

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1048

FINAL READING

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

Read first time January 14, 2026

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to government; to amend sections 44-1412,
2 48-683, 54-2428, 71-1131, 77-383, 77-385, 77-27,238, 77-6307,
3 81-125, 81-1354.01, 81-1378, 81-1504.01, 81-1505.04, 81-1607.01,
4 83-184.01, 83-1,100.03, 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-363, 83-364,
5 83-367, 83-370, 83-371, 83-375, 83-377, 83-378, 83-379, 83-380.01,
6 83-918, 83-963, and 86-1301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
7 sections 73-815, 77-6521, 77-6604, 77-6610, 77-6837, and 77-6928,
8 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 61-218,
9 70-1003, 81-1113, 81-1139.02, 81-1430, 81-15,175, and 81-1606,
10 Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide, change, and eliminate
11 requirements related to reporting involving the Department of
12 Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the Department of Water,
13 Energy, and Environment, the Department of Revenue, the Department
14 of Administrative Services, a task force under the Nebraska
15 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the Department
16 of Correctional Services, the Board of Parole, the Department of
17 Economic Development, the Department of Insurance, the Department of
18 Transportation, and broadband Internet providers under the Nebraska
19 Broadband Bridge Act as prescribed; to require certain copies of
20 contracts to be provided to the Auditor of Public Accounts; to
21 change reporting procedures for preparation of the state executive
22 budget; to eliminate reports regarding labor negotiations; to

1 eliminate the Suggestion Award Board and the state employee
2 suggestion system; to eliminate provisions relating to costs of care
3 for patients of state institutions; to harmonize provisions; to
4 repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal sections
5 48-2909, 54-642, 77-6309, 81-1205, 81-1346, 81-1347, 81-1347.01,
6 81-1350, 81-1351, 81-1352, 81-1353, 81-1354, 81-1384, 83-380, and
7 86-1313, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, section 39-1392,
8 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 81-1348
9 and 81-1607, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025.
10 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 44-1412, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 44-1412 (1) On or before March 31 each year, each insurance carrier
4 shall file with the department the following information for the most
5 recent calendar year:

6 (a) The total number of incentive payments made pursuant to the
7 insurance carrier's shared savings incentive payment program;

8 (b) The use of shoppable health care services by category of service
9 for which incentive payments are made;

10 (c) The total amount of incentive payments made to enrollees;

11 (d) The average amount of incentive payments made by category of
12 shoppable health care service;

13 (e) The total savings achieved below the average prices by category
14 of shoppable health care service; and

15 (f) The total number and percentage of an insurance carrier's
16 enrollees that participated in the shared savings incentive payment
17 program.

18 (2) On or before July 1, 2027 ~~2019~~, and on or before July 1 every
19 two years ~~of each year~~ thereafter, the department shall electronically
20 submit an aggregate report for all insurance carriers filing the
21 information required by subsection (1) of this section to the
22 Legislature.

23 **Sec. 2.** Section 48-683, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 48-683 ~~(1)~~—The department shall not use General Funds to implement
26 the short-time compensation program. The department shall use any and all
27 available federal funds to implement the short-time compensation program,
28 including, but not limited to, federal funds distributed to the state
29 under sections 903(c), 903(d), 903(f), and 903(g) of the federal Social
30 Security Act, as amended.

31 ~~(2) The department shall submit an annual report to the Governor and~~

1 ~~electronically to the Legislature on the short-time compensation program~~
2 ~~trends, including the number of employers filing short-time compensation~~
3 ~~program plans, the number of layoffs averted through the use of the~~
4 ~~short-time compensation program, the amount of short-time compensation~~
5 ~~program benefits paid, and other information pertinent to the short-time~~
6 ~~compensation program.~~

7 **Sec. 3.** Section 54-2428, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
8 amended to read:

9 54-2428 (1) Any person required to obtain a National Pollutant
10 Discharge Elimination System permit for an animal feeding operation or a
11 construction and operating permit for a livestock waste control facility
12 shall file an application with the department accompanied by the
13 appropriate fees in the manner established by the department. The
14 application fee shall be established by the council with a maximum fee of
15 two hundred dollars. For major modifications to an application or a
16 permit, the fee shall equal the amount of the application fee.

17 (2) On or before March 1, 2006, and each year thereafter, each
18 person who has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit
19 or who has a large concentrated animal feeding operation, as defined in
20 40 C.F.R. 122 and 123, as such regulations existed on January 1, 2004,
21 and a state operating permit, a construction and operating permit, or a
22 construction approval issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act
23 or the Livestock Waste Management Act shall pay a per head annual fee
24 based on the permitted capacity identified in the permit for that
25 facility. The department shall invoice each permittee by February 1,
26 2006, and February 1 of each year thereafter.

27 (3) The initial annual fee shall be: Beef cattle, ten cents per
28 head; veal calves, ten cents per head; dairy cows, fifteen cents per
29 head; swine larger than fifty-five pounds, four dollars per one hundred
30 head or fraction thereof; swine less than fifty pounds, one dollar per
31 one hundred head or fraction thereof; horses, twenty cents per head;

1 sheep or lambs, one dollar per one hundred head or fraction thereof;
2 turkeys, two dollars per one thousand head or fraction thereof; chickens
3 or ducks with liquid manure facility, three dollars per one thousand head
4 or fraction thereof; and chickens or ducks with other than liquid manure
5 facility, one dollar per one thousand head or fraction thereof. This fee
6 structure may be reviewed in fiscal year 2007-08.

7 (4) Beginning in fiscal year 2007-08, the department shall annually
8 review and adjust the fee structure in this section and section 54-2423
9 to ensure that fees are adequate to meet twenty percent of the program
10 costs from the previous fiscal year. All fees collected under this
11 section and sections 54-2423, 54-2435, and 54-2436 shall be remitted to
12 the State Treasurer for credit to the Livestock Waste Management Cash
13 Fund which is created for the purposes described in the Livestock Waste
14 Management Act. Transfers may be made from the fund to the General Fund
15 at the direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Livestock Waste
16 Management Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the
17 state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act
18 and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

19 ~~(5) On or before January 1 of each year, the department shall submit~~
20 ~~electronically a report to the Legislature in sufficient detail to~~
21 ~~document all direct and indirect costs incurred in the previous fiscal~~
22 ~~year in carrying out the Livestock Waste Management Act, including the~~
23 ~~number of inspections conducted, the number of animal feeding operations~~
24 ~~with livestock waste control facilities, the number of animal feeding~~
25 ~~operations inspected, the size of the livestock waste control facilities,~~
26 ~~the results of water quality monitoring programs, and other elements~~
27 ~~relating to carrying out the act. The Appropriations Committee of the~~
28 ~~Legislature shall review the report in its analysis of executive programs~~
29 ~~in order to verify that the revenue generated from fees was used solely~~
30 ~~to offset appropriate and reasonable costs associated with carrying out~~
31 ~~the act.~~

1 **Sec. 4.** Section 61-218, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
2 amended to read:

3 61-218 (1) The Water Resources Cash Fund is created. The fund shall
4 be administered by the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. Any
5 money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
6 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
7 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

8 (2) The State Treasurer shall credit to the fund such money as is
9 (a) transferred to the fund by the Legislature, (b) paid to the state as
10 fees, deposits, payments, and repayments relating to the fund, both
11 principal and interest, (c) donated as gifts, bequests, or other
12 contributions to such fund from public or private entities, (d) made
13 available by any department or agency of the United States if so directed
14 by such department or agency, (e) transferred pursuant to section
15 81-15,175, and (f) received by the state for settlement of claims
16 relating to interstate river compacts or decrees.

17 (3)(a) The fund shall be expended by the department in any area that
18 has adopted an integrated management plan as provided in section 46-715.

19 (b) The fund shall be used in any such area:

20 (i) To aid management actions taken to reduce consumptive uses of
21 water;

22 (ii) To enhance streamflows or ground water recharge;

23 (iii) For any other activity deemed necessary by the department in
24 the development and implementation of an integrated management plan;

25 (iv) For purposes of the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act; or

26 (v) For purposes of projects or proposals described in the grant
27 application as set forth in subdivision (2)(h) of section 81-15,175.

28 (c) To the extent funds are not expended pursuant to subdivision (b)
29 of this subsection, the department may conduct a statewide assessment of
30 short-term and long-term water management activities and funding needs to
31 meet statutory requirements in sections 46-713 to 46-718 and 46-739 and

1 any requirements of an interstate compact or decree or formal state
2 contract or agreement.

3 (d) The fund shall not be used to pay for administrative expenses or
4 any salaries for any political subdivision.

5 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that three million three
6 hundred thousand dollars be transferred each fiscal year from the General
7 Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund for FY2011-12 through FY2022-23,
8 except that for FY2012-13 it is the intent of the Legislature that four
9 million seven hundred thousand dollars be transferred from the General
10 Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund. It is the intent of the
11 Legislature that the State Treasurer credit any money received from any
12 Republican River Compact settlement to the Water Resources Cash Fund in
13 the fiscal year in which it is received.

14 (5)(a) Expenditures from the Water Resources Cash Fund may be made
15 to natural resources districts eligible under subsection (3) of this
16 section for activities to either achieve a sustainable balance of
17 consumptive water uses or assure compliance with an interstate compact or
18 decree or a formal state contract or agreement and shall require a match
19 of local funding in an amount equal to or greater than forty percent of
20 the total cost of carrying out the eligible activity. The department
21 shall, no later than August 1 of each year, beginning in 2007, determine
22 the amount of funding that will be made available to natural resources
23 districts from the Water Resources Cash Fund and notify natural resources
24 districts of this determination. The department shall adopt and
25 promulgate rules and regulations governing application for and use of the
26 Water Resources Cash Fund by natural resources districts. Such rules and
27 regulations shall, at a minimum, include the following components:

28 (i) Require an explanation of how the planned activity will achieve
29 a sustainable balance of consumptive water uses or will assure compliance
30 with an interstate compact or decree or a formal state contract or
31 agreement as required by section 46-715 and the controls, rules, and

1 regulations designed to carry out the activity; and

2 (ii) A schedule of implementation of the activity or its components,
3 including the local match as set forth in subdivision (5)(a) of this
4 section.

5 (b) Any natural resources district that fails to implement and
6 enforce its controls, rules, and regulations as required by section
7 46-715 shall not be eligible for funding from the Water Resources Cash
8 Fund until it is determined by the department that compliance with the
9 provisions required by section 46-715 has been established.

