

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate January 15, 2026
Rough Draft

KELLY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the seventh day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Father Ryan Lewis, St. Robert Bellarmine [SIC] Catholic Church in Omaha in Senator Sorrentino's district. Please rise.

RYAN LEWIS: Let us take a moment and acknowledge that we are in the holy presence of God. Loving God, this august legislative body convenes this morning on this beautiful January Nebraska day, which is itself your gift to us. We convene for the important work of governance of this, our great state. Please bless our state. Assist in its growth and prosperity, growth in its citizens' willingness and capacity to effect change for the good of all. Prosperity not just in fiscal solvency but, as Pope Leo would call us, in its resolve to reach out to the poor, the marginalized, the suffering. May our efforts-- may the efforts of this Legislature strengthen our state and its citizens in their desire for collective compassion, unified humility, and gratitude for blessings received and in our desire to be a state that is welcoming, girded with strong morals and dedicated to the dignity and worth of every human life because all life is made in your image and likeness. Bless our Chief Executive, Governor Pillen, as he offers remarks today on the state of our state. Bless Suzanne and their family. Bless our citizen legislators. May they legislate and give counsel aided always by your prudence, your wisdom, your compassion, your understanding, your justice, your mercy, your love. May they serve well those whom they represent and the state as a whole. Bless their families. Help them this day and throughout their public service to work always for the common good. May everything they do begin with your inspiration, continue through your divine assistance, and reach completion to your greater honor and glory. May it be so. Amen.

KELLY: I recognize Senator Sanders for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SANDERS: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

KELLY: I call to order the seventh day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

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KELLY: Are there any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections this morning, sir.

KELLY: Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: There are, Mr. Presimen-- President. Communication from the Governor concerning the appointment of Senator Fred Meyer to the 41st Legislative District. In addition, the oath of office taken by Senator Meyer yesterday upon his appointment.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Meyer would like to recognize our physician of the day, Dr. Dave Hoelting of Pender. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Speaker Arch has some guests under the south balcony: Mark Daly and Grace Coyle, chair of the-- Mark Daly, chair of the Irish Senate, and his chief of staff, Grace Coyle. Please stand to be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Additional items. Reference report from the Referencing Committee concerning an adopted Reference report for LB989 through LB1031, as well as LR20-- LR299CA and LR300. And a letter from the Governor concerning two appointments to the State Highway Commission. Amendments to be printed from Senator Kauth to LB1032 through LB1070, save for LB1050. Additionally, amendment to be-- excuse me-- notice of committee hearing from the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee as well as the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. That's all I have at this time.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Clements, you're recognized for a motion.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a committee of five be appointed to escort the Governor of the state of Nebraska to the Legislative Chamber to deliver his State of the State Address.

KELLY: Members, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Will the committee escort the Governor to the Chamber? And the committee comprised of Senators Hallstrom, Holdcroft, Ibach, Quick, and Rountree. I, I recognize the Sergeant of Arms.

SERGEANT OF ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Governor Jim Pillen, and First Lady Suzanne Pillen and Second Lady Susie Kelly.

GOVERNOR PILLEN: President Kelly, Speaker Arch, members of the 109th Legislature, tribal leaders, distinguished guests, and all my fellow Nebraskans. One year ago, I stood before you just a couple days after suffering some significant injuries while riding horseback at home. I think it's fair to say it was a extraordinary life-giving moment, one that came close to my journey having a different path. But the upside was it reaffirmed in me a spirit of faith, hope, love, and extraordinary gratitude. Nebraskans are truly amazing. I can't thank all of you enough for your prayers. I have incredible gratitude for the people of our state. But most of all, I need to give a shout-out to my bride, Suzanne, our amazing First Lady, for supporting me through every hardship and struggle I've endured this past year. Suzanne, you never get enough. Please stand and be recognized. Thank you. And just as I thank her for all she does for me and for putting up with me, I thank all the family of all the love-- loved ones of everybody in this body, of everyone in our cabinet for being behind us all as public servants in this room, for making it possible for you to come here and work to make Nebraska better. By the way, it's a lot less painful for me to stand here this year, so I hope you'll give me a little grace if I talk a little longer. 2025 was an immensely consequential year for our country and for our state. Much of the hard work that we have done both in this Chamber and across my administration has come into full effect for the benefit of our people. We have worked tirelessly to shrink government so that it better serves Nebraskans, improving outcomes while cutting costs, waste, just like we do in a business. We have had progress and are working to instill a culture of efficiency and reform. We have finished the job of bringing workforce back from the pandemic and reduced our reliance on cost-- costly contractors providing duplicative and bloated work on projects and services that provide virtually no value for Nebraskans. We have honored the individual freedoms promised by our founding fathers, especially those of religious freedom and the Second Amendment. Through rules issued by my administration, we're enforcing what this body has worked so hard and endured so much to pass: protections for Nebraska's kids from radical change sex treatments. Today, because of the massive victories I stood with in the pro-life community achieve and enshrined in our Constitution, more babies in this state are being saved and protected from the tragedy of abortions than at any time since Roe v. Wade. New leadership in Washington has created countless new opportunities for Nebraska. From moving forward on long overdue energy development and regulatory reforms to speed up road construction to generational investments in the rural economy, the

