

LEGISLATIVE BILL 742

Approved by the Governor April 07, 2016

Introduced by Hansen, 26.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to counties; to amend sections 2-955, 8-157, 23-150, 23-151, 23-1723, 23-1723.01, 23-1732, 23-2503, 23-2517, 23-2518, 23-3502, 23-3582, 29-902.01, 32-221, 32-555, 33-114.01, and 71-1631, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, section 32-554, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, and sections 23-148 and 32-528, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015; to change county population thresholds; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 2-955, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

2-955 (1) Notices for control of noxious weeds shall consist of two kinds: General notices, as prescribed by rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the director, which notices shall be on a form prescribed by the director; and individual notices, which notices shall be on a form prescribed by this section. Failure to publish general weed notices or to serve individual notices as provided in this section shall not relieve any person from the necessity of full compliance with the Noxious Weed Control Act and rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to the act.

(a) General notice shall be published by each control authority, in one or more newspapers of general circulation throughout the area over which the control authority has jurisdiction, on or before May 1 of each year and at such other times as the director may require or the control authority may determine.

(b) Whenever any control authority finds it necessary to secure more prompt or definite control of weeds on particular land than is accomplished by the general published notice, it shall cause to be served individual notice upon the owner of record of such land at his or her last-known address, giving specific instructions and methods when and how certain named weeds are to be controlled. Such methods may include definite systems of tillage, cropping, management, and use of livestock.

Each control authority shall use one or both of the following forms for all individual notices: (i)

..... County Weed Control Authority
OFFICIAL NOTICE

Section 2-952, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, places an affirmative duty upon every person to control noxious weeds on land under such person's ownership or control. Information received by the control authority, including an onsite investigation by the county weed control superintendent or a deputy, indicated the existence of an uncontrolled noxious weed infestation on property owned by you at:

The noxious weed or weeds are The method of control recommended by the control authority is as follows:

Other appropriate control methods are acceptable if approved by the county weed control superintendent.

Because the stage of growth of the noxious weed infestation on the above-specified property warrants immediate control, if such infestation remains uncontrolled after ten days from the date specified at the bottom of this notice, the control authority may enter upon such property for the purpose of taking the appropriate weed control measures. Costs for the control activities of the control authority shall be at the expense of the owner of the property and shall become a lien on the property as a special assessment levied on the date of control.

..... Weed Control Superintendent
Dated.....;
or (ii)

..... County Weed Control Authority
OFFICIAL NOTICE

Section 2-952, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, places an affirmative duty upon every person to control noxious weeds on land under such person's ownership or control. Information received by the control authority, including an onsite investigation by the county weed control superintendent or a deputy, indicates the existence of an uncontrolled noxious weed infestation on property owned by you at:

The noxious weed or weeds are The method of control recommended by the control authority is as follows:

Other appropriate control methods are acceptable if approved by the county weed control superintendent. If, within fifteen days from the date specified at the bottom of this notice, the noxious weed infestation on such property, as specified above, has not been brought under control, you may, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of \$100.00 per day for each day of noncompliance beginning on, up to a maximum of fifteen days of noncompliance (maximum

\$1,500).

Upon request to the control authority, within fifteen days from the date specified at the bottom of this notice, you are entitled to a hearing before the control authority to challenge the existence of a noxious weed infestation on property owned by you at

..... Weed Control Superintendent
Dated.....

In all counties having a population of four ~~three~~ hundred thousand or more inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, the control authority may dispense with the individual notices and may publish general notices if published in one or more newspapers of general circulation throughout the area over which such control authority has jurisdiction. Such notice shall be published weekly for four successive weeks prior to May 1 of each year or at such other times as the control authority deems necessary. In no event shall a fine be assessed against a landowner as prescribed in subdivision (3)(a) of this section unless the control authority has caused individual notice to be served upon the landowner as specified in this subdivision.

(2) At the request of any owner served with an individual notice pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, the control authority shall hold an informal public hearing to allow such landowner an opportunity to be heard on the question of the existence of an uncontrolled noxious weed infestation on such landowner's property.

(3) Whenever the owner of the land on which noxious weeds are present has neglected or failed to control them as required pursuant to the act and any notice given pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the control authority having jurisdiction shall proceed as follows:

(a) If, within fifteen days from the date specified on the notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, the owner has not taken action to control the noxious weeds on the specified property and has not requested a hearing pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the control authority shall notify the county attorney who shall proceed against such owner as prescribed in this subdivision. A person who is responsible for an infestation of noxious weeds on particular land under his or her ownership and who refuses or fails to control the weeds on the infested area within the time designated in the notice delivered by the control authority shall, upon conviction, be guilty of an infraction pursuant to sections 29-431 to 29-438, except that the penalty shall be a fine of one hundred dollars per day for each day of violation up to a total of one thousand five hundred dollars for fifteen days of noncompliance; or

(b) If, within ten days from the date specified in the notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) of this section, the owner has not taken action to control the noxious weeds on the specified property and the stage of growth of such noxious weeds warrants immediate control to prevent spread of the infestation to neighboring property, the control authority may cause proper control methods to be used on such infested land, including necessary destruction of growing crops, and shall advise the record owner of the cost incurred in connection with such operation. The cost of any such control shall be at the expense of the owner. In addition the control authority shall immediately cause notice to be filed of possible unpaid weed control assessments against the property upon which the control measures were used in the register of deeds office in the county where the property is located. If unpaid for two months, the control authority shall certify to the county treasurer the amount of such expense and such expense shall become a lien on the property upon which the control measures were taken as a special assessment levied on the date of control. The county treasurer shall add such expense to and it shall become and form a part of the taxes upon such land and shall bear interest at the same rate as taxes.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit satisfaction of the obligation imposed hereby in whole or in part by tax foreclosure proceedings. The expense may be collected by suit instituted for that purpose as a debt due the county or by any other or additional remedy otherwise available. Amounts collected under subdivision (3)(b) of this section shall be deposited to the noxious weed control fund of the control authority or, if no noxious weed control fund exists, to the county general fund.

Sec. 2. Section 8-157, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-157 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and section 8-2103, the general business of every bank shall be transacted at the place of business specified in its charter.

(2)(a)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section, with the approval of the director, any bank located in this state may establish and maintain in this state an unlimited number of branches at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made.

(ii) Any bank that owns or controls more than twenty-two percent of the total deposits in Nebraska, as described in subdivision (2)(c) of section 8-910 and computed in accordance with subsection (3) of section 8-910, or any bank that is a subsidiary of a bank holding company that owns or controls more than twenty-two percent of the total deposits in Nebraska, as described in subdivision (2)(c) of section 8-910 and computed in accordance with subsection (3) of section 8-910, shall not establish and maintain an unlimited number of branches as provided in subdivision (2)(a)(i) of this section. With the approval of the director, a bank as described in this subdivision may establish

and maintain in the county in which such bank is located an unlimited number of branches at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made, except that if such bank is located in a Class I or Class III county, such bank may establish and maintain in Class I and Class III counties an unlimited number of branches at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made.

(iii) Any bank which establishes and maintains branches pursuant to subdivision (2)(a)(i) of this section and which subsequently becomes a bank as described in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section shall not be subject to the limitations as to location of branches contained in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section with regard to any such established branch and shall continue to be entitled to maintain any such established branch as if such bank had not become a bank as described in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section.

(b) With the approval of the director, any bank or any branch may establish and maintain a mobile branch at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made. Such mobile branch may consist of one or more vehicles which may transact business only within the county in which such bank or such branch is located and within counties in this state which adjoin such county.

(c) For purposes of this subsection:

(i) Class I county means a county in this state with a population of four ~~three~~ hundred thousand or more as determined by the most recent federal decennial census;

(ii) Class II county means a county in this state with a population of at least two hundred thousand and less than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand as determined by the most recent federal decennial census;

(iii) Class III county means a county in this state with a population of at least one hundred thousand and less than two hundred thousand as determined by the most recent federal decennial census; and

(iv) Class IV county means a county in this state with a population of less than one hundred thousand as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

(3) With the approval of the director, a bank may establish and maintain branches acquired pursuant to section 8-1506 or 8-1516. All banking transactions allowed by law may be made at such branches.

(4) With the approval of the director, a bank may acquire the assets and assume the deposits of a branch of another financial institution in Nebraska if the acquired branch is converted to a branch of the acquiring bank. All banking transactions allowed by law may be made at a branch acquired pursuant to this subsection.

(5) With the approval of the director, a bank may establish a branch pursuant to subdivision (6) of section 8-115.01. All banking transactions allowed by law may be made at such branch.

(6) The name given to any branch established and maintained pursuant to this section shall not be substantially similar to the name of any existing bank or branch which is unaffiliated with the newly created branch and is located in the same city, village, or county. The name of such newly created branch shall be approved by the director.

(7) A bank which has a main chartered office or an approved branch located in the State of Nebraska may, through any of its executive officers, including executive officers licensed as such pursuant to section 8-139, or designated agents, conduct a loan closing at a location other than the place of business specified in the bank's charter or any branch thereof.

(8) A bank which has a main chartered office or approved branch located in the State of Nebraska may, upon notification to the department, establish savings account programs at any elementary or secondary school, whether public or private, that has students who reside in the same city or village as the main chartered office or branch of the bank, or, if the main office of the bank is located in an unincorporated area of a county, at any school that has students who reside in the same unincorporated area. The savings account programs shall be limited to the establishment of individual student accounts and the receipt of deposits for such accounts.

(9) Upon receiving an application for a branch to be established pursuant to subdivision (2)(a) of this section, to establish a mobile branch pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) of this section, to acquire a branch of another financial institution pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, to establish or acquire a branch pursuant to subsection (1) of section 8-2103, or to move the location of an established branch other than a move made pursuant to subdivision (6) of section 8-115.01, the director shall hold a public hearing on the matter if he or she determines, in his or her discretion, that the condition of the applicant bank warrants a hearing. If the director determines that the condition of the bank does not warrant a hearing, the director shall (a) publish a notice of the filing of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch or mobile branch would be located, the expense of which shall be paid by the applicant bank, and (b) give notice of such application to all financial institutions located within the county where the proposed branch or mobile branch would be located and to such other interested parties as the director may determine. The director shall send the notice to financial institutions by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail. Electronic mail may be used if the financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notices by electronic mail. A financial institution may designate one office for receipt of any such notice if it has more than one office located within the county where such notice is to be sent or a main office in a county other than the county where such notice is to be

sent. If the director receives any substantive objection to the proposed branch or mobile branch within fifteen days after publication of such notice, he or she shall hold a hearing on the application. Notice of a hearing held pursuant to this subsection shall be published for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch or mobile branch would be located. The date for hearing the application shall not be more than ninety days after the filing of the application and not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice of hearing. The expense of any publication and mailing required by this section shall be paid by the applicant.

