

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 268**

Introduced by Schumacher, 22; Kintner, 2.

Read first time January 11, 2017

Committee: Judiciary

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to medical assistance; to amend sections  
2 24-517, 25-2154, 30-2483, 30-3880, 30-3881, 30-3882, 33-109, and  
3 44-371, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 52-1004,  
4 68-901, 68-919, 71-605, 77-2018.02, and 77-3903, Revised Statutes  
5 Cumulative Supplement, 2016; to change and eliminate provisions  
6 relating to court jurisdiction, certain recording fees, and medical  
7 assistance reimbursement; to change the Medical Assistance Act as  
8 prescribed; to harmonize provisions; to provide severability; and to  
9 repeal the original sections.  
10 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 24-517, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 24-517 Each county court shall have the following jurisdiction:

4 (1) Exclusive original jurisdiction of all matters relating to  
5 decedents' estates, including the probate of wills and the construction  
6 thereof, except as provided in subsection (c) of section 30-2464 and  
7 section 30-2486;

8 (2) Exclusive original jurisdiction in all matters relating to the  
9 guardianship of a person, except if a separate juvenile court already has  
10 jurisdiction over a child in need of a guardian, concurrent original  
11 jurisdiction with the separate juvenile court in such guardianship;

12 (3) Exclusive original jurisdiction of all matters relating to  
13 conservatorship of any person, including (a) original jurisdiction to  
14 consent to and authorize a voluntary selection, partition, and setoff of  
15 a ward's interest in real estate owned in common with others and to  
16 exercise any right of the ward in connection therewith which the ward  
17 could exercise if competent and (b) original jurisdiction to license the  
18 sale of such real estate for cash or on such terms of credit as shall  
19 seem best calculated to produce the highest price subject only to the  
20 requirements set forth in section 30-3201;

21 (4) Concurrent jurisdiction with the district court to involuntarily  
22 partition a ward's interest in real estate owned in common with others;

23 (5) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court in all  
24 civil actions of any type when the amount in controversy is forty-five  
25 thousand dollars or less through June 30, 2005, and as set by the Supreme  
26 Court pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subdivision on and after July  
27 1, 2005.

28 (a) When the pleadings or discovery proceedings in a civil action  
29 indicate that the amount in controversy is greater than the  
30 jurisdictional amount of subdivision (5) of this section, the county  
31 court shall, upon the request of any party, certify the proceedings to

1 the district court as provided in section 25-2706. An award of the county  
2 court which is greater than the jurisdictional amount of subdivision (5)  
3 of this section is not void or unenforceable because it is greater than  
4 such amount, however, if an award of the county court is greater than the  
5 jurisdictional amount, the county court shall tax as additional costs the  
6 difference between the filing fee in district court and the filing fee in  
7 county court.

8 (b) The Supreme Court shall adjust the jurisdictional amount for the  
9 county court every fifth year commencing July 1, 2005. The adjusted  
10 jurisdictional amount shall be equal to the then current jurisdictional  
11 amount adjusted by the average percentage change in the unadjusted  
12 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Federal  
13 Bureau of Labor Statistics for the five-year period preceding the  
14 adjustment date. The jurisdictional amount shall be rounded to the  
15 nearest one-thousand-dollar amount;

16 (6) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court in any  
17 criminal matter classified as a misdemeanor or for any infraction. The  
18 district court shall have concurrent original jurisdiction in any  
19 criminal matter classified as a misdemeanor that arises from the same  
20 incident as a charged felony;

21 (7) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court in  
22 domestic relations matters as defined in section 25-2740 and with the  
23 district court and separate juvenile court in paternity or custody  
24 determinations as provided in section 25-2740;

25 (8) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court in  
26 matters arising under the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code;

27 (9) Exclusive original jurisdiction in any action based on violation  
28 of a city or village ordinance, except with respect to violations  
29 committed by persons under eighteen years of age;

30 (10) The jurisdiction of a juvenile court as provided in the  
31 Nebraska Juvenile Code when sitting as a juvenile court in counties which

1 have not established separate juvenile courts;

2 (11) Exclusive original jurisdiction in matters of adoption, except  
3 if a separate juvenile court already has jurisdiction over the child to  
4 be adopted, concurrent original jurisdiction with the separate juvenile  
5 court;

6 (12) Exclusive original jurisdiction in matters arising under the  
7 Nebraska Uniform Custodial Trust Act;

