ten days' notice. Such hearing shall be held before the
8 Governor. When a member is removed, the Governor shall file, in the
9 office of the Secretary of State, a complete statement of all charges
10 made against such member and the findings thereon, together with a
11 complete record of the proceedings.

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

19 (5) The members of the council, while engaged in the performance of
20 their official duties, shall receive a per diem of forty dollars while so
21 serving, including travel time. In addition, members of the council shall
22 receive reimbursement for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to
23 81-1177.

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

1 constitute a quorum.

2 (7) The council shall submit to the Governor a list of names from
3 which he or she shall appoint the Director of Environment and Energy who
4 shall be experienced in air, water, and land pollution control and who
5 may be otherwise an employee of state government. The director shall be
6 responsible for administration of the department and all standards,
7 rules, and regulations adopted pursuant to Chapter 81, article 15, the
8 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management
9 Act. All such standards, rules, and regulations shall be adopted by the
10 council after consideration of the recommendations of the director. All
11 grants to political subdivisions under the control of the department
12 shall be made by the director in accordance with priorities established
13 by the council, unless otherwise directed by statute. A majority of the
14 members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
15 business. The affirmative vote of a majority of all members of the
16 council shall be necessary for the adoption of standards, rules, and
17 regulations.

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

1 (9) Beginning on July 1, 2026, the Environmental Quality Council
2 shall assume the duties of:

3 (a) The Advisory Council on Public Water Supply and advise and
4 assist the department in administering the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water
5 Act; and

6 (b) The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory
7 Committee under the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System
8 Contractors Certification and System Registration Act.

9 **Sec. 56.** Section 81-1504, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 81-1504 The department shall have and may exercise the following
12 powers and duties:

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

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

20 (3) To advise and consult, cooperate, and contract with other
21 agencies of the state, the federal government, and other states, with
22 interstate agencies, and with affected groups, political subdivisions,
23 and industries in furtherance of the purposes of the acts;

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

1 which provided;

2 (5) To encourage, participate in, or conduct studies,
3 investigations, research, and demonstrations relating to air, land, and
4 water pollution and causes and effects, prevention, control, and
5 abatement of such pollution as it may deem advisable and necessary for
6 the discharge of its duties under the Environmental Protection Act, the
7 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management
8 Act, using its own staff or private research organizations under
9 contract;

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

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

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

22 (9) To (a) hold such hearings and give notice thereof, (b) issue
23 such subpoenas requiring the attendance of such witnesses and the
24 production of such evidence, (c) administer such oaths, and (d) take such
25 testimony as the director deems necessary, and any of these powers may be
26 exercised on behalf of the director by a hearing officer designated by
27 the director;

28 (10) To require submission of plans, specifications, and other data
29 relative to, and to inspect construction of, disposal systems or any part
30 thereof prior to issuance of such permits or approvals as are required by
31 the Environmental Protection Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management

1 Act, and the Livestock Waste Management Act;

2 (11) To issue, continue in effect, revoke, modify, or deny permits,
3 under such conditions as the director may prescribe and consistent with
4 the standards, rules, and regulations adopted by the council, (a) to
5 prevent, control, or abate pollution, (b) for the discharge of wastes
6 into the air, land, or waters of the state, (c) for the installation,
7 modification, or operation of disposal systems or any parts thereof, and
8 (d) for the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the
9 United States;

10 (12) To require proper maintenance and operation of disposal
11 systems;

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

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

23 (15)(a) To require access to existing and available records relating
24 to (i) emissions or discharges which cause or contribute to air, land, or
25 water pollution or (ii) the monitoring of such emissions or discharges;
26 and

27 (b) To require, for purposes of developing or assisting the
28 development of any regulation or enforcing any of the provisions of the
29 Environmental Protection Act which pertain to hazardous waste, any person
30 who generates, stores, treats, transports, disposes of, or otherwise
31 handles or has handled hazardous waste, upon request of any officer,

1 employee, or representative of the department, to furnish information
2 relating to such waste and any permit involved. Such person shall have
3 access at all reasonable times to a copy of all results relating to such
4 waste;

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

8 (17) To encourage voluntary cooperation by persons and affected
9 groups to achieve the purposes of the Environmental Protection Act, the
10 Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste Management
11 Act;

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

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

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

30 (21) To enter and inspect, during reasonable hours, any building or
31 place, except a building designed for and used exclusively for a private

1 residence;