Trump administration has proven its commitment to strengthening the parts of America which, like Nebraska, feed, fuel, and build this great nation. Because of that commitment, I have proudly built relationships through his administration, focused on how we can do great things for Nebraska's future. We have already seen the fruits of those partnerships. Nebraska was the first in the nation to get a waiver to ban pop and energy drinks-- which aren't food groups, by the way-- from government subsidized nutrition programs. We were the first in the nation to take advantage of the One Big Beautiful Bill opportunity to require able-bodied adults to work before they access welfare. I was the first governor in the country to sign an executive order indicating Nebraska's intent to opt into the federal scholarship tax credit program, a move that could bring millions of federal dollars to our great state to support all kids, kids and-- and just so that we get that straight, it's kids in public education, it's kids in private education, it's kids that are being homeschooled. We working together to get that message out is a game changer for our state and most importantly for our kids. And most recently, we're in the top ten states for federal investments from the groundbreaking Rural Health Transformation Program. We received over \$218 million for 2026 alone. We have four more years to go, and we're just getting started. This stuff is a win-win for Nebraska and a win-win for America. Our partnerships with President Trump and his cabinet are also keeping Nebraskans and families around our country safe. Because of our shared commitment to border security and immigration enforcement, Nebraska became one of the first states in the nation to establish an ICE detention facility to help get criminal illegal aliens off of our streets. We have a simple message: Nebraska is proud to be doing our part to get the border sekill-- secure and to protect America's kids from criminals, from trafficking people, from gang violence, and the drugs like fentanyl and meth. The need for going after these criminal illegal aliens could not be more clearer than today. Right here in Nebraska, just a few weeks ago, we have seen several examples of the danger these individuals are creating and the cartel terrorists and the criminal organizations they support and the threats they pose to our country and our communities. One recent incident in Omaha demonstrated not only their danger but also showcased the great risks that our men and women in blue face every day every time they put their uniform on. On December 3, a convicted felon and El Salvadorian national-- in our country illegally-- was being hunted by the Omaha Police gang unit after this person shot an innocent man in a grocery store. They followed him to a gas station in a different part of town, confronted him in a

restroom. After the officers ordered him to surrender, he came out of a stall-- guns blazing, shooting, hitting three police officers. This criminal met his end in that gas station restroom. And only, only by the grace of God, none of the officers were killed. We have with us today the six officers from the great Omaha Police Department who bravely confronted that criminal. Detect-- and-- in the left side of me in the back, Detective Jordan Brandt, Detective Christopher Brown, Detective Kyle Graber, Sergeant Jonathan Holtrop, Sergeant Emilio Luna, and Detective Brock Rengo. These men present all the brave-- please give it up. These brave men represent the highest calling of government to keep us safe. I don't know about you, that was a heck of a goosebump moment for me. Although the challenges we face as a nation are great-- and in spite of a few Debbie Downers-- the facts are crystal clear: this is an extraordinary moment for Nebraska. Extraordinary. After the volatility of the last few years, driving large part from rampant inflation during the Biden years, Nebraska's economy has grown faster than most states. Just posting the sixth-highest quarterly GP growth rate in the country, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. After years of troubling declines in net migration in Nebraska-- to Nebraska, we are seeing a positive trend, showing that our growth is stable, it's steady, and it's healthy. Nebraska is now setting population records. We've seen significant growth in our "urban" cores and throughout our state. And for the first time ever, we now have more than 2 million Nebraskans living the good life. 2 million. That's a shout-out, isn't it? Our economy is incredibly broad, led by agriculture, banking, manufacturing, health care, construction, and insurance. We in Nebraska-- our economy remains recession proof. We can bet the farm that Nebraska's primed to grow. Our ethanol industry has been championed by the Trump administration as playing a key role in American energy dominance and security. Today, we can proudly say Nebraska ethanol is number one in America. The investments we've made in our roads and infrastructure are paying off. I'm looking forward to being in Norfolk in a few days to announce that we have accelerated the long overdue completion of the critical Highway 275 from Norfolk all the way to Omaha. It'll be a great day for northeast Nebraska. It'll be a great day for Omaha. It will be a great day for Nebraska. And for our cattle industry, the backbone of Nebraska agriculture, let's just simply say thriving is not a good enough adjective to say how awesome our cattle producers are doing in the state of Nebraska. Absolutely hitting it out of the park. And we're number one again in America. And if there's one thing I know all of us agree on, it's a great day when we can say Nebraska beats Texas.