8 (13) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court in any  
9 matter relating to a power of attorney and the action or inaction of any  
10 agent acting under a power of attorney;

11 (14) Exclusive original jurisdiction in any action arising under  
12 sections 30-3401 to 30-3432;

13 (15) Exclusive original jurisdiction in matters arising under the  
14 Nebraska Uniform Transfers to Minors Act;

15 (16) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court in  
16 matters arising under the Uniform Principal and Income Act;

17 (17) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court in  
18 matters arising under the Uniform Testamentary Additions to Trusts Act  
19 (1991) except as otherwise provided in subdivision (1) of this section;

20 and

21 (18) Concurrent original jurisdiction with the district court to  
22 determine contribution rights under section 68-919; and

23 (19) ~~(18)~~ All other jurisdiction heretofore provided and not  
24 specifically repealed by Laws 1972, Legislative Bill 1032, and such other  
25 jurisdiction as hereafter provided by law.

26 Sec. 2. Section 25-2154, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
27 amended to read:

28 25-2154 In all cases of foreclosure of mortgages in the several  
29 counties in the state, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the district  
30 court, on the satisfaction or payment of the amount of the decree, to  
31 forward to the register of deeds a certificate setting forth the names of

1 parties, plaintiff and defendant, descriptions of the premises mentioned  
2 in the decree, and the book and page where the mortgage foreclosed is  
3 recorded. For such certificate the clerk of the district court shall  
4 collect, ~~until January 1, 2018,~~ the fee required pursuant to section  
5 33-109 for recording the certificate ~~or, on and after January 1, 2018, a~~  
6 ~~fee of three dollars.~~ Such amount shall be taxed as part of the costs in  
7 the case, and such sum shall be paid to the register of deeds as the fee  
8 for recording the certificate.

9 Sec. 3. Section 30-2483, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
10 amended to read:

11 30-2483 (a) Unless notice has already been given under this article  
12 and except when an appointment of a personal representative is made  
13 pursuant to subdivision (4) of section 30-2408, the clerk of the court  
14 upon the appointment of a personal representative shall publish a notice  
15 once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general  
16 circulation in the county announcing the appointment and the address of  
17 the personal representative, and notifying creditors of the estate to  
18 present their claims within two months after the date of the first  
19 publication of the notice or be forever barred. The first publication  
20 shall be made within thirty days after the appointment. The party  
21 instituting or maintaining the proceeding or his or her attorney is  
22 required to mail the published notice and give proof thereof in  
23 accordance with section 25-520.01.

24 (b) If the decedent was fifty-five years of age or older or resided  
25 in a medical institution as defined in subsection (1) of section 68-919,  
26 the notice shall also be provided ~~mailed~~ to the Department of Health and  
27 Human Services with the decedent's social security number and, if the  
28 decedent was predeceased by a spouse available upon reasonable  
29 investigation, the name and social security number of ~~the decedent's~~  
30 spouse if such spouse is deceased. The notice shall be provided to the  
31 department in a delivery manner and at an address designated by the

1 department, which manner may include email. The department shall post the  
2 acceptable manner of delivering notice on its web site. Any notice that  
3 fails to conform with such manner is void and constitutes neither notice  
4 to the department nor a waiver application for purposes of any statute or  
5 regulation that requires that a notice or waiver application be provided  
6 to the department.

7 Sec. 4. Section 30-3880, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
8 amended to read:

9 30-3880 (UTC 815) (a) A trustee, without authorization by the court,  
10 may exercise:

11 (1) powers conferred by the terms of the trust; and

12 (2) except as limited by the terms of the trust:

13 (A) all powers over the trust property which an unmarried competent  
14 owner has over individually owned property;

15 (B) any other powers appropriate to achieve the proper investment,  
16 management, and distribution of the trust property; and

17 (C) any other powers conferred by the Nebraska Uniform Trust Code.

18 (b) The exercise of a power is subject to the fiduciary duties  
19 prescribed by sections 30-3866 to 30-3882.