2 (22)(a) To receive or initiate complaints of air, water, or land
3 pollution, hold hearings in connection with air, water, or land
4 pollution, and institute legal proceedings in the name of the state for
5 the control or prevention of air, water, or land pollution, and for the
6 recovery of penalties, in accordance with the Environmental Protection
7 Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act, and the Livestock Waste
8 Management Act; and

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

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

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

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

1 (26) To employ the Governor's Keep Nebraska Beautiful Committee for
2 such special occasions and projects as the department may decide.
3 Reimbursement of the committee shall be made from state and appropriate
4 federal matching funds for each assignment of work by the department as
5 provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The committee terminates on July
6 1, 2026;

7 (27) To provide, to the extent determined by the council to be
8 necessary and practicable, for areawide, selective, and periodic
9 inspection and testing of motor vehicles to secure compliance with
10 applicable exhaust emission standards for a fee not to exceed five
11 dollars to offset the cost of inspection;

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (34) To exercise such powers and duties as may be delegated by the
8 federal government to administer an individual and general permit program
9 for the discharge of dredged or fill material consistent with section 404
10 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1344;

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

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

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

18 (38) To recommend to the Governor and the Legislature energy
19 policies and conservation measures for the state and to carry out such
20 measures as are adopted;

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

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

27 (41) To study the impact and relationship of state energy policies
28 to national and regional energy policies and engage in such activities as
29 will reasonably insure that the State of Nebraska and its residents
30 receive an equitable share of energy supplies, including the
31 administration of any federally mandated or state-mandated energy

1 allocation programs;

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

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

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

8 (45) To provide technical assistance regarding energy to local
9 subdivisions of government;

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

13 (47) To develop a strategic state energy plan pursuant to section
14 81-1604;

15 (48) To develop and disseminate transparent and objective energy
16 information and analysis while utilizing existing energy planning
17 resources of relevant stakeholder entities;

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

20 (50) To monitor energy transmission capacity planning and policy
21 affecting the state and the regulatory approval process for the
22 development of energy infrastructure and make recommendations to the
23 Governor and electronically to the Legislature as necessary to facilitate
24 energy infrastructure planning and development;

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

28 (52) To make all contracts pursuant to subdivisions (35) through
29 (58) of this section and do all things to cooperate with the federal
30 government, and to qualify for, accept, expend, and dispense public or
31 private funds intended for the implementation of subdivisions (35)

1 through (58) of this section;

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

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

7 (55) To carry out the duties and responsibilities relating to energy
8 as may be requested or required of the state by the federal government;

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

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

15 (58) To form advisory committees of residents of Nebraska to advise
16 the director on programs and policies relating to energy and to assist in
17 implementing such programs. Such committees shall be of a temporary
18 nature, and no member shall receive any compensation for serving on any
19 such committee but, with the approval of the Governor, members shall
20 receive reimbursement for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to
21 81-1177. The minutes of meetings of and actions taken by each committee
22 shall be kept and a record shall be maintained of the name, address, and
23 occupation or vocation of every individual serving on any committee. The
24 department shall maintain such minutes and records and shall make them
25 available for public inspection during regular office hours.

26 **Sec. 57.** Section 81-15,159.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
27 is amended to read:

28 81-15,159.01 (1) The Department of Environment and Energy shall
29 conduct a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs
30 operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and
31 revise such programs. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (a)

1 Whether existing state programs regarding litter and waste reduction and
2 recycling should be amended or merged; (b) a needs assessment of the
3 recycling and composting programs in the state, including the need for
4 infrastructure development operating standards, market development,
5 coordinated public education resulting in behavior change, and incentives
6 to increase recycling and composting; (c) methods to partner with
7 political subdivisions, private industry, and private, nonprofit
8 organizations to most successfully address waste management issues in the
9 state; (d) recommendations regarding existing funding sources and
10 possible new revenue sources at the state and local level to address
11 existing and emerging solid waste management issues; and (e) revisions to
12 existing grant programs to address solid waste management issues in a
13 proactive manner.

14 (2) The Director of Environment and Energy shall establish an
15 advisory committee to advise the department regarding the study described
16 in this section. The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed
17 by the director and shall include no more than nine members. The director
18 shall designate a chairperson of the advisory committee. The members
19 shall receive no compensation for their services. The advisory committee
20 terminates on July 1, 2026.

