

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 652**

Introduced by Hansen, 16.

Read first time January 22, 2025

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to school lands; to amend section 72-201,
- 2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to terminate the Board
- 3 of Educational Lands and Funds; to provide for the sale of school
- 4 lands as prescribed; and to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           **Section 1.** Section 72-201, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
2 2024, is amended to read:

3           72-201 (1) The Board of Educational Lands and Funds shall consist of  
4 five members to be appointed by the Governor with the consent of a  
5 majority of the members elected to the Legislature. One member shall be  
6 appointed from each of the congressional districts as the districts were  
7 constituted on January 1, 1961, and a fifth member shall be appointed  
8 from the state at large. One member of the board shall be competent in  
9 the field of investments. The initial members shall be appointed to take  
10 office on October 1, 1955, and shall hold office for the following  
11 periods of time: The member from the first congressional district for one  
12 year; the member from the second congressional district for two years;  
13 the member from the third congressional district for three years; the  
14 member from the fourth congressional district for four years; and the  
15 member from the state at large for five years. As the terms of the  
16 members expire, the Governor shall appoint or reappoint a member of the  
17 board for a term of five years, except members appointed to fill  
18 vacancies whose tenures shall be the unexpired terms for which they are  
19 appointed. If the Legislature is not in session when such members, or  
20 some of them, are appointed by the Governor, such members shall take  
21 office and act as recess appointees until the Legislature next thereafter  
22 convenes. The compensation of the members shall be fifty dollars per day  
23 for each day's time actually engaged in the performance of the duties of  
24 their office. Each member shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while  
25 upon business of the board as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.  
26 The board shall cause all school, university, agricultural college, and  
27 state college lands, owned by or the title to which may hereafter vest in  
28 the state, to be registered, leased, and sold as provided in sections  
29 72-201 to 72-251 and shall have the general management and control of  
30 such lands and make necessary rules not provided by law. The funds  
31 arising from these lands shall be disposed of in the manner provided by

1 the Constitution of Nebraska, sections 72-201 to 72-251, and other laws  
2 of Nebraska not inconsistent herewith.

3 (2) No person shall be eligible to membership on the board who is  
4 actively engaged in the teaching profession, who holds or has any  
5 financial interest in a school land lease, who is a holder of or a  
6 candidate for any state office or a member of any state board or  
7 commission, or who has not resided in this state for at least three  
8 years.

9 (3) The board shall elect one of its members as chairperson of the  
10 Board of Educational Lands and Funds. In the absence of the chairperson,  
11 any member of the board may, upon motion duly carried, act in his or her  
12 behalf as such chairperson. It shall keep a record of all proceedings and  
13 orders made by it. No order shall be made except upon the concurrence of  
14 at least three members of the board. It shall make all orders pertaining  
15 to the handling of all lands and funds set apart for educational  
16 purposes.

17 (4) The board shall maintain an office in Lincoln and shall meet in  
18 its office not less than once each month.

19 (5) The board may appoint a secretary for the board. The  
20 compensation of the secretary shall be payable monthly, as fixed by the  
21 board.

22 (6) The Board of Educational Lands and Funds shall terminate on July  
23 1, 2027. On such date, the Department of Administrative Services shall  
24 assume control of all school lands that had been under the general  
25 management and control of the board immediately prior to the board's  
26 termination. The department shall sell such lands as the leases for the  
27 lands expire. The person who was leasing the land most recently shall  
28 have the right of first refusal to purchase the land. If such person does  
29 not purchase the land, the department shall sell the land at public  
30 auction. The proceeds of the sales of such lands shall be remitted to the  
31 State Treasurer for credit to the permanent school fund of the state. In

1 addition, any funds placed into the temporary school fund of the state by  
2 the board that remain in such fund on July 1, 2027, shall be distributed  
3 to the school districts of the state.

4       **Sec. 2.**   Original section 72-201, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
5 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.