20 (c) After the death of the trustor occurring after August 30, 2015,  
21 a trustee of a revocable trust which has become irrevocable by reason of  
22 the death of the trustor shall not transfer trust property to a  
23 beneficiary described in section 77-2004 or 77-2005 in relation to the  
24 trustor prior to satisfaction of all claims for medical assistance  
25 ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the extent necessary  
26 to discharge any such claim remaining unpaid after application of the  
27 assets of the trustor's probate estate. The Department of Health and  
28 Human Services may, upon application of a trustee, waive the restriction  
29 on transfers established by this subsection in cases in which the  
30 department determines that either there is no medical assistance ~~medicaid~~  
31 reimbursement due or after the proposed transfer is made there will be

1 sufficient assets remaining in the trust or trustor's probate estate to  
2 satisfy all such claims for medical assistance ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement. If  
3 there is no medical assistance ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement due, the department  
4 shall waive the restriction within sixty days after receipt of the  
5 trustee's request for waiver and the deceased trustor's name and social  
6 security number and, if the trustor was predeceased by a spouse available  
7 ~~upon reasonable investigation~~, the name and social security number of the  
8 ~~trustor's spouse if such spouse is deceased~~. A trustee who is a financial  
9 institution as defined in section 77-3801, a trust company chartered  
10 pursuant to the Nebraska Trust Company Act, or an attorney licensed to  
11 practice in this state may distribute assets from the trust prior to the  
12 receipt of the waiver from the department if the trustee signs a recital  
13 under oath ~~and mailed by certified mail to the department~~ that states the  
14 decedent's name and social security number and, if the decedent was  
15 predeceased by a spouse available upon reasonable investigation, the name  
16 and social security number of ~~the decedent's spouse if such spouse is~~  
17 ~~deceased~~, and that the trustor was not a recipient of medical assistance  
18 and no claims for medical assistance exist under section 68-919. The  
19 trustee shall send such recital to the department. A trustee who makes  
20 such a recital knowing the recital is false becomes personally liable for  
21 medical assistance reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the extent  
22 of the assets distributed from the trust necessary to discharge any such  
23 claim remaining unpaid after application of the assets of the  
24 transferor's probate estate. The request for waiver and the recital  
25 described in this subsection shall be provided to the department in a  
26 delivery manner and at an address designated by the department, which  
27 manner may include email. The department shall post the acceptable manner  
28 of delivery on its web site. Any request for waiver or recital that fails  
29 to conform with such manner is void.

30 Sec. 5. Section 30-3881, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
31 amended to read:

1           30-3881 (UTC 816) (a) Without limiting the authority conferred by  
2 section 30-3880, a trustee may:

3           (1) collect trust property and accept or reject additions to the  
4 trust property from a settlor or any other person;

5           (2) acquire or sell property, for cash or on credit, at public or  
6 private sale;

7           (3) exchange, partition, or otherwise change the character of trust  
8 property;

9           (4) deposit trust money in an account in a regulated financial-  
10 service institution;

11           (5) borrow money, including from the trustee, with or without  
12 security, and mortgage or pledge trust property for a period within or  
13 extending beyond the duration of the trust;

14           (6) with respect to an interest in a proprietorship, partnership,  
15 limited liability company, business trust, corporation, or other form of  
16 business or enterprise, continue the business or other enterprise and  
17 take any action that may be taken by shareholders, members, or property  
18 owners, including merging, dissolving, or otherwise changing the form of  
19 business organization or contributing additional capital;

20           (7) with respect to stocks or other securities, exercise the rights  
21 of an absolute owner, including the right to:

22           (A) vote, or give proxies to vote, with or without power of  
23 substitution, or enter into or continue a voting trust agreement;

24           (B) hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form  
25 without disclosure of the trust so that title may pass by delivery;

26           (C) pay calls, assessments, and other sums chargeable or accruing  
27 against the securities, and sell or exercise stock subscription or  
28 conversion rights; and

29           (D) deposit the securities with a depository or other regulated  
30 financial-service institution;

31           (8) with respect to an interest in real property, construct, or make

1 ordinary or extraordinary repairs to, alterations to, or improvements in,  
2 buildings or other structures, demolish improvements, raze existing or  
3 erect new party walls or buildings, subdivide or develop land, dedicate  
4 land to public use or grant public or private easements, and make or  
5 vacate plats and adjust boundaries;

6 (9) enter into a lease for any purpose as lessor or lessee,  
7 including a lease or other arrangement for exploration and removal of  
8 natural resources, with or without the option to purchase or renew, for a  
9 period within or extending beyond the duration of the trust;

10 (10) grant an option involving a sale, lease, or other disposition  
11 of trust property or acquire an option for the acquisition of property,  
12 including an option exercisable beyond the duration of the trust, and  
13 exercise an option so acquired;

14 (11) insure the property of the trust against damage or loss and  
15 insure the trustee, the trustee's agents, and beneficiaries against  
16 liability arising from the administration of the trust;