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

29 **Sec. 58.** Section 81-15,210, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 81-15,210 (1) The director of the Nebraska Emergency Management

1 Agency shall serve as the State Administrator of the Nebraska Emergency
2 Planning and Community Right to Know Act.

3 (2) The State Emergency Response Commission is created and shall be
4 a part of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for administrative
5 purposes. The commission terminates on July 1, 2026. Beginning on such
6 date the duties of the commission under the Nebraska Emergency Planning
7 and Community Right to Know Act shall be carried out by the Nebraska
8 Emergency Management Agency. The membership of the commission shall
9 include the Director of Environment and Energy or his or her designee,
10 the Director-State Engineer or his or her designee, the Superintendent of
11 Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his or her designee, the State Fire
12 Marshal or his or her designee, the director of the Nebraska Emergency
13 Management Agency or his or her designee, the chief executive officer of
14 the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee, two
15 elected officials or employees of municipal or county government, and one
16 citizen member to represent each of the following interest groups:
17 Firefighters, local emergency management, public or community health,
18 environmental protection, labor, school district, small business,
19 agricultural business, chemical industry, highway transportation, and
20 rail transportation. The Governor shall appoint the municipal or county
21 government officials or employees and the citizen members with the
22 approval of the Legislature. The appointments shall be made to represent
23 the three congressional districts as equally as possible.

24 (3) ~~(2)~~ The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for
25 terms of four years, except that of the first citizen members appointed,
26 three members shall serve for one-year terms, three members shall serve
27 for two-year terms, and two members shall serve for three-year terms, as
28 designated at the time of appointment.

29 (4) ~~(3)~~ A vacancy on the commission shall exist in the event of the
30 death, disability, or resignation of a member. Any member appointed to
31 fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which

1 his or her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed by the Governor
2 for the remainder of such term.

3 **Sec. 59.** Section 81-15,239, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 81-15,239 Advisory committee means:

6 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment
7 System Advisory Committee created in section 81-15,245; and -

8 (2) Beginning on July 1, 2026, the Environmental Quality Council.

9 **Sec. 60.** Section 81-15,245, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 81-15,245 The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Advisory
12 Committee is created. The advisory committee terminates on July 1, 2026.

13 The advisory committee shall be composed of the following eleven members:

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

15 (a) Five private onsite wastewater treatment system professionals;
16 and

17 (b) Two registered environmental health specialists or officials
18 representing local public health departments which have established
19 programs for regulating private onsite wastewater treatment systems;

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

22 (3) The Director of Environment and Energy or his or her designated
23 representative; and

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

28 Members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
29 81-1174 to 81-1177. The department shall provide administrative support
30 for the advisory committee.

31 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

1 **Sec. 61.** Section 82-703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 82-703 (1) The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection
4 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The
5 committee shall consist of members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame
6 Commission created pursuant to section 72-724.

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

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

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

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

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

18 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
19 States Capitol;

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

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

23 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

24 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
25 to incur.

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

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

29 **Sec. 62.** Section 82-706, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 82-706 (1) The Chief Standing Bear National Statuary Hall Selection

1 Committee is created. The committee terminates on July 1, 2026. The
2 committee shall consist of (a) a representative of the Commission on
3 Indian Affairs, selected by the chairperson of the commission, (b) a
4 member of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Legislature,
5 selected by the chairperson of the committee, (c) the chairperson of the
6 Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development or its successor, and (d) the
7 Historic Preservation Planner of the City of Lincoln.

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

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

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

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

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

19 (iii) The transportation of the statue and pedestal to the United
20 States Capitol;

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

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

24 (vi) The unveiling ceremony; and

25 (vii) Any other expenses that the committee determines are necessary
26 to incur.

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

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

30 **Sec. 63.** Section 82-803, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 82-803 (1) The First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort
2 Donelson Committee is created. The purpose of the committee is to provide
3 for the creation, production, transportation, installation, and unveiling
4 of the monument. The committee shall consist of: An employee of the
5 Nebraska State Historical Society appointed by the Secretary of State;
6 two members of the public who are members of a local Civil War round
7 table organization appointed by the Secretary of State; a professor of
8 history from the University of Nebraska appointed by the Secretary of
9 State; and, as a nonvoting, ex officio member, the Chairperson of the
10 Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature or
11 his or her designee.

12 (2) The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-
13 chairperson from among its appointed members during the first meeting. A
14 member may be reelected to serve as chairperson or vice-chairperson. The
15 committee shall meet at least twice each calendar year. A majority of the
16 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

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

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

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

24 (b) Approve the production of the monument;

25 (c) Approve the method of transportation of the monument to the
26 battlefield and its installation;

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

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

30 (5) If there is a vacancy on the committee, the Secretary of State
31 shall fill such vacancy by appointing a member to serve during the

1 unexpired term of the member whose office has become vacant.