10 ~~(6) The Department of Water, Energy, and Environment shall submit~~
11 ~~electronically an annual report to the Legislature no later than October~~
12 ~~1 of each year that shall detail the use of the Water Resources Cash Fund~~
13 ~~in the previous year. The report shall provide:~~

14 ~~(a) Details regarding the use and cost of activities carried out by~~
15 ~~the department; and~~

16 ~~(b) Details regarding the use and cost of activities carried out by~~
17 ~~each natural resources district that received funds from the Water~~
18 ~~Resources Cash Fund.~~

19 ~~(6)(a) (7)(a)~~ Prior to the application deadline for fiscal year
20 2011-12, the Department of Natural Resources shall apply for a grant of
21 nine million nine hundred thousand dollars from the Nebraska
22 Environmental Trust Fund, to be paid out in three annual installments of
23 three million three hundred thousand dollars. The purposes listed in the
24 grant application shall be consistent with the uses of the Water
25 Resources Cash Fund provided in this section and shall be used to aid
26 management actions taken to reduce consumptive uses of water, to enhance
27 streamflows, to recharge ground water, or to support wildlife habitat in
28 any river basin determined to be fully appropriated pursuant to section
29 46-714 or designated as overappropriated pursuant to section 46-713.

30 (b) If the application is granted, funds received from such grant
31 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Water

1 Resources Cash Fund for the purpose of supporting the projects set forth
2 in the grant application. The department shall include in its grant
3 application documentation that the Legislature has authorized a transfer
4 of three million three hundred thousand dollars from the General Fund
5 into the Water Resources Cash Fund for each of fiscal years 2011-12 and
6 2012-13 and has stated its intent to transfer three million three hundred
7 thousand dollars to the Water Resources Cash Fund for fiscal year
8 2013-14.

9 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department apply
10 for an additional three-year grant that would begin in fiscal year
11 2014-15, an additional three-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental
12 Trust Fund that would begin in fiscal year 2017-18, and an additional
13 three-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund that would
14 begin in fiscal year 2020-21 if the criteria established in subsection
15 (4) of section 81-15,175 are achieved.

16 ~~(7)~~ (8) The department shall establish a subaccount within the Water
17 Resources Cash Fund for the accounting of all money received as a grant
18 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund as the result of an
19 application made pursuant to subsection ~~(6)~~ (7) of this section.

20 ~~(8)~~ (9) Any funds transferred from the Nebraska Environmental Trust
21 Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund shall be placed within the
22 subaccount created under subsection ~~(7)~~ (8) of this section and expended
23 in accordance with section 81-15,168.

24 ~~(9)~~ (10) The State Treasurer shall transfer one million dollars from
25 the Water Resources Cash Fund to the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Cash
26 Fund as soon as administratively possible after July 19, 2024, but before
27 June 30, 2025, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the
28 budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of
29 Administrative Services.

30 **Sec. 5.** Section 70-1003, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
31 amended to read:

1 70-1003 (1)(a) There is hereby established an independent board to
2 be known as the Nebraska Power Review Board. The board shall consist of
3 five members, including at least one engineer, at least one attorney, and
4 three additional persons. No more than one person who is or who has
5 within four years preceding such person's appointment been either a
6 director, an officer, or an employee of any electric utility or an
7 elective state officer shall serve on the board at the same time. Any
8 board member who previously was either a director, an officer, or an
9 employee of any electric utility within four years preceding such board
10 member's appointment shall refrain from taking any action or making any
11 decision in any proceeding before the board that involves such electric
12 utility for a period of four years after the date such board member
13 ceased being a director, an officer, or an employee of such electric
14 utility.

15 (b) Members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor subject
16 to the approval of the Legislature. Upon expiration of the terms of the
17 members first appointed, the successors shall be appointed for terms of
18 four years. No member of the board shall serve more than three
19 consecutive terms. Any vacancy on the board arising other than from the
20 expiration of a term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired
21 portion of the term, and any person appointed to fill a vacancy on the
22 board shall be eligible for reappointment for two more consecutive terms.
23 No more than three members of the board shall be registered members of
24 that political party represented by the Governor.

25 (2) Each member of the board shall receive one hundred dollars per
26 day for each day actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of
27 his or her duties, but not to exceed seven thousand dollars in any one
28 year, except for the member designated to represent the board on the
29 Southwest Power Pool Regional State Committee or its equivalent
30 successor, who shall receive two hundred fifty dollars for each day
31 actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of his or her duties,

1 not to exceed thirty-five thousand dollars in any one year. If the member
2 designated to represent the board on the Southwest Power Pool Regional
3 State Committee should for any reason no longer serve in that capacity
4 during a year, the pay received while serving in such capacity shall not
5 be used for purposes of calculating the seven-thousand-dollar limitation
6 for board members not serving in that capacity. When another board member
7 acts as the proxy for the designated Southwest Power Pool Regional State
8 Committee member, he or she shall receive the same pay as the designated
9 member would have for that activity. Pay received while serving as proxy
10 for such designated member shall not be used for purposes of determining
11 whether the seven-thousand-dollar limitation has been met for board
12 members not serving as such designated member. Total pay to board members
13 for activities related to the Southwest Power Pool shall not exceed an
14 aggregate total of forty thousand dollars in any one year. Each member
15 shall be reimbursed for expenses while so engaged as provided in sections
16 81-1174 to 81-1177. The board shall have jurisdiction as provided in
17 Chapter 70, article 10.

18 (3) The board shall elect from their members a chairperson and a
19 vice-chairperson. Decisions of the board shall require the approval of a
20 majority of the members of the board.

21 (4) The board shall employ an executive director and may employ such
22 other staff necessary to carry out the duties pursuant to Chapter 70,
23 article 10. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the
24 board and shall be solely responsible to the board. The executive
25 director shall be responsible for the administrative operations of the
26 board and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned
27 to him or her by the board. The board may obtain the services of experts
28 and consultants necessary to carry out the board's duties pursuant to
29 Chapter 70, article 10.

30 (5) The board shall publish and submit a biennial report with annual
31 data to the Governor, with copies to be filed with the Clerk of the

1 Legislature and with the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.
2 The report submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature shall be submitted
3 electronically. The department shall consider the information in the
4 Nebraska Power Review Board's report when the department prepares its own
5 report reports pursuant to section sections 81-1606 and ~~81-1607~~. The
6 report of the board shall include:

7 (a) The assessments for the fiscal year imposed pursuant to section
8 70-1020;

9 (b) The gross income totals for each category of the industry and
10 the industry total;

11 (c) The number of suppliers against whom the assessment is levied,
12 by category and in total;

13 (d) The projected dollar costs of generation, transmission, and
14 microwave applications, approved and denied;

15 (e) The actual dollar costs of approved applications upon
16 completion, and a summary of an informational hearing concerning any
17 significant divergence between the projected and actual costs;

18 (f) A description of Nebraska's current electric system and
19 information on additions to and retirements from the system during the
20 fiscal year, including microwave facilities;

21 (g) A statistical summary of board activities and an expenditure
22 summary;

23 (h) A roster of power suppliers in Nebraska and the assessment each
24 paid; and

25 (i) Appropriately detailed historical and projected electric supply
26 and demand statistics, including information on the total generating
27 capacity owned by Nebraska suppliers and the total peak load demand of
28 the previous year, along with an indication of how the industry will
29 respond to the projected situation.

30 (6) The board may, in its discretion, hold public hearings
31 concerning the conditions that may indicate that retail competition in

1 the electric industry would benefit Nebraska's citizens and what steps,
2 if any, should be taken to prepare for retail competition in Nebraska's
3 electricity market. In determining whether to hold such hearings, the
4 board shall consider the sufficiency of public interest.

5 (7) The board may, at any time deemed beneficial by the board,
6 submit a report to the Governor with copies to be filed with the Clerk of
7 the Legislature and the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature.
8 The report filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and the committee
9 shall be filed electronically. The report may include:

10 (a) Whether or not a viable regional transmission organization and
11 adequate transmission exist in Nebraska or in a region which includes
12 Nebraska;

13 (b) Whether or not a viable wholesale electricity market exists in a
14 region which includes Nebraska;

15 (c) To what extent retail rates have been unbundled in Nebraska;

16 (d) A comparison of Nebraska's wholesale electricity prices to the
17 prices in the region; and

18 (e) Any other information the board believes to be beneficial to the
19 Governor, the Legislature, and Nebraska's citizens when considering
20 whether retail electric competition would be beneficial, such as, but not
21 limited to, an update on deregulation activities in other states and an
22 update on federal deregulation legislation.

23 (8) The board may establish working groups of interested parties to
24 assist the board in carrying out the powers set forth in subsections (6)
25 and (7) of this section.

26 **Sec. 6.** Section 71-1131, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

28 71-1131 If the subject cannot afford to pay, the county shall pay
29 court costs, costs of emergency custody, and related expenses for a
30 petition filed pursuant to the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered
31 Custody Act, including the costs of legal counsel appointed to represent

1 the subject and any expert hired to evaluate and testify on behalf of the
2 subject. In counties having a public defender, the court may appoint the
3 public defender as legal counsel for the subject. The county shall be
4 responsible for the cost of transporting the subject to and from court
5 hearings under the act and to any emergency custody or other custody
6 ordered under the act. The department shall pay the costs of the
7 department's evaluations of the subject, the costs of the plans completed
8 by the department and the independent mental health professional, and the
9 costs of the court-ordered custody and treatment of the subject following
10 an order of disposition, except as provided by sections 83-363 to 83-379
11 ~~83-380~~.

12 **Sec. 7.** Section 73-815, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
13 2024, is amended to read:

14 73-815 Except as provided in section 73-813, all proposals for sole
15 source contracts for services in excess of fifty thousand dollars shall
16 be preapproved by the division except in emergencies. In case of an
17 emergency, contract approval by the state agency director or his or her
18 designee is required. Copies ~~A copy~~ of the contract and state agency
19 justification of the emergency shall be provided to the Director of
20 Administrative Services and the Auditor of Public Accounts within three
21 business days after contract approval. The state agency shall retain a
22 copy of the justification with the contract in the state agency files.
23 The Director of Administrative Services shall maintain a complete record
24 of such sole source contracts for services.

25 **Sec. 8.** Section 77-383, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 77-383 The department may request from any state or local official
28 or agency any information necessary to complete the report ~~reports~~
29 required under section 77-382 ~~and subsection (2) of section 77-385~~. All
30 state and local officials or agencies shall cooperate with the department
31 with respect to any such request.

1 **Sec. 9.** Section 77-385, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 77-385 ~~(1)~~—The report required under section 77-382 and a summary
4 of the report shall be submitted to the Governor, the Executive Board of
5 the Legislative Council, and the chairpersons of the Legislature's
6 Revenue and Appropriations Committees on or before October 15, 1991, and
7 October 15 of every even-numbered year thereafter. The report submitted
8 to the executive board and the committees shall be submitted
9 electronically. The department shall, on or before December 1 of each
10 even-numbered year, appear at a joint hearing of the Appropriations
11 Committee of the Legislature and the Revenue Committee of the Legislature
12 and present the report. Any supplemental information requested by three
13 or more committee members shall be presented within thirty days after the
14 request. The summary shall be included with or appended to the Governor's
15 budget presented to the Legislature in odd-numbered years.

16 ~~(2)(a) In addition to the tax expenditure report required under~~
17 ~~section 77-382, the department shall prepare an annual report that~~
18 ~~focuses specifically on the tax expenditures relating to sales and use~~
19 ~~tax as follows:~~

20 ~~(i) For 2014 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall~~
21 ~~analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax~~
22 ~~expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(a) through (c) of section~~
23 ~~77-382;~~

24 ~~(ii) For 2015 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall~~
25 ~~analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax~~
26 ~~expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(d) through (f) of section~~
27 ~~77-382;~~

28 ~~(iii) For 2016 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall~~
29 ~~analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax~~
30 ~~expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(g) through (j) of section~~
31 ~~77-382; and~~

1 ~~(iv) For 2017 and every fourth year thereafter, the report shall~~
2 ~~analyze the actual or estimated revenue loss caused by the tax~~
3 ~~expenditures described in subdivisions (2)(k) through (m) of section~~
4 ~~77-382.~~

5 ~~(b) The report required under this subsection shall be submitted to~~
6 ~~the Governor, the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, and the~~
7 ~~chairpersons of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature and the~~
8 ~~Appropriations Committee of the Legislature on or before October 15 of~~
9 ~~each year. The report submitted to the executive board and the committees~~
10 ~~shall be submitted electronically. The department shall, on or before~~
11 ~~December 1 of each year, appear at a joint hearing of the Appropriations~~
12 ~~Committee of the Legislature and the Revenue Committee of the Legislature~~
13 ~~and present the report. Any supplemental information requested by three~~
14 ~~or more committee members shall be presented within thirty days after the~~
15 ~~request.~~

16 **Sec. 10.** Section 77-27,238, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 77-27,238 (1) For taxable years beginning or deemed to begin on or
19 after January 1, 2017, there shall be allowed to an employer of any
20 eligible employee a nonrefundable credit, for not more than two years,
21 against the income tax imposed by the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 in the
22 amount of twenty percent of the employer's annual expenditures for any of
23 the following services that are provided to eligible employees and that
24 are incidental to the employer's business:

25 (a) The payment of tuition at a Nebraska public institution of
26 postsecondary education or the payment of the costs associated with a
27 high school equivalency program for eligible employees; and

28 (b) The provision of transportation of eligible employees to and
29 from work.

30 (2) The credit allowed under this section for any taxable year shall
31 not exceed the employer's actual tax liability for such taxable year.

1 ~~(3) The Department of Revenue shall submit a report electronically~~
2 ~~to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year on (a)~~
3 ~~the number of employers claiming a credit under this section and (b) the~~
4 ~~number of eligible employees receiving the services for which credits are~~
5 ~~claimed.~~

6 (3) ~~(4)~~ The Department of Revenue, in consultation with the
7 Department of Health and Human Services, shall develop a process to
8 verify that any employer claiming credits under this section qualifies
9 for such credits.

10 ~~(4)~~ ~~(5)~~ The Department of Revenue may adopt and promulgate rules and
11 regulations necessary to carry out this section.

12 ~~(5)~~ ~~(6)~~ For purposes of this section, eligible employee means a
13 parent or caretaker relative (a) who is a member of a unit that received
14 benefits under the state or federally funded Temporary Assistance for
15 Needy Families program established in 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., for any nine
16 months of the eighteen-month period immediately prior to the employee's
17 hiring date and (b) whose hiring date is on or after the first day of the
18 taxable year for which the credit is claimed.

19 **Sec. 11.** Section 77-6307, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 77-6307 (1) Each qualified small business, qualified investor, and
22 qualified fund shall submit an annual report to the director by July 1 of
23 each year. The report shall certify that the business, investor, or fund
24 satisfies the requirements of the Angel Investment Tax Credit Act and
25 ~~shall include all information which will enable the Department of~~
26 ~~Economic Development to fulfill its reporting requirements under section~~
27 ~~77-6309.~~

28 (2) A qualified small business that ceases all operations and
29 becomes insolvent shall file a final report with the director in the form
30 required by the director documenting its insolvency.

31 (3) To maintain the confidentiality of the qualified investor, the

1 Department of Economic Development shall use a designated number to
2 identify such persons or entities.

3 (4) A qualified small business, qualified investor, or qualified
4 fund that fails to file a complete annual report by July 1 shall, at the
5 discretion of the director, be subject to a fine of two hundred dollars,
6 revocation of its certification, or both.

7 **Sec. 12.** Section 77-6521, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
8 2024, is amended to read:

9 77-6521 (1) The Department of Economic Development and the
10 Department of Revenue shall jointly submit electronically an annual
11 report to the Legislature no later than October 31 of each year. The
12 report shall be on a fiscal year, accrual basis that satisfies the
13 requirements set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The
14 Department of Economic Development and the Department of Revenue shall
15 together, on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year, appear at
16 a joint hearing of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature and
17 the Revenue Committee of the Legislature and present the report. Any
18 supplemental information requested by three or more committee members
19 must be provided within thirty days after the request.

20 (2) The report shall list (a) the agreements which have been signed
21 during the previous calendar year, (b) the agreements which are still in
22 effect, and (c) the identity of each taxpayer that is a party to an
23 agreement.

24 (3) The report shall provide information on agreement-specific total
25 credits used every two years for each agreement. The report shall
26 disclose the identity of the taxpayer and the total credits used during
27 the immediately preceding two years, expressed as a single, aggregated
28 total. The information required to be reported under this subsection
29 shall not be reported for the first year the taxpayer maintains the
30 required employment threshold. The information on first-year credits used
31 shall be combined with and reported as part of the second year.

1 Thereafter, the information on credits used for succeeding years shall be
2 reported for each agreement every two years containing information on two
3 years of credits used.

4 (4) No information shall be provided in the report that is protected
5 by state or federal confidentiality laws.

6 **Sec. 13.** Section 77-6604, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
7 2024, is amended to read:

8 77-6604 (1) A business may apply to the director for certification
9 as an eligible business. The program certification application shall be
10 in the form and be made under the procedures specified by the director.

11 (2) Within thirty days after receiving a program certification
12 application under this section, the director shall certify the business
13 as satisfying the conditions required of an eligible business, request
14 additional information, or deny the program certification application. If
15 the director requests additional information, the director shall certify
16 the business or deny the program certification application within thirty
17 days after receiving the additional information. If the director neither
18 certifies the business nor denies the program certification application
19 within thirty days after receiving the original program certification
20 application or within thirty days after receiving the additional
21 information requested, whichever is later, then the program certification
22 application is deemed approved if the business meets the requirements in
23 subsection (3) of this section. A business that applies for program
24 certification and is denied may reapply.

25 (3) To be certified as an eligible business under the Renewable
26 Chemical Production Tax Credit Act, a business shall meet all of the
27 following requirements:

28 (a) The business produced at least one million pounds of renewable
29 chemicals in this state during the calendar year for which tax credits
30 are sought;

31 (b) The business is physically located in this state;

1 (c) The business organized, expanded, or located in this state on or
2 after January 1, 2021; and

3 (d) The business is in compliance with all agreements entered into
4 under the act and pursuant to any other tax credits or programs
5 administered by the Department of Economic Development or the Department
6 of Revenue.

7 (4)(a) An eligible business shall enter into an agreement with the
8 director for the successful completion of all requirements of the act.
9 The agreement may certify the business to receive tax credits under the
10 act for up to four years.

11 (b) As part of the agreement, the eligible business shall agree to
12 collect and provide any information reasonably required by the Department
13 of Economic Development and director or the Department of Revenue in
14 order to ~~allow the director and department to fulfill the~~ their reporting
15 obligations under section 77-6610.

16 **Sec. 14.** Section 77-6610, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
17 2024, is amended to read:

18 77-6610 (1) On or before October 31 of each year, the Department of
19 Economic Development ~~January 31, 2024, and on or before each January 31~~
20 ~~thereafter, the director and the Department of Revenue shall~~
21 ~~electronically submit an annual report to the Legislature a report on the~~
22 ~~Renewable Chemical Production Tax Credit Act to the Revenue Committee of~~
23 ~~the Legislature.~~ At a minimum, the report shall include the following
24 information regarding tax credits and the recipients of such credits:

25 (a) The aggregate number of pounds, and a list of each type, of
26 renewable chemicals produced in Nebraska by all recipients (i) during the
27 calendar year prior to the calendar year for which each recipient first
28 received tax credits and (ii) for each calendar year thereafter;

29 (b) The aggregate sales of all renewable chemicals produced by all
30 recipients in each calendar year for which there are at least five
31 recipients;

1 (c) The aggregate number of pounds, and a list of each type, of
2 biomass feedstock used in the production of renewable chemicals in
3 Nebraska by all recipients (i) during the calendar year prior to the
4 calendar year for which each recipient first received tax credits and
5 (ii) for each calendar year thereafter;

6 (d) The number of employees located in Nebraska of all recipients
7 (i) during the calendar year prior to the calendar year for which each
8 recipient first received tax credits and (ii) for each calendar year
9 thereafter;

10 (e) The number and aggregate amount of tax credits issued for each
11 calendar year;

12 (f) The number of eligible businesses placed on the wait list for
13 each calendar year and the total number of eligible businesses remaining
14 on the wait list at the end of that calendar year;

15 (g) The dollar amount of tax credit claims placed on the wait list
16 for each calendar year and the total dollar amount of tax credit claims
17 remaining on the wait list at the end of that calendar year;

18 (h) For each eligible business which received tax credits during
19 each calendar year: (i) The identity of the eligible business; (ii) the
20 amount of the tax credits; and (iii) the manner in which the eligible
21 business first qualified as an eligible business, whether by organizing,
22 expanding, or locating in the state; and

23 (i) The total amount of all tax credits claimed during each calendar
24 year, and the portion issued as refunds.

25 (2) In order to protect the presumption of confidentiality provided
26 for in section 77-6609, the Department of Economic Development ~~director~~
27 and the Department of Revenue shall report all information in an
28 aggregate form to prevent, to the extent reasonably possible, information
29 being attributable to any particular eligible business, except as
30 provided in subdivision (1)(h) of this section.

31 **Sec. 15.** Section 77-6837, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2024, is amended to read:

2 77-6837 (1) Beginning in 2021, the director and the Tax Commissioner
3 shall jointly submit electronically an annual report for the previous
4 fiscal year to the Legislature no later than October 31 of each year. The
5 report shall be on a fiscal year, accrual basis that satisfies the
6 requirements set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The
7 Department of Economic Development and the Department of Revenue shall
8 together, on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year, appear at
9 a joint hearing of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature and
10 the Revenue Committee of the Legislature and present the report. Any
11 supplemental information requested by three or more committee members
12 shall be presented within thirty days after the request.

13 (2) The report shall list (a) the agreements which have been signed
14 during the previous year, (b) the agreements which are still in effect,
15 (c) the identity of each taxpayer who is party to an agreement, and (d)
16 the qualified location or locations.

17 (3) The report shall also state, for taxpayers who are parties to
18 agreements, by industry group (a) the specific incentive options applied
19 for under the Imagine Nebraska Act, (b) the refunds and reductions in tax
20 allowed on the investment, (c) the credits earned, (d) the credits used
21 to reduce the corporate income tax and the credits used to reduce the
22 individual income tax, (e) the credits used to obtain sales and use tax
23 refunds, (f) the credits used against withholding liability, (g) the
24 credits used for job training, (h) the credits used for infrastructure
25 development, (i) the number of jobs created under the act, (j) the
26 expansion of capital investment, (k) the estimated wage levels of jobs
27 created under the act subsequent to the application date, (l) the total
28 number of qualified applicants, (m) the projected future state revenue
29 gains and losses, (n) the sales tax refunds owed, (o) the credits
30 outstanding under the act, (p) the value of personal property exempted by
31 class in each county under the act, (q) ~~the total amount of the payments,~~

1 ~~(r)~~ the amount of workforce training and infrastructure development loans
2 issued, outstanding, repaid, and delinquent, and (r) ~~(s)~~ the value of
3 health coverage provided to employees at qualified locations during the
4 year who are not base-year employees and who are paid the required
5 compensation. The report shall include the estimate of the amount of
6 sales and use tax refunds to be paid and tax credits to be used as were
7 required for the October forecast under section 77-6839.

8 (4) In estimating the projected future state revenue gains and
9 losses, the report shall detail the methodology utilized, state the
10 economic multipliers and industry multipliers used to determine the
11 amount of economic growth and positive tax revenue, describe the analysis
12 used to determine the percentage of new jobs attributable to the Imagine
13 Nebraska Act, and identify limitations that are inherent in the analysis
14 method.

15 (5) The report shall provide an explanation of the audit and review
16 processes of the Department of Economic Development and the Department of
17 Revenue, as applicable, in approving and rejecting applications or the
18 grant of incentives and in enforcing incentive recapture. The report
19 shall also specify the median period of time between the date of
20 application and the date the agreement is executed for all agreements
21 executed by June 30 of the current year.

22 (6) The report shall provide information on agreement-specific total
23 incentives used every two years for each agreement. The report shall
24 disclose (a) the identity of the taxpayer, (b) the qualified location or
25 locations, and (c) the total credits used and refunds approved during the
26 immediately preceding two years expressed as a single, aggregated total.
27 The incentive information required to be reported under this subsection
28 shall not be reported for the first year the taxpayer attains the
29 required employment and investment thresholds. The information on first-
30 year incentives used shall be combined with and reported as part of the
31 second year. Thereafter, the information on incentives used for

1 succeeding years shall be reported for each agreement every two years
2 containing information on two years of credits used and refunds approved.
3 The incentives used shall include incentives which have been approved by
4 the director or Tax Commissioner, as applicable, but not necessarily
5 received, during the previous two years.

6 (7) The report shall include an executive summary which shows
7 aggregate information for all agreements for which the information on
8 incentives used in subsection (6) of this section is reported as follows:

9 (a) The total incentives used by all taxpayers for agreements detailed in
10 subsection (6) of this section during the previous two years; (b) the
11 number of agreements; (c) the new jobs at the qualified location or
12 locations for which credits have been granted; (d) the average
13 compensation paid to employees in the state in the year of application
14 and for the new jobs at the qualified location or locations; and (e) the
15 total investment for which incentives were granted. The executive summary
16 shall summarize the number of states which grant investment tax credits,
17 job tax credits, sales and use tax refunds for qualified investment, and
18 personal property tax exemptions and the investment and employment
19 requirements under which they may be granted.

20 (8) No information shall be provided in the report or in
21 supplemental information that is protected by state or federal
22 confidentiality laws.

23 **Sec. 16.** Section 77-6928, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
24 2024, is amended to read:

25 77-6928 (1) On or before ~~October 31~~ July 15, 2024, and on or before
26 July 15 of each year, the Department of Economic Development and the
27 Department of Revenue shall electronically submit a joint annual report
28 to the Legislature thereafter, the Director of Economic Development shall
29 prepare a report that includes:

30 (a) The total amount of investment at qualified locations in the
31 previous calendar year by taxpayers who are receiving incentives pursuant

1 to the Urban Redevelopment Act;

2 (b) The total number of equivalent employees added in the previous
3 calendar year by taxpayers who are receiving incentives pursuant to the
4 act; and

5 (c) The total amount of credits claimed and refunds approved in the
6 previous calendar year under the act.

7 (2) The report shall also provide information on project-specific
8 total incentives used every two years for each approved project,
9 including (a) the identity of the taxpayer, (b) the qualified location of
10 the project, and (c) the total credits used and refunds approved during
11 the immediately preceding two years expressed as a single, aggregated
12 total. The incentive information required to be reported under this
13 subsection shall not be reported for the first year the taxpayer attains
14 the required employment and investment thresholds. The information on
15 first-year incentives used shall be combined with and reported as part of
16 the second year. Thereafter, the information on incentives used for
17 succeeding years shall be reported for each project every two years and
18 shall include information on two years of credits used and refunds
19 approved. The incentives used shall include incentives that have been
20 approved by the Director of Economic Development, but not necessarily
21 received, during the previous two calendar years.

22 (3) On or before September 1, 2024, and on or before September 1 of
23 each year thereafter, the Department of Economic Development shall
24 present the report electronically to the Appropriations Committee of the
25 Legislature. Any supplemental information requested by three or more
26 committee members shall be presented within thirty days after the
27 request.

28 (4) No information shall be provided in the report that is protected
29 by state or federal confidentiality laws.

30 **Sec. 17.** Section 81-125, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 81-125 The Governor shall on or before January 15 of each odd-
2 numbered year present to the Legislature a complete budget for all the
3 activities of the state receiving appropriations or requesting
4 appropriations, except that the Governor during his or her first year in
5 office shall present such budget to the Legislature on or before February
6 1. Such budget shall be a tentative work program for the coming biennium,
7 shall contain a full and itemized report of the expenditures from
8 appropriations made by the previous Legislature and the items which the
9 Governor deems worthy of consideration for the coming biennium, for the
10 respective departments, offices, and institutions, and for all other
11 purposes, and shall contain the estimated revenue from taxation, the
12 estimated revenue from sources other than taxation, an estimate of the
13 amount required to be raised by taxation and the sales and income tax
14 rates necessary to raise such amount, the revenue foregone by operation
15 of laws in effect at the time of such report granting tax expenditures
16 and reduced tax liabilities as identified in the reports required by
17 sections 77-5731 and 77-6837, and recommendations as to deficiency
18 funding requirements pursuant to section 81-126. The summary of the tax
19 expenditure report prepared pursuant to ~~subsection (1) of~~ section 77-385
20 and a summary of the reports required by sections 77-5731 and 77-6837
21 shall be included with or appended to the budget presented to the
22 Legislature. The Governor may make recommendations whether to continue or
23 eliminate, in whole or in part, each tax expenditure and incentive
24 program or to limit the duration of particular tax expenditures and
25 incentives to a fixed number of years and shall include his or her
26 reasoning for each recommendation, if any. The recommendations shall be
27 transmitted to the Revenue Committee of the Legislature at the same time
28 the Governor submits a budget as required in this section. The budget as
29 transmitted to the Legislature shall show the estimated requirements for
30 each activity of the state as prepared by the Department of
31 Administrative Services and the final recommendation of the Governor. The

1 budget shall comprise the complete report to the Legislature of all
2 appropriations made for the current biennium and expenditures therefrom
3 by all agencies receiving appropriations, and the report of expenditures
4 contained in the budget shall be in lieu of all other biennial or other
5 financial reports required by statute to the Legislature by expending
6 agencies of appropriations and expenditures for their own activities
7 except the biennial report of the State Treasurer and Director of
8 Administrative Services.

9 **Sec. 18.** Section 81-1113, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
10 amended to read:

11 81-1113 The budget division shall prepare the executive budget in
12 accordance with the wishes and policies of the Governor. The budget
13 division shall have the following duties, powers, and responsibilities:

14 (1) Shall prescribe the forms and procedures to be employed by all
15 departments and agencies of the state in compiling and submitting their
16 individual budget requests and shall set up a budget calendar which shall
17 provide for (a) the date, not later than July 15 of each even-numbered
18 year, for distribution of instructions, (b) the date by which time
19 requests for appropriations by each agency shall be submitted, and (c)
20 the period during which such public hearings as the Governor may elect
21 shall be held for each department and agency. The budget request shall be
22 submitted each even-numbered year no later than the date provided in
23 subsection (1) of section 81-132, shall include the intended receipts and
24 expenditures by programs ~~, subprograms, and activities~~ and such
25 additional information as the administrator may deem appropriate for each
26 fiscal year, ~~including the certification described in subdivision (4) of~~
27 ~~this section,~~ shall be made upon a biennial basis, and shall include
28 actual receipts and actual expenditures for each fiscal year of the most
29 recently completed biennium and the first year of the current biennium
30 and estimates for the second year of the current biennium and each year
31 of the next ensuing biennium;

1 (2) Shall prescribe the forms and procedures to be employed by all
2 departments and agencies of the state in compiling and submitting their
3 proposed changes to existing appropriations for the biennium in progress.
4 The budget division shall distribute instructions and forms to all
5 departments and agencies no later than September 15 of each odd-numbered
6 year. Departments and agencies shall submit their proposed changes no
7 later than the date provided in subsection (2) of section 81-132;

8 (3) Shall work with each governmental department and agency in
9 developing performance standards for each program, ~~subprogram,~~ and
10 activity to measure and evaluate present as well as projected levels of
11 expenditures. The budget division shall also work with the Department of
12 Health and Human Services to develop key goals, benchmarks, and methods
13 of quantification of progress required pursuant to sections 81-3133.01 to
14 81-3133.03;

15 ~~(4)(a) Shall develop a certification form and procedure to be
16 included in each budget request under subdivision (1) of this section
17 through which each department and agency shall certify, for each program
18 or practice it administers, whether such program or practice is an
19 evidence-based program or practice, or, if not, whether such program or
20 practice is reasonably capable of becoming an evidence-based program or
21 practice;~~

22 ~~(b) For purposes of this subdivision (4):~~

23 ~~(i) Evidence based means that a program or practice (A) offers a
24 high level of research on effectiveness, determined as a result of
25 multiple rigorous evaluations, such as randomized controlled trials and
26 evaluations that incorporate strong comparison group designs or a single
27 large multisite randomized study and (B) to the extent practicable, has
28 specified procedures that allow for successful replication;~~

29 ~~(ii) Program or practice means a function or activity that is
30 sufficiently identifiable as a discrete unit of service; and~~

31 ~~(iii) Reasonably capable of becoming an evidence-based program or~~

1 ~~practice means the program or practice is susceptible to quantifiable~~
2 ~~benchmarks that measure service delivery, client or customer~~
3 ~~satisfaction, or efficiency;~~

4 (4) (5) Shall, following passage of legislative appropriations, be
5 responsible for the administration of the approved budget through
6 budgetary allotments;

7 (5) (6) Shall be responsible for a monthly budgetary report for each
8 department and agency showing comparisons between actual expenditures and
9 allotments, which report shall be subject to review by the director and
10 budget administrator; and

11 (6) (7) Shall be responsible for the authorization of employee
12 positions. Such authorizations shall be based on the following:

13 (a) A requirement that a sufficient budget program appropriation and
14 salary limitation exist to fully fund all authorized positions;

15 (b) A requirement that permanent full-time positions which have been
16 vacant for ninety days or more be reviewed and reauthorized prior to
17 being filled. If requested by the budget division, the personnel division
18 of the Department of Administrative Services shall review such vacant
19 position to determine the proper classification for the position;

20 (c) A requirement that authorized positions accurately reflect
21 legislative intent contained in legislative appropriation and intent
22 bills; and

23 (d) Other relevant criteria as determined by the budget
24 administrator.

25 **Sec. 19.** Section 81-1139.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
26 amended to read:

27 81-1139.02 Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative
28 Services shall assume the duties of the Vacant Building and Excess Land
29 Committee. ÷

30 ~~(1) The Suggestion Award Board; and~~

31 ~~(2) The Vacant Building and Excess Land Committee.~~

1 **Sec. 20.** Section 81-1354.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
2 is amended to read:

3 81-1354.01 Nothing in sections 81-1301 to 81-1329 ~~81-1354~~ shall
4 prohibit state employees from exercising their rights granted in Chapter
5 48, article 8, or any other applicable sections of law.

6 **Sec. 21.** Section 81-1378, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 81-1378 (1) The dates indicated in sections 81-1379 to 81-1383
9 ~~81-1384~~ shall refer to those dates immediately preceding the beginning of
10 the contract period for which negotiations are being conducted.

11 (2) When any date provided in sections 81-1379 to 81-1383 ~~81-1384~~
12 falls on a Saturday, a Sunday, or any day declared by statutory enactment
13 or proclamations of the Governor to be a holiday, the next following day
14 which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or a day declared by the enactment or
15 proclamation to be a holiday shall be deemed to be the day indicated by
16 such date.

17 (3) The dates indicated in sections 81-1382 and 81-1383 are
18 jurisdictional. Failure of either party to act in a timely manner shall
19 result in a jurisdictional bar for either the commission or Supreme
20 Court.

21 **Sec. 22.** Section 81-1430, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
22 amended to read:

23 81-1430 (1) A task force is hereby established within the Nebraska
24 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the purposes of
25 investigating and studying human trafficking, the methods for advertising
26 human trafficking services, and the victimization of individuals coerced
27 to participate in human trafficking. The task force terminates July 1,
28 2026.

29 (2) The task force shall examine the extent to which human
30 trafficking is prevalent in this state, the scope of efforts being taken
31 to prevent human trafficking from occurring, and the services available

1 to victims of human trafficking in this state. The task force shall
2 utilize information and research available from the Innocence Lost
3 National Initiative. The task force shall research and recommend a model
4 of rehabilitative services for victims of human trafficking that includes
5 input from the areas of law enforcement, social services, the legal
6 profession, the judiciary, mental health, and immigration. The task force
7 shall also investigate the limitations upon victims who wish to come
8 forward and seek medical attention; investigate the potential to stop
9 human trafficking; and investigate the potential to promote recovery, to
10 protect families and children who may be profoundly impacted by such
11 abuse, and to save lives.

12 (3)(a) The Department of Labor shall develop or select informational
13 posters for placement around the state. The posters shall be in English,
14 Spanish, and any other language deemed appropriate by the department. The
15 posters shall include a toll-free telephone number a person may call for
16 assistance, preferably the National Human Trafficking Resource Center
17 Hotline (888)373-7888.

18 (b) Posters shall be placed in rest stops, strip clubs, and casinos.
19 The department shall work with local businesses and nonprofit entities
20 associated with the prevention of human trafficking to voluntarily place
21 additional signs in high schools, postsecondary educational institutions,
22 gas stations, hotels, hospitals, health care clinics, urgent care
23 centers, airports, train stations, bus stations, and other locations
24 around the state deemed appropriate by the department.

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

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

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

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

31 (c) The Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety or his

1 or her designee;

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

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

7 (f) The chief of police or director of public safety of a city of
8 less than two hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most
9 recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified
10 count by the United States Bureau of the Census;

11 (g) A county sheriff;

12 (h) A county attorney;

13 (i) A county commissioner;

14 (j) A mayor or city manager;

15 (k) A person involved with the control or prevention of juvenile
16 delinquency;

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

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

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

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

23 (5) The Governor shall appoint the members of the task force listed
24 in subdivisions (4)(e) through (l) and (o) of this section for terms as
25 provided in subsection (6) of this section. The membership of the task
26 force shall represent varying geographic areas and large and small
27 political subdivisions. One member from the public at large shall be a
28 professional representing child welfare, and one member of the public at
29 large shall represent juvenile pretrial diversion programs.

30 (6) The members of the task force appointed by the Governor shall
31 serve six-year terms, except that of the members first appointed, four

1 shall serve initial two-year terms, four shall serve initial four-year
2 terms, and six shall serve initial six-year terms from January 1 next
3 succeeding their appointments. Thereafter, all members shall serve six-
4 year terms. A member may be reappointed at the expiration of his or her
5 term. Any vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall
6 be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the
7 original appointment.

8 (7) No member shall serve beyond the time when he or she holds the
9 office, employment, or status by reason of which he or she was initially
10 eligible for appointment. Any member of the task force appointed by the
11 Governor may be removed from the task force for cause upon notice and an
12 opportunity to be heard at a public hearing. One of the causes for
13 removal shall be absence from three regularly scheduled meetings of the
14 task force during any six-month period when the member has failed to
15 advise the task force in advance of such meeting that he or she will be
16 absent and stating a reason therefor.

17 (8) The chairperson of the task force shall be designated by the
18 Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairperson shall
19 be the chief executive officer of the task force but may delegate such of
20 his or her duties to other members of the task force as may be authorized
21 by the task force.

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

26 (10) The members of the task force shall serve on the task force
27 without compensation, but they shall be entitled to receive reimbursement
28 for expenses incurred incident to such service as provided in sections
29 81-1174 to 81-1177.

30 (11) Eleven members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for
31 the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the task

1 force. The task force shall have the power to act by a majority of the
2 members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.

3 ~~(12) Every July 1 and December 1 until July 1, 2026, the task force~~
4 ~~shall report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature the results~~
5 ~~of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together~~
6 ~~with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into~~
7 ~~effect by filing the report with the clerk.~~

8 **Sec. 23.** Section 81-1504.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
9 is amended to read:

10 81-1504.01 The department shall provide the following information
11 electronically to the Governor and to the Clerk of the Legislature by
12 December 1 of each year:

13 (1) A report by type of service or aid provided by the use and
14 distribution of federal funds received by the department. The report
15 shall also include user fees, permit fees, license fees, and application
16 fees authorized by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as
17 follows:

18 (a) Actual expenditure of each budget program grant or authorized
19 fees for the most recently completed state fiscal year, including a list
20 of expenditures by funding source state matching funds;

21 (b) Current budget and planned use and distribution of each budget
22 program grant and authorized fees for the current state fiscal year,
23 including a list of expenditures by funding source state matching funds;

24 (c) A summary of the projected funding level of each budget program
25 grant and authorized fees and the impact of federal mandates and
26 regulations upon the future use of federal funding each grant and
27 authorized fees; and

28 (d) Program summaries including statistical summaries when
29 applicable for the most recently completed state fiscal year and program
30 activity goals for the current state fiscal year;

31 (2) A summary of regulations of the federal Environmental Protection

1 Agency which the department is required to implement and which do not
2 include federal funding assistance and the possible financial impact to
3 the state and political subdivisions;

4 (3) A report by type of service or aid provided by the use and
5 distribution of state general and cash funds, including user fees, permit
6 fees, license fees, and application fees, to carry out activities that
7 are not funded by federal grants as follows:

8 (a) Actual expenditure of state funds, by agency sections, for the
9 most recently completed state fiscal year, including a breakdown of
10 expenditures by personal services, operations, travel, capital outlay,
11 and consulting and contractual services;

12 (b) Current budget and planned use and distribution of state funds,
13 by budget program ~~agency sections~~, for the current state fiscal year,
14 including a breakdown of expenditures for aid and operations ~~personal~~
15 ~~services, operations, travel, capital outlay, and consulting and~~
16 ~~contractual services~~;

17 (c) A summary of projected program funding needs based upon the
18 statutory requirements and public demand for services and the
19 department's assessment of anticipated needs statewide; and

20 (d) Program summaries including statistical summaries when
21 applicable for the most recently completed state fiscal year and program
22 activity goals for the current state fiscal year;

23 (4) A report regarding staff turnover by job class and the
24 department's assessment of its ability to hire and retain qualified staff
25 considering the state's personnel pay plan;

26 (5) A report listing the method used by each new or existing
27 licensee, permittee, or other person who is required by the department to
28 establish proof of financial responsibility; ~~and~~

29 (6) A report for the previous state fiscal year relating to the
30 purpose of the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act and of funds
31 credited to the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund; -

1 ~~The reports and summaries submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature~~
2 ~~shall be submitted electronically.~~

3 (7) A report for the previous state fiscal year relating to the use
4 of the Water Resources Cash Fund including details regarding the use and
5 cost of activities carried out by the department and details regarding
6 the use and cost of activities carried out by each natural resources
7 district that received funds from the Water Resources Cash Fund;

8 (8) A report designed to identify emerging trends related to energy
9 supply, demand, and conservation and to specify the level of statewide
10 energy need within the following sectors: (a) Agricultural; (b)
11 commercial; (c) residential; (d) industrial; (e) transportation; (f)
12 utilities; (g) government; and (h) any other sector that the director
13 determines to be useful, that shall include, but not be limited to:

14 (i) An assessment of the state's energy resources, including
15 examination of the current energy supplies and any feasible alternative
16 sources;

17 (ii) The estimated reduction in annual energy consumption resulting
18 from various energy conservation measures;

19 (iii) The status of the ongoing studies of the department pursuant
20 to subdivisions (35) through (58) of section 81-1504;

21 (iv) Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for
22 administrative and legislative actions to accomplish the purposes of this
23 section and section 81-1606; and

24 (v) The use of funds disbursed during the previous state fiscal year
25 under sections 81-1635 to 81-1641. The use of such funds shall be
26 reported each year until the funds are completely disbursed and all
27 contractual obligations have expired or otherwise terminated;

28 (9) A report that documents all direct and indirect costs incurred
29 in the previous fiscal year in carrying out the Livestock Waste
30 Management Act, including (a) the number of inspections conducted, (b)
31 the number of animal feeding operations with livestock waste control

1 facilities, (c) the number of animal feeding operations inspected, (d)
2 the size of the livestock waste control facilities, (e) the results of
3 water quality monitoring programs, and (f) any other elements relating to
4 carrying out the act. The Appropriations Committee of the Legislature
5 shall review the report in its analysis of executive programs in order to
6 verify that the revenue generated from fees was used solely to offset
7 appropriate and reasonable costs associated with the Livestock Waste
8 Management Act; and

9 (10) A report that documents all direct and indirect program costs
10 incurred in the previous fiscal year in carrying out the air quality
11 permit program as provided in section 81-1505.04. The Appropriations
12 Committee of the Legislature shall review such report in its analysis of
13 executive programs in order to verify that revenue generated from
14 emission fees was used solely to offset appropriate and reasonable costs
15 associated with the air quality permit program. The report shall identify
16 costs incurred by the department to administer the permit program for
17 each major source. In addition, the department shall identify costs
18 incurred by primary activity and not specific to a major source.

19 **Sec. 24.** Section 81-1505.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
20 is amended to read:

21 81-1505.04 (1)(a) The department shall collect an annual emission
22 fee from major sources of air pollution. Each major source shall pay the
23 emission fee for regulated pollutants in the amount of twenty-five
24 dollars per ton per pollutant or as adjusted pursuant to this section.
25 The fee shall be based upon the amount of emissions of each regulated
26 pollutant as reported or estimated by the source in the previous calendar
27 year, but fees shall not be paid on amounts in excess of four thousand
28 tons per year for any regulated pollutant.

29 (b) Beginning with calendar year 2001 emissions, fees shall not be
30 paid for a mid-sized electric generation facility on amounts in excess of
31 four hundred tons per year for any regulated pollutant.

1 (c) A mid-sized electric generation facility owned by a municipality
2 shall continue to be considered a separate mid-sized electric generation
3 facility for purposes of this section even if the facility is
4 subsequently permitted with another general unit larger than one hundred
5 fifteen megawatts under separate ownership. Each facility under separate
6 ownership shall be considered a separate major source for purposes of
7 this section.

8 (d) For purposes of this section, mid-sized electric generation
9 facility means a facility that:

10 (i) Uses coal as the primary source of fuel in the facility's
11 largest generation unit;

12 (ii) Has a name plate generating capacity of between seventy and one
13 hundred fifteen megawatts in the facility's largest generation unit; and

14 (iii) Is not operating in a political subdivision which has been
15 delegated the authority to enforce the air quality permit program within
16 its jurisdiction.

17 (2)(a) The emission fee may be increased or decreased annually by
18 the department by the percentage difference between the Consumer Price
19 Index for the most recent year ending before the beginning of such year
20 and the Consumer Price Index for the year 1989 or as required to pay all
21 reasonable direct and indirect costs of developing and administering the
22 air quality permit program. For purposes of this section, Consumer Price
23 Index means the change in the price of goods and services for all urban
24 consumers published by the United States Department of Labor at the close
25 of the twelve-month period ending on August 31 of each year.

26 (b) For purposes of this section, reasonable direct and indirect
27 costs of developing and administering the air quality permit program, as
28 required under the federal Clean Air Act, as the act existed on May 31,
29 2001, 42 U.S.C. 7661a through f, include:

30 (i) Consideration of any associated overhead charges for personnel,
31 equipment, buildings, and vehicles;

1 (ii) Reviewing and acting on any application for a permit or permit
2 revision;

3 (iii) Implementing and enforcing the terms of any permit, not
4 including any court costs or other costs associated with any formal
5 enforcement action;

6 (iv) Emissions and ambient monitoring, including adequate resources
7 to audit and inspect source-operated monitoring programs;

8 (v) Preparing generally applicable regulations or guidance;

9 (vi) Modeling, analyses, or demonstrations;

10 (vii) Preparing inventories and tracking emissions;

11 (viii) Developing and implementing any emissions trading programs as
12 defined by the department; and

13 (ix) Providing support to sources under the Small Business
14 Compliance Advisory Panel.

15 (c) The council shall establish procedures for the method of
16 calculation and payment of the emission fee in a manner consistent with
17 this section and shall establish the definition of or a table listing the
18 pollutants which are regulated pollutants and a definition of major
19 source. Such definitions or listing shall comply with and not be more
20 stringent than the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, as the act
21 existed on May 31, 2001, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

22 ~~(3) On or before January 1 of each year, the department shall submit~~
23 ~~electronically a report to the Legislature in sufficient detail to~~
24 ~~document all direct and indirect program costs incurred in the previous~~
25 ~~fiscal year in carrying out the air quality permit program. The~~
26 ~~Appropriations Committee of the Legislature shall review such report in~~
27 ~~its analysis of executive programs in order to verify that revenue~~
28 ~~generated from emission fees was used solely to offset appropriate and~~
29 ~~reasonable costs associated with the air quality permit program. The~~
30 ~~report shall identify costs incurred by the department to administer the~~
31 ~~permit program for each major source. In addition, the department shall~~

1 ~~identify costs incurred by primary activity not specific to a major~~
2 ~~source.~~

3 (3) (4) The department shall administer a cost tracking system which
4 shall show costs for each major source and costs for each primary
5 activity that is not specific to a major source. The department shall
6 consult with interested parties regarding identification of primary
7 activities to be tracked by the cost tracking system.

8 **Sec. 25.** Section 81-15,175, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
9 amended to read:

10 81-15,175 (1) The board may make an annual allocation each fiscal
11 year from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to the Nebraska
12 Environmental Endowment Fund as provided in section 81-15,174.01. The
13 board shall make annual allocations from the Nebraska Environmental Trust
14 Fund and may make annual allocations each fiscal year from the Nebraska
15 Environmental Endowment Fund for projects which conform to the
16 environmental categories of the board established pursuant to section
17 81-15,176 and to the extent the board determines those projects to have
18 merit. The board shall establish a calendar annually for receiving and
19 evaluating proposals and awarding grants. To evaluate the economic,
20 financial, and technical feasibility of proposals, the board may
21 establish subcommittees, request or contract for assistance, or establish
22 advisory groups. Private citizens serving on advisory groups shall be
23 reimbursed for expenses pursuant to sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

24 (2) The board shall establish rating systems for ranking proposals
25 which meet the board's environmental categories and other criteria. The
26 rating systems shall include, but not be limited to, the following
27 considerations:

28 (a) Conformance with categories established pursuant to section
29 81-15,176;

30 (b) Amount of funds committed from other funding sources;

31 (c) Encouragement of public-private partnerships;

- 1 (d) Geographic mix of projects over time;
- 2 (e) Cost-effectiveness and economic impact;
- 3 (f) Direct environmental impact;
- 4 (g) Environmental benefit to the general public and the long-term
- 5 nature of such public benefit; and
- 6 (h) Applications submitted by the Department of Water, Energy, and
- 7 Environment pursuant to subsection (6) ~~(7)~~ of section 61-218 shall be
- 8 awarded fifty priority points in the ranking process for the 2011 grant
- 9 application if the Legislature has authorized annual transfers of three
- 10 million three hundred thousand dollars to the Water Resources Cash Fund
- 11 for each of fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13 and has stated its intent to
- 12 transfer three million three hundred thousand dollars to the Water
- 13 Resources Cash Fund in fiscal year 2013-14. Priority points shall be
- 14 awarded if the proposed programs set forth in the grant application are
- 15 consistent with the purposes of reducing consumptive uses of water,
- 16 enhancing streamflows, recharging ground water, or supporting wildlife
- 17 habitat in any river basin determined to be fully appropriated pursuant
- 18 to section 46-714 or designated as overappropriated pursuant to section
- 19 46-713.

20 (3) A grant awarded under this section pursuant to an application

21 made under subsection (6) ~~(7)~~ of section 61-218 shall be paid out in the

22 following manner:

23 (a) The initial three million three hundred thousand dollar

24 installment shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the

25 Water Resources Cash Fund no later than fifteen business days after the

26 date that the grant is approved by the board;

27 (b) The second three million three hundred thousand dollar

28 installment shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the

29 Water Resources Cash Fund no later than May 15, 2013; and

30 (c) The third three million three hundred thousand dollar

31 installment shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the

1 Water Resources Cash Fund no later than May 15, 2014, if the Legislature
2 has authorized a transfer of three million three hundred thousand dollars
3 from the General Fund to the Water Resources Cash Fund for fiscal year
4 2013-14.

5 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of
6 Water, Energy, and Environment apply for an additional three-year grant
7 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund that would begin in fiscal
8 year 2014-15, a three-year grant that would begin in fiscal year 2017-18,
9 and a three-year grant that would begin in fiscal year 2020-21 and such
10 application shall be awarded fifty priority points in the ranking process
11 as set forth in subdivision (2)(h) of this section if the following
12 criteria are met:

13 (a) The Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature has examined
14 options for water funding and has submitted a report electronically to
15 the Clerk of the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2012,
16 setting forth:

17 (i) An outline and priority listing of water management and funding
18 needs in Nebraska, including instream flows, residential, agricultural,
19 recreational, and municipal needs, interstate obligations, water quality
20 issues, and natural habitats preservation;

21 (ii) An outline of statewide funding options which create a
22 dedicated, sustainable funding source to meet the needs set forth in the
23 report; and

24 (iii) Recommendations for legislation;

25 (b) The projects and activities funded by the department through
26 grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund under this section have
27 resulted in enhanced streamflows, reduced consumptive uses of water,
28 recharged ground water, supported wildlife habitat, or otherwise
29 contributed towards conserving, enhancing, and restoring Nebraska's
30 ground water and surface water resources. On or before July 1, 2014, the
31 department shall submit electronically a report to the Natural Resources

1 Committee of the Legislature providing demonstrable evidence of the
2 benefits accrued from such projects and activities; and

3 (c) In addition to the grant reporting requirements of the trust, on
4 or before July 1, 2014, the department provides to the board a report
5 which includes documentation that:

6 (i) Expenditures from the Water Resources Cash Fund made to natural
7 resources districts have met the matching fund requirements provided in
8 subdivision (5)(a) of section 61-218;

9 (ii) Ten percent or less of the matching fund requirements has been
10 provided by in-kind contributions for expenses incurred for projects
11 enumerated in the grant application. In-kind contributions shall not
12 include land or land rights; and

13 (iii) All other projects and activities funded by the department
14 through grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund under this
15 section were matched not less than forty percent of the project or
16 activity cost by other funding sources.

17 (5) The board may establish a subcommittee to rate grant
18 applications. If the board uses a subcommittee, the meetings of such
19 subcommittee shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act. The subcommittee
20 shall (a) use the rating systems established by the board under
21 subsection (2) of this section, (b) assign a numeric value to each rating
22 criterion, combine these values into a total score for each application,
23 and rank the applications by the total scores, (c) recommend an amount of
24 funding for each application, which amount may be more or less than the
25 requested amount, and (d) submit the ranked list and recommended funding
26 to the board for its approval or disapproval.

27 (6) The board may commit funds to multiyear projects, subject to
28 available funds and appropriations. No commitment shall exceed three
29 years without formal action by the board to renew the grant or contract.
30 Multiyear commitments may be exempt from the rating process except for
31 the initial application and requests to renew the commitment.

1 (7) The board shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations and
2 publish guidelines governing allocations from the fund. The board shall
3 conduct annual reviews of existing projects for compliance with project
4 goals and grant requirements.

5 (8) Every five years the board may evaluate the long-term effects of
6 the projects it funds. The evaluation may assess a sample of such
7 projects. The board may hire an independent consultant to conduct the
8 evaluation and may report the evaluation findings to the Legislature and
9 the Governor. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted
10 electronically.

11 **Sec. 26.** Section 81-1606, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
12 amended to read:

13 81-1606 The Department of Water, Energy, and Environment shall
14 develop and maintain a program of collection, compilation, and analysis
15 of energy statistics and information. Existing information reporting
16 requests, maintained at the state and federal levels, shall be utilized
17 whenever possible in any data collection required regarding state energy
18 policy pursuant to this section, subdivisions (35) through (58) of
19 section 81-1504, or section 81-1604 ~~or 81-1607~~. A central state
20 repository of energy data shall be developed and coordinated with other
21 governmental data-collection and record-keeping programs. The department
22 shall, on at least an annual basis, with monthly compilations, submit to
23 the Governor and the Clerk of the Legislature a report identifying state
24 energy consumption by fuel type and by use to the extent that such
25 information is available. The report submitted to the Clerk of the
26 Legislature shall be submitted electronically. Nothing in this section
27 shall be construed as permitting or authorizing the revealing of
28 confidential information. For purposes of this section confidential
29 information shall mean any process, formula, pattern, decision, or
30 compilation of information which is used, directly or indirectly, in the
31 business of the producer, refiner, distributor, transporter, or vendor,

1 and which gives such producer, refiner, distributor, transporter, or
2 vendor an advantage or an opportunity to obtain an advantage over
3 competitors who do not know or use it.

4 **Sec. 27.** Section 81-1607.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
5 is amended to read:

6 81-1607.01 The State Energy Cash Fund is hereby created. The fund
7 shall consist of funds received pursuant to section 57-705. The fund
8 shall be used for the administration of subdivisions (35) through (58) of
9 section 81-1504 and sections 81-1604 to 81-1606 ~~81-1607~~, for energy
10 conservation activities, and for providing technical assistance to
11 communities in the area of natural gas other than assistance regarding
12 ownership of regulated utilities, except that transfers may be made from
13 the fund to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature. Any
14 money in the State Energy Cash Fund available for investment shall be
15 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
16 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. The State
17 Treasurer shall transfer any money in the State Energy Office Cash Fund
18 to the State Energy Cash Fund on July 1, 2019.

19 **Sec. 28.** Section 83-184.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 83-184.01 (1) The department, in consultation with the State Court
22 Administrator, shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
23 provide an effective process for the transfer of funds for the purpose of
24 satisfying restitution orders.

25 (2) A sentencing order requiring an inmate to pay restitution shall
26 be treated as a court order authorizing the department to withhold and
27 transfer funds for the purpose of satisfying a restitution order.

28 (3) This section applies to funds in the wage fund of any inmate
29 confined in a correctional facility on or after August 30, 2015.

30 ~~(4) The department shall report annually to the Legislature on the~~
31 ~~collection of restitution from wage funds. The report shall include the~~

~~1 total number of inmates with restitution judgments, the total number of
2 inmates with wage funds, the total number of inmates with both, the
3 number of payments made to either victims or clerks of the court, the
4 average amount of payments, and the total amount of restitution
5 collected. The report shall be submitted electronically.~~

6 **Sec. 29.** Section 83-1,100.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
7 is amended to read:

8 83-1,100.03 (1) The board, in consultation with the department,
9 shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to reduce the number of
10 inmates under the custody of the department who serve their entire
11 sentence in a correctional facility and are released without supervision.
12 The rules and regulations shall establish clear guidelines and procedures
13 to ensure that each parolee is subject to a minimum of nine months of
14 supervision and shall place priority on providing supervision lengths
15 that enable meaningful transition periods for all offenders. The rules
16 and regulations shall ensure that each inmate eligible for parole is
17 assessed for risk of reoffending using a validated risk and needs
18 assessment provided by the department and shall incorporate into the
19 release decision an inmate's assessed risk of reoffending, past criminal
20 history, program completion, institutional conduct, and other individual
21 characteristics related to the likelihood of reoffending into parole
22 release decisions.

23 ~~(2) By February 1 of each year, the board and the department shall
24 submit a report to the Legislature, the Supreme Court, and the Governor
25 that describes the percentage of offenders sentenced to the custody of
26 the department who complete their entire sentence and are released with
27 no supervision. The report shall document characteristics of the
28 individuals released without supervision, including the highest felony
29 class of conviction, offense type of conviction, most recent risk
30 assessment, status of the individualized release or reentry plan, and
31 reasons for the release without supervision. The report also shall~~

1 ~~provide recommendations from the department and board for changes to~~
2 ~~policy and practice to meet the goal of achieving a reduction in the~~
3 ~~number of inmates under the custody of the department who serve their~~
4 ~~entire sentence in a correctional facility and are released without~~
5 ~~supervision. The report to the Legislature shall be submitted~~
6 ~~electronically.~~

7 (2) (3) The department, in consultation with the board, shall
8 maintain a list of individuals who are eligible for parole but are
9 expected to complete their entire sentence in the custody of the
10 department and be released with no supervision. This list shall be used
11 to facilitate the placement of committed offenders in community work
12 release and reentry centers under the Community Work Release and Reentry
13 Centers Act.

14 **Sec. 30.** Section 83-227.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 83-227.01 The Department of Health and Human Services is authorized
17 to utilize space which is temporarily surplus to the needs of the Lincoln
18 Regional Center and the Norfolk Regional Center facilities under their
19 jurisdiction for patients committed to or lawfully confined in the
20 Beatrice State Developmental Center. Patients so transferred to the
21 Lincoln Regional Center or the Norfolk Regional Center shall be housed in
22 facilities separate and apart from facilities used to house patients
23 committed to such hospital, and after their transfer such patients shall
24 receive the same type of care, custody, and treatment as they would have
25 received had they remained at the Beatrice State Developmental Center,
26 and the charges for their care and maintenance shall be the same as
27 though they were housed at the Beatrice State Developmental Center, and
28 the charges shall be collected in the manner provided in this section and
29 sections 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~.

30 **Sec. 31.** Section 83-227.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
31 amended to read:

1 83-227.02 (1) The Department of Health and Human Services is
2 authorized to use space which is temporarily surplus to the needs of any
3 institution under its control, except as provided in subsection (2) of
4 this section, for the care, custody, and treatment of the inmates of any
5 other such institution when space at such latter institution is
6 inadequate and the facilities of the institution to which transfer is
7 made are suitable to the needs of the inmate. Inmates so transferred
8 shall receive the same care, custody, and treatment as they would have
9 received had they not been transferred. If the cost of the care, custody,
10 and treatment of such inmate is recoverable by the institution from which
11 the transfer was made, it shall be recovered in the manner provided in
12 sections 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~.

13 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not be construed to permit
14 the transfer of inmates to or from any Department of Correctional
15 Services facility unless expressly authorized by law.

16 **Sec. 32.** Section 83-363, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 83-363 As used in sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363
19 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~, unless the context otherwise requires:

20 (1) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

21 (2) State institution means the state hospitals at Lincoln and
22 Norfolk, the Beatrice State Developmental Center, and such other
23 institutions as may hereafter be established by the Legislature for the
24 care and treatment of persons with a mental disorder or persons with an
25 intellectual disability;

26 (3) Relative means the spouse of a patient or, if the patient has no
27 spouse and is under the age of majority at the time he or she is
28 admitted, the parents of a patient in a state institution; and

29 (4) Parents means either or both of a patient's natural parents
30 unless such patient has been legally adopted by other parents, in which
31 case parents means either or both of the adoptive parents.

1 **Sec. 33.** Section 83-364, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 83-364 When any person is admitted to a state institution or other
4 inpatient treatment facility pursuant to an order of a mental health
5 board under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act or the Sex Offender
6 Commitment Act or receives treatment prescribed by such institution or
7 facility following release or without being admitted as a resident
8 patient, the patient and the patient's relatives shall be liable for the
9 cost of the care, support, maintenance, and treatment of such person to
10 the extent and in the manner provided by sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02,
11 83-350, and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~. Such sections also shall apply to
12 persons admitted to a state institution as transferees from any state
13 penal institution or youth rehabilitation and treatment center but only
14 after the expiration of the time for which the transferees were
15 originally sentenced or committed.

16 **Sec. 34.** Section 83-367, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 83-367 The liability of each relative, except a spouse, shall cease
19 when relatives shall have completed payments assessed pursuant to
20 sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~ for
21 one hundred eighty months, or when the patient attains the age of
22 majority, whichever shall occur first.

23 **Sec. 35.** Section 83-370, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
24 amended to read:

25 83-370 When any relative willfully fails to furnish to the
26 department, upon request, the information required by sections 83-227.01,
27 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~ as to his or her taxable
28 income, such relative shall be deemed to have ability to pay the entire
29 cost determined under sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363
30 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~.

31 **Sec. 36.** Section 83-371, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 83-371 Pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure
3 Act, the department shall adopt and promulgate appropriate rules and
4 regulations for making the determinations required by sections 83-227.01,
5 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~.

6 **Sec. 37.** Section 83-375, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 83-375 When any patient or relative fails to pay the amounts
9 determined to be due under sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-350, and
10 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~, the State state of Nebraska may proceed against
11 such person in the manner authorized by law for the recovery of money
12 owed to a creditor. The Attorney General shall represent the state in
13 such actions, but may authorize the county attorney for the county in
14 which such person resides or owns property to investigate and prosecute
15 the action on behalf of the state.

16 **Sec. 38.** Section 83-377, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
17 amended to read:

18 83-377 In all cases in which a guardian has been named for any
19 person liable for payments under sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-350,
20 and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~, the guardian shall represent such person in
21 all matters arising under sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-350, and
22 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~ and shall be liable in the same manner as he or
23 she would be on any other matters arising from the guardianship.

24 **Sec. 39.** Section 83-378, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
25 amended to read:

26 83-378 No person shall be liable for the cost of the care, support,
27 maintenance, and treatment of any patient except as provided in sections
28 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~, but the amounts determined to be due and unpaid
29 at the time of the death of a patient or relative shall constitute a
30 claim against the estate of such patient or relative. The department may
31 accept voluntary payments on behalf of any patient from any person who is

1 not liable for payments.

2 **Sec. 40.** Section 83-379, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
3 amended to read:

4 83-379 In the absence of fraud, a patient and the patient's ~~his~~
5 relatives shall be liable only to the extent of assessments actually made
6 against them respectively, in accordance with sections 83-227.01,
7 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~. For the purposes of
8 sections 83-227.01, 83-227.02, 83-350, and 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~, it
9 shall be deemed fraudulent for any patient or the patient's ~~his~~ relatives
10 to transfer any assets or property to another person for the purpose of
11 affecting the determination of ability to pay. When it is determined that
12 such a fraudulent transfer has been made, the department shall consider
13 the value of such assets or property transferred in determining the
14 ability to pay under section 83-368 or 83-369.

15 **Sec. 41.** Section 83-380.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 83-380.01 Upon the discharge from a treatment facility, an indigent
18 person who has received mental-health-board-ordered treatment may file an
19 affidavit with the Department of Health and Human Services or the mental
20 health board requesting that prescription medicine which the regional
21 center treating psychiatrist or the patient's treating physician has
22 prescribed as necessary for the patient's mental health treatment be
23 provided to him or her. Such affidavit shall include the following: (1)
24 That the patient qualifies as an indigent person who is unable to pay
25 under the same standards of ability to pay as set forth in sections
26 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~; and (2) that such prescription medicine has been
27 prescribed by the regional center's treatment psychiatrist or the
28 patient's treating physician as necessary for the patient's mental health
29 treatment. The mental health board shall refer such requests it receives
30 to the Department of Health and Human Services and the department shall
31 provide such prescription medicine as may be necessary for such former

1 patient's mental health treatment so long as he or she remains an
2 outpatient and his or her treating physician continues to prescribe and
3 certify that such prescription medicine is necessary for the patient's
4 mental health treatment and he or she continues to be an indigent person
5 as determined under the same standards of ability to pay as set forth in
6 sections 83-363 to 83-379 ~~83-380~~. The Department of Health and Human
7 Services may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the
8 provisions of this section in accordance with the Administrative
9 Procedure Act, including, but not limited to, hearings necessary to
10 determine whether such person is qualified to receive such medications
11 and whether such medication is necessary for the patient's mental health
12 treatment.

13 **Sec. 42.** Section 83-918, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 83-918 (1) For each biennium, the Department of Correctional
16 Services shall, as part of the appropriations request process pursuant to
17 subsection (1) of section 81-132, include a strategic plan that
18 identifies the main purpose or purposes of each program, verifiable and
19 auditable key goals that the department believes are fair measures of its
20 progress in meeting each program's main purpose or purposes, and
21 benchmarks for improving performance on the key goals. The department
22 shall also report whether the benchmarks are being met and, if not, the
23 expected timeframes for meeting them.

24 (2) On or before July 1 ~~September 15~~ of each year, the Department of
25 Correctional Services shall report electronically to the Judiciary
26 Committee of the Legislature and the Appropriations Committee of the
27 Legislature on the progress towards the key goals identified pursuant to
28 this section that occurred in the previous twelve months. Upon request,
29 the department shall appear at a joint hearing of the Judiciary Committee
30 and Appropriations Committee and present the report.

31 **Sec. 43.** Section 83-963, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 83-963 (1) The department shall prepare an annual report on
3 committed offenders who are paroled or granted controlled release
4 pursuant to the Correctional System Overcrowding Emergency Act for each
5 year the department is operating under an overcrowding emergency as
6 defined in section 83-962. The report shall summarize each such former
7 committed offender's behavior since parole and generally evaluate his or
8 her success or lack of success in becoming a law-abiding member of
9 society. The annual report shall be filed electronically with the
10 Executive Board of the Legislative Council on or before February 1
11 December 31, with the first such report submitted by February 1 ~~December~~
12 ~~31~~ of the first year that committed offenders are paroled pursuant to the
13 act. A notice of the filing of the report shall be submitted
14 electronically to each member of the Legislature when the annual report
15 is filed with the Executive Board.

16 (2) By February 1 of each year, the board and the department shall
17 electronically submit a report to the Legislature, the Supreme Court, and
18 the Governor. The report shall:

19 (a) Describe the percentage of offenders sentenced to the custody of
20 the department who complete their entire sentence and are released with
21 no supervision;

22 (b) Document characteristics of the individuals released without
23 supervision, including the highest felony class of conviction, offense
24 type of conviction, most recent risk assessment, status of the
25 individualized release or reentry plan, and reasons for the release
26 without supervision;

27 (c) Provide recommendations from the department and board for
28 changes to policy and practice to meet the goal of achieving a reduction
29 in the number of inmates under the custody of the department who serve
30 their entire sentence in a correctional facility and are released without
31 supervision; and

1 (d) Contain information regarding:

2 (i) The number of inmates eligible for parole who remain
3 incarcerated, disaggregated by the reason for such status;

4 (ii) Revocations of parole during the preceding year, disaggregated
5 by the reason for revocation;

6 (iii) Hearings to grant or revoke parole conducted in the preceding
7 year;

8 (iv) Rehabilitation and recidivism of parolees;

9 (v) Cost savings to the state resulting from individuals being
10 paroled rather than incarcerated; and

11 (vi) Other matters the director deems appropriate.

12 **Sec. 44.** Section 86-1301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
13 amended to read:

14 86-1301 Sections 86-1301 to 86-1312 ~~86-1313~~ shall be known and may
15 be cited as the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act.

16 **Sec. 45.** Original sections 44-1412, 48-683, 54-2428, 71-1131,
17 77-383, 77-385, 77-27,238, 77-6307, 81-125, 81-1354.01, 81-1378,
18 81-1504.01, 81-1505.04, 81-1607.01, 83-184.01, 83-1,100.03, 83-227.01,
19 83-227.02, 83-363, 83-364, 83-367, 83-370, 83-371, 83-375, 83-377,
20 83-378, 83-379, 83-380.01, 83-918, 83-963, and 86-1301, Reissue Revised
21 Statutes of Nebraska, sections 73-815, 77-6521, 77-6604, 77-6610,
22 77-6837, and 77-6928, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and
23 sections 61-218, 70-1003, 81-1113, 81-1139.02, 81-1430, 81-15,175, and
24 81-1606, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, are repealed.

25 **Sec. 46.** The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
26 48-2909, 54-642, 77-6309, 81-1205, 81-1346, 81-1347, 81-1347.01, 81-1350,
27 81-1351, 81-1352, 81-1353, 81-1354, 81-1384, 83-380, and 86-1313, Reissue
28 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, section 39-1392, Revised Statutes
29 Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and sections 81-1348 and 81-1607, Revised
30 Statutes Supplement, 2025.