17 (12) abandon or decline to administer property of no value or of  
18 insufficient value to justify its collection or continued administration;

19 (13) with respect to possible liability for violation of  
20 environmental law:

21 (A) inspect or investigate property the trustee holds or has been  
22 asked to hold, or property owned or operated by an organization in which  
23 the trustee holds or has been asked to hold an interest, for the purpose  
24 of determining the application of environmental law with respect to the  
25 property;

26 (B) take action to prevent, abate, or otherwise remedy any actual or  
27 potential violation of any environmental law affecting property held  
28 directly or indirectly by the trustee, whether taken before or after the  
29 assertion of a claim or the initiation of governmental enforcement;

30 (C) decline to accept property into trust or disclaim any power with  
31 respect to property that is or may be burdened with liability for

1 violation of environmental law;

2 (D) compromise claims against the trust which may be asserted for an  
3 alleged violation of environmental law; and

4 (E) pay the expense of any inspection, review, abatement, or  
5 remedial action to comply with environmental law;

6 (14) pay or contest any claim, settle a claim by or against the  
7 trust, and release, in whole or in part, a claim belonging to the trust;

8 (15) pay taxes, assessments, compensation of the trustee and of  
9 employees and agents of the trust, and other expenses incurred in the  
10 administration of the trust;

11 (16) exercise elections with respect to federal, state, and local  
12 taxes;

13 (17) select a mode of payment under any employee benefit or  
14 retirement plan, annuity, or life insurance payable to the trustee,  
15 exercise rights thereunder, including exercise of the right to  
16 indemnification for expenses and against liabilities, and take  
17 appropriate action to collect the proceeds;

18 (18) make loans out of trust property, including loans to a  
19 beneficiary on terms and conditions the trustee considers to be fair and  
20 reasonable under the circumstances, and the trustee has a lien on future  
21 distributions for repayment of those loans;

22 (19) pledge trust property to guarantee loans made by others to the  
23 beneficiary;

24 (20) appoint a trustee to act in another jurisdiction with respect  
25 to trust property located in the other jurisdiction, confer upon the  
26 appointed trustee all of the powers and duties of the appointing trustee,  
27 require that the appointed trustee furnish security, and remove any  
28 trustee so appointed;

29 (21) pay an amount distributable to a beneficiary who is under a  
30 legal disability or who the trustee reasonably believes is incapacitated,  
31 by paying it directly to the beneficiary or applying it for the

1 beneficiary's benefit, or by:

2 (A) paying it to the beneficiary's conservator or, if the  
3 beneficiary does not have a conservator, the beneficiary's guardian;

4 (B) paying it to the beneficiary's custodian under the Nebraska  
5 Uniform Transfers to Minors Act or custodial trustee under the Nebraska  
6 Uniform Custodial Trust Act, and, for that purpose, creating a  
7 custodianship or custodial trust;

8 (C) if the trustee does not know of a conservator, guardian,  
9 custodian, or custodial trustee, paying it to an adult relative or other  
10 person having legal or physical care or custody of the beneficiary, to be  
11 expended on the beneficiary's behalf; or

12 (D) managing it as a separate fund on the beneficiary's behalf,  
13 subject to the beneficiary's continuing right to withdraw the  
14 distribution;

15 (22) on distribution of trust property or the division or  
16 termination of a trust, make distributions in divided or undivided  
17 interests, allocate particular assets in proportionate or  
18 disproportionate shares, value the trust property for those purposes, and  
19 adjust for resulting differences in valuation;

20 (23) resolve a dispute concerning the interpretation of the trust or  
21 its administration by mediation, arbitration, or other procedure for  
22 alternative dispute resolution;

23 (24) prosecute or defend an action, claim, or judicial proceeding in  
24 any jurisdiction to protect trust property and the trustee in the  
25 performance of the trustee's duties;

26 (25) sign and deliver contracts and other instruments that are  
27 useful to achieve or facilitate the exercise of the trustee's powers; and

28 (26) on termination of the trust, exercise the powers appropriate to  
29 wind up the administration of the trust and distribute the trust property  
30 to the persons entitled to it.

