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Floor Debate January 20, 2026  
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**ARCH:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the ninth day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Rebecca Hjelle-Penner from St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Papillion, in my district. Please rise.

**REBECCA HJELLE-PENNER:** Would you join me as we pray? God, our source of wisdom and hope, we give you thanks for your presence among us today and for the opportunity we have to serve the good people of Nebraska. As this body begins its work, we pray for clear minds and open hearts. Help these legislators remember who they represent. Remind them that their job is to listen deeply, to speak with courage and care, and to make decisions that improve real lives. When fear creeps into the debate, when words turn sharp or dismissive, when voices are ignored or pushed aside, when policies risk causing harm, interrupt us, soften our hearts, and call us back to our responsibility to do better. May the work that is done here today help build a Nebraska where everyone has enough, where all families feel safe, where every community thrives and no one is left behind. God, our source of wisdom and hope, may it be so. Amen.

**ARCH:** I recognize Senator Storer for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**STORER:** Join me, colleagues, 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.

**ARCH:** Thank you. I call to order the ninth day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call.

**DeKAY:** Mr. Clerk, please record.

**CLERK:** There's the quorum present, Mr. President.

**DeKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections to the Journal?

**CLERK:** I have no corrections this morning, sir.

**DeKAY:** Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

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**CLERK:** There are, Mr. President. A reference report from the Referencing Committee concerning LB1071-LB1096, as well as the references of LB899, LB1082 [SIC-- LB1028], and LB914. Mr. President, amendments to be printed from Senator Kauth to LB1097-LB1123, Senator Ibach to LB636, Senator Fredrickson to LR304. And notice of committee hearings from the Urban Affairs Committee. That's all I have at this time.

**DeKAY:** Thank you. I'd like to announce the doctor of the day, Dr. James Watson of Gretna. He is from Senator Holdcroft's district. Would you please rise and be welcome. And then I'd like to announce on behalf of Senator Arch, Mark Hjelle, he's the father of Pastor Rebecca Hjelle-Penner, he's sitting in the north balcony. Please rise and be recognized. Senator Bosn for an announcement.

**BOSN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I would like to congratulate my sister Heather and her husband Ricky [PHONETIC] on the birth of their first daughter. Elizabeth Josephine Rojas joined us a little bit early on Saturday, January 18th. She came into this world weighing 4 pounds and 3 ounces, so I'd like to congratulate them and welcome "Libby Jo" to the world. So thank you.

**DeKAY:** Senator Strommen for an announcement.

**STROMMEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to say happy birthday to our Senator Tanya Storer. Her husband's in the balcony here. Eric, how are we doing today? So if we could give her a big round of applause for 35, I think, right?

**DeKAY:** Speaker Arch for an announcement.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. President. You are going to be receiving a memo from me, and it's regarding priority bills. And I just wanted to highlight a couple of things. These are important dates for your calendar, and I'm sure your staff will read this memo very carefully and make sure that these are on your calendar as well. So the first, the first date I would like to highlight is February 19th-- Thursday, February 19th. And this is the deadline for senator and committee priority bill designations, prior to adjournment Thursday, February 19th. Immediately following that in your memo, you're going to see directions on paperwork that's required, the process. Please, please follow that very carefully. Make sure your staff has this memo and,

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and reads it carefully. Sometimes, sometimes those processes aren't followed. Maybe you missed deadline or it's not handed into the right office, whatever. Very important process. Please, please pay attention to that. The other date I would like to point out is actually right ahead of that. So February 19th is the senator and committee priority bill designations, February 17th is the deadline to identify those things that are-- that you would like me to consider as a Speaker priority bill. So there are qualifications, it's not just any bill that, that can be submitted for that request. So be sure and pay very close attention to what those details are for that as well. Just-- those are extremely important dates, and so I just wanted to highlight that. You will find all of the detail in this memo. Thank you, Mr. President.

**DeKAY:** Thank you. Senator Hansen for an announcement.

**HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, again, a final reminder to get all three-part requests into the Revisor's Office by today at 1 p.m. So if you've got your bill drafted and you want it three-parted, Revisor's by 1 p.m. today in order to get it read on the floor. So thank you.

**DeKAY:** Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Clouse, for an announcement.

**CLOUSE:** Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just rise for a moment to ask that you keep the family of Senator Joel Johnson in your thoughts and prayers. I don't know how many in this body know Senator Johnson, but he passed away last week. Senator Johnson from, from Kearney was a renowned, I guess is a good way to put it, surgeon, Navy veteran, and he was very dedicated to this state. You might recall, I've heard things about the Snowbird Trail Going from South Sioux all the way down through, through the state. That was his big idea. Never really did come to fruition, but that was a dream that he always had. And then the motorcycle helmet law, which was just repealed, I think a session or two ago, that was important to him as a surgeon in seeing the impact of motorcycle accidents. So Senator Johnson, just keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

**ARCH:** Mr. Clerk for new bills.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President. New bills, LB1124, introduced by Senator Sorrentino. It's a bill for an act relating to revenue and

taxation, amends Section 77-2602, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to state intent relating to cigarette tax distributions, to increase the cigarette tax and distribute tax proceeds as prescribed; provide an operative date; repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. LB1125, introduced by Senator Sorrentino. It's a bill for an act relating to the University of Nebraska; amends Section 85-422, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; requires legislative approval of certain contracts as prescribed; to restrict ownership of certain facilities as prescribed; repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. LB1126, introduced by Senator Moser. It's a bill for an act relating to transportation; amends Sections 60-507, 60-513, 60-695, and 60-6,299, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 39-1351, 39-2802, 39-2814, 39-2825, 60-699 and 60-6,123, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and Sections 60-601, 60-605, 60-6,298, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to adopt the Infrastructure Development Investment Program Act; to change certain applicant qualification exemptions for transportation infrastructure construction contracts; to redefine a term; to eliminate a requirement for progressive design-build contracts, change public-private partnership delivery method provisions, provide duties to the Department of Transportation, and provide for unsolicited proposals under the Transportation Innovation Act; to change provisions relating to suspension of operator's licenses by the Department of Motor Vehicles and security required by the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act; to define a term, to change traffic accident reporting requirements, change requirements for the date of birth information that is included in certain vehicle accident reports, provide for the control of bicycle traffic and change-- and provide for certain permit fees under the Nebraska Rules of the Road; harmonize provisions; repeal the original section. LB1127, introduced by Senator Dover. It's a bill for an act to-- relating to the Game Law; amends Section 37-443, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Section 37-438, 37-440, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; provide for hangtag permits; [MALFUNCTION]-- display of certain permits and where such permits may be procured; harmonize provisions; repeal of the original section. LB1125 [SIC-- LB1128, introduced by Senator Dover. It's a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act; to amend Section 53-123.17, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; change provisions relating to entertainment district license, licenses and provide for a class of consumption-only licenses; and repeal the original section. LB1129, introduced by Senator Dover. It's a bill for

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an act relating to Community Development Law; amends Section 18-2108, 18-2123, and 18-2123.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 18-2115, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and Section, 18-2102, 18-2103, and 18-2147, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; change provisions relating to legislative findings; redefined terms; change and eliminate provisions relating to the acquisition of real property, land outside the corporate limits of cities, the effective date for the division of taxes, certain redevelopment plans receiving an expedited review; harmonize provisions, and repeal the original section. LB1130, introduced by Senator Jacobson. It's a bill for an act relating to cities and villages; to adopt the Community Improvement District Act; and declare an emergency. That's all I have at this time.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now proceed to the first item on the agenda.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, General File. LB385 [SIC-- LB384], introduced by Senator Storer. It's a bill for an act relating to the Property Tax Request Act; it amends Section 77-1633, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; requires a majority of the elected members of the governing bodies of participating political subdivisions to attend joint public hearings; and repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 17 of 2025 and referred to the Revenue Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File with committee amendments, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Senator Storer, you are recognized to open on LB384.

**STORER:** Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning. I am getting older as of today, so I just wanted to clarify, I think I heard the Clerk read it across as LB385. But just for certainty, LB384. All right, thank you. Again, thank you, Mr. President, and, and good morning. I am happy to get the day started off with LB384, I am asking for your green vote today. This is a very, very simple bill that strengthens our accountability and our truth in taxation laws. This is related to the pink postcards. Pink postcards have been a success. We continue to work on, you know, some timing issues, but overall they are achieving their purpose of more transparency in government and giving taxpayers the opportunity to address their elected officials when they vote to increase the-- go above the cap. But here is the problem that we're trying to fix with that today. As the bill is originally written, it,

it calls for a elected official to be required to be at those meetings. What I discovered as a county commissioner at the time this bill was passed was that nuance that, that we found some were taking advantage of was that that could be, in the case of a county, the clerk or the treasurer or someone other than the actual county commissioners who are voting on and accountable for that budget. So this bill is simply cleaning that up and, and sort of reining that, that problem in and requiring that-- the original bill is requiring that a majority of the governing board that votes to exceed allowable growth rate be present at those public hearings. Because honestly, I guess my feeling is that if you're going to vote to raise the taxes beyond the limit, you need to be able to show up and hear what the constituents have to say about that. Most of the opposition in, in the hearing from testifiers-- there was no opposition from the committee, I may add. This came out with all aye votes. But some of the opposition that we heard in hearing, in the hearing was from, from folks that were upset that they were being required to attend another meeting. Honestly, elected officials are expected to show up to meetings. That's what you're elected to do when you're making decisions regarding the taxpayers who voted you in. So, I do not-- I'm not sympathetic to the pleas that asking these elected officials to attend one more meeting is going to be burdensome. We have a responsibility to our taxpayers. There will be an amendment here that-- a committee amendment that Senator von Gillern will be introducing, and we did come to some agreement to sort of mitigate those concerns to some extent. So it limits the requirement to one of the elected officials who are voting on the budget to attend the pink postcard hearings. So with that, I thank you. And I think Senator von Gillern will speak now to AM703.