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

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

8 (8) The committee shall terminate on July 1, 2026 ~~upon the~~
9 ~~completion of its purpose.~~

10 **Sec. 64.** Section 85-1008, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
11 amended to read:

12 85-1008 (1) To assist the center in carrying out its purposes and
13 functions, the Board of Regents may establish a Nebraska Safety Center
14 Advisory Council composed of the following members:

- 15 (a) One representative from the Department of Transportation;
- 16 (b) One representative from the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- 17 (c) One representative from the State Department of Education;
- 18 (d) One representative from the Game and Parks Commission;
- 19 (e) One representative from the Department of Labor;
- 20 (f) One person representing the community college areas;
- 21 (g) One person representing private business and industry;
- 22 (h) One person representing the University of Nebraska;
- 23 (i) One person representing the medical profession;
- 24 (j) One person representing the area of law enforcement in this
25 state;
- 26 (k) One person representing the Safety Council of Nebraska, Inc.;
- 27 (l) One person representing the area of transportation;
- 28 (m) One person representative of emergency medical services;
- 29 (n) One person representing the judiciary in the State of Nebraska;
- 30 (o) One person representing city government;
- 31 (p) One person representing county government;

- 1 (q) One person representing the area of agriculture;
- 2 (r) One person representing the local public school system;
- 3 (s) One person representing fire safety;
- 4 (t) One representative of the Coordinating Commission for
- 5 Postsecondary Education;
- 6 (u) One person representing the Red Cross; and
- 7 (v) One person representing the state colleges.

8 (2) Representatives selected to serve on the council shall have
9 appropriate education, training, and experience in the field of fire
10 safety, industrial safety, recreational safety, domestic safety, or
11 traffic safety.

12 (3) The Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council terminates on July
13 1, 2026, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
14 shall take over its duties.

15 **Sec. 65.** Section 85-1404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 85-1404 (1) The purposes of the Coordinating Commission for
18 Postsecondary Education established by Article VII, section 14, of the
19 Constitution of Nebraska and section 85-1403 shall be to (a) ~~(1)~~ develop
20 an ongoing comprehensive statewide plan for the operation of an
21 educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and
22 coordinated system of postsecondary education, (b) ~~(2)~~ identify and enact
23 policies to meet the educational, research, and public service needs of
24 the state, and (c) ~~(3)~~ effect the best use of available resources through
25 the elimination of unnecessary duplication of programs and facilities
26 among Nebraska's public institutions.

27 (2) In carrying out its powers and duties, the commission shall
28 consider the need for diversity of public institutions and the need for
29 addressing regional needs but shall above all reflect a commitment to a
30 perspective in decisionmaking and planning for postsecondary education
31 which will best serve the state as a whole consistent with the role and

1 mission assignment of each public institution.

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

8 (4) Beginning on July 1, 2026, the commission shall take over the
9 duties of the Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council as provided in
10 section 85-1008 and the advisory council appointed pursuant to the
11 Private Postsecondary Career School Act as provided in section 85-1607.

12 **Sec. 66.** Section 85-1607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 85-1607 (1) The board shall appoint an advisory council of six
15 representatives of private postsecondary career schools. Members of the
16 council shall include representatives from a business school, a trade or
17 technical school, a better business bureau, and three other distinct
18 areas of education. Members of the council shall serve staggered terms of
19 three years each as established by the board at the time of initial
20 appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the council, the board shall appoint
21 a successor in the same category as the predecessor. The advisory council
22 shall have the following responsibilities:

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

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

27 (2) The advisory council created pursuant to this section terminates
28 on July 1, 2026, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary
29 Education shall take over its duties.

30 **Sec. 67.** Section 86-444, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 86-444 Advisory board means:

2 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board;
3 and -

4 (2) Beginning July 1, 2026, the 911 Service System Advisory
5 Committee.

6 **Sec. 68.** Section 86-461, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 86-461 (1) The Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board is created to
9 advise the commission concerning the implementation, development,
10 administration, coordination, evaluation, and maintenance of enhanced
11 wireless 911 service. The advisory board terminates on July 1, 2026. The
12 advisory board shall be composed of nine individuals appointed by the
13 Governor, including:

14 (a) One sheriff;

15 (b) Two county officials or employees;

16 (c) Two municipal officials or employees;

17 (d) One representative from the state's wireless telecommunications
18 industry;

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

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

23 (g) One member of the public.

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

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

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

28 (3) Members of the board as described in subdivisions (1)(a) through
29 (1)(g) of this section shall be appointed for a term of three years. Each
30 succeeding member of the board shall be appointed for a term of three
31 years. The board shall meet as often as necessary to carry out its

1 duties. Members of the board shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided
2 in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

3 **Sec. 69.** Section 86-511, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 86-511 Technical panel means:

6 (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, the panel created in section 86-521;
7 and -

8 (2) Beginning on July 1, 2026, the commission.

9 **Sec. 70.** Section 86-516, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

11 86-516 The commission shall:

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

14 (2) Create an information technology clearinghouse to identify and
15 share best practices and new developments, as well as identify existing
16 problems and deficiencies;

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

19 (4) Determine a broad strategy and objectives for developing and
20 sustaining information technology development in Nebraska, including
21 long-range funding strategies, research and development investment,
22 support and maintenance requirements, and system usage and assessment
23 guidelines;

24 (5) Adopt guidelines regarding project planning and management and
25 administrative and technical review procedures involving state-owned or
26 state-supported technology and infrastructure. Governmental entities,
27 state agencies, and noneducation political subdivisions shall submit all
28 projects which use any combination of general funds, federal funds, or
29 cash funds for information technology purposes to the process established
30 by sections 86-512 to 86-524. The commission may adopt policies that
31 establish the format and minimum requirements for project submissions.

1 The commission may monitor the progress of any such project and may
2 require progress reports;

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

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

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

16 (9) Approve grants from the Community Technology Fund and Government
17 Technology Collaboration Fund;

18 (10) Adopt schedules and procedures for reporting needs, priorities,
19 and recommended projects;

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

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

26 (13) Beginning on July 1, 2026, assume the duties of the technical
27 panel.

28 **Sec. 71.** Section 86-521, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
29 amended to read:

30 86-521 (1) A technical panel is created. The technical panel shall
31 be comprised of one representative from the Nebraska Educational

1 Telecommunications Commission, one representative from the office of
2 Chief Information Officer, one representative from the University of
3 Nebraska Computing Services Network, and such other members as specified
4 by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

5 (2) The technical panel shall review any technology project
6 presented to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission including any
7 recommendations by working groups established under sections 86-512 to
8 86-524. Upon the conclusion of the review of a technology project or
9 request for additional funding, the technical panel shall provide its
10 analysis to the commission. The technical panel may recommend technical
11 standards and guidelines to be considered for adoption by the commission.

12 (3) The technical panel terminates on July 1, 2026. The Nebraska
13 Information Technology Commission shall assume the powers and duties of
14 the technical panel on July 1, 2026.

15 **Sec. 72.** Section 86-1025.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
16 is amended to read:

17 86-1025.01 (1) The 911 Service System Advisory Committee is created.
18 The committee shall advise the commission concerning the implementation,
19 coordination, operation, management, maintenance, and funding of the 911
20 service system and provide input on technical training and quality
21 assurance. The state 911 director and the Chief Information Officer or
22 his or her designee shall serve as ex officio members. The committee
23 shall include the following individuals appointed by the commission:

24 (a) Four representatives of public safety agencies within the state,
25 including an emergency manager, a member of a law enforcement agency, a
26 member of a fire department, and a member of an emergency medical service
27 as defined in section 38-1207;

28 (b) Two county officials or employees;

29 (c) Two municipal officials or employees;

30 (d) Two representatives of the telecommunications industry;

31 (e) Two managers of public safety answering points, one of whom is

1 employed by a county sheriff and one of whom is not employed by a county
2 sheriff;

3 (f) One representative of the Nebraska Association of County
4 Officials; and

5 (g) One representative of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

6 (2) Of the fourteen appointed members of the committee described in
7 subdivisions (1)(a) through (g) of this section, at least four members
8 shall be appointed from each of the three congressional districts. The
9 appointed members of the committee shall serve for terms of three years.
10 A vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. The
11 committee shall annually select a chairperson and vice-chairperson and
12 meet as often as necessary to carry out its duties. Members of the
13 committee shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
14 81-1174 to 81-1177.

15 (3) The committee shall make any recommendations to the commission
16 regarding the exercise of the commission's duties administering the 911
17 service system pursuant to section 86-1025, including recommending the
18 adoption and promulgation of any rules and regulations necessary to carry
19 out the purposes of the 911 Service System Act or the introduction of any
20 legislation. The commission may consider and implement any such
21 recommendations.

22 (4) Beginning on July 1, 2026, the committee shall assume the duties
23 of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board.

24 **Sec. 73.** Section 86-1101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 86-1101 The Legislature finds and declares that:

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

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

1 a digital divide.

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

12 This section terminates on July 1, 2026.

13 **Sec. 74.** Section 86-1102, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 86-1102 (1) The Rural Broadband Task Force is hereby created. The
16 task force terminates on July 1, 2026. Task force members shall include
17 the chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of
18 the Legislature and a member of the Legislature selected by the Executive
19 Board of the Legislative Council who shall both serve as nonvoting, ex
20 officio members, a member of the Public Service Commission who shall be
21 selected by the chairperson of such commission, the chairperson of the
22 Nebraska Information Technology Commission or his or her designee who
23 shall act as chairperson of the task force, the Director of Economic
24 Development or his or her designee, the Director of Agriculture or his or
25 her designee, and the following members to be appointed by the Governor:
26 A representative of the agribusiness community, a representative of the
27 Nebraska business community, a representative of the regulated wireline
28 telecommunications industry, a representative of the wireless
29 telecommunications industry, a representative of the public power
30 industry, a representative of health care providers, a representative of
31 Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions, and a representative of

1 rural schools offering kindergarten through grade twelve. The members
2 appointed by the Governor shall serve for a term of two years and may be
3 reappointed.

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

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

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

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

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

31 (d) Examine alternatives for deployment of broadband services to

1 areas that remain unserved or underserved, such as funding redirection
2 programs described in section 86-330, public-private partnerships,
3 funding for competitive deployment, and other measures, and make
4 recommendations to the Public Service Commission to encourage deployment
5 in such areas;

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 **Sec. 75.** Section 86-1103, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
30 amended to read:

31 86-1103 The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund is created. The fund

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

10 The Rural Broadband Task Force Fund terminates on July 1, 2026. The
11 State Treasurer shall transfer any money remaining in the fund on such
12 date to the General Fund.

13 **Sec. 76.** Section 79 of this act becomes operative on July 1, 2026.
14 The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

15 **Sec. 77.** Original sections 2-1801, 2-1803, 2-1826, 2-4901, 2-5001,
16 2-5003, 20-506, 38-204, 38-205, 38-308, 38-310, 48-622.03, 58-202,
17 60-1401.06, 60-1402, 66-1605, 66-1618, 71-705, 71-706, 71-814, 71-815,
18 71-2454.01, 71-4503, 71-5311, 71-7102, 71-7107, 71-7108, 71-7109,
19 71-7110, 72-811, 72-812, 72-2101, 72-2206, 81-1108.41, 81-1348, 81-1430,
20 81-1431, 81-1503, 81-1504, 81-15,159.01, 81-15,210, 81-15,239, 81-15,245,
21 82-703, 82-706, 82-803, 85-1008, 85-1404, 85-1607, 86-444, 86-461,
22 86-511, 86-516, 86-521, 86-1025.01, 86-1101, 86-1102, and 86-1103,
23 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 28-712, 38-167,
24 39-2106, 39-2301.01, 39-2304, 43-1903, 43-3401, 43-4001, 43-4203,
25 43-4216, 43-4406, 43-4513, 66-2001, 71-702, 71-4504, and 71-7012, Revised
26 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, are repealed.

27 **Sec. 78.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
28 43-4003, 50-601, 50-602, 50-603, and 66-1617, Reissue Revised Statutes of
29 Nebraska, and section 43-1306, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
30 2024.

31 **Sec. 79.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections

1 2-4201, 2-4202, 2-4203, 2-4204, 2-4205, 2-4206, 2-4207, 2-4208, 2-4209,
2 2-4210, 2-4211, 2-4212, 2-4213, 2-4214, 2-4215, 2-4216, 2-4217, 2-4218,
3 2-4219, 2-4220, 2-4221, 2-4222, 2-4223, 2-4224, 2-4225, 2-4226, 2-4227,
4 2-4228, 2-4229, 2-4230, 2-4231, 2-4232, 2-4233, 2-4234, 2-4235, 2-4236,
5 2-4237, 2-4238, 2-4239, 2-4240, 2-4241, 2-4242, 2-4243, 2-4244, 2-4245,
6 2-4246, 71-7105, and 71-7106, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.