31 (b) After the death of the trustor occurring after August 30, 2015,

1 a trustee of a revocable trust which has become irrevocable by reason of  
2 the death of the trustor shall not transfer trust property to a  
3 beneficiary described in section 77-2004 or 77-2005 in relation to the  
4 trustor prior to satisfaction of all claims for medical assistance  
5 ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the extent necessary  
6 to discharge any such claim remaining unpaid after application of the  
7 assets of the trustor's probate estate. The Department of Health and  
8 Human Services may, upon application of a trustee, waive the restriction  
9 on transfers established by this subsection in cases in which the  
10 department determines that either there is no medical assistance ~~medicaid~~  
11 reimbursement due or after the proposed transfer is made there will be  
12 sufficient assets remaining in the trust or trustor's probate estate to  
13 satisfy all such claims for medical assistance ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement. If  
14 there is no medical assistance ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement due, the department  
15 shall waive the restriction within sixty days after receipt of the  
16 trustee's request for waiver and the deceased trustor's name and social  
17 security number and, if the trustor was predeceased by a spouse available  
18 ~~upon reasonable investigation~~, the name and social security number of the  
19 ~~trustor's spouse if such spouse is deceased~~. A trustee who is a financial  
20 institution as defined in section 77-3801, a trust company chartered  
21 pursuant to the Nebraska Trust Company Act, or an attorney licensed to  
22 practice in this state may distribute assets from the trust prior to the  
23 receipt of the waiver from the department if the trustee signs a recital  
24 under oath ~~and mailed by certified mail to the department~~ that states the  
25 decedent's name and social security number and, if the decedent was  
26 predeceased by a spouse available upon reasonable investigation, the name  
27 and social security number of ~~the decedent's spouse if such spouse is~~  
28 ~~deceased~~, and that the trustor was not a recipient of medical assistance  
29 and no claims for medical assistance exist under section 68-919. The  
30 trustee shall send such recital to the department. A trustee who makes  
31 such a recital knowing the recital is false becomes personally liable for

1 medical assistance reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the extent  
2 of the assets distributed from the trust necessary to discharge any such  
3 claim remaining unpaid after application of the assets of the  
4 transferor's probate estate. The request for waiver and the recital  
5 described in this subsection shall be provided to the department in a  
6 delivery manner and at an address designated by the department, which  
7 manner may include email. The department shall post the acceptable manner  
8 of delivery on its web site. Any request for waiver or recital that fails  
9 to conform with such manner is void.

10 Sec. 6. Section 30-3882, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
11 amended to read:

12 30-3882 (UTC 817) (a) Except as limited in subsection (d) of this  
13 section, upon termination or partial termination of a trust, the trustee  
14 may send to the beneficiaries a proposal for distribution. The right of  
15 any beneficiary to object to the proposed distribution terminates if the  
16 beneficiary does not notify the trustee of an objection within thirty  
17 days after the proposal was sent but only if the proposal informed the  
18 beneficiary of the right to object and of the time allowed for objection.

19 (b) Except as limited in subsection (d) of this section, upon the  
20 occurrence of an event terminating or partially terminating a trust, the  
21 trustee shall proceed expeditiously to distribute the trust property to  
22 the persons entitled to it, subject to the right of the trustee to retain  
23 a reasonable reserve for the payment of debts, expenses, and taxes.

24 (c) A release by a beneficiary of a trustee from liability for  
25 breach of trust is invalid to the extent:

26 (1) it was induced by improper conduct of the trustee; or

27 (2) the beneficiary, at the time of the release, did not know of the  
28 beneficiary's rights or of the material facts relating to the breach.

29 (d) After the death of the trustor occurring after August 30, 2015,  
30 a trustee of a revocable trust which has become irrevocable by reason of  
31 the death of the trustor shall not transfer trust property to a

1 beneficiary described in section 77-2004 or 77-2005 in relation to the  
2 trustor prior to satisfaction of all claims for medical assistance  
3 ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the extent necessary  
4 to discharge any such claim remaining unpaid after application of the  
5 assets of the trustor's probate estate. The Department of Health and  
6 Human Services may, upon application of a trustee, waive the restriction  
7 on transfers established by this subsection in cases in which the  
8 department determines that either there is no medical assistance ~~medicaid~~  
9 reimbursement due or after the proposed transfer is made there will be  
10 sufficient assets remaining in the trust or trustor's probate estate to  
11 satisfy all such claims for medical assistance ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement. If  
12 there is no medical assistance ~~medicaid~~ reimbursement due, the department  
13 shall waive the restriction within sixty days after receipt of the  
14 trustee's request for waiver and the deceased trustor's name and social  
15 security number and, if the trustor was predeceased by a spouse ~~available~~  
16 ~~upon reasonable investigation~~, the name and social security number of the  
17 ~~trustor's spouse if such spouse is deceased~~. A trustee who is a financial  
18 institution as defined in section 77-3801, a trust company chartered  
19 pursuant to the Nebraska Trust Company Act, or an attorney licensed to  
20 practice in this state may distribute assets from the trust prior to the  
21 receipt of the waiver from the department if the trustee signs a recital  
22 under oath ~~and mailed by certified mail to the department~~ that states the  
23 decedent's name and social security number and, if the decedent was  
24 predeceased by a spouse ~~available upon reasonable investigation~~, the name  
25 and social security number of the ~~decedent's spouse if such spouse is~~  
26 ~~deceased~~, and that the trustor was not a recipient of medical assistance  
27 and no claims for medical assistance exist under section 68-919. The  
28 trustee shall send such recital to the department. A trustee who makes  
29 such a recital knowing the recital is false becomes personally liable for  
30 medical assistance reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the extent  
31 of the assets distributed from the trust necessary to discharge any such

1 claim remaining unpaid after application of the assets of the  
2 transferor's probate estate. The request for waiver and the recital  
3 described in this subsection shall be provided to the department in a  
4 delivery manner and at an address designated by the department, which  
5 manner may include email. The department shall post the acceptable manner  
6 of delivery on its web site. Any request for waiver or recital that fails  
7 to conform with such manner is void.

8 Sec. 7. Section 33-109, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
9 amended to read:

10 33-109 ~~(1) (1)(a) This subdivision applies until January 1, 2018.~~  
11 The register of deeds and the county clerk shall receive for recording a  
12 deed, mortgage, or release, recording and indexing of a will, recording  
13 and indexing of a decree in a testate estate, recording proof of  
14 publication, or recording any other instrument, a fee of ten dollars for  
15 the first page and six dollars for each additional page. Two dollars and  
16 fifty cents of the ten-dollar fee for recording the first page and fifty  
17 cents of the six-dollar fee for recording each additional page shall be  
18 used exclusively for the purposes of preserving and maintaining public  
19 records of the office of the register of deeds and for modernization and  
20 technology needs relating to such records and preserving and maintaining  
21 public records of a register of deeds office that has been consolidated  
22 with another county office pursuant to section 22-417 and for  
23 modernization and technology needs relating to such records. The funds  
24 allocated under this subsection ~~subdivision~~ shall not be substituted for  
25 other allocations of county general funds to the register of deeds or any  
26 other county office for the purposes enumerated in this subsection  
27 ~~subdivision.~~

28 ~~(b) This subdivision applies on and after January 1, 2018. The~~  
29 ~~register of deeds and the county clerk shall receive for recording a~~  
30 ~~deed, mortgage, or release, recording and indexing of a will, recording~~  
31 ~~and indexing of a decree in a testate estate, recording proof of~~

1 ~~publication, or recording any other instrument, a fee of five dollars per~~  
2 ~~page. For entering each instrument presented for record in the numerical~~  
3 ~~index, the clerk or register of deeds shall receive the sum of fifty~~  
4 ~~cents for each lot and each single block without lots in platted areas~~  
5 ~~and fifty cents for each section in unplatted areas to be paid in advance~~  
6 ~~by the person offering the instrument for record.~~

7 (2) The cost for a certified copy of any instrument filed or  
8 recorded in the office of county clerk or register of deeds shall be one  
9 dollar and fifty cents per page.

10 (3) No fees shall be received for recording instruments for the  
11 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 12 of this  
12 act.

13 Sec. 8. Section 44-371, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
14 amended to read:

15 44-371 (1)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b) of this  
16 section and in section 68-919, all proceeds, cash values, and benefits  
17 accruing under any annuity contract, under any policy or certificate of  
18 life insurance payable upon the death of the insured to a beneficiary  
19 other than the estate of the insured, or under any accident or health  
20 insurance policy shall be exempt from attachment, garnishment, or other  
21 legal or equitable process and from all claims of creditors of the  
22 insured and of the beneficiary if related to the insured by blood or  
23 marriage, unless a written assignment to the contrary has been obtained  
24 by the claimant.

25 (b) Subdivision (1)(a) of this section shall not apply to:

26 (i) An individual's aggregate interests greater than one hundred  
27 thousand dollars in all loan values or cash values of all matured or  
28 unmatured life insurance contracts and in all proceeds, cash values, or  
29 benefits accruing under all annuity contracts owned by such individual;  
30 and

31 (ii) An individual's interest in all loan values or cash values of

1 all matured or unmatured life insurance contracts and in all proceeds,  
2 cash values, or benefits accruing under all annuity contracts owned by  
3 such individual, to the extent that the loan values or cash values of any  
4 matured or unmatured life insurance contract or the proceeds, cash  
5 values, or benefits accruing under any annuity contract were established  
6 or increased through contributions, premiums, or any other payments made  
7 within three years prior to bankruptcy or within three years prior to  
8 entry against the individual of a money judgment which thereafter becomes  
9 final.

10 (c) An insurance company shall not be liable or responsible to any  
11 person to determine or ascertain the existence or identity of any such  
12 creditors prior to payment of any such loan values, cash values,  
13 proceeds, or benefits.

14 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, proceeds, cash  
15 values, and benefits accruing under any annuity contract or under any  
16 policy or certificate of life insurance payable upon the death of the  
17 insured to a beneficiary other than the estate of the insured shall not  
18 be exempt from attachment, garnishment, or other legal or equitable  
19 process by a judgment creditor of the beneficiary if the judgment against  
20 the beneficiary was based on, arose from, or was related to an act,  
21 transaction, or course of conduct for which the beneficiary has been  
22 convicted by any court of a crime punishable only by life imprisonment or  
23 death. No insurance company shall be liable or responsible to any person  
24 to determine or ascertain the existence or identity of any such judgment  
25 creditor prior to payment of any such proceeds, cash values, or benefits.  
26 This subsection shall apply to any judgment rendered on or after January  
27 1, 1995, irrespective of when the criminal conviction is or was rendered  
28 and irrespective of whether proceedings for attachment, garnishment, or  
29 other legal or equitable process were pending on March 14, 1997.

30 Sec. 9. Section 52-1004, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
31 2016, is amended to read:

1           52-1004 ~~(1) (1)(a) This subdivision applies until January 1, 2018.~~  
2           The uniform fee, payable to the Secretary of State, for presenting for  
3           filing and indexing and for filing and indexing each notice of lien or  
4           certificate or notice affecting the lien pursuant to the Uniform Federal  
5           Lien Registration Act shall be two times the fee required for recording  
6           instruments with the register of deeds as provided in section 33-109.  
7           There shall be no fee for the filing of a termination statement. The  
8           uniform fee for each county more than one designated pursuant to  
9           subsection (1) of section 52-1001 shall be the fee required for recording  
10          instruments with the register of deeds as provided in section 33-109. The  
11          Secretary of State shall deposit each fee received pursuant to this  
12          subsection ~~subdivision~~ in the Uniform Commercial Code Cash Fund. Of the  
13          fees received and deposited pursuant to this subsection ~~subdivision~~, the  
14          Secretary of State shall remit the fee required for recording instruments  
15          with the register of deeds as provided in section 33-109 to the register  
16          of deeds of a county for each designation of such county in a filing  
17          pursuant to subsection (1) of section 52-1001.

18          ~~(b) This subdivision applies on and after January 1, 2018. The~~  
19          ~~uniform fee, payable to the Secretary of State, for presenting for filing~~  
20          ~~and indexing and for filing and indexing each notice of lien or~~  
21          ~~certificate or notice affecting the lien pursuant to the Uniform Federal~~  
22          ~~Lien Registration Act shall be six dollars. There shall be no fee for the~~  
23          ~~filing of a termination statement. The uniform fee for each county more~~  
24          ~~than one designated pursuant to subsection (1) of section 52-1001 shall~~  
25          ~~be three dollars. The Secretary of State shall deposit each fee received~~  
26          ~~pursuant to this subdivision in the Uniform Commercial Code Cash Fund. Of~~  
27          ~~the fees received and deposited pursuant to this subdivision, the~~  
28          ~~Secretary of State shall remit three dollars to the register of deeds of~~  
29          ~~a county for each designation of such county in a filing pursuant to~~  
30          ~~subsection (1) of section 52-1001.~~

31          (2) The Secretary of State shall bill the district directors of

1 internal revenue or other appropriate federal officials on a monthly  
2 basis for fees for documents presented or filed by them.

3 Sec. 10. Section 68-901, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
4 2016, is amended to read:

5 68-901 Sections 68-901 to 68-976 and sections 11 to 13 of this act  
6 shall be known and may be cited as the Medical Assistance Act.

7 Sec. 11. (1) This section shall apply to the fullest extent  
8 permitted by federal law and understandings entered into between the  
9 state and the federal government. An applicant for medical assistance, or  
10 a person acting on behalf of the applicant, shall disclose at the time of  
11 application and, to the extent not owned at the time of application, at  
12 the time of any subsequent review of the applicant's eligibility for  
13 medical assistance all of his or her interests in any real estate, trust,  
14 corporation, limited liability company, or other entity, whether such  
15 interest is direct or indirect, vested or contingent, or otherwise. The  
16 applicant or a person acting on behalf of the applicant shall also  
17 disclose:

18 (a) Any income derived from such interests and the source of the  
19 income; and

20 (b) Whether the income is generated directly or indirectly from (i)  
21 the applicant's spouse or an individual who is related to the applicant  
22 as described in section 77-2004 or 77-2005 or (ii) an entity controlled  
23 by one or more individuals described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) of this  
24 section. For purposes of this subdivision, control means individuals  
25 listed in subdivision (1)(b)(i) of this section together own or have the  
26 option to acquire more than fifty percent of the entity.

27 (2) If the applicant or a person acting on behalf of the applicant  
28 willfully fails to make the disclosures required in this section, any  
29 medical assistance obtained as a result of such failure is deemed  
30 unlawfully obtained and the department shall seek recovery of such  
31 medical assistance from the applicant or the estate of the recipient of

1 medical assistance as defined in subdivision (4)(b) of section 68-919.

2 (3) If income is derived from a related party as described in  
3 subdivision (1)(b) of this section, the department shall determine  
4 whether the income is or, in the case of a written lease, whether the  
5 terms of the lease at the time it was entered into were commercially  
6 reasonable and consistent with income or lease terms derived in the  
7 relevant market area and negotiated at arms length between parties who  
8 are not related. If the department determines that the income or lease  
9 fails to meet these requirements, such income or lease shall be  
10 considered a transfer of the applicant's assets for less than full  
11 consideration and the department shall consider the resulting shortfall,  
12 to the fullest extent permitted by federal law, when determining  
13 eligibility for medical assistance or any share of cost or as otherwise  
14 required by law. The burden of proof of commercial reasonableness rests  
15 with the applicant.

16 (4) An action for recovery of medical assistance obtained in  
17 violation of this section may be brought by the department against the  
18 applicant or against the estate of the recipient of medical assistance as  
19 defined in subdivision (4)(b) of section 68-919 at any time before five  
20 years after the death of both the applicant and the applicant's spouse,  
21 if any.

22 (5) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to  
23 carry out this section. The rules and regulations may include guidance on  
24 the commercial reasonableness of lease terms.

25 Sec. 12. (1) For purposes of this section:

26 (a) Related transferee means:

27 (i) An individual who is related to the transferor as described in  
28 section 77-2004 or 77-2005;

29 (ii) An entity controlled by one or more individuals described in  
30 subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section. For purposes of this subdivision,  
31 control means individuals described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this

1 section together own or have the option to acquire more than fifty  
2 percent of the entity; or

3 (iii) An irrevocable trust in which an individual described in  
4 subdivision (1)(a)(i) of this section is a beneficiary; and

5 (b) Related transferee does not include the recipient's spouse, if  
6 any, or a child who either is under twenty-one years of age or is blind  
7 or totally and permanently disabled as defined by Supplemental Security  
8 Income criteria.

9 (2) This section shall apply to the fullest extent permitted by  
10 federal law and understandings entered into between the state and the  
11 federal government. This section provides security for the recovery of  
12 the indebtedness to the department for medical assistance as provided in  
13 section 68-919. This section applies to transfers of real estate made on  
14 or after the effective date of this act. If, during the transferor's  
15 lifetime, an interest in real estate is irrevocably transferred to a  
16 related transferee for less than full consideration and the real estate  
17 transferred to the related transferee is subject to rights, actual or  
18 constructive possession, or powers retained by the transferor in a deed  
19 or other instrument, the interest in the real estate when acquired by the  
20 related transferee is subject to a lien in favor of the State of Nebraska  
21 for medical assistance reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the  
22 extent necessary to secure payment in full of any claim remaining unpaid  
23 after application of the assets of the transferor's probate estate, not  
24 to exceed the amount determined under subsection (6) of this section. The  
25 lien does not attach to any interest retained by the transferor. Except  
26 as provided in this section, the lien applies to medical assistance  
27 provided before, at the same time as, or after the filing of the notice  
28 of lien under subsection (4) of this section.

29 (3) Within fifteen days after receipