LEGISLATIVE BILL 646

Approved by the Governor May 31, 2007

FOR AN ACT relating to elections; to amend sections 32-230, 32-232, 32-235, 32-612, 32-906, 32-1001, 32-1004, 32-1010, and 32-1049, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 32-808, 32-904, 32-909, 32-1002, 32-1027, and 32-1041, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006; to change provisions relating to changing political parties and issuing ballots for early voting; to change and eliminate provisions relating to the use and counting of ballots; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal sections 32-224, 32-234, 32-1011, 32-1019, 32-1020, 32-1021, 32-1022, 32-1023, 32-1024, and 32-1025, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 32-1026, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended by section 3, Legislative Bill 44, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session, 2007.

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

Section 1. Section 32-230, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-230 (1) As provided in subsection (5) of this section, the precinct committeeman and committeewoman of each political party shall appoint a receiving board consisting of three judges of election and two clerks of election except as provided in subsection (3) of this section. and a counting board if required pursuant to section 32-234 consisting of two judges of election and two clerks of election. The chairperson of the county central committee of each political party shall send the names of the appointments to the county clerk no later than February 1 prior to the primary election.

- (2) If no names are submitted by the chairperson, the county clerk shall appoint judges or clerks of election from the appropriate political party. 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 county clerk. 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) In precincts in which electronic voting systems are used, the receiving board shall have at least three members.
- (4) The county clerk may allow persons serving on a receiving board to serve for part of the time the polls are open and appoint other persons to serve on the same receiving board for the remainder of the time the polls are open.
- (5) In each precinct at any one time, one judge and one clerk of election shall be appointed from the political party casting the highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of the United States in the immediately preceding general election, one judge and one clerk shall be appointed from the political party casting the next highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of the United States in the immediately preceding general election, and one judge shall be appointed from the political party casting the third highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of the United States in the immediately preceding general election. If the political party casting the third highest number of votes cast less than ten percent of the total vote cast in the county at the immediately preceding general election, the political party casting the highest number of votes at the immediately preceding general election shall be entitled to two judges and one clerk. If a counting board is required pursuant to section 32-234, one judge and one clerk of election shall be appointed to be members of the counting board from the political party casting the highest number of votes for Governor or for President of the United States in the county in the immediately preceding general election and one judge and one clerk of election shall be appointed to be members of the counting board from the political party casting the next highest number of votes.

(6) The county clerk may appoint registered voters to serve in case of a vacancy among any of the judges or clerks of election or in addition to the judges and clerks in any precinct when necessary to meet any situation that requires additional judges and clerks. Such appointees may include registered voters unaffiliated with any political party. Such appointees shall serve at subsequent or special elections as determined by the county clerk.

(7) The county clerk may appoint a person who is at least sixteen years old but is not eligible to register to vote as a clerk of election. Such clerk of election shall meet the requirements of subsection (1) of section 32-231, except that such clerk shall not be required to be a registered voter. No more than one clerk of election appointed under this subsection shall serve at any precinct. A clerk of election appointed under this subsection shall be considered a registered voter who is not affiliated with a political party for purposes of this section.

32-232 (1) Any clerk of election may perform the duties of a judge of election, and any judge of election may perform the duties of a clerk of election. The county clerk may excuse two clerks of election from serving at any election, and the judges of election shall perform such duties without additional compensation.

(2) The county clerk shall designate one of the members of the receiving board as a messenger. The messenger shall receive from the county clerk the ballots and other equipment necessary for holding the election in the precinct for which he or she is a judge or clerk and shall deliver them to the polling place in his or her precinct at least one hour before the time provided by section 32-908 for opening the polls. The messenger shall return the ballots and other equipment to the county clerk as soon as possible after the votes are counted. In precincts which have a counting board, a messenger shall be designated by the county clerk from the members of the counting board to return the ballots and equipment to the county clerk.

Sec. 3. Section 32-235, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-235 (1) The county clerk shall, by mail, notify judges and clerks of election, district inspectors, members of counting boards, and members of canvassing boards of their appointment. The notice shall inform the appointee of his or her appointment and of the date and time he or she is required to report to the office of the county clerk or other designated location and the polling place. The notice shall be mailed at least fifteen days prior to each statewide primary and general election. The county clerk shall order the members of the receiving board and the members of the counting board to appear at their respective polling place on the day and at the hour specified in the notice of appointment.

(2) Each appointee shall, at the time fixed in the notice of appointment, report to the office or other location to complete any informational forms and receive training regarding his or her duties. The training shall include instruction as required by the Secretary of State and any other training deemed necessary by the county clerk.

Sec. 4. Section 32-612, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-612 (1) A change of political party affiliation by a registered voter so as to affiliate with the political party named in the candidate filing form or in an affidavit as a write-in candidate pursuant to section 32-615 after the first Friday in December prior to the statewide primary election shall not be effective to meet the requirements of section 32-610 or 32-611 or subsection (4) of this section, except that any person may change his or her political party affiliation after the first Friday in December prior to the statewide primary election to become a candidate of a new political party which has successfully completed the petition process required by section 32-716.

(2) No registered voter, candidate, or proposed candidate shall swear falsely as to political party affiliation or shall swear that he or she affiliates with two or more political parties. Any candidate who swears falsely as to political party affiliation or swears that he or she affiliates with two or more political parties shall not be the candidate of such party and shall not be entitled to assume the office for which he or she filed even if he or she receives a majority or plurality of the votes therefor at the following general election.

(3) The name of a candidate shall not appear printed on more than one political party ballot. A candidate who is a registered voter of one political party shall not accept the nomination of another political party.

(4) In order to count write-in votes on a political party ballot

in the primary election, the candidate who receives the votes must be a registered voter of that political party unless the political party allows candidates not affiliated with the party by not adopting a rule under section 32-702.

Sec. 5. Section 32-808, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

32-808 (1) Ballots for early voting and applications shall be ready for delivery to registered voters at least thirty-five days prior to each statewide primary or general election and at least fifteen days prior to all other elections.

- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, upon request for a ballot, a ballot for early voting shall be forwarded to each voter meeting the criteria of section 32-939 at least forty-five days prior to any election. The election commissioner or county clerk shall not forward any ballot for early voting if the election to which such ballot pertains has already been held. If the ballot has not been printed in sufficient time to meet the requirements of this subsection, the election commissioner or county clerk shall issue a special ballot at least fifty-seven sixty days prior to an election to each voter meeting the criteria of section 32-939 upon the written request by such voter requesting the special ballot. A complete list of the nominated candidates and issues to be voted upon by a voter meeting the criteria of such section shall be included with the special ballot by the election commissioner or county clerk. A notice shall be sent with the primary election ballot stating that the voter must request a general election ballot unless such voter has requested both the primary and general election ballots. If the voter has requested both ballots, a notice shall be sent with the primary election ballot stating that the general election ballot will be sent to the same address unless otherwise notified.
- (3) For purposes of this section, a special ballot means a ballot prescribed by the Secretary of State which contains the titles of all offices being contested at such election and permits the voter to vote by writing in the names of the specific candidates or the decision on any issue.
- (4) The election commissioner or county clerk shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the county an application form to be used by registered voters in making an application for a ballot for early voting after the ballots become available. The publication of the application shall not be required if the election is held by mail pursuant to sections 32-952 to 32-959.

Sec. 6. Section 32-904, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

32-904 The election commissioner or county clerk shall designate the polling places for each precinct at which the registered voters of the precinct will cast their votes. Polling places representing different precincts may be combined at a single location when potential sites cannot be found, contracts for utilizing polling sites cannot be obtained, or a potential site is not accessible to handicapped persons. When combining polling places at a single site for an election other than a special election, the election commissioner or county clerk shall clearly separate the polling places from each other and maintain separate receiving and counting boards. When combining polling places at a single site for a special election, the election commissioner or county clerk may combine the polling places and receiving and counting boards. Polling places shall not be changed between the statewide primary and general elections unless the election commissioner or county clerk has been authorized to make such change by the Secretary of State. If changes are authorized, the election commissioner or county clerk shall notify each state and local candidate affected by the change. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Election Act, the Secretary of State may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations, with the consent of the appropriate election commissioner or county clerk, for the establishment of polling places which may be used for voting pursuant to section 32-1041 for the twenty days preceding the day of election. Such polling places shall be in addition to the office of the election commissioner or county clerk and the polling places otherwise established pursuant to this section.

Sec. 7. Section 32-906, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-906 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide each polling place with ballot boxes, ballot box locks and keys, and a sufficient number of voting booths furnished with supplies and conveniences to enable each registered voter to prepare his or her ballot for voting and to secretly mark his or her ballot. One voting booth shall be provided for approximately every one hundred registered voters in the precinct. The election commissioner or county clerk may increase or decrease the number of

voting booths to accommodate the expected voter turnout of any election other than a statewide election. In precincts required to have a counting board pursuant to section 32-224 or 32-234, the county shall provide an enclosed compartment for the use of the counting board.

- (2) When there is no structure within the precinct suitable for use as a polling place, the election commissioner or county clerk may designate a polling place outside the precinct and convenient thereto which shall be provided with voting booths furnished with supplies and conveniences and, when utilized, an enclosed compartment for use of the counting board as are other polling places.
- (3) Standards for polling places shall include any applicable standards developed under sections 81-5,147 and 81-5,148.
- Sec. 8. Section 32-909, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

32-909 Before any ballot is deposited in the ballot box, the ballot box shall be publicly opened and exhibited and the judges and clerks of election shall see that no ballot is in the box. The ballot box shall then be locked and the key delivered to one of the judges of election or, in counties having an election commissioner, to the precinct inspector. If paper ballots are being used that will be manually counted, a ballot box containing such ballots shall not be opened again until opened by the counting board. A ballot box which contains ballots that will be counted using a scanner may be opened prior to the hour established by law for the closing of the polls at the discretion of the election commissioner or county clerk.

Sec. 9. Section 32-1001, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-1001 After the polls have closed, the precinct list of registered voters and the precinct sign-in register shall be signed by all members of the receiving board, the names of the registered voters shall be counted, and the number shall be recorded where designated on the list and the register. If a line is missed or a name is voided, the receiving board shall subtract such omissions or voids from the total before recording the total on the list and the register. The receiving board shall certify to all matters pertaining to casting of ballots and shall turn over the ballots, ballot boxes, list of registered voters, and sign-in register to the counting board, election commissioner or county clerk.

Sec. 10. Section 32-1002, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

32-1002 (1) As the ballots are removed from the ballot box pursuant to sections 32-1011 to 32-1026, 32-1012 to 32-1018, the receiving board or counting board shall separate the envelopes containing the provisional ballots from the rest of the ballots and deliver them to the election commissioner or county clerk.

- (2) Upon receipt of a provisional ballot, the election commissioner or county clerk shall verify that the certificate on the front of the envelope or the form attached to the envelope is in proper form and that the certification has been signed by the voter.
- (3) The election commissioner or county clerk shall also (a) verify that such person has not voted anywhere else in the county or been issued an absentee a ballot for early voting, (b) investigate whether any credible evidence exists that the person was properly registered to vote in the county before the deadline for registration for the election, (c) investigate whether any information has been received pursuant to section 32-309, 32-310, or 32-324 that the person has resided, registered, or voted in any other county or state since registering to vote in the county, and (d) upon determining that credible evidence exists that the person was properly registered to vote in the county, make the appropriate changes to the voter registration register by entering the information contained in the registration application completed by the voter at the time of voting a provisional ballot.
- (4) A provisional ballot cast by a voter pursuant to section 32-915 shall be counted if:
- (a) Credible evidence exists that the voter was properly registered in the county before the deadline for registration for the election;
- (b) The voter has resided in the county continuously since registering to vote in the county;
- (c) The voter has not voted anywhere else in the county or has not otherwise voted early using a ballot for early voting;
- (d) The voter has completed a registration application prior to voting and:
- (i) The residence address provided on the registration application completed pursuant to subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915 is located within the precinct in which the person voted; and

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(ii) If the voter is voting in a primary election, the party affiliation provided on the registration application completed prior to voting the provisional ballot is the same party affiliation that appears on the voter's voter registration record based on his or her previous registration application; and

- (e) The certification on the front of the envelope or form attached to the envelope is in the proper form and signed by the voter.
- (5) A provisional ballot cast by a voter pursuant to section 32-915 shall not be counted if:
- (a) The voter was not properly registered in the county before the deadline for registration for the election;
- (b) Information has been received pursuant to section 32-309, 32-310, or 32-324 that the voter has resided, registered, or voted in any other county or state since registering to vote in the county in which he or she cast the provisional ballot;
- (c) Credible evidence exists that the voter has voted elsewhere or has otherwise voted early;
- (d) The voter failed to complete and sign a registration application pursuant to subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915;
- (e) The residence address provided on the registration application completed pursuant to subdivision (1)(e) of section 32-915 is in a different county or in a different precinct than the county or precinct in which the voter voted;
- (f) If the voter is voting in a primary election, the party affiliation on the registration application completed prior to voting the provisional ballot is different than the party affiliation that appears on the voter's voter registration record based on his or her previous registration application; or
- (g) The voter failed to complete and sign the certification on the envelope or form attached to the envelope pursuant to subsection (3) of section 32-915.
- (6) Upon determining that the voter's provisional ballot is eligible to be counted, the election commissioner or county clerk shall remove the ballot from the envelope without exposing the marks on the ballot and shall place the ballot with the ballots to be counted by the county canvassing board.
- (7) The election commissioner or county clerk shall notify the system administrator of the system created pursuant to section 32-202 as to whether the ballot was counted and, if not, the reason the ballot was not counted.
- (8) The verification and investigation shall be completed within seven days after the election.
- Sec. 11. Section 32-1004, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 32-1004 If a ballot has been overvoted for any office, the ballot shall be rejected for that office only. No overvoted ballot shall be judged for voter intent by any member of the counting board or any official involved in the counting process. The counting board in counties which count ballots manually shall make the following notation on the rejected ballots: Rejected for the office of overvoted.
- Sec. 12. Section 32--1010, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 32-1010 Ballots may shall be counted (1) or compiled at a centralized location as provided in sections 32-1011 32-1012 to 32-1018. The receiving board shall deliver the ballot box and other election materials to the centralized location as directed by the election commissioner or county clerk. or (2) in the precinct by the receiving board which becomes the counting board after the pells are closed or by a counting board that is separate from the receiving board as provided in sections 32-1019 to 32-1026. Each counting board shall complete its duties and certify to all matters pertaining to the counting of votes.
- Sec. 13. Section 32-1027, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:
- 32-1027 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall appoint two or more registered voters to the counting board for early voting. One registered voter shall be appointed from the political party casting the highest number of votes for Governor or for President of the United States in the county in the immediately preceding general election, and one registered voter shall be appointed from the political party casting the next highest vote for such office. The election commissioner or county clerk may appoint additional registered voters to serve on the counting board and may appoint registered voters to serve in case of a vacancy among any of the members of

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the counting board. Such appointees shall be balanced between the political parties and may include registered voters unaffiliated with any political party. The counting board may begin carrying out its duties not earlier than the Thursday second Monday before the election and shall meet as directed by the election commissioner or county clerk.

- (2) The counting board shall place all identification envelopes in order and shall review each returned identification envelope pursuant to verification procedures prescribed in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.
 - (3) In its review, the counting board shall determine if:
- (a) The voter has provided his or her name, residence address, and signature on the voter identification envelope;
- (b) The ballot has been received from the voter who requested it and the residence address is the same address provided on the voter's request for a ballot for early voting, by comparing the information provided on the identification envelope with information recorded in the record of early voters or the voter's request;
- (c) A completed and signed registration application has been received from the voter by the deadline in section 32-302, 32-321, or 32-325 or by the close of the polls pursuant to section 32-945;
- (d) An identification document has been received from the voter not later than the close of the polls on election day if required pursuant to section 32-318.01; and
- (e) A completed and signed registration application and oath has been received from the voter by the close of the polls on election day if required pursuant to section 32-946.
- (4) On the basis of its review, the counting board shall determine whether the ballot shall be counted or rejected as follows:
- (a) A ballot received from a voter who was properly registered on or prior to the deadline for registration pursuant to section 32-302 or 32-321 shall be accepted for counting without further review if:
- (i) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of a registered voter to whom a ballot for early voting has been issued or sent;
- (ii) The residence address provided on the identification envelope is the same residence address at which the voter is registered or is in the same precinct and subdivision of a precinct, if any; and
 - (iii) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter;
- (b) In the case of a ballot received from a voter who was not properly registered prior to the deadline for registration pursuant to section 32-302 or 32-321, the ballot shall be accepted for counting if:
- (i) A valid registration application completed and signed by the voter has been received by the election commissioner or county clerk prior to the close of the polls on election day;
- (ii) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of the person who requested the ballot;
- (iii) The residence address provided on the identification envelope and on the registration application is the same as the residence address as provided on the voter's request for a ballot for early voting; and
 - (iv) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter;
- (c) In the case of a ballot received from a voter without a residence address who requested a ballot pursuant to section 32-946, the ballot shall be accepted for counting if:
- (i) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of a registered voter to whom a ballot has been sent;
- (ii) A valid registration application completed and signed by the voter, for whom the residence address is deemed to be the address of the office of the election commissioner or county clerk pursuant to section 32-946, has been received by the election commissioner or county clerk prior to the close of the polls on election day;
- to the close of the polls on election day;

 (iii) The oath required pursuant to section 32-946 has been completed and signed by the voter and received by the election commissioner or county clerk by the close of the polls on election day; and
 - (iv) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter; and
- (d) In the case of a ballot received from a registered voter required to present identification before voting pursuant to section 32-318.01, the ballot shall be accepted for counting if:
- (i) The name on the identification envelope appears to be that of a registered voter to whom a ballot has been issued or sent;
- (ii) The residence address provided on the identification envelope is the same address at which the voter is registered or is in the same precinct and subdivision of a precinct, if any;
- (iii) A copy of an identification document authorized in section 32-318.01 has been received by the election commissioner or county clerk prior

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to the close of the polls on election day; and

- (iv) The identification envelope has been signed by the voter.
- (5) In opening the identification envelope or the return envelope to determine if registration applications, oaths, or identification documents have been enclosed by the voters from whom they are required, the counting board shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the ballot remains folded and that the secrecy of the vote is preserved.
- (6) The counting board may, on the Thursday second Monday before the election, open all identification envelopes which are approved, and if the signature of the election commissioner or county clerk or his or her employee is on the ballot, the ballot shall be unfolded, flattened for purposes of using the optical scanner, and placed in a sealed container for counting enveloped election day. as directed by the election commissioner or county clerk. At the discretion of the election commissioner or county clerk, the counting board may begin counting early ballots no earlier than twenty-four hours prior to the opening of the polls on the day of the election.
- (7) If an identification envelope is rejected, the counting board shall not open the identification envelope. The counting board shall write Rejected on the identification envelope and the reason for the rejection. If the ballot is rejected after opening the identification envelope because of the absence of the official signature on the ballot, the ballot shall be reinserted in the identification envelope which shall be resealed and marked Rejected, no official signature. The counting board shall place the rejected identification envelopes and ballots in a container labeled Rejected Ballots and seal it.
- (8) As soon as all ballots have been placed in the sealed container and rejected identification envelopes or ballots have been sealed in the Rejected Ballots container, the counting board shall count the ballots the same as all other ballots and an unofficial count shall be reported to the election commissioner or county clerk. No results shall be released prior to the closing of the polls on election day.

Sec. 14. Section 32-1041, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

32-1041 The election commissioner or county clerk may use paper $\frac{\text{ballots}_{\mathcal{T}}}{\text{optical-scan}}$ optical-scan $\text{ballots}_{\mathcal{T}}$ or voting systems approved by the Secretary of State to allow registered voters to cast their votes at any election. Paper ballots may be used in combination with other methods of casting ballots. The election commissioner or county clerk may use vote counting devices and voting systems approved by the Secretary of State for tabulating the votes cast at any election. Vote counting devices shall include electronic counting devices such as optical scanners. Any new voting or counting system shall be approved by the Secretary of State prior to use by an election commissioner or county clerk. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Election Act, the Secretary of State may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to establish different procedures and locations for voting and counting votes pursuant to the use of any new voting or counting system. The procedures shall be designed to preserve the safety and confidentiality of each vote cast and the secrecy and security of the counting process, to establish security provisions for the prevention of fraud, and to ensure that the election is conducted in a fair

Sec. 15. Section 32-1049, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-1049 Any election commissioner or county clerk using a vote counting device to count ballots in a centralized location shall:

- (1) Provide for the proper sealing of the containers and the security of the ballots when transported from each polling place to the centralized location and when removed from their containers and delivered to the personnel who operate the vote counting devices;
- (2) Provide a process of counting which allows for the ballots of each precinct to be placed in a sealed container and placed in a secure location after the counting process has been completed;
- (3) Provide for a method of overseeing the ballots that have been overvoted or damaged which does not involve judging voter intent to assure that these ballots have not been or will not be intentionally mismarked;
- (4) Provide for a procedure for counting write-in votes when such votes and names of write-in candidates are to be counted and recorded;
- (5) Provide for at least three independent tests to be conducted before counting begins to verify the accuracy of the counting process, which includes the computerized program installed for counting various ballots by vote counting devices, by (a) the election commissioner or county clerk, (b) the chief deputy election commissioner or a registered voter with a different party affiliation than that of the election commissioner or county clerk, and

(c) the person who installed the program in the vote counting device or the person in charge of operating the device;

- (6) Provide for storing and safeguarding the magnetic tapes or computer chips of the vote counting devices for the required period of time;
- (7) Provide the appropriate security personnel or measures necessary to safeguard the secrecy and security of the counting process;
- (8) When deemed necessary by the election commissioner or county clerk, develop Develop a procedure for picking up and counting ballots during election day at the discretion of the election commissioner or county clerk. No report or tabulation of vote totals for such ballots shall be produced or generated prior to one hour before the closing of the polls; and
- (9) Submit a written plan to the Secretary of State specifically outlining the procedures that will be followed on election day to implement this section. The plan shall be submitted no later than twenty-five days before the election and shall be modified, as necessary, for each primary, general, or special election.
- Sec. 16. Original sections 32-230, 32-232, 32-235, 32-612, 32-906, 32-1001, 32-1004, 32-1010, and 32-1049, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 32-808, 32-904, 32-909, 32-1002, 32-1027, and 32-1041, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, are repealed.

Sec. 17. The following sections are outright repealed: Sections 32-224, 32-234, 32-1011, 32-1019, 32-1020, 32-1021, 32-1022, 32-1023, 32-1024, and 32-1025, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 32-1026, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended by section 3, Legislative Bill 44, One Hundredth Legislature, First Session, 2007.