**ARCH:** Senator von Gillern, you are recognized to open on the committee amendment.

**von GILLERN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I rise today to introduce Revenue Committee amendment AM703 to Senator Storer's LB384 and to support Senator Storer's bill with this amendment. I think that she's said most of what needs to be said about the bill itself, so I'll echo her sentiment and keep my remarks brief. It's important for those who bear the responsibility of taxing and spending to look the people whose lives their decisions affect in the eye. At the end of the day, accountability and communities work together are the only way for Nebraska to sustainably address the

issue of high property taxes. With this amendment, LB384 will help to facilitate and reinforce this accountability. This amendment is a compromise amendment intended to make Senator Storer's original proposal simpler to implement by requiring at least one elected member of the governing body to attend the pink postcard hearing. We ensure that there will always be at least one person present who bears the-- that responsibility to tax and spend who can defend the decisions of the governing body and who can hear the concerns voiced by their constituents and neighbors. Just going off script here, just as a reminder, some county boards, city boards, some of the boards in the more rural committee are only three members. So requiring a majority would be obviously two out of the three, and probably represents a little bit more of a challenge for some of those smaller groups. By changing the requirement from majority members to one, we can ensure that these meetings don't become overcrowded with what could be dozens of officials in some of larger communities from different political subdivisions. Moreover, we ensure that they can be scheduled easily and are not held up by scheduling conflicts. AM703 promotes the right kind of accountability for Nebraska communities in a reasonable and practical way. With that, I urge your green vote on AM703. And I understand that there's a potential floor amendment coming from Senator Bostar, which I would also ask for your green vote. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Turning to the queue, Senator Hansen, you are recognized to speak.

**HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in relation, I know Senator Storer mentioned this on her opening, that this does have to do with the joint public hearing, or better known as the pink postcard hearing. Out of all the bills I think over the years, eight years I've been here that I've passed, this is probably the one that I have seen the most positive feedback from my constituents, and actually from people all, all over Nebraska. Not so much from the elected officials who decide to tax the people in their districts more than what's required in the pink postcard, that they have to attend these, which just makes sense. And so I appreciate what Senator Storer is doing here because when we first did the bill, we had one elected official be-- have to be present at these meetings. And so clarifying that it has to be a, a voting member, so the people who actually make the decisions about who have the taxing authority in these subdivisions should be there, I think is appropriate. And so, I appreciate her

bringing this bill. I would sure hope that people on these governing boards of these subdivision, the voting members, would not decide to not go and send their clerk or send their treasurer instead. I don't think that's appropriate. So clarifying this in statute I think is going to help out quite a bit. As some people may have noticed in the state of Nebraska, their property taxes last year overall have actually leveled out or somewhat decreased. The first time in decades. I believe it, it wasn't a whole lot, it was about, I think, I believe it was 0.11% in the state of Nebraska. And the two things they attribute that to are obviously the property tax income credit that a lot of people have gotten on their income taxes and the pink postcard. And I want to reiterate one more thing that you might hear from your elected officials when it comes to the pink postcard, the one thing that is untrue, is that when we have these meetings, these joint public hearings: our budget is already decided and there's nothing we can do about it. I'm sure a lot people have maybe heard these at the meetings. But here's one thing they probably don't tell you, is after these joint public hearings when they hear from their constituents and listen to them, they have every ability to amend their budget right there or meet again and amend their budget and change it. A lot of subdivisions have done that, a lot cities and counties have-- have started doing that more. I've heard from multiple ones last year who did that. They decided to raise their taxes say 6%, and they had a lot of angry constituents come and disagree with them. And they met later, amended their budget and maybe it only went up 3%. And so I commend them for listening to their constituents. I hope more political subdivisions and the people on those boards, counties, cities and schools listen their constituents and do everything they can to keep their levies low, especially in light of rising property valuations. One of the biggest things I've seen through all these hearings, and I've gone to many of them across the state of Nebraska, is I've seen many light bulbs turn on from our public when they start to find out what a levy is and then what their valuations are and what they mean. So when their elected officials come and say, we're not raising our levy this year, we're keeping it at zero, but their valuations went up 10%, they're starting to understand they took that money. And what they need to do is lower their levy. As valuations go up, they should lower their levy. We actually technically have that in our con-- I think it's in our constitution, or it's in statute right now, that as valuations go up, they're required actually to lower the levy based on what valuations goes up. But it takes a simple majority to raise that



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back up again. So I commend the public and the people of Nebraska for going to these meetings. Don't give up, keep going to them, voice your concerns. It's important. They need to hear from you. So instead of having 12 different public hearings you go to, for your SIDs, your ESUs, your schools, your counties, your cities, your community colleges, this simplifies that process, makes it on a time where most working families can go to, after 6 p.m., instead of 1 p.m., when we're all working. And listen also to the voting members of these subdivisions. Listen to the reasoning. Some are actually legit. A lot of them aren't. So listen to what they say. This is a great time to have good communication between the public and the voting board members of those subdivisions, and that is what changes policy. There's two big things I've learned over the eight years of being here. There's there's ways you can change politicians' minds--

**ARCH:** Time, Senator.

**HANSEN:** --which I will continue later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**ARCH:** Senator Raybould, you're recognized to speak.

**RAYBOULD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning colleagues, good morning fellow Nebraskans. I stand in support of LB384 and the AM703. I can tell you as a former Lancaster County Commissioner and Lincoln City Council member, we are very open to hearing from our constituents on budget matters. The problem is, with the pink postcard, it doesn't get distributed until September to our constituents. Prior to that, we have-- we start our budget hearings in May and continue through June and July. And by the end of July, we submit our budgets to Lancaster County or the county for verifications that our budgets match our proposed property tax rate or the levy. The county then certifies and validates that and submits it to the state of Nebraska no later than the end August. I think Senator Hansen is absolutely correct, sending out the pink postcard has raised tremendous awareness in our fellow Nebraskans on our property tax rates. And I wholeheartedly support that. But I have proposed an amendment to make the pink postcard much more effective. It is LB683. It's stuck in the Revenue Committee. I can tell you that the overwhelming negative comments from all of our constituents across the state of Nebraska, they're so frustrated. They're actually angry. By the time they get the pink postcard and they have the hearing in September, guess what, folks? It is too late. In contrast to what Senator Hansen is saying, that our budgets have

already been submitted to the county, the county has already validated them, and the budgets have been submitted already to the state of Nebraska. There does come a period of time in the next budget cycle, in many cases, it's the following year, where adjustments can be made. My legislative bill, LB683, just modifies the pink postcard ever so slightly. It requires the pink postcards to be sent out way earlier. And on that pink postcard, for every single political subdivision in your county, they list the time and place of the first budget hearing and other sub-- subsequent budget meetings before action and budgets are passed in the city and the county. For the life of me, I have no idea why it has been held up in the Revenue Committee. This is the most common-sense, the most practical, approach to getting our constituents engaged in positive feedback, feedback that actually can be acted on. Unfortunately, they get the postcards in September, and I can tell you that there is such anger and rage. You're ignoring our comments. You are not taking actions on really important points that they raise, valid issues that they raised, valid concerns that have fiscal consequences. And that's a sad part of it. Instead, we have the pink postcards that come out late and people are frustrated because they claim that we haven't listened to them, we haven't taken action on the ideas that they have presented. But the reality is it's just too late. It can be taken up at the next budget cycle. So I support this. I think Senator Storer is on the right path. It is so important that your elected officials are present. And I do support this. We need to be a party to these discussions, we need to continue to be open and transparent and listen to the concerns of the people we represent. But honestly, we need be effective. We can't frustrate those people when we represent, when we shrug our shoulders and say, oh, it's too late for this year. I can tell you that makes people mad. Let's do some common-sense thing. Let's get my LB683, please look it up. Let's make that modification change to the pink postcards and get them sent out earlier where their feedback and their ideas can be acted upon. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Raybould. Senator Hughes, you're recognized to speak.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of LB384 with the change, of course, to be the one elected member. I happened to be on school board when this-- the pink postcard bill first went into effect. And I know initially, at least for our, our board of six, our superintendent said, well just-- I'll just go. You guys don't need to

go, meaning the six board members. But I think it is, it is a responsible thing to do to send at least one. We do have a lot of boards with three, and to do a majority would be-- could be potentially onerous. Maybe a kid has a basketball game or you're out of town or whatever. So I think having one person there is an efficient way to do it and, and does what the intent is. I will also say, just because Senator Raybould spoke before, I do agree with the timing issue a little bit. I think we can be better if that would come out a little earlier and give more time. But, you know, with all things, we're getting things figured out. Sometimes you have to, to go through the using them a couple years until you can get it figured out exactly right and what works best. So thank you, Senator Storer, for bringing this. And with that amendment, it will have my yes vote. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Senator Clouse, you're recognized to speak.

**CLOUSE:** Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I rise in support of LB384 with the amendment, and I just want to share my personal opinion and experience over the years of being on a village board and city council and mayor. I've attended and been a part-- chaired approximately 60 budget meetings over those times, because we would have three different budget hearing meetings. And the last couple of years, I'd ask my city manager, I said, take a picture of the crowd. Because we have these at 7:30 in the morning. We had them at 5:30 at night. We had different times so that people could come in and talk to our city about our budget. Zero participation from the public. When you look out in the audience, you saw staff and, you know, the council members, elected officials were questioning different items as we went through line item by line item. But the participation just wasn't there. And then when we talk about the pink card process, I've been to several of those. And the reality is you have panels of school board members, village board members, city council members, and they stand there and they go through their budgets, they talk about where they're at and you tie their hands behind their back. And then speakers get up and just start getting irate and angry, and a lot of it is with misinformation, and they never have the ability to correct and say here's what the information is. This is what the correct information is on this budget. And another interesting fact, that when we did this in Kearney, and I'm not throwing the Kearney Public Schools under the bus because they did everything right, but they never attended one

because they never fit into the category that qualified them to be there on these pink postcards. So 65% of your property tax budgets goes to your schools. In our case, they never had to be their and explain what their budget was. And I would tell you also that they had numerous budget hearings as well, and I don't know what their participation was. And again, I'm not throwing them under the bus because they've done everything right, they just never met that criteria. So with this bill that's introduced, we always had two or three different council members there, city managers, you know, just seeing what the process and listening to those who were up making presentations. So I, I am a supporter of these-- this bill and these amendments, but I also think the pink postcard does need some work. And I've shared that with Senator Hansen the very first day when I met with him, that this pink postcard process, I understand the purpose, but it does need work. So with that, I'll be supporting and giving my yes vote to both LB384 and the amendment. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Clouse. Senator Hansen, you're recognized to speak.

**HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Appreciate what Senator Clouse just said there. I think he's, I think he's spot on. I was on the Blair City Council for, I think, three years, four years. And he's exactly right. When we had our budget hearings, we'd have two people in the audience. That is when a lot of the decisions are made. And I know all of Nebraska is not listening to us, as much as we like to think they are. But the people who are listening to this right now, I would encourage all of them to attend their budget hearings for their political subdivisions. Learn the process, talk to them, get up and speak. I think that's probably the best way to create change earlier instead of later, even though the change can happen later. But that's just a-- it's a little more arduous. I think it's little bit easier to do it when you can go to the budget and then they can make those changes there. So I encourage everybody to go to their budget hearings. However, the problem that we see is that we have probably, if everybody looks at their property tax statement, there's probably 12 different things on there. Each one of them has a budget hearing. Most of them are like a 1:00 or 2:00 p.m., that a lot of people can't attend. Which is why we created the Truth and Taxation pink postcard hearing. To get everybody in one room. And like I said earlier, communication is key. With, with uncertainty comes fear. And with fear comes anger. The whole purpose of this pink postcard is to instill

communication and knowledge to our constituents. And one of the best things I'll add about this pink postcard hearing, it's a lot different when-- and I'm sure Senator Clouse can attend, you know, attend to this, when you're sitting there and there's nobody in the audience, it's a lot easier to look at your constituents like numbers on a piece of paper. Your city administrator comes in, your county board supervisor comes in, your superintendent comes in and says, here's all the numbers of our budget. Here's what we need. And it's sometimes easy to forget about the people you're representing. The unfortunate nature of politics. It's a lot different when you have a room full of your constituents in front of you sharing their feelings, which usually a lot of times aren't good. It brings, brings them back into your subconscious. That's how you create change. I was mentioning earlier, there's two things that I've learned here, eight years being a politician, maybe a little bit longer. There's two main things that changes politicians' minds: fear and embarrassment. I'm sure everybody here can agree. And when you have a room full of angry constituents looking you in the eye during a budget meeting or a pink postcard hearing, you sometimes think twice about your decisions. A lot of times you think of them first instead of numbers on a page. Fear of not getting reelected. I'm not saying fear, as in we start protesting budget hearings, like a church, and embarrassment. These are the people, when we talk about local subdivisions, the people at those hearings who are voicing their opinions are the same people they have to sit next to at church. The same people they work with. And a lot of times when they get up there and actually share their opinions honestly, because let's be real, sometimes a lot of us as constituents may not be honest with our, you know, people representing us because they're our friends, et cetera. When you get up and you start hearing other people sharing your same concerns, it's easy to share yours as well. And now if you're an elected official sitting up there, listening to your friends, your coworkers, your churchgoers sitting next to you now, saying you're not doing a good job, you kinda wanna start doing a good job now. So that's what this pink postcard does. It's communication, and it's crucial. So again, I encourage all Nebraskans to attend them. Share your thoughts and your opinions. It matters a whole heck of a lot. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Hansen. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Von Gillern, you're recognized to close on the committee amendment. And waives. Members, the question is the adoption of AM703.

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All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 44 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Bostar would move to amend with FA783.

**KELLY:** Senator Bostar, you're recognized to open.

**BOSTAR:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. FA783 makes a simple addition to LB384, whereas it adds a provision that would require the county assessor of the county hosting the meeting to attend said meeting. So I, I'm sure a lot of you do, and my office does as well, receive a tremendous number of, of calls and communications related to assessments. And we try to work with folks on those. But providing this opportunity where, at these meetings, the county assessor shall be there, I think would enhance the transparency of how what ultimately becomes your tax liability is created at the county level. And, and since that, that venue is already established in statute, and these meetings are already happening, putting this in one place, I think, would just add, add a secondary benefit. Since your taxes are-- your property taxes are a function of the rate and your valuation, I think it's important to have the parties that are establishing both the rate and your valuation present. And so for that reason, I would encourage your green vote on FA783. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Bostar. Senator Hughes, you're recognized to speak.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. President. I did not prep him, but could Senator Bostar answer a question?

**KELLY:** Senator Bostar, would you yield to questions?

**BOSTAR:** Of course.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Senator Bostar. If more people were in the queue, I would have just walked over and asked. I mean, what if, for whatever reason, the assessor can't be there? I don't know, they're in the

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hospital, they are whatever. Is there a way to designate someone else that works with them or something?

**BOSTAR:** I mean, what happens if no one from the county board can be there? What happens if no from the city council--

**HUGHES:** Well, but a board you have-- technically, you have one out of six, or one out three. Surely someone can be there. I just-- this is just one person. It's the one person, it's not like three choices.

**BOSTAR:** Yeah, I mean, I understand the question. It's the same thing, though. So whatever provisions exist to compel attendance for other members that are required to attend would be similar and consistent with, with this as well.

**HUGHES:** And maybe there's just no teeth and it doesn't, I mean, what's going to happen if they don't go?

**BOSTAR:** I mean, my guess is they would have to have another meeting. Just sitting here thinking about this, I would imagine that they would have failed to meet the statutory requirements of the meeting as outlined in our laws. So, basically, they'd have to find a time where the folks that are required to be there can be there.

**HUGHES:** Mm-hmm. I'm just wondering just since it's one person, if we're not-- and you're under a time limit because these things, we have a limited time when all the numbers have to be in, I don't know. I feel like there could be a little work there statute-- statute-- I'm not not supporting what you're saying, I just wonder if we need some something if someone truly cannot be there and it's a one-person thing. If we need some backup or alternative. That's all I'm saying. Thank you, Mr. President

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Hughes. Senator Storer, you're recognized to speak.

**STORER:** Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Bostar visited with me about this, and I just want to say this is a friendly amendment. I think the intent is good. It just adds to the opportunity for constituents that are going to take the time to come to these meetings to get even more information. Obviously, we all understand that at the-- our ultimate tax bill is the result of assessed valuation times levy in combination with the levy. And so I, I think this is yet another opportunity for

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constituents to get answers, to further understand how their, how their tax bill comes to be. So I don't know how we can oppose any opportunity like this that kind of brings those folks together and brings even more value, quite frankly, to these pink postcard meetings. So I did want to be on the record and let my constituents-- or my colleagues know that this is a friendly amendment. So thank you, Senator Bostar.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Storer. Senator Brandt, you're recognized to speak.

**BRANDT:** Thank you, Mr. President. So two years ago, I attended our pink postcard meeting in Fairbury. It was for the Tri County School District, of which I am a member. And that's the only time I've went to one of these. How it was handled, and I don't know if this is policy through the entire state, was our county clerk ran the meeting. A superintendent and one member of the school board was there. And they simply gave a two-minute presentation on why they did the budget the way they were. And the 15 people there had 3 minutes each to, I guess, state a position. There was no interaction. We could not interact with the superintendent. There was not give and take. To be frank, it was, it was kind of disappointing that they couldn't respond to our questions. So, would Senator Bostar answer a question?

**KELLY:** Senator Bostar, would you yield to a question?

**BOSTAR:** Yes.

**BRANDT:** So, Senator Bostar, if you have the superintendent-- or excuse me, if you have assessor in the room, are they going to be given time to address the public there and have the rules changed on the postcard meetings that there can be interaction between the people that show up and the people presenting the budgets?

**BOSTAR:** This amendment simply requires that the assessor attend the meeting. It changes nothing else. It would just require that the assessor be at the meeting.

**BRANDT:** For what purpose-- I guess I'm a little confused as to what purpose

**BOSTAR:** To be responsive to their constituents.



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**BRANDT:** Yeah, but the example that I gave, we can't respond at the meeting unless the rules have changed.

**BOSTAR:** You know what, at this meeting, anyone can, can talk to anyone they want. There are, are freedoms of our speech and access to individuals that are not being hindered by these statutes. And so the fact that the assessor is in the room, I would encourage members of the public to simply have a conversation with them because that is the individual that can probably answer a lot of the questions that my office gets related to their assessments. So we're just trying to make it easier to connect these dots.

**BRANDT:** All right, thank you, Senator Bostar.

**BOSTAR:** Thank you.

**BRANDT:** I'm probably going to vote no on the amendment, because I guess I don't see it brings much value. If people want to talk to the assessor, they can go into the office and/or call them up and talk to them right now. I think having them at that meeting, generally where everybody's complaining about their taxes and some of the people don't understand the difference between valuation and taxes, I, I don't think it lends any clarity. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senators Brandt and Bostar. Senator Hansen, you're recognized to speak.

**HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'll try to keep this brief, so I won't go on my long-winded speech again. But if that county as-- if the assessor is a member of the public, they actually have every right to get up there and speak for as long as the clerk decides. I would hope the clerk-- when we originally wrote the Truth in Taxation pink postcard bill, we wanted to give a lot of levity to the people running the meeting to run it how they saw fit. I didn't want to be too micromanage the whole process. I would hope they would give public ample time to speak, at least up to five minutes, so they can actually have enough time to kind of share their concerns. If the assessor then does have to be present at these meetings, as Senator Bostar wants to do, I would assume then the clerk or whoever is running the meeting would allow then the assessor to get, assessor to get up and speak and describe maybe some of their-- or share some of the thoughts as well. They could even let the assessor have more time and maybe do a Power

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Point presentation, if they see fit. I think Senator Bostar makes a point with this amendment which I'm in favor of, of what, what I mentioned earlier. There are three components to property taxes. You have your constituents, you have the people taxing you, and then you have land valuation of the assessments. Those are the three main components to our property taxes. So having three people who represent those three parts be present at this meeting, I think, makes sense. That actually might lend itself to better communication to figure how we can make property taxes better on a local level. We need to do our job as a state as well. That's a different conversation. So I think what we can do to make sure that local taxing authorities or subdivisions and their constituents have ample communication along with the assessor's office, I think, makes sense to me. So I am in favor of FA783. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Hansen. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Bostar, you're recognized to close. And waive closing. Members, the question is the adoption of FA783. All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 39 ayes, 1 nay on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** FA783 is adopted. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Storer, you're recognized to close on LB384.

**STORER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to make some brief comments. I appreciate all of the debate and conversation. Certainly appreciate the support. Again, this is just a very common-sense bill to be more respectful and responsive to our taxpayers. And so I thank all of those who got on the mic, and certainly thank Senator Hansen for the origination of the Truth in Taxation laws. So, again, I ask for your green vote on LB384.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Storer. Senators, the question is the motion to advance LB384 to E&R Initial. All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 46 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** LB384 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, some items for the record. Amendment to be printed from Senator Jacobson to LB525. Notice of committee hearing

from the Education Committee, Health and Human Services Committee, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committees. In addition, Mr. President, some new bills. LB1131, introduced by Senator Bostar. It's a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; it amends Section 77-2717, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and Section 77-202. 77-2715.07, 77-2734.03, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to adopt the Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Service Providers Tax Credit Act; to eliminate a personal property tax exemption and a sales and use tax exemption for data centers; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; to repeal the original section; outright repeal Section 77-2701.54, 77-2704.62, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska. LB1132, introduced by Senator Fredrickson. It's a bill for an act relating to the Medical Assistance Act; amends Section 68-911, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to require the Department of Health and Human Services to file a state plan amendment for coverage of long-acting, injectable, and extended release medication as prescribed; and repeal the original section. LB1133, introduced by Senator Kauth. It's a bill is for act relating to claims against the state; to appropriate funds for the payment of certain claims; provide for payments of the claims; to authorize agencies to write off certain claims as prescribed; and declare an emergency. LB1134, introduced by Senator Kauth. It's a bill for an act relating to public health and welfare; to amend Section 81-1608, 81-1618, 81-2104, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Section 71-6403, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, Section 71-6406, 72-804, 72-805, 81-1609, 81-1611, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; change provisions relating to state building codes, electrical codes, and energy codes; change and provide limitations on local building and construction codes, energy codes and electrical codes as prescribed; to harmonize provisions; and repeal the original section. LB1135, introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee. It's a bill for an act related to the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act; to amend Section 18-3405, 18-3407, 18-3408, 18-3410, 18-3413, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and section-- and change provisions relating to board of directors, land bank powers, acquisitions of property and reports; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original section. LB1136, introduced by Senator Dungan. It's a bill for an act relating to the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act; it amends Section 13-905, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to require a political subdivision to identify authorized recipients of tort claims, to provide for tolling of certain deadlines; and to repeal the original section. LB1137, introduced by

Senator Ballard and others. It's a bill for an act relating to insurance; it amends Section 28-631, 44-6604, 44-8602, 44-8603, 44-8604, 44-8605, 44-9204, 44-9214, and 44-9217, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; change provisions and penalties relating to fraudulent insurance acts; to redefine terms and change provisions relating to residential contracts, notice of cancelations, prohibited acts, and post-loss assignment of rights or benefits under the Insured Homeowners Protection Act; change provision relating to licenses, contracts, prohibited acts and fees under the Public Adjusters Licensing Act; harmonize provisions; and repeal the original section. LB1138, introduced by Senator Hallstrom. It's a bill for an act relating to insurance; to adopt the Nebraska Protection of Seniors from Insurance and Exploitation Act. LB1139, introduced by Senator Hallstrom. It's a bill for an act relating to child support; amends Section 42-371, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; change provisions relating to liens arising from child support orders; and repeal the original section. LB1140, introduced by Senator Spivey. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; to amend Laws 2025, LB261, Section 54; to provide for distribution of appropriations to the State Department of Education for a pilot program in a city of the metropolitan class; and repeal the original section. LB1141, introduced by Senator Spivey. It's a bill for an act relating to the Game and Parks Commission; to amend Section 81-407, Revised Statute Supplement, 2025; to create the Nebraska Youth Pre-Apprentice Conservation Program; to provide powers and duties to the Game and Parks Commission; to create a fund; to transfer funds from the Workforce Development Program Cash Fund; to harmonize revisions; and repeal the original section. LB1142, introduced by Senator Hardin. It's a bill for an act of the Nebraska Visitor Development Act; to amend Section 53-501, 81-3701, 81-3702, 81-3703, 81-3706.01, 81-3710, 81-3711, 81-3711.01, 81-3712, 81-3713, 81-3714, 81-3721, 81-3726, 81-3728, 81-3729, 81-3730, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 77-3012, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and Section 81-3725, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to authorize the Department of Economic Development to administer the act; to provide for a Director of Tourism; change provisions relating to the Nebraska Tourism Commission; to define a term; to change the name of a fund; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; to repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. LB1143, introduced by Senator Hardin. It's a bill for an act relating to public assistance; to amend Section 68-949, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024;

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provide for the modification of the appropriations to the Department Health and Human Services for Medicaid nursing facility rates based on client service utilization as prescribed; require the department to submit an application to establish a Money Follows the Person Program; to repeal the original section. LB1144, introduced by Senator Hardin. It's a bill for an act related to Medical Assistance Act, to amend Section 68-927, 68-928, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to redefine a term; to provide requirements for entities issuing health plans; to harmonize prisons; repeal the original section. LB1145, introduced by Senator Lonowski. It's a bill for an act relating to the Open Meetings Act; amends Section 84-1411, Revised Statutes, 2025; change provisions relating to notice requirements for a meeting of a public body under the act; and repeal the original section. LB1146, introduced by Senator Conrad. It's a bill for an act relating to education; amends Section 79-209, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; change provisions relating to reports by school district to a county attorney relating to absence of a child from school; and repeal the original section. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR285, LR286, LR287, LR288, LR289, LR290, and LR291. Mr. Clerk, returning to the agenda.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, General File, LB668, introduced by Senator Storer. It's a bill for an act relating to the Department of Health and Human Services; changes provisions relating to the Adult Protective Services Central Registry and the central registry of child protection cases as prescribed; change provision relating to case managers; and repeals original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 22 of 2025 and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. There are no committee amendments. There are additional amendments, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Storer, you're recognized to open.

**STORER:** Thank you, Mr. President, and hello again. You get to hear from me twice in a row this morning. We're going to shift gears here a little bit with LB668. LB668 is an important bill to help support vulnerable families and ensure the abuse registration process is just.

LB668 passed out of the Health and Human Services Committee unanimously. It creates an administrative appeals process before an individual's name is placed on the child or vulnerable adult abuse registries. They have the opportunity to be notified that that is happening and address the, the DHHS and appeal that, simply providing for due process. The Nebraska Adult and Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry was created to protect the most vulnerable of Nebraska populations. State statute requires DHHS to keep records of persons that the agency or the courts find responsible for abuse and neglect of a child or vulnerable adult, while keeping all provisions surrounding court-substantiated findings intact. LB668 strengthens due process protections for the accused and allows DHHS the opportunity to review its decision before placing an individual on that registry. Additionally, these changes would allow for the department to contract for case management and prevention cases. Let me repeat, prevention cases. And I will come back to some of the concerns that were brought to our attention initially and how we've addressed that. Prevention workers would connect families with local services to assist families with obtaining the resources they want and need. This allows for a more personal connection between the caseworker and the family. I have filed an amendment, which I will get to here shortly, AM1723, which is aimed to change simply the statutory path that we're using for this change. And I will describe why we did-- made that amendment and are doing that, asking for that change. So I do ask for your support on LB668. Again, really the underlaying intent here with the allow-- allowing caseworkers to make those referrals is it is about prevention. So one of the examples that was, was provided, you know, if there is a call reported that someone is concerned about abuse and the DHHS follows up, sees, finds that that does not rise to the level of their involvement, but believes that there is some preventative measures that could be taken. In hopes that it does never, it never arises to the need for DHHS to get directly involved. This is just allowing that pathway for them to make those referrals to agencies and services that already exist in their communities. We're just trying to connect people with services, again, that are already available in an effort to, you know, help families and prevent any escalation. So again, I ask for your green vote on LB668.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Storer. Mr. Clerk.

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**CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Cavanaugh, I have FA70 with a note that you'd withdraw.

**KELLY:** So ordered.

**CLERK:** In that case, Mr. President, Senator Storer would move to amend with AM1723.

**KELLY:** Senator Storer, you're recognized to open.

**STORER:** Thank you, Mr. President. Again, AM1723 has-- is being presented to you to address some of the concerns and really just clarify what we're trying to achieve here. And so it was-- it is simply changing the statute that we're inserting this language. It's-- again, the goal is to, to connect DHHS with families and the local services available in their communities to help them obtain the resources that they want and need. Delivering these services allows the department to tap into additional federal dollars as well. Changing the statutory path was done to address some concerns that senators and stakeholders brought to us about the original modification of Nebraska Revised Statute 68-1212. So I appreciate the work of all involved and the concerns that were brought to our attention to make sure that there was no misunderstanding and that certainly the statutory change is used appropriately. This is not creating any new agencies. There is no fiscal note involved with this. All we're doing is providing a pathway for those caseworkers to refer families to existing services in their communities when prevention is warranted. So again, I ask for your green vote on AM1723. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Storer. Senator Hardin, you're recognized to speak.

**HARDIN:** Thank you Mr. President. I will be supporting LB668. I voted for this bill to be advanced from HHS Committee to General File. The passing of this bill protects the due rights process for individuals placed on these registries while maintaining the protection of our most vulnerable populations. Moreover, the contracting out for prevention services connects more families with local resources without formal entry into the child welfare system. I'm also supporting Senator Storer's AM1723. Thank you.

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**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Hardin. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized to speak.

**M. CAVANAUGH:** Thank you, Mr. President. I also rise in support of LB668 and AM1723, and I just wanted to take a moment to thank Senator Storer for her work on this bill. I think it's a really important piece of legislation. And the amendment, I know that she worked very hard with the Department of Health and Human Services and all of the advocates that have a deep investment in this, this legislation. And my main concern with the previous amendment that I had filed was undoing the privatization, the removal of privatization of child welfare that the Legislature enacted back in 2021, I believe. And so I am so grateful to Senator Storer for her diligent work on this and I look forward to voting green. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Storer, you're recognized to close on AM1723. And waive. Members, the question is the adoption of AM1723. All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 36 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** The amendment is adopted.

**CLERK:** I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Storer, you're recognized to close.

**STORER:** Thank you, Mr. President, and I will be brief. I just want to express my appreciation. A bill that has no fiscal note, that is common-sense, and is going to help families and connect them with services that already exist in their community, this is a good day. So I ask for your green vote on LB668.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Storer. Senators, the question is the advancement of LB668 to E&R Initial. All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 43 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** LB668 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.



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**CLERK:** Mr. President, next item. General File, LB518, introduced by Senator Juarez. It's a bill for an act relating to treatment in Corrections; it amends Section 83-1,100.03, Revised Statute-- Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change requirements for the report by the Department of Correctional Services and the Board of Parole; and repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 21 of 2025, and referred to the Judiciary Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Juarez, you're recognized to open.

**JUAREZ:** Thank you. Good morning, Mr. President, constituents, and colleagues. Today I rise to introduce LB518, which combines two reports released by the Department of Correctional Services. The bill was voted out from the Judiciary Committee 8-0 and placed on General File. The idea of this bill came from the 2024 Office of Inspector General of Corrections annual report on NDCS as a recommendation of policy changes for the department. There was no opposition in the hearing and has zero fiscal impact to the department and state, which I know my colleagues are very happy about that. This bill intends to combine two reports. The first report, the mandatory discharge report, is required by statute. It contains data about every parolee and every individual who was denied parole, as well as the recommendation for changes to policy and practices. The second report, the Division of Parole Supervision annual report, is not required by statute and contains data about parole revocations, individuals incarcerated past their parole eligibility date, and the cost-savings to the state resulting from individuals being paroled. Now that the division of parole supervision is under NDCS, combining these two reports is a no-brainer. This fix would provide a place to consolidate the data and keep it in one location. The, the data is already being collected and is valuable information for both the public and for the Legislature when crafting and guiding state policy or holding departments accountable. Data and information on our correctional facilities is crucial to our state. It helps the state save money and make necessary changes to keep our correction system effective and efficient. We must support keep-- keeping reporting critical information. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Juarez. Speaker Arch, you're recognized to speak.

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**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to let the Legislature know that I have a bill, LB1048, this year, and, and as I did last year, I had a bill that eliminated reports. And in that LB1048, the section, section deals with the reports that Senator Juarez is talking about. So she came to me and identified that, and I said, fine, great, we will, when LB1048 comes up, we'll make sure that it harmonizes. And I do support what Senator Juarez is doing. The reports that we want to eliminate in LB1048 are those reports that, that nobody is asking for and, and the time has passed for their usefulness, and it obviously costs a lot of money in total for all of these reports. So we're trying to get rid of those that, that people don't care about. But if, but if someone like Senator Juarez really cares about this particular report, we'll just back off that on LB1048 when it comes to the floor. So I do support what she's doing here. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Speaker Arch. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Juarez, you're recognized to close. And waive. Members, the question is the advancement of LB518 to E&R Initial. All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 40 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** LB518 is advanced to E&R Initial.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, next item, LB365, introduced by Senator Quick. It's a bill for an act relating to the Medical Assistance Act; requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide coverage and reimbursement for self-measured blood pressure monitoring systems as prescribed; and repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 16 of last year and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File with committee amendments, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Quick, you're recognized to open.

**QUICK:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. Today, I'm introducing LB365. LB365 codifies existing Medicaid coverage of self-measuring blood pressure devices and an extra cuff. The bill also adds coverage of clinical support services. The clinical support service are ongoing and management-- management services that require review of patient data. In this case, blood pressure measurements by a physician or qualified health care

professional to make treatment decisions based on that data that are then communicated back to the patient directly through the clinical staff. Self-measured blood pressure, or SMBP, monitoring is the regular measurement of blood pressure by the patient outside the clinic setting or either at home or elsewhere. It is a validated approach for out-of-office blood pressure measurement. Several national and international hypertension guidelines, including that of the American Heart Association and the American Medical Association, endorse the use of SMBP monitoring for the diagnosis and management of high blood pressure. High blood pressure usually has no signs or symptoms. That's why it's so dangerous. Nearly half of American, American population over the age of 20 has high-- high blood pressure and many don't even know it. That is why high blood is often referred to as a "silent killer." Not treating high blood pressure is dangerous as it increases the risk of heart attack and stroke. According to the projections from the American Heart Association, high blood pressure will increase from 51.2% to 61%. And since high blood pressure-- high blood pressure is a type of cardiovascular disease, that means more than 184 million people will have a clinical diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases by 2050, compared to 128 million in 2020. SMBP monitoring is associated with a reduction of blood pressure-- a reduction in blood pressure and improved blood pressure control. Lack of coverage for clinical support surfaces remains a barrier to the broad use of SMBP monitoring. LB365 addresses that barrier and will help the patient in combination with his or her health care team better-- to better manage their blood pressure. This bill will be, in its current form, would have a fiscal note. But there is an amendment from the committee, Health and Human Services Committee, that would reduce the coverage to pregnancy and post-mortem women to ensure that they would have that type of care. And that would reduce the fiscal note drastically. I will let Senator Hardin introduce that amendment, and then I would ask that LB365-- LB365 come out of Health and human Services Committee 7-0. There was no opposition testimony in the hearing. Thank you for your attention, and then I ask for your green vote on LB365 and the following amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Quick. As stated, there is a committee amendment. Senator Hardin, you're recognized to open.

**HARDIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. In brief review, LB365 proposed that Medicaid will cover and reimburse for at-home blood pressure monitoring for eligible patients. The bill sought to help people

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manage high blood pressure hypertension from home and improve communication with their doctors. AM816 to LB365 limits the scope of eligibility to pregnant and [MALFUNCTION] women, and focuses on frequent monitoring and streamlined data sharing. Blood pressure services must include education and training on home device setup and use, self-measured blood pressure readings, daily data collection, data transmission to health care provider for review and treatment planning. The HHS Committee advanced LB365, as was said before, by a 7-0 vote with AM816. I'd appreciate your green vote on both the AM and LB365. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Hardin. Returning to the queue, Senator Raybould, you're recognized to speak.

**RAYBOULD:** Thank you, Mr. President. I have a couple of questions of Senator Quick, particularly concerning the fiscal note, if he would be open to answering them.

**KELLY:** Senator Quick, would you yield to questions?

**QUICK:** Yes.

**RAYBOULD:** Thank you, Senator Quick. I noticed that this does have a fiscal note. Can you-- and I see the amendment would restrict it to a certain category of high-risk pregnancies, which I can appreciate. But can you tell me who would be responsible for funding that fiscal note? What department?

**QUICK:** OK, so with, with the amendment, we have to get it to a Select File to find out what the new fiscal note would be for the, the prenatal and postnatal care or blood, blood pressure monitoring. And what we were hearing from the department was that-- or the Fiscal Office was, once we see that note, that it might be so small that it could be absorbed within the, the DHHS's budget. So that's what they were referring us to.

**RAYBOULD:** So the current fiscal note is \$35,000, and that's with-- without the amendment. Is that correct?

**QUICK:** Well, that was for last year.

**RAYBOULD:** OK.

**QUICK:** So for this year, out of general funds, it would be, for the, for just the bill without the amendment, was \$70,006 out of the general funds. The federal funds that would come in were \$113,294. Total fiscal note would be \$183,300. So out of a General Fund, it would \$70,000, but we're looking at this would drastically reduce that fiscal note.

**RAYBOULD:** Another question I have is I'm, you know, concerned about anything that might add to our deficit, and that is a, a primary concern. I guess since it is a very small subset of individuals, there are many places that have blood pressure machines readily available. Could you talk more about the nature of this bill and why it was essential that these individuals have greater monitoring than trying to do self-monitoring?

**QUICK:** Yeah, well, this also includes the data collection and sending it to your physician from your home. So I think that's really the important part. You have, my wife was a labor and delivery nurse for 44 years. And she saw, saw a lot of women who came in, once they're in there, they start doing all their processes. They didn't know they had preeclampsia, but now all of a sudden they realize that they have preeclampsia. And that's a dangerous situation for a lot those mothers and for the baby itself. And so that's why we're looking at trying to reduce. Because I think in the end, if you're not-- if we're not doing this ahead of time and finding out maybe they have a high blood pressure issue and maybe the doctor can kind of help them with that, monitor it as they go along, you know, some people on Medicaid aren't probably doing their prenatal visits like they're supposed to. So this would be-- I'm hoping that, that with their-- if they have a doctor and if they can have their doctors, you know, get their doctor to, to help them with this, to help manage that care, this would be really important for, for them to help protect the mother and help protect the baby. And maybe reduce costs on the other end because the the loss of a mother or the-- or some of the circumstances that happen and during birthing can, can be, can be devastating and costly.

**RAYBOULD:** Senator Quick, I certainly and wholeheartedly support this endeavor. And there's no doubt that the United States of all the industrialized countries in the entire world has an embarrassingly high maternal mortality rate. And that should not be the case. The other question I have for you, have you extrapolated or do you have data from some of the health care providers? What subset or how many

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women, individuals, are we talking about? What is, like, what is the number that they based on getting some of the early projections for everyone, but then bringing it down to that subset? What numbers are they working with to, to get revised numbers to actually show what that fiscal note might be?

**QUICK:** Well, I think really what they'd be, for the Fiscal Office, they're going to be looking at, I'm going to guess that they're gonna gather their information with the Department of Health and Human Services on how many, how many women who are pregnant or having babies would be part of their numbers that they would have to determine the actual fiscal note. So I don't have any of those numbers, but hopefully if we get to Select File, they can redo the fiscal note and we can find out those numbers.

**RAYBOULD:** Thank you, Senator. I would really truly be interested in getting those numbers from now until the Select File. Is-- would the Department of Health and Human Services have ready access to them right now?

**KELLY:** That's your time, Senator. Thank you.

**RAYBOULD:** Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Raybould and Senator Quick. Seeing no one else in the queue, members, the question is the adoption of AM816. All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 31 ayes, 3 nays on adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** AM816 is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Quick would move to amend with AM1711.

**KELLY:** Senator Quick, you're recognized to open with your amendment.

**QUICK:** Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. This is a simple fix. Because this bill was brought last year, it was set to take effect on January 1 of 2026. We have to change the date to January of 2027. So I would appreciate your green vote on this bill--

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or this amendment to correct the, the language to reflect that. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Quick. Speaker Arch would like to recognize some guests in the north balcony, the Nebraska Volunteer Firefighters Association, members of the Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association, and the Tri-Mutual Aid Firefighters Association. Please stand and be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Speaker-- excuse me, Senator Quick would like to recognize in the north balcony the Grand Island Professional Firefighters. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Quick, you're recognized to close on AM1711. And waive. Members, the question is the adoption of AM1711. All those-- all those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 36 ayes, 2 nays, and adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** AM1711 is adopted. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Quick, you're recognized to close on LB365.

**QUICK:** Thank you, Mr. President. And I would just ask that to advance this on to Select File. We can then find out what the fiscal note would actually be. From my understanding, it will be drastically less, and this will help prevent a lot of issues for prenatal and postnatal care for, for pregnant women. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Quick. Members, the question is the advancement of LB365 to E&R Initial. All those in favor, vote aye. All those opposed, vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 34 ayes, 4 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** LB365 advances to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LB400. A priority motion. Senator Wordekemper, would move to indefinitely postpone the bill pursuant to Rule 6, Section 3(f).

**KELLY:** Senator Wordekemper, you're recognized to open on your motion.

**WORDEKEMPER:** Thank you Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Today I rise to introduce LB400, legislation that would ensure a medical expert is consulted in cases of occupational cancer experienced by

firefighters before their workers' compensation claim is denied. This bill is very important to me on behalf of all of the firefighters because it's about whether we stand with the men and women who protect us or whether we turn our backs on them when they need us most. As many of you know, before I came to this body, I served as a firefighter for 38 years, 30 years as a professional, and 8 years as volunteer. I've responded to thousands of calls. Today when I speak about what firefighters face, I'm not speculating, I'm not reading from a report, I'm telling you my lived experience and the experience of those here today. We now know firefighters are getting cancer from their occupation. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, conducted an extensive studies and found that firefighters face a 9% increase in cancer diagnosis and 14% increase in cancer-related deaths compared to the general population. According to the nation-- Nebraska response team, of the thousands of firefighters serving Nebraska, we have experienced nine line-of-duty deaths from occupational cancer since 2000. Every one of those firefighters left behind a family and every one of them deserved better than to be forced to prove their cancer was work-related while they were still fighting for their lives. In 2022, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, IARC, an independent international body that studies carcinogens, made a landmark designation that classified firefighting itself as a Group 1 carcinogen, the highest level of cancer risk. Group 1 means the chemical, or in this case, this entire profession, is carcinogenic to humans. Let me put that in perspective. The IARC recognizes 556 carcinogens across 4 classification groups. Of those, 135 are classified as Group 1. And within that Group 1 classification, only two entire professions are listed. Not the tasks within the profession, not the specific exposures, but the professions themselves. This isn't speculation, this isn't a theory, this is an established scientific fact from an independent international body. Congress directed the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, to study cancer-causing chemicals in firefighter gear. They found over 20 types of PFAS "forever chemicals" linked to cancer in turnout gear. These chemicals are required for water-resistant to prevent steam burns, but the gear-- but as the gear ages, it releases more carcinogens into the firefighters' bodies. So firefighters are required, required to wear gear that contains known carcinogens. What more proof does a dying firefighter need to prove this? I tell you this as to illustrate the fact that firefighters cannot escape exposure. It's not a matter of better training or safer procedures.



The carcinogens are built into the equipment they're required to wear to do the job we ask them to do. Now let me tell you about the Nebraska's current law because this is where the issue lies. Under current statute, if a firefighter dies of cancer, we presume it's occupational and pay line-of-duty deaths. But if that same firefighter is diagnosed with cancer while still alive, still fighting, still wanting to work, still wanting to serve, we deny their claim and then require them to prove it. We require them to hire a lawyer. We require them to fight insurance companies while they're fighting cancer. We require them to produce evidence and expert testimony while they are undergoing chemotherapy. All of this while they still trying to provide for their loved ones. I will run-- I will run you through exactly how the process currently works in my next speech. But remember this: we presume it's occupational cancer when we die, but not when we're alive. LB400 is straightforward. It creates a rebuttable presumption that certain cancers experienced by firefighters with at least five years of service are occupational disease covered by workers' comp. The cancers listed in this bill are not random. Every single one appears on the IARC list of known carcinogens, along with the specific chemicals that cause them, chemicals firefighters are exposed to on a regular basis. And let me be clear about what rebuttable presumption means, because the opposition will try to make it sound like this is an automatic payout with no accountability. It's not. A rebuttal presumption simply shifts the burden of proof. Instead of a sick firefighter having to prove their cancer is occupational, the employer must receive a medical opinion that it is not. If there is evidence that the cancer came from a different source, it can be presented to overcome the presumption. The standard here is a preponderance of evidence. This is typical in cases of workers' comp and means more likely than not. That's fair. What's not fair is making the firefighter fight an insurance company with attorneys and resources while fighting cancer to prove we already know from science that wearing contaminated gear and running into burning buildings filled with carcinogens cause cancer. We are not breaking new ground here, 28 states have similar legislation. Our neighbor, Iowa, started with 14 specific cancers and just last year expanded to cover all cancers for first responders. Furthermore, we know this is not a partisan issue. Republicans and Democrats at the state and federal level continue to recognize that supporting first responders and keeping them alive is in everyone's best interest. I want to acknowledge that I've heard concerns from the League of

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Municipalities and I've listed and I've responded. The committee amendment, which Senator Kauth will speak to, addresses concerns about physical examination requirements and further clarifies the rebuttable presumption language. Later in this debate, there will be an amendment addressing the League's primary concern, the inclusion of volunteer firefighters. To ensure the volunteers covered under this act are active volunteers, the amendment will include specific qualification threshold, 10 years of service, 40% of drill participation, 25% of emergency call response, mirroring Wyoming's successful presumption approach for their volunteers. Let me be clear, I very much prefer to keep volunteers in this bill. Cancer doesn't discriminate between paid and volunteer firefighters. But the League has made a volunteer inclusion one of their primary opposition points, calling this an unfunded mandate. So I'm offering solutions. I'm showing flexibility. I'm doing everything I can to address their concerns in good faith. This comes down to a simple choice. Do we recognize the scientific reality that firefighting is carcinogenic? Do we keep up with the Iowa and 27 other states who have figured this out? Or do we fall behind and continue to widen the competitive disadvantage for every fire department in Nebraska? I know what the right answer is, and I hope you do too. Firefighters don't wanna die. They don't want to leave their jobs, their families, their fellow firefighters. These are people who want to stay healthy, stay on the job, and keep serving. They're not looking for handouts. We presume it's occupational when they die. LB400 simply says we presume its occupational when they are alive and fighting to stay that way. I ask that we debate this bill before us today. I ask that we give firefighters the time in this process and the proper protections they deserve. I ask that we refrain from attaching hostile amendments that only jeopardizes bipartisan piece of legislation that will protect those who protect us. When the time comes, I ask for your green vote on LB400. I urge your support through this process. If you have questions or concerns, please come speak with me. Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Wordekemper. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Wordekemper has MO284.

**KELLY:** Senator, you're recognized to open on the amendment.

**WORDEKEMPER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I filed the motion to indefinitely postpone LB400. I will be voting against this motion and

I encourage all of you to do the same. I want to allow proper time for this legislation to be debated and I intend to call the question on this motion. I expect this to be a lengthier debate, and I'd like to use this time to address what we've been hearing from the opposition. Over the past several days, the League of Municipalities has sent a series of emails to senators, city administrators and-- I want to withdraw this motion.

\_\_\_\_\_: Objection.

**KELLY:** A motion to withdraw the motion, and there's been an objection. So returning to the queue, Senator Jacobson.

**JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise this morning to support the blocking motions and postponing that we find we could kill the, the bill right here. But if we get to LB400, I will be opposed. I'm opposed not because I oppose firefighters. My nephew is a paid firefighter. I still like my nephew. I'm not sure he thinks as much of me today as he did a year ago, but because I oppose this bill. But this is the mother of all unfunded mandates. OK? We're telling municipalities, talking about villages, villages in my district, that all of their volunteer fighters will be subject to this. Now, we talk about why do we eliminate volunteers. Well, volunteers are just that. It is a part-time, part-time job. They have full-time jobs that are likely going to expose them to other sources of carcinogens. They're also going to have lifestyle things that may be impacting their ability to get cancer. The scope of the exposure is immense. If you look at rebuttable preemption, you've basically opened up the floodgates that anyone gets cancer after 5 years on the job or 10 years a volunteer will file for this benefit. And the cost will go through the roof. Villages and cities will have to pay for it. And how do they pay for it? With property taxes. We had a discussion on Friday about unfunded mandates. We even talked about a bill that would mean that if there's an unfunded mandate, it would come back to the state and the state would pick it up. We're \$471 million in the red. Where are we supposed to get that money? This bill, contrary to what Senator Wordekemper said, does not mean that we're not backing firefighters. Of course we are. And if they can prove that this was cause of their employment as a firefighter, they will be paid out. There's a firefighter in Scotts Bluff that had passed away with an untimely death and was awarded \$600,000, as I understand it, in a settlement. This is happening now. The current law is working. No one's turning

their backs on firefighters. I look at our paid force in North Platte as a good example. Their benefits are all better than any other city employee. They get 90% of their health care paid for. Those of you that are working for a job, is, is 90% your health care being paid for? I doubt it. 90% of the health care, vision, all the other pieces that go with it. There's a 401K plan. If you're in Lincoln and Omaha, you got a defined benefit plan. That's even more lucrative. And you're getting paid pretty well if you're a paid firefighter. You choose to take this job. Farmers choose to farm are exposed to toxic chemicals. They're right at the top of those professions that are at risk. But they choose to take that job. And the way they handle that is they take health insurance and they buy additional life insurance. I look at where I'm at today. Some of you probably noticed I got a couple cuts on my face. Well, it wasn't from shaving. I had a skin check at the Med Center. I've been fighting cancer, most of you know, since I've in the Legislature. I've been taking infusions, I've been taking other treatments to fight a melanoma, likely caused from exposure to skin and family history. I've never been a firefighter, but gosh, somehow I've got cancer. So I'm dealing with it, OK? And this-- what's on my face is largely sun exposure, and I'm going to have to deal with that. Cancer happens. When you look at the number of people that have cancer, that they can't point to what really caused it, but I can tell you that cancer is pretty prevalent. Not every firefighter gets cancer. We're kind of led to believe that happens by wearing the gear. We ought to be focusing on how can we best take care of our firefighters, which we're doing with the other paid benefits, and we need to look at should there be more life insurance? I'm wide open to looking at other alternatives. This is the most--

**KELLY:** That's your time, Senator.

**JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. President.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Jacobson. Senator Hallstrom, you're recognized to speak.

**HALLSTROM:** Mr. President, members, I rise today in opposition to the current form and shape of LB400. I do appreciate the fact that Senator Wordekemper, despite wanting to remove his indefinite postponement motion, started out by saying he wanted full and fair debate on this. I think that's good. It's a worthy issue to discuss, not in its current form, but in terms of providing benefits to firefighters, both

volunteer and paid. I would, however, take exception to Senator Wordekemper's assertion that supporters stand with firefighters and opponents are turning their back on firefighters. Nothing could be further than the truth. My opposition to this is not against firefighters. In fact, I'm going to propose some amendments that I may or may not get to talk about today, but are designed to provide a meaningful benefit to firefighters. But when we look at the workers' compensation system, there is no other precedent for having a rebuttable presumption apply to a certain designated set of employees, whether they be public or private employees. At the committee hearing on this bill, some of the business representatives came in. And even though this bill would not affect them because they don't employ directly volunteer firefighters for workers' compensation purposes, they were worried about the proverbial camel's nose under the tent. Where do we go next in terms of individuals or types of groups that might be subject more likely than not to contracting cancer in the workplace? The cornerstone of the workers' compensation system and process has always been that the burden of proof is on the employee to come forward and prove up that their particular occupational disease, which this would be, or an injury incurred was incurred in the course and scope of their employment. And with the scientific evidence, which I would not dispute or refute that Senator Wordekemper has talked about, it would seem that proving up that burden of proof would be readily done in, in those cases in which benefits are deserved. But in terms of looking at some alternatives, and I have talked to Senator Wordekemper about this, and I'm hoping that he's keeping an, an open mind, particularly if we're looking at amendments that are going to throw the volunteer firefighters under the bus, is what it sounds like to me, in an effort to make it less costly so that we can roll over the cities and municipalities in terms of the unfunded mandate. And what I'm focusing my attention on is there is a current law, the Firefighters Cancer Benefits Act, which in general provides a lump sum benefit of \$25,000 for severe cancer diagnoses, another lump sum of \$6,250 if the cancer is treatable, a disability benefit of \$1,500 per month up to 36 consecutive months. By the way, the combination of those lump sum payments can run up to a total of \$50,000. And then wrapped up at the back end is a \$50,000 death benefit. Unfortunately, that law, even though it's on the books, has not been implemented to any effect because it's permissive rather than being mandatory. Senator McDonnell, who is a ardent supporter of paid firefighters, brought the original bill, LB299, for the Firefighter

Cancer Benefit Act. And he also then, when he saw that it wasn't working the way it was intended, he brought a bill, I think LB499, a few years later that was designed to have the State Fire Marshal pick up the cost for premium reimbursement for the cities to encourage and incentivize them to move forward. One last thing I'd like to say. Senator McDonnell, who again was a warrior for paid firefighters, when he introduced LB299, he said in part, the insurance benefits proposed in LB299 are the same type of benefits which have recently been extended to firefighters in Georgia and New York. He went on to say, in fact, as others today will testify to, the prohibitive cost of insurance premiums and placing similar coverage in workers' compensation-- which is exactly the rebuttable presumption under LB400-- make it financially impossible for cities, villages and fire districts to afford it. I know-- I've introduced LB299 in an effort to provide a more financially feasible option for this type of cancer insurance coverage. I would encourage my colleagues to look and listen closely to what the arguments are here. I think we're disrupting the workers' compensation system. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you, Senator Hallstrom. Mr. Clerk for items.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President. New bills. LB1147, introduced by Senator Conrad. It's a bill for an act relating to government; it requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to investigate and submit a quarterly report to the Legislature relating to any impoundment of funds by the Governor or any official or employee of the executive branch of state government, as prescribed; and declares an emergency. LB1148, introduced by Senator Hunt. It's a bill for an act relating to children and families; it provides for recognition and enforcement of parentage of children born from assisted reproduction; to define terms; to provide for civil; to provide for applicability. LB1149, introduced by Senator Hunt. It's a bill for an act relating to state government; amends Section 73-302, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; requires disclosure of state agency contracts with private entities that have contracts with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and repeal the original section. LB1150, introduced Senator Hunt. It's a bill for an act relating to the ImagiNE Nebraska Act; amends Section 77-6827, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to prohibit application approval of taxpayers entered into a contract with the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement; and harmonize provisions; and to repeal original section. LB1151, introduced by Senator Clouse. It's a bill for an act relating

to the Nebraska Liquor Control Act; to amend Section 53-116.02, 53-117.07, 53-123, 53-124.16, 53-131, 53-133, 53-134.03, 53-164.01, 53-1,115, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 53-103, 53-103.51, 53-124.11, 53-124.12, 53-132, 53-169, 53-171, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and Section 53-101, 53-123.01, 53-123.15, 53-123.17, 53-124, 53-124.01, 53-129, 53-134, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to define a term; to provide for a regional craft brewery license; to change provisions relating to the issuance and revocation of licenses, fees, taxes and operational requirements under the act; provide powers and duties to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission; harmonize provisions; repeal the original section. LB1152, introduced by Senator Ballard. It's a bill for an act relating to economic incentives; to adopt the New Taxpayer Recruitment Grant Act. LB1153, introduced by Senator Conrad. It's a bill for an act relating to the Consumer Protection Act; amends Section 59-1608.03, 59-1608.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Section 59-1608.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; change provisions relating to recovery under the act to provide a termination date for the State Settlement Cash Fund; provide powers and duties to the State Treasurer regarding any money in such fund; change provisions related to the State Settlement Trust Fund; harmonize provisions; repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. LB1154, introduced by Senator Riepe. It's a bill for an act relating to the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act; to amend Section 13-3403 of Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; change provisions relating to calculation of property tax requests authority; and repeal the original section. LB1155, introduced by Senator Dorn and others. It's a bill for an act relating to legislative oversight; amends Section 43-2108, 50-1205, 50-1803, 50-1805, 15-1812, 15-1912, 15-1918, 77-2711, 77-27,119, 83-4,134.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; change provisions relating to access to records of juvenile probation officers and annual report under the Legislative Performance Audit Act; change provisions of the Office of Inspector General of Child Welfare Act and the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System Act; change provisions related to audits involving tax information, room confinement of a juvenile in a juvenile facility; harmonize provisions; and repeal the original section. LB1156, introduced by Senator Spivey. It's a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; adopt the Divested Community Development Center Tax Credit Act; and provide an operative date. LB1157, introduced by Senator Hansen. It's a bill for an act relating to

insurance; provide payment method requirements for health insurance, health insurance vendors, care management organizations as prescribed. LB1158, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to motor carriers; to amend Section 75-304.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; change provisions relating to interstate transportation for hire of employees of a railroad carrier; and repeal the original section. LB1159, introduced by Senator Lonowski, at the request of the Governor. It's a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Hall of Fame; amends Section 72-728, Reissue Revised Statute of Nebraska; to require the naming of a person to the Nebraska Hall Of Fame; and repeal the original section. LB1116, introduced by Senator Hallstrom. It's a bill for an act related to property; amends Section 25-2701, 30-2301, 30-2302, 30-2322, 30-2323, 30-2325, 30-3803, 30-38,103, and 77-3503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and Sections 30-3801, 77-2204, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; change provisions relating to civil procedure and decedents' estates; redefine terms; change and add requirements relating to contracts to make or not to revoke a trust; penalties for contesting a trust and rules for construction of the interpretation of certain trust provisions; to allow certification of trust to establish ownership of a homestead; change provisions relating to persons who are subject to a certain inheritance tax rate; harmonize provisions; and repeal the original section. LB1161, introduced by Senator Juarez. It's a bill for an act relating to minors; amends Section 43-2101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; change provisions relating to the age of majority; and repeal the original section. LB1162, introduced by Senator Ballard. It's a bill for an act relating to the Public Service Commission; amends Section 75-401, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; change powers and duties of the Public Service Commission relating to railroad safety; and repeal the original section. LB1163, introduced by Senator Fredrickson. It's a bill for an act relating to Property Assessed Clean Energy Act; amends Section 13-3206, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; change provisions relating to delinquent annual assessments and PACE liens; repeal the original section; declare an emergency. LB1164, introduced Senator Lonowski. It's a bill for an act relating to post-secondary education; adopt the Prior Learning Act. LB1105 [SIC--LB1165], introduced by Senator von Gillern. It's a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; amends Section 49-801.01, 81-12,144, 81-12,146, 81-12,147, 81-12,148, and 81-12,149, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Section 77-6502, 77-6507, 77-6509, 77-6516, Revised Statutes



Cumulative Supplement, 2024, Section 77-6,831, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; change provisions relating to change in control and ownership under the Key Employer and Jobs Retention Act; change provisions relating to credit percentages under the Imagine Nebraska Act; to fund and provide for capital improvement grants to certain employers under the Site and Building Development Act; to create a grant program managed by the Department of Labor to provide additional support to certain employees-- employers who experience a change in ownership to control and retain and attract workforce in the state; harmonize divisions, provide severability; repeal the original section; and declare an emergency. New LR307, introduced by Senator Wordekemper. LR308, introduced by Senator Lonowski. LR309 from Senator Lonowski. LR310 from-- those will all be laid over. Additionally, LR310 from Senator Jacobson, interim study that will be referred to the Executive Board. Additional items. Senat-- amendment to be printed from Senator Riepe to LB437 and communication from Senator Kauth designating LB730 as her personal priority. Senator Kauth, LB730, personal priority bill. A series of name-adds. Senator Juarez, name added to LB304. Conrad, LB440. Spivey, LB518. Dover, LB938. von Gillern, LB1059. Spivey, LB1111. Hunt, name withdrawn from LB1066. Notice that the Referencing Committee will meet in 1524 upon adjournment. Referencing, 1524 upon adjournment. Finally, Mr. President, a priority motion. Senator Fredrickson would move to adjourn the body until Wednesday, January 21, at 9:00 a.m.

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