Texas, move over, you're number two. Right? For these and countless other reasons, the state of our state is as strong as ever. But with the work of the leaders in this Chamber, I believe we can make it even stronger. This session will be short, but if we can set aside goober politics and stick to principles and use our time wisely, it can be awesome. First and foremost, we must continue to emphasize through both our actions and policies that the good life is open for business. 2025 included Nebraska's first recognition of a homegrown unicorn company, a privately held startup that has achieved a valuation of over a billion dollars. Right here in Nebraska. This type of feat takes, right, Nebraska grit, innovation, determination, and a great product and great execution and a, and a massive investor confidence. The team behind CompanyCam, founded by the Hansen family, who runs a Lincoln roofing company, that needed a better process to document their job sites. They've done just that, building a construction management app startup right here, creating careers and opportunities for the incredible people of our state. Members of the CompanyCam team are here with us today. Please stand to be recognized. And I ask you to join me in congratulating Nebraskans for success hitting it out of the park. CamCam team-- there you are. Thank you, guys. Thank you. There are countless other examples across our great state who have just-- just work hard building success in our communities. And nobody knows because we never brag about it. They, along with so many other innovators, are proof of what is possible here if we continue to build a climate where businesses are free to form, free to grow, free to thrive. With an already low regulation environment and plummeting tax rates, we've done much to make Nebraska even more open for business. One area where we must do better to ensure Nebraska is not a haven for opportunistic trial lawyers chasing jackpot litigation. The cost that hardworking business owners and their teams must bear to defend against junk lawsuits is simply debilitating. We must shield against that in Nebraska. Senators Bosn, Hallstrom, Sorrentino, and Kauth have introduced a series of tort reform bills that will make sure that Nebraska is not a place where the risk of frivolous lawsuits destroys the freedom for job creations and job creators to thrive. Growing Nebraska's workforce is critical. It's essential. And we must support the businesses that recruit new Nebraskans to come here and put down roots. As I like to say, it's the market. And we have to compete to win. And we're doing that work. Throughout this last year, my team has worked closely with business leaders, with chambers of commerce leaders, economic development experts, to develop Grow the Good Life Incentive, Grow the Good Life Incentive, which will provide

significant tax credits to businesses of all sizes that grow their businesses and bring new, high-paying careers here to Nebraska. This is groundbreaking. Incentive will be second to none. Giving businesses a 10% tax credit for a full decade when they grow their business by bringing new, highly paid people to our state. Senator von Gillern is carrying this key economic development bill, and I look forward to signing it into law so that we can give our businesses and our industries a powerful tool to grow their businesses here in Nebraska. We can and we will and we do compete with anybody arou-- in this country and around the world. I look forward to having it on my desk shortly. Electrical power is another of the great keys to economic prosperity in the coming years. Because of the growth in artificial intelligence and the energy-intensive industries, regions that find a way to produce vastly more electricity than they do now will thrive, while those who fail will shrink. Really simple. Gone are the days when data center man a giant warehouse or servers storing our emails and cat videos in the cloud, hogging power but employing very few people. The facilities of the future-- let's call them AI factories-- are critical not just for the information economy but for our national security. We simply can't lose them to our foreign adversaries. Nebraska will win the electricity and AI power game, and there is just simply no other option. The good news is we are already blessed with a strong foundation. Our unique, only Nebraska public power system has built the most affordable and reliable grid in America, but we have to keep it that way. One major way is to remove the red tape and obstacles for large power users, like artificial intelligence, aviation fuel, or bioeconomy plants to build their own power plant and sell excess electricity to our grid. This behind-the-meter generation is important. And with a very small twist, modest changes in our public power laws, we can make it possible here in Nebraska now. Senator DeKay is carrying a bill to make this happen, and I think-- thank the senator for helping us to power our economy going forward. We must continue our work to reduce the tax burdens for Nebraska, whether they live in Omaha or Ogallala. Our tax policy is simply broken. We have to come together to fix it. We have made some progress from delivering the largest tax cut in state history to capping local tax collections to making property tax re-- accessible to all, not just those who can afford pricey accountants and attorneys. We stopped the di-- disgrace of taxing our senior citizens on Social Security income, for crying out loud. And we removed community colleges from the property tax rolls in order to strengthen our great community college system. But the work is far from complete. And the people of

this state expect this of us to continue working to fix the property tax crisis. I believe tax cuts work. I believe they give Nebraska families and small businesses a boost. Unfortunately, over the fast-- past four decades plus, much of what Nebraskans has done is create carve-outs, subsidies, loopholes, and exemptions. What we thought was a tax cut was a tax shift. The-- to truly deliver a real and durable tax cut, we must simply deliver an equal decrease in government spend. This Legislature has the opportunity to lead reform efforts and join me in passing a budget that delivers lasting and transformative tax relief to Nebraskans, our homeowners, our farmers, and our ranchers. I have proposed-- and Speaker Arch has introduced on my behalf-- a budget that does just that. It does so by cutting spending, saying no. From streamlining welfare programs to smartly aligning our correctional facility resources to meet our current population needs, we are delving into parts of the state's budget and shining the light in unprecedented ways. The result of this budget will mean a \$500 million improvement to the state's bottom line in this biennium. For those doing the math, take note. The proposal eliminates the make-believe budget crisis that so many critics have imagined over the last few months. Not only does this budget keep Nebraska on a thriving fiscal course for our state, checking count-- our state savings account are all in historically strong position. Simply put, the bleath-- breathless doomsday stories are not to be believed. Nebraska's fiscal health is beyond question. The state of Nebraska today has a General Fund reserve of nearly \$2 billion and the highest credit rating in our history. Maybe I think I ought to resay that. We have a-- nearly \$2 billion in the bank and our highest credit rating ever. All of us in business understand that. Later this year, we will make transfers for additional property tax relief. And even after that, we're still over \$1.3 billion in unobligated reserves. Beyond a healthy reserve, it's not the job of state to hoard taxpayer money. We must give it back or put it to work for Nebraskans. Across state government, we're making progress. We're saving money or merging duplicative, costly parts of government. Funding, promising Nebraska-born businesses, creating high-paying careers, and investing in workforce development by repurposing significant ca-- stagnant cash. Running government like a business. Identifying inefficiencies and waste. Everything everybody in this room's done before you came here. Our Department of Health and Human Services has achieved unprecedented net savings of \$141 million this biennium, rooting out fraudsters, returning \$30 million to taxpayers by cutting off ineligible individuals who have been trying to collect Medicaid benefits from other states. Bottom line, our strategy of

running government like a business and tightening its belt the same way Nebraska families have to may not always get the nicest headlines, but it's making sure our state's finances remain strong and we avoid the shenanigans and fraud so rampant in poorly run states across America. Even as we make crucial and overdue reductions in government's bloat and size, we have retained the capacity and courage to make timely investments in Nebraska's future. We will enshrine that the state's standing strongly behind the future of Offutt Air Force Base community, establishing a program to grow the base's mission, personnel, and funding. We're adding funds so-- tremendously successful Business Innovation Act, which has done so much to kickstart new and innovative Nebraska companies. And in my direction, we will ensure those funds are invested more efficiently through smart private sector partners, not government bureaucracy. And while leaving the University of Nebraska budget unchanged, we have secured an agreement with university leadership to facilitate that every single Nebraska student who scores a 33 or better on their ACT of getting a full scholarship with housing to the University of Nebraska. Gone are the brain drain. We're keeping our kids here. We're finally going to compete with scholarships. There's much to cut in state government, and the work will not be done in just one or even a couple budget cycles. But with the budget, I've called for historic reductions while continuing to improve services for Nebraskans and make investments in our future. Together, we can establish a trend of spending restraint and fiscal conservatism that will reduce the burden and cost of government for our people and make our state competitive for the next generation and for seven generations to come. As we keep Nebraska a place that is wide open for business, we must also ensure that it remains a safe place, governed with strong Nebraska values. Senator Kauth continues her tenacious leadership to protect our kids and to shield Nebraska's girls' spaces from men. While we've delivered important protections for locker rooms and similar spaces last year, silly politics left restrooms out of the bill. That simply doesn't add up for Nebraskans with basic common sense. It doesn't matter if they live in Ralston or Rushville. I call upon this body to finish the job of keeping Nebraska a safe space for girls by putting Senator Kauth's bill on my desk. Thank you. We must also ensure Nebraska's public institutions of higher education remain places of hard research, learning, academic success, not woke, political laboratories. We need to focus on who we are. Last time I checked, we are Nebraska, not a woke ivory tower on the coast. How destructive would it be if our great University of Nebraska followed the same path that so-called elite

coastal schools have, embracing pronoun culture, DEI discrimination, anti-Semitism, and radical critical race theory invasion into their curriculum? To these misguided students and families who actually want that for their money, other places work. Nebraska's higher education system should be a model of true academic freedom, rigor, and race blindness. It should be governed by the same principles that have made this state great, and by doing so it will be a beacon to kids across the country that will want to come to a place truly devoted to higher learning. Kids like Mya Rourke [PHONETIC], who is with us today in the balcony. Mya came to the University of Nebraska simply wanting a hard education, not political indoctrination or to be shamed for her beliefs or values. She has had the courage to speak up, which is no small feat when you're a college sophomore. And her example has been an extraordinary inspiration to me, more-- to do more to protect our kids here on our campuses. Mya, please stand. Mya, please, please be recognized for your incredible courage in doing this right. Thank you. To help honor that courage, I've introduced language in the budget that will definitely end DEI and CRT from Nebraska's higher education system. I look forward to signing that into law. Let's help recommit the University of Nebraska to its principles of its founding, what it-- national light of free thought and academic thought and academic excellence. And let's then watch it thrive beyond our-- all of our wildest expectations. We'll continue to make worthy investments in Nebraska elementary and secondary students, teachers, and schools, ensuring classrooms, environments that are ripe for learning. Today, I'd like to introduce to you Michelle Thorne from Grand Island. Michelle's an educator who works as an academic support coach, helping students with behavioral issues. Legislation passed in the Christmas tree bill in 2023 that I signed prevented schools from suspending disruptive kindergarten through second grade students from school, no matter they-- no matter what took place. Michelle has firsthand experience of these issues that the law has created, as it unintentionally has damaged the classroom experience at many schools in our state. All educators agree, for the sake of our kids, teachers, and schools, we must make this right. Michelle, thank you for being here. Michelle, please stand up. Thanks for being here, representing, investing in our kids, and educating and inspiring. Thank you, Michelle. You know, for the record, taking care of our kids better be bipartisan. Recognizing a teacher better be bipartisan. I don't care what color of vest we wear. It's hogwash if it's not bipartisan when we're talking about our kids. Man alive. Education in Nebraska deserves better. Our kids deserve better. Our teachers deserve better. By passing this

legislation introduced by Senator Murman, we'll help restore order in classrooms so teachers can do their best without distraction. This legislation, even with a short window of time, must seize the opportunity to accomplish other priorities as well. Senator Jacobson's data privacy bill has been the subject of tremendous collaboration and work over the interim, and its passage will ensure that, in an age of information, where data is-- everything in Nebraska farmers and livestock producers, that they stay in firm control of their most valuable asset: the data about what they grow, what they plant, when and how they fertilize, how much they irrigate, and all the other work that goes into helping feed the world. I believe that Nebraska family farmers own that data, and we're going to defend our producers from any misguided entities that have other ideas. After a year in which acts of anti-Semitism [INAUDIBLE] nationwide, making sure acts are not only enforceable as a discrimination but reported by the governing bodies of our educational institutions is critical to ensure Nebraska remains a good life for our strong Jewish community in Nebraska. Senator Hardin's LB538 would align Nebraska with many other states by adopting a strong anti-Semitism definition policy and enjoys bi-- strong bipartisan support in this body. I ask you to send it to my desk without delay. Thank you. And finally, we've arrived at the critical juncture of the 30-year-old long-running debate over whether Nebraska should unify and strengthen its voice when it comes to presidential elections, which this body's decided to do 30 years ago. I've favored restoring the law to award our electoral college votes to the candidate who gets the most votes, and there's a clear majority in this body that believes that. The, the minority of the body's been able to obstruct that will. I call upon this Legislature to pass Senator Dorn's LR24CA to place this question on the November ballot so that the people of Nebraska can decide the final say on how their voice is heard in America's most important national elections. I ask you to get that to my desk. Thank you. In 2025, we celebrated 80 years of victory with Nebraska's World War II veterans. What an incredible privilege for me to get to give so many medallions out to our greatest generation. Every medallion we gave out to veterans across the state was a thank-you on behalf of Nebraska for their service and to make sure it's a sharp reminder for our families and all of us of the extraordinary sacrifice it takes to keep our country free. Last month-- let me tell you. I had a privilege and honor that I'll never forget as long as the good Lord allows me to take breaths of presenting a Purple Heart that was earned but never received to a Vietnam veteran hero and Nebraskan named Ray Krings. I've known their family for an extended period of time, so it makes it really, really

close to my heart. Five decades ago, Ray graduated in 1967, was drafted to the Vietnam War, and was a member of the United States Army in Vietnam. Ray was severely injured during a surprise middle-of-the-night attack in Nor-- by North Vietnam soldiers. An explosion in his bunker pinned underneath rubble, ultimately leading to the loss of both of his legs. Guess what? Ray Krings never let that slow him down one iota, just like most Nebraskans. Ray didn't have time to throw himself a pity party. He had too much life to live. When Ray returned home, he married his high school sweetheart, Joyce, grew a family of 7 children and 26 grandchildren. Guess what he did? He farmed. He's recently retired. Everybody in the neighborhood was happy Ray retired because he was the best farmer in the neighborhood. His story is incredibly inspiring. Unbelievably Nebraskan. Ray never asked anybody for anything. He figured out how to get himself up into a tractor long before there were any special stuff. Ray is a shining light of Nebraska's can-do attitude, an attitude that those-- all of us here in the state need to remember as we go through every day. Unity is indeed an important theme as we embark on 2026. 2017, we celebrate 150th year of statehood. And this year, America celebrates our 250th year as a nation. What a quarter of a millennium it's been for, for our country. We're so blessed to live where we are. Our nation was blessed with extraordinary founding fathers, guided by providence and created a federal system of self-governance on one of the most brilliant-- absolutely brilliant constitutional documents ever enacted by human beings. Everything we have achieved as a republic, every challenge or flaw we've overcome has been a possible because of the amazing document and the generations of leaders which have honored it and given its words meaning and force. At the center, at the center of all this system are the states. We, the states, are the grassroots of democracy. How lucky are we all to be here at the 250th birthday of our country, to be the stewards of that public trust? Have you thought of that? It's unbelievable. How lucky we are to be blessed with the challenge and the privilege of leadership to do the hard work of leaving a better Nebraska for our neighbors and kids and for generations to come. And what's so awesome about everybody here? When we're done, you know who's going to remember us, remember what we did? Nobody. But we're working our tails off for the people like what's been going on in this country for 250 years and 157 for Nebraska. I personally am incredibly grateful beyond words for that blessing, and I know all the men and women in this Legislature are too. I look forward to working alongside you with that Ray Krings-like, can-get-it-done attitude to do the work of our state this session, and I thank you

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for your incredible service. May God bless the state of Nebraska. May God bless the United States of America. Thank you for all you do. God Bless. Thank you.

KELLY: Will the committee escort the Governor from the Chamber? And the First Lady. Mr. Clerk for new bills.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. New bills. Speaker Arch, on behalf-- at the request of the Governor, a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to amend Laws 2025, LB177A, Section 1; Laws 2025, LB261, Sections 15, 16, 18, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 39, 51, 52, 62, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77, 78, 81, 82, 87, 88, 91, 92, 93, 94, 97, 99, 100, 102, 105, 106, 107, 108, 113, 114, 127, 131, 132, 133, 145, 156, 162, 174, 175, 176, 182, 183, 185, 186, 187, 190, 202, 211, 214, 215, 218, 220, 222, 225, 228, 229, 231, 232, 237, 241, 245, 246, 247, 248, 255, 258, 250-- 276, 279, 280, 283, 285, 287, 289, 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, and 308; Laws 2025, LB263, Sections 13, 14, and 16; Laws 2025, LB264, Section 81; and Laws 2025, LB293A, Section 1; to redefine terms; to provide, change, and eliminate appropriations; to provide, change, and eliminate provisions related to the appropriation of funds; to harmonize provisions; to provide severability; to repeal the original sections; to repeal outright Laws 2025, LB22A, Section 1; Laws 2025, LB48A, Sections 1 and 2; Laws 2025, LB261, Section 76, 164, 256, 257, 260, 261, 262, 263, 265, and 266; Laws of 2025, LB382A, Section 1; and to declare an emergency. LB1072, introduced by Speaker Arch at the request of the Governor. Bill for an act relating to government; to amend Sections 1-111, 2-2701, 2-2703.01, 2-2705, 2-2706, 3-126, 9-1-- 9-1002, 9-1004, 9-1005, 9-1006, 9-1204, 13-2041, 29-2262.07, 37-3-- 37-327.01, 47-632, 48-3004, 48-3808, 54-857 57-1406, 66-673, 66-734, 66-735, 68-1604, 71-17,112, 71-3525, 71-3526, 72-1009 [SIC: 72-2009], 79-303, 79-1035.01, 79-1063, 80-401, 81-2173 [SIC: 81-2,173], 81-1201.02 [SIC: 81-1201.22], 81-1202, 81-1204, 81-1209, 81-1210.02, 81-1230, 81-12,2-- 81-12,218, 81-1429.03, 81-1463, 81-1505.05, 81-16,07.01, 81-1835, 81-2504, 82-108.03, 82-316, 82-331, 82-332, 83-915.01, 84-321, 84-512, 84-721, 85-1401, 85-1539, 85-1920, and 85-3112, Re-- Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Section 9-812, 19-5707, 37-327.02, 38-157, 38-2121, 43-1318, 43-2404.01, 43-2404.02, 24-116 [SIC: 44-116], 48-20-- 48-101.01, 48-145, 48-621, 58-703, 68-1206, 68-1724, 71-5306, and 74-1317, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, Sections 9-1,101, 9-1107, 37-811, 60-6,211.05, 66-1519, 68-911, 68-996, 69-1317, 71-24,106, 71-7611, 72-1001, Legislative-- Se-- Section 77-1420, 77-27,144, 77-4025, 81-1213 [SIC: 81-1203], 81-1239, 81-12,110, 81-12,241, 81-15,120, 81-15,174,

81-15,180, 84-612, 85-1412, 85-1654, and 86-1063, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, Laws of 2025, LB261, Section 306, and Laws 2025, LB264, Sections 8, 69, and 70; to provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to funds and fund transfers; to create funds; to provide for fees for medical cannabis regulation; to require the payment of State Treasurer's salary from the Unclaimed Property Cash Fund; to provide for transfer of investment earnings; fund the-- change the distributions of the Permanent School Fund, the Municipal Equalization Fund, and Charitable Gaming Operations Fund, and the Nebraska race tax-- gaming tax; to change the disposition of workers' compensation self-insurer payments; to provide for additional use of Davis Scholarship Trust Fund, and Administrative Cash Fund, the Auditor of Public Accounts Cash Fund, the Commercial Feed Administration Cash Fund, the Victim's Compensation Fund, and the 911 Service System Fund; to eliminate the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling and transfer the Gamblers Assistance Program to the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; to change provisions relating to the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund, the Commission Grant Program, the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the federal Child Care Subsidy Program, reimburse for work-related child care expenses, state employees health insurance coverage, the Teleworker Job Creation Act, the Major Oil Pipeline Safety Act, motor fuel taxes, and the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act; to eliminate provisions relating to tractor testing fees, apiary certificate fees, job training grants, youth outdoor education camp grants, the Bioscience Innovation Program, and the Family Resource and Juvenile Assessment Center pilot program; to provide for the termination of the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Fund, the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Fund, the Superfund Cost Share Cash Fund, and the Nebraska Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund; to eliminate the Tractor Permit Cash Fund, the Small Watershed Flood Control Fund, the State Apiary Cash Fund, the Nuclear and Hydrogen Development Fund, the Nuclear and Hydrogen Development Act, the Family Home Visitation Act, the Nursing Home Faculty Student Loan Cash Fund, the Nebraska Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory Act, the Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory Cash Fund, the Job Training Cash Fund, the Nebraska Training and Support Fund, Intern Nebraska Cash Fund, the Lead-Based Paint Hazardous Control Cash Fund, the Public Service Commission Pipeline Regulation Fund, the Economic Development Cash Fund, the Youth Outdoor Education Innovation Fund, the Nebraska Mental Health First Aid Training Act, the Customized Job Training Cash Fund, the Panhandle Improvement Project Cash Fund, the Sector Partnership

Program Fund, the Nebraska Film Office Fund, the Innovation Hub Cash Fund, the Bioscience Innovation Cash Fund, the Violence Prevention Cash Fund, the Foster Care Review Office Cash Fund, the Community College Aid Fund, the Nebraska Community College Student Performance and Occupational Education Grant Fund, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Trust Fund, the Capitol Commission Revolving Fund, and the State Treasurer's Land Sales Distributive Fund; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; and provide severability; to repeal the original sections; to outright repeal Sections 2-1502, 2-1503.01, 2-1503.02, 2-1503.03, 2-27-- 2-2705.01, 2-3101, 2-3102, 2-3103, 2-3104, 2-3105, 2-3106, 2-3107, 2-3108, 2-3109, 2-3110, 9-1003, 9-1007, 71-17,112, 71-17,113, 71-17,120-- 71-17,116, 71-3001, 71-3002, 71-3003, 71-3004, 71-3006, 71-3007, 72-2205.01, 72-211.01, 81-2,174, 81-1213.03, 81-1213.04, 81-1220, 81-12,114, 81-12,155.01, 81-12,163.01, 81-1451, 81-2011, 81-2509, 81-2510, 81-2511, 81-20-- 81-2513, 81-2514, 81-2515, 85-1420, 85-14-- 81-1540, 85-2235, and 90-248, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Sections 43-1321, 66-2302, 66-2303, 66-2304, 66-2305, 66-2306, 66-2307, and 77-3132, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, Sections 42-1401, 42-1402, 42-1403, 42-1404, 42-1405, 42-1406, 42-1407, 42-1408, 42-1409, 42-1410, 42-1411, 48-62-- 48-622.02, 48-3405, 57-1411, 66-2308, 68-23,10-- 68-2301, 68-2302, 68-2303, 68-2304, 68-2305, 68-2306, 68-2307, 68-2308, 68-2309, 81-1201.21, 81-1210.04, 81-1210-- 81-1211, 81-1213.02, 81-1213.05, and 81-1216, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, and Laws 20-- 2025, LB264, Section 74; and to declare an emergency. LB1073, introduced by Senator Bosn. Bill for an act relating to Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act; to amend Section 60-462, Re-- Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to define a term; to require commercial motor vehicle driver training to include anti-traffick-- anti-trafficking training as prescribed; to provide powers and duties for the Attorney General; and to repeal the original section. LB1074, introduced by Senator Sanders. A bill for an act relating to unclaimed property; to amend Section 69-1315, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 69-1317, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to change provisions relating to a statute of limitations; to change the treatment of proceeds from abandoned property; to change fund balance limitations; to create a trust fund; and to provide duties for the State Treasurer; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

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Floor Debate January 15, 2026
Rough Draft

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senators, ten-minute warning for new bill introduction. Ten-minute warning. Mr. Clerk for new bills.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. New bills. LB1075, introduced by Senator Sanders. Bill for an act relating to government; to amend Sections 32-228, 32-917, 32-945, 32-948, 32-949, 32-1034, 32-1035, 32-1516, and 79-3405, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 32-235, 32-559, 32-622.01, 32-802, 32-9-- 32-903, 32-913.03 [SIC: 32-915.02], 32-942, 32-947, 32-949.01, 32-953, 32-956, 32-957, 34-1002.01, 32-1031, 32-1121, 32-1213 [SIC: 32-1203], and 32-1524, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and Sections 32-101, 32-617, 32-624, 32-624.01, 32-805 [SIC: 32-803], 32-912, 32-1013, 32-1032, 32-100-- 32-1044, and 32-1119, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide a duty to the village board of trustees; to provide powers to the village clerk; to change provisions relating to vacancies in a city council or village board; to change provisions relating to election workers, candidate name changes, candidate filing forms, political party rules, notices of election, photographic identification requirements, voting, precinct boundaries, ballots, special elections by mail, recounts, election expenses, prohibited activities, petitions, watchers and observers, records available for public inspection, delivery of the abstract of votes, penalties, and school district elections; to eliminate provisions relating to initiative and referendum petitions; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal Section 32-1406, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and to declare an emergency. LB1076, introduced by Senator Brandt. Bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; to amend Sections 57-1601 and 57-1620, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change penalty provisions relating to the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original Sections. LB1077, introduced by Senator Brandt. Bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act; to amend Section 48-4-- 48-146.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to workers' compensation insurance policies and deductibles; and to repeal the original sections. LB1078, introduced by Senator Dungan. Bill for an act relating to data; to adopt the Fair Online Pricing Act. LB1079, introduced by Senator von Gillern. Bill for an act relating to criminal procedure; to amend Section 29-2221, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to change provisions relating to the habitual criminal enhancement for theft offenses; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original

section. LB1080, introduced Senator DeBoer. Bill for an act relating to civil procedure; to amend Sections 25-1241 and 25-1244, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Sections 28-915 and 28-915.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and Section 49-1808, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide for the use of unsworn declarations in civil proceedings as prescribed; to change and transfer provisions relating to affidavits; to define terms; to change provisions relating to the offenses of perjury, making a false statement under oath or affirmation, and unsworn attorney declarations under the Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections, and to repeal-- outright repeal Section 25-1245, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska. LB1081, introduced by Senator Glen Meyer. Bill for an act relating to flags; to amend Section 72-2205, and 79-708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to require state agencies and political subdivisions to purchase flags made in the United States as prescribed; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB1082, introduced by Senator Storer and others. Bill for an relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act; to amend Sections 86-101 and 86-103, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to define a term; to provide a duty for telecommunications companies as prescribed; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB1083, introduced by Senator Storer. Bill for an act relating to consumer protection; to amend Section 84-7,120.05-- 84-712.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the Transparency in Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Act; to create a fund; to change provisions relating to records which may be withheld from the public; to provide an operative date; to provide severability; and to repeal the original section. LB1084, introduced by Senator Storer. A bill for an act relating to civil commitment; to amend Sections 71-99-- 71-919 and 71-1203, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to change provisions relating to persons taken into emergency protective custody; to correct an internal reference; to repeal the original sections; and declare an emergency. LB1085, introduced by Senator Clouse. A bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission; to amend Sections 53-103.47, 53-133, and 53-1,100, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 53-132, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to define and redefine terms; to change provisions relating to retail, bottle club, craft brewery, and microdistillery licenses and commissions' duties and the process for the commission to issue retail licenses for which the local governing body recommended a denial; to change penalties; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB1086,

introduced by Senator Dover. Bill for an act relating to community college; to amend Section 85-20-- 85-2005, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change eligibility requirements for community college gap assistance as prescribed; to repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. LB1087, introduced by Senator Arch. A bill for an act relating to the Nebraska-Ireland Commission; to create the Nebraska-Ireland Commission; and to create a fund. LB1088, introduced Senator Raybould. Bill for an act relating to firearms; to amend Sections 26-101, 26-106, 26-112, 26-115, 26-116, 26-118, and 26.121, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to require persons convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence or subject to a domestic abuse protection orders to surrender firearms and ammunition as prescribed; to provide a penalty; to define terms; and to provide duties for the courts, the State Court Administrator, county attorneys, law enforcement agencies, jails, and prisons; to provide requirements and procedures in the Protection Orders Act for similar enforcement of foreign domestic abuse protection orders; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. LB1089, introduced by Senator Hughes. Bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Healthy Families and Workplaces Act; to amend Section 48-3808, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to change enforcement provisions; and to repeal the original section. LB1090, introduced by Senator Murman. Bill for an act relating to the Election Act; to amend Section 32-629 and 32-1546, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide requirements for petition circulators; to provide a penalty; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original sections. LB1091, introduced by Senator Bostar. Bill for an act relating to public assistance; to amend Section 68-994, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide requirements for long-term care clients with special needs under the medical assistance program; and to appeal the original section. LB1092, introduced by Senator Bostar. Bill for an act relating to license plates; to amend Section 60-3,163.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide for Back the Blue license plates and Iconic-Design License Plates; to provide duties for the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; to create funds; to provide for grants for certain associations and providers as prescribed; to eliminate obsolete provisions; and to repeal the original section. LB1093, bill for an act relating to the One-Call Notification Systems Act; to amend Section 76-2308, Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to redefine a term; and to repeal the original section. LB1094, introduced by Senator Ballard. Bill for an act relating to government; to adopt the

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By-Right Housing Development Act and Permitting Approval Timely--Timeliness Act. LB1095, introduced by Senator Andersen. Bill for an act relating to retirement; to amend Sections 72-1246 and 72-1254 and 84-602, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 72-1239.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to prohibit investment in certain retirement system assets in restricted entities; to provide duties for the Nebraska Investment Council and the State Investment Officer; to require reports; to provide a duty for the State Treasurer; to define a term; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency. That's all I have, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. One additional new bill, LB1096, introduced by Senator Bostar at the request of the Governor. It's a bill for an act relating to state security; amends Section 84-712.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Section 86-125, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; provides for criminal penalties; to provide duties for the Attorney General; to adopt the Preventing Lethal Agriculture and National Threats Act; to adopt a Critical Infrastructure Protection Act; to authorize the withholding of records relating to critical water infrastructure as provided; to provide a civil penalty for certain communication providers as prescribed; to harmonize provisions; to provide, provide severability; and to repeal the original section. A Committee on Committees preliminary report from the Committee on Committees concerning the appointments of Senator Fred Meyer. Amendment to be printed from Senator Quick to LB365, Senator Andersen to LB-- amendment to be printed from Senator Andersen. Additionally, notice of committee hearing from the Natural Resources Committee, the Business and Labor Committee, the Judiciary Committee. Name adds: Senator Conrad, name added to LB100; Senator Juarez, LB440; Senator Conrad, LB745, LB995, LB996, LB999, LB1006, LB1016, and LR300. Senator Hardin, name withdrawn from LB913. Notice that the Referencing Committee will meet in Room 1524 upon adjournment. Referencing, 1524, upon adjournment. Finally, Mr. President, a priority motion: Senator Lippincott would move to adjourn the body until Friday, January 16 at 10:00 a.m.

KELLY: The question is the motion to adjourn. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed, nay. The Legislature is--