Sec. 3. Section 23-148, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is amended to read:

23-148 The county board of commissioners in all counties having not more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census shall consist of three persons except as follows:

(1) The registered voters in any county containing not more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census may vote at any general election as to whether their county board shall consist of three or five commissioners. Upon the completion of the canvass by the county canvassing board, the proposition shall be decided and, if the number of commissioners is increased from three to five commissioners, vacancies shall be deemed to exist and the procedures set forth in sections 32-567 and 32-574 shall be instituted; and

(2) The registered voters of any county under township organization voting to discontinue township organization may also vote as to the number of county commissioners as provided in sections 23-292 to 23-299.

Sec. 4. Section 23-150, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-150 (1) The commissioners shall be registered voters and residents of their respective districts.

(2) Beginning in 1992, any person seeking nomination or election to the county board of commissioners in a county having more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census shall have resided within the district he or she seeks to represent for at least six months immediately prior to the date on which he or she is required to file as a candidate for such office. No person shall be eligible to be appointed to the county board in such counties unless he or she has resided in the district he or she would represent for at least six months prior to assuming office.

(3) This section shall be complied with within six months after a determination that the population has reached more than four hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

Sec. 5. Section 23-151, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-151 (1) Each county under commissioner organization having not more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census shall be divided into (a) three districts numbered respectively, one, two, and three, (b) five districts as provided for in sections 23-148 and 23-149 numbered respectively, one, two, three, four, and five, or (c) seven districts as provided for in sections 23-292 to 23-299 numbered respectively, one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven. Each county having more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census shall be divided into seven districts numbered respectively, one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven.

(2) Such districts shall consist of two or more voting precincts comprising compact and contiguous territory and embracing a substantially equal division of the population of the county. District boundary lines shall not be subject to alteration more than once every ten years unless the county has a change in population requiring it to be redistricted pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of this section or unless there is a vote to change from three to five districts as provided for in sections 23-148 and 23-149.

(3)(a) The establishment of district boundary lines pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be completed within one year after a county attains a population of more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census. Beginning in 2001 and every ten years thereafter, the district boundary lines of any county having more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census shall be redrawn, if necessary to maintain substantially equal district populations, by the date specified in section 32-553.

(b) The establishment of district boundary lines and any alteration thereof under this subsection shall be done by the county board. If the county board fails to do so by the applicable deadline, district boundaries shall be drawn by the election commissioner within six months after the deadline established for the drawing or redrawing of district boundaries by the county board. If the election commissioner fails to meet such deadline, the remedies established in subsection (3) of section 32-555 shall apply.

(4) The district boundary lines shall not be changed at any session of the county board unless all of the commissioners are present at such session.

(5) Commissioners shall be elected as provided in section 32-528. Elections shall be conducted as provided in the Election Act.

Sec. 6. Section 23-1723, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-1723 The sheriff's office merit commission in counties having a

population of ~~four~~ three hundred thousand inhabitants or more as determined by the most recent federal decennial census shall consist of five members. One member shall be a duly elected county official, appointed by the county board. One member shall be a deputy sheriff, elected by the deputy sheriffs. Three members shall be selected by the presiding judge of the judicial district encompassing such county and shall be public representatives who are residents of the county. The terms of office of members initially appointed or elected shall expire on January 1 of the first, second, and third years following their appointment or election, as designated by the county board. As the terms of initial members expire, their successors shall be appointed or elected for three-year terms in the same manner as the initial members. The additional public representative provided for in this section shall serve until January 1, 1984, and thereafter his or her successors shall be appointed or elected for three-year terms. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment or election in the same manner as appointment or election of initial members. The commission shall have the power to declare vacant the position of any member who no longer meets the qualifications for election or appointment set out in this section.

Sec. 7. Section 23-1723.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-1723.01 (1) In counties having a population of not less than twenty-five thousand inhabitants and less than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, the sheriff's office merit commission shall consist of three members, except that the membership of the commission may be increased to five members by unanimous vote of the three-member commission.

(2) If the commission consists of three members, one member shall be a duly elected county official, appointed by the county board, one member shall be a deputy sheriff, elected by the deputy sheriffs, and one member shall be selected by the presiding judge of the judicial district encompassing such county and shall be a public representative who is a resident of the county and neither an official nor employee of the county. If the commission consists of five members, one member shall be a duly elected county official, appointed by the board of county commissioners, two members shall be deputy sheriffs, elected by the deputy sheriffs, and two members shall be selected by the presiding judge of the judicial district encompassing such county and shall be public representatives who are residents of the county and neither officials nor employees of the county.

(3) The terms of office of members initially appointed or elected after March 20, 1982, shall expire on January 1 of the years 1983, 1984, and 1985, as designated by the county board. Thereafter, the terms of the members of the commission shall be three years, except that in a county with a five-member commission, (a) the initial term of the additional deputy sheriff member shall be staggered so that his or her term shall coincide with the term of such county's deputy sheriff elected before August 31, 2003, and (b) the initial term of the additional public representative member shall be staggered so that his or her term shall coincide with the term of such county's public representative member appointed before August 31, 2003. As the terms of initial members expire, their successors shall be appointed or elected in the same manner as the initial members. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment or election in the same manner as appointment or election of initial members. The commission shall have the power to declare vacant the position of any member who no longer meets the qualifications for election or appointment set out in this section.

Sec. 8. Section 23-1732, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-1732 (1) All deputy sheriffs in active employment on January 1, 1970, in counties of four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants or more as determined by the most recent federal decennial census and on January 1, 1973, in counties having a population of more than one hundred fifty thousand but less than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, and who have been such for more than two years immediately prior thereto, shall hold their positions without examinations until discharged, reduced, promoted, or transferred in accordance with sections 23-1721 to 23-1736.

(2) All deputy sheriffs in active employment on January 1, 1975, in counties having a population of more than sixty thousand but not more than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, and who have been deputy sheriffs for more than two years immediately prior thereto, or who have been certified by the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and who have received a certificate of completion shall hold their positions without examinations until discharged, reduced, promoted, or transferred in accordance with sections 23-1721 to 23-1736.

(3) All deputy sheriffs in active employment on January 1, 1977, in counties having a population of more than forty thousand but not more than sixty thousand inhabitants, and who have been deputy sheriffs for more than two years immediately prior thereto, or who have been certified by the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and who have received a certificate of completion shall hold their positions without examinations until discharged, reduced, promoted, or transferred in accordance with sections 23-1721 to 23-1736.

(4) All deputy sheriffs in active employment on January 1, 1982, in counties having a population of twenty-five thousand or more but not more than forty thousand inhabitants, and who have been deputy sheriffs for more than two years immediately prior thereto, or who have been certified by the Nebraska Law

Enforcement Training Center, and who have received a certificate of completion shall hold their positions without examinations until discharged, reduced, promoted, or transferred in accordance with sections 23-1721 to 23-1736.

(5) All deputy sheriffs who have been so employed for more than six months and less than two years on such date shall be required to take qualifying examinations, and all such deputy sheriffs who have been so employed for less than six months on such date shall be required to take competitive examinations.

Sec. 9. Section 23-2503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-2503 In any county having a population of three hundred thousand inhabitants or more as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, there shall be a Civil Service Commission which shall be formed as provided in sections 23-2501 to 23-2516. A county shall comply with this section within six months after a determination that the population has reached three hundred thousand inhabitants or more as determined by the most recent federal decennial census within ninety days of May 21, 1971.

Sec. 10. Section 23-2517, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-2517 (1) Sections 23-2517 to 23-2533 and section 12 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the County Civil Service Act.

(2) The general purpose of the County Civil Service Act is to establish a system of personnel administration that meets the social, economic, and program needs of county offices. This system shall provide means to recruit, select, develop and maintain an effective and responsive work force, and shall include policies and procedures for employee hiring and advancement, training and career development, position classification, salary administration, fringe benefits, discharge and other related activities. All appointments and promotions under the County Civil Service Act shall be made based on merit and fitness.

Sec. 11. Section 23-2518, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-2518 For purposes of the County Civil Service Act:

(1) Appointing authority means elected officials and appointed department directors authorized to make appointments in the county service;

(2) Board of county commissioners means the board of commissioners of any county with a population of one hundred fifty thousand to three hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census;

(3) Classified service means the positions in the county service to which the act applies;

(4) County personnel officer means the employee designated by the board of county commissioners to administer the act;

(5) Department means a functional unit of the county government headed by an elected official or established by the board of county commissioners;

(6) Deputy means an individual who serves as the first assistant to and at the pleasure of an elected official;

(7) Elected official means an officer elected by the popular vote of the people and known as the county attorney, public defender, county sheriff, county treasurer, clerk of the district court, register of deeds, county clerk, county assessor, and county surveyor;

(8) Internal Revenue Code means the Internal Revenue Code as defined in section 49-801.01;

(9) Political subdivision means a village, city of the second class, city of the first class, city of the primary class, city of the metropolitan class, county, school district, public power district, or any other unit of local government including entities created pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or the Joint Public Agency Act. Political subdivision does not include a contractor with the county;

(10) State means the State of Nebraska;

(11) Straight-time rate of pay means the rate of pay in effect on the date of transfer of employees stated in the resolution by the county board requesting the transfer; and

(12) Transferred employee means an employee of the state or a political subdivision transferred to the county pursuant to a request for such transfer made by the county under section 23-2518.01.

Sec. 12. A board of county commissioners shall comply with the County Civil Service Act within six months after a determination that the population requirement as provided in subdivision (2) of section 23-2518 has been attained as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

Sec. 13. Section 23-3502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-3502 (1) When a county with a population of three thousand six hundred inhabitants or more and less than two hundred thousand inhabitants or with a taxable value of the taxable property of twenty-eight million six hundred thousand dollars or more establishes a facility as provided by section 23-3501, the county board of the county shall appoint a board of trustees.

(2) In counties having a population of two hundred thousand inhabitants or more, the county board of the county having a facility, in lieu of appointing a board of trustees of such facility, may elect to serve as the board of trustees of such facility. If the county board makes such election, the county board shall assume all the duties and responsibilities of the board of trustees of the facility, including those set forth in sections 23-3504 and 23-3505. Such election shall be evidenced by the adoption of a resolution by the county

board.

(3)(a) The board of trustees appointed pursuant to this section shall consist of three, five, seven, or nine members as fixed by the county board.

(b) When the board is first established:

(i) If the county provides for a three-member board, one member shall be appointed for a term of two years, one for four years, and one for six years from the date such member is appointed. Thereafter, as the members' terms expire, members shall be appointed for terms of six years;

(ii) If the county board provides for a five-member board, one additional member shall be appointed for four years and one for six years. If the board is changed to a five-member board, the three members who are serving as such trustees at the time of a change from a three-member to a five-member board shall each complete his or her respective term of office. The two additional members shall be appointed by the county board, one for a term of four years and one for a term of six years. Thereafter, as the members' terms expire, members shall be appointed for terms of six years;

(iii) If the county board provides for a seven-member board, one additional member shall be appointed for two years and one for four years. If the board is changed to a seven-member board, the three or five members who are serving as such trustees at the time of the change shall each complete his or her respective term of office. The two or four additional members shall be appointed by the county board. If two additional members are appointed, one shall be appointed for four years and one for six years. If four additional members are appointed, one shall be appointed for two years, two for four years, and one for six years. Thereafter, as the members' terms expire, members shall be appointed for terms of six years; and

(iv) If the county board provides for a nine-member board, one additional member shall be appointed for two years and one for six years. If the board is changed to a nine-member board, the three, five, or seven members who are serving as such trustees at the time of the change shall each complete his or her respective term of office. The two, four, or six additional members shall be appointed by the county board. If two additional members are appointed, one shall be appointed for two years and one for six years. If four additional members are appointed, two shall be appointed for two years, one for four years, and one for six years. If six additional members are appointed, two shall be appointed for two years, two for four years, and two for six years. Thereafter, as the members' terms expire, members shall be appointed for terms of six years.

(4)(a) All members of the board of trustees shall be residents of the county.

(b) In any county having a population of more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, a minimum of one member of the board of trustees shall reside outside the corporate limits of the city in which such facility or facilities are located. In any county having a population of more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, if only one member of the board of trustees resides outside the corporate limits of the city in which the facility is located and the residence of the member is annexed by the city, he or she shall be allowed to complete his or her term of office but shall not be eligible for reappointment.

(c) The trustees shall, within ten days after their appointment, qualify by taking the oath of county officers as provided in section 11-101 and by furnishing a bond, if required by the county board, in an amount to be fixed by the county board.

(d) Any person who has been excluded from participation in a federally funded health care program or is included in a federal exclusionary data base shall be ineligible to serve as a trustee.

(5) The board of trustees shall elect a trustee to serve as chairperson, one as secretary, and one as treasurer. The board shall make such elections at each annual board meeting.

(6)(a) When a member is absent from three consecutive board meetings, either regular or special, without being excused by the remaining members of the board, his or her office shall become vacant and a new member shall be appointed by the county board to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of such member pursuant to subdivision (6)(b) of this section.

(b) Any member of such board may at any time be removed from office by the county board for any reason. Vacancies shall be filled in substantially the same manner as the original appointments are made. The person appointed to fill such a vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member that he or she has replaced.

(7) The county board shall consult with the existing board of trustees regarding the skills and qualifications of any potential appointees to the board pursuant to this section prior to appointing any new trustee.

Sec. 14. Section 23-3582, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

23-3582 (1) Whenever the formation of a hospital authority is desired, a petition or petitions stating (a) the general location of the hospital to be maintained by such proposed authority, (b) the territory to be included within it, which territory shall be contiguous, (c) the approximate number of persons believed to reside within the boundaries of the proposed authority, and (d) the names of five or more, but not exceeding eleven, proposed trustees, who shall be electors residing within the boundaries of the proposed authority, to serve as a board of trustees until their successors are appointed and qualified,

should the authority be formed, together with a prayer that the same be declared to be a hospital authority under the Hospital Authorities Act may be filed in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the proposed authority is situated.

(2)(a) Each hospital authority established in a county having a total population of four ~~three~~ hundred thousand or more, as shown by the most recent federal decennial census, shall encompass an area in which at least forty thousand persons reside, (b) each hospital authority established in a county having a total population of one hundred fifty thousand to four ~~three~~ hundred thousand, as shown by the most recent federal decennial census, shall encompass an area in which at least thirty thousand persons reside, (c) each hospital authority established in a county having a total population of twenty thousand to one hundred fifty thousand, as shown by the most recent federal decennial census, shall encompass an area in which at least twenty thousand persons reside, and (d) no hospital authority shall be established in any county having a total population of less than twenty thousand, as shown by the most recent federal decennial census, unless the hospital authority encompasses the entire county which it is to serve. Such petitions shall be signed by at least one hundred electors who appear to reside within the suggested boundaries of the proposed authority.

Sec. 15. Section 29-902.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

29-902.01 (1) The presiding judge of the county court in each county having a population of four ~~three~~ hundred thousand or more inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census shall, as often as is necessary, meet and designate on a schedule not less than one judge of the county court to be reasonably available on call for the setting of orders for discharge from actual custody upon bail, the issuance of search warrants, and for such other matters as may be deemed appropriate, at all times when a court is not in session in the county.

(2) The officer in charge of a jail, or a person such officer designates, in which an arrested person is held in custody shall assist the arrested person or such person's attorney in contacting the judge on call as soon as possible for the purpose of obtaining release on bail.

Sec. 16. Section 32-221, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-221 (1) The election commissioner shall appoint precinct and district inspectors, judges of election, and clerks of election to assist the election commissioner in conducting elections on election day. In counties with a population of less than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, judges and clerks of election and inspectors shall be appointed at least thirty days prior to the statewide primary election, shall hold office for terms of two years or until their successors are appointed and qualified for the next statewide primary election, and shall serve at all elections in the county during their terms of office. In counties with a population of four ~~three~~ hundred thousand or more inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, judges and clerks of election shall be appointed at least thirty days prior to the first election for which appointments are necessary and shall serve for at least four elections.

(2) Judges and clerks of election may be selected at random from a cross section of the population of the county. All qualified citizens shall have the opportunity to be considered for service. All qualified citizens shall fulfill their obligation to serve as judges or clerks of election as prescribed by the election commissioner. No citizen shall be excluded from service as a result of discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. No citizen shall be excluded from service unless excused by reason of ill health or other good and sufficient reason.

(3) All persons appointed shall be of good repute and character, be able to read and write the English language, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (5) of section 32-223, be registered voters in the county. No candidate at an election shall be appointed as a judge or clerk of election or inspector for such election other than a candidate for delegate to a county, state, or national political party convention.

(4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of judge or clerk of election or inspector, the election commissioner shall fill such vacancy in accordance with section 32-223. If any judge or clerk of election or inspector fails to appear at the hour appointed for the opening of the polls, the remaining officers shall notify the election commissioner, select a registered voter to serve in place of the absent officer if so directed by the election commissioner, and proceed to conduct the election. If the election commissioner finds that a judge or clerk of election or inspector does not possess all the qualifications prescribed in this section or if any judge or clerk of election or inspector is guilty of neglecting the duties of the office or of any official misconduct, the election commissioner shall remove the person and fill the vacancy.

Sec. 17. Section 32-528, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is amended to read:

32-528 (1) In counties having a county board of three commissioners, two commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election in 1994 and each four years thereafter, and one commissioner shall be elected at the statewide general election in 1996 and each four years thereafter. In counties having a county board of five commissioners, three commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election in 1994 and each four years

thereafter, and two commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election in 1996 and each four years thereafter. In counties having a county board of seven or more commissioners, one commissioner shall be elected in each odd-numbered commissioner district at the statewide general election in 1994 and each four years thereafter, and one commissioner shall be elected in each even-numbered commissioner district at the statewide general election in 1996 and each four years thereafter.

(2) Except for commissioners first elected after the county adopts the commissioner form of government or has increased the number of commissioners, the term of each county commissioner shall be four years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. At the first election held to choose the board of commissioners in any county having three commissioners, the person having the highest number of votes shall serve for four years and the two receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve for two years, and if any three or more persons have the same number of votes, their terms of office shall be determined by the county canvassing board. The county commissioners shall meet the qualifications found in section 23-150. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the reelection of a commissioner holding office if the commissioner is reelected to represent his or her respective district. The county commissioners shall be elected on the partisan ballot.

(3)(a) In counties having not more than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, one commissioner shall be nominated and elected from each district by the registered voters of the district.

(b) In counties having a population of more than one hundred fifty thousand but not more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, one commissioner shall be nominated and elected from each district by the registered voters of the district as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(c) In counties having more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, one commissioner shall be nominated and elected from each district by the registered voters of the district.

(4) In counties in which a majority has voted to have five commissioners as provided in section 23-148, the three commissioners of such county whose terms of office will expire after the election shall continue in office until the expiration of the terms for which they were elected and until their successors are elected and qualified. Two commissioners shall be appointed pursuant to sections 32-567 and 32-574 to serve until the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January following the next statewide general election. At the next statewide general election, commissioners shall be elected to fill the positions of any commissioners appointed under this section. At the first primary election after such appointments, filings shall be accepted for terms of two years and for terms of four years so that two commissioners will be elected to four-year terms at one election and three commissioners will be elected to four-year terms at the next election.

(5) In counties having more than one hundred fifty thousand but not more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census:

(a) At the primary election in 2010, one commissioner shall be nominated from each odd-numbered district, and at the ensuing general election, one commissioner shall be elected from each odd-numbered district. Their successors shall be nominated and elected every four years thereafter; and

(b) At the primary election in 2012, one commissioner shall be nominated from each even-numbered district, and at the ensuing general election, one commissioner shall be elected from each even-numbered district. Their successors shall be nominated and elected every four years thereafter.

Sec. 18. Section 32-554, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, is amended to read:

32-554 (1)(a) Any city not under a home rule charter, village, county, or school district nominating and electing members to its governing board at large may, either by majority vote of the governing body or by petition of registered voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, submit, at a general election, the question of nominating and electing members to its governing board by district or ward.

(b) Any city not under a home rule charter, village, county having not more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, or school district nominating and electing members to its governing board by district or ward may, either by majority vote of the governing body or by petition of registered voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, submit, at a general election, the question of nominating and electing members to its governing board at large.

(c) Any city of the first class, except a city having adopted the commissioner or city manager plan of government, nominating and electing members to its governing body by ward may, either by ordinance by majority vote of the governing body or by petition of registered voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, submit, at a general election, the question of nominating and electing some of the members to its governing body by ward and some at large. No more than four members of the city council may be elected on an at-large basis, and at least four members of the city council shall be elected by ward. The ordinance of the governing body or petition shall specify the number of at-large members to be elected. At the first election in which one or more at-large members are to be elected to the city council, the members

shall be elected to serve for initial terms of office of the following lengths: (i) If one at-large member is to be elected, he or she shall serve for a four-year term; (ii) if two at-large members are to be elected, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to serve for a four-year term and the other elected member shall be elected to serve for a two-year term; (iii) if three at-large members are to be elected, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to serve for four-year terms and the other elected member shall be elected to serve for a two-year term; and (iv) if four at-large members are to be elected, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to serve for four-year terms and the other elected members shall be elected to serve for two-year terms. Following the initial term of office, all at-large council members shall be elected to serve for four-year terms. No candidate may file as both an at-large candidate and a candidate by ward at the same election.

(2) Petitions for submission of the question shall be signed by registered voters of the city, village, county, or school district desiring to change the procedures for electing the governing board of the city, village, county, or school district. The petition or petitions shall be signed by registered voters equal in number to twenty-five percent of the votes cast for the person receiving the highest number of votes in the city, village, county, or school district at the preceding general election for electing the last member or members to its governing board. Each sheet of the petition shall have printed the full and correct copy of the question as it will appear on the official ballot. The petitions shall be filed with the county clerk or election commissioner not less than seventy days prior to the date of the general election, and no signatures shall be added or removed from the petitions after they have been so filed. Petitions shall be verified as provided in section 32-631. If the petition or petitions are found to contain the required number of valid signatures, the county clerk or election commissioner shall place the question on a separate ballot to be issued to the registered voters of the city, village, county, or school district entitled to vote on the question.

(3)(a) Any city, village, county, or school district voting to change from nominating and electing the members of its governing board by district or ward to nominating and electing some or all of such members at large shall notify the public and instruct the filing officer to accept the appropriate filings on an at-large basis. Candidates to be elected at large shall be nominated and elected on an at-large basis at the next primary and general election following submission of the question.

(b) Any city, village, county, or school district voting to change from nominating and electing the members of its governing board at large to nominating and electing by district or ward shall notify the public and instruct the filing officer to accept all filings by district or ward. Candidates shall be nominated and elected by district or ward at the next primary and general election following submission of the question. When district or ward elections have been approved by the majority of the electorate, the governing board of any city, village, county, or school district approving such question shall establish districts substantially equal in population as determined by the most recent federal decennial census except as provided in subsection (2) of section 32-553.

(4) Except as provided in section 14-201, each city not under a home rule charter, village, county, and school district which votes to nominate and elect members to its governing board by district or ward shall establish districts or wards so that approximately one-half of the members of its governing board may be nominated and elected from districts or wards at each election. Districts or wards shall be created not later than October 1 in the year following the general election at which the question was voted upon. If the governing board fails to draw district boundaries by October 1, the procedures set forth in section 32-555 shall be followed.

Sec. 19. Section 32-555, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-555 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, if the governing board of any city, village, county, or school district which nominates or elects members to the board by district or ward fails to draw district boundaries by the date established in subsection (1) of section 32-553 or subsection (4) of section 32-554, the county attorney of the county in which the board is located shall file an action in the district court for the purpose of ordering the board to draw district boundaries. If within six months after the receipt of such order the board does not comply, the members of the board shall be subject to removal and the court shall order the Secretary of State to draw district boundaries in accordance with the most recent federal decennial census. Any vacancy resulting from such removal from office shall be filled as provided by law.

(2) If the county attorney fails to file the action required by subsection (1) of this section, he or she shall be subject to removal from office. If the county attorney fails to file such action, any citizen within the jurisdiction of the governing board may file the action. The court shall order the board to pay any costs and attorney's fees involved in such action.

(3) If an election commissioner required to draw district boundaries for any county having more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census pursuant to sections 23-151 and 32-553 fails to do so, the election commissioner shall be subject to (a) suit by the county attorney for the purpose of ordering the drawing of district boundaries, (b) removal from office pursuant to section 32-214 for

failure to comply with an order to draw district boundaries within six months of receipt of such order, and (c) suit by any citizen for the purpose of ordering the drawing of district boundaries and shall be obligated to pay any costs and attorney's fees involved in any such action.

(4) If the county board of any county having more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census fails to complete the process of drawing district boundaries as provided for in sections 23-151 and 32-553, the procedures set forth in subdivision (3)(b) of section 23-151 shall be followed.

Sec. 20. Section 33-114.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

33-114.01 In any county having a population of more than one hundred thousand and less than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, when such county has entered into an agreement with the county seat for it to provide the services of its electronic data processing equipment for the purposes of tax collection, the county treasurer shall receive from such city for services provided in the assessment and collection of taxes the amount provided by agreement between the county and such city.

Sec. 21. Section 71-1631, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-1631 Except as provided in subsection (4) of section 71-1630, the board of health of each county, district, or city-county health department organized under sections 71-1626 to 71-1636 shall, immediately after appointment, meet and organize by the election of one of its own members as president, one as vice president, and another as secretary and, either from its own members or otherwise, a treasurer and shall have the power set forth in this section. The board may elect such other officers as it may deem necessary and may adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations for its own guidance and for the government of such health department as may be necessary, not inconsistent with sections 71-1626 to 71-1636. The board of health shall, with the approval of the county board and the municipality, whenever a city is a party in such a city-county health department:

(1) Select the health director of such department who shall be (a) well-trained in public health work though he or she need not be a graduate of an accredited medical school, but if he or she is not such a graduate, he or she shall be assisted at least part time by at least one medical consultant who shall be a licensed physician, (b) qualified in accordance with the state personnel system, and (c) approved by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) Hold an annual meeting each year, at which meeting officers shall be elected for the ensuing year;

(3) Hold meetings quarterly each year;

(4) Hold special meetings upon a written request signed by two of its members and filed with the secretary;

(5) Provide suitable offices, facilities, and equipment for the health director and assistants and their pay and traveling expenses in the performance of their duties, with mileage to be computed at the rate provided in section 81-1176;

(6) Publish, on or soon after the second Tuesday in July of each year, in pamphlet form for free distribution, an annual report showing (a) the condition of its trust for each year, (b) the sums of money received from all sources, giving the name of any donor, (c) how all money has been expended and for what purpose, and (d) such other statistics and information with regard to the work of such health department as may be of general interest;

(7) Enact rules and regulations, subsequent to public hearing held after due public notice of such hearing by publication at least once in a newspaper having general circulation in the county or district at least ten days prior to such hearing, and enforce the same for the protection of public health and the prevention of communicable diseases within its jurisdiction, subject to the review and approval of such rules and regulations by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(8) Make all necessary sanitary and health investigations and inspections;

(9) In counties having a population of more than four ~~three~~ hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, enact rules and regulations for the protection of public health and the prevention of communicable diseases within the district, except that such rules and regulations shall have no application within the jurisdictional limits of any city of the metropolitan class and shall not be in effect until (a) thirty days after the completion of a three-week publication in a legal newspaper, (b) approved by the county attorney with his or her written approval attached thereto, and (c) filed in the office of the county clerk of such county. A county shall comply with this subsection within six months after a determination that the population has reached more than four hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census;

(10) Investigate the existence of any contagious or infectious disease and adopt measures, with the approval of the Department of Health and Human Services, to arrest the progress of the same;

(11) Distribute free as the local needs may require all vaccines, drugs, serums, and other preparations obtained from the Department of Health and Human Services or purchased for public health purposes by the county board;

(12) Upon request, give professional advice and information to all city, village, and school authorities on all matters pertaining to sanitation and

public health;

(13) Fix the salaries of all employees, including the health director. Such city-county health department may also establish an independent pension plan, retirement plan, or health insurance plan or, by agreement with any participating city or county, provide for the coverage of officers and employees of such city-county health department under such city or county pension plan, retirement plan, or health insurance plan. Officers and employees of a county health department shall be eligible to participate in the county pension plan, retirement plan, or health insurance plan of such county. Officers and employees of a district health department formed by two or more counties shall be eligible to participate in the county retirement plan unless the district health department establishes an independent pension plan or retirement plan for its officers or employees;

(14) Establish fees for the costs of all services, including those services for which third-party payment is available; and

(15) In addition to powers conferred elsewhere in the laws of the state and notwithstanding any other law of the state, implement and enforce an air pollution control program under subdivision (23) of section 81-1504 or subsection (1) of section 81-1528, which program shall be consistent with the federal Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq. Such powers shall include without limitation those involving injunctive relief, civil penalties, criminal fines, and burden of proof. Nothing in this section shall preclude the control of air pollution by resolution, ordinance, or regulation not in actual conflict with the state air pollution control regulations.

Sec. 22. Original sections 2-955, 8-157, 23-150, 23-151, 23-1723, 23-1723.01, 23-1732, 23-2503, 23-2517, 23-2518, 23-3502, 23-3582, 29-902.01, 32-221, 32-555, 33-114.01, and 71-1631, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, section 32-554, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, and sections 23-148 and 32-528, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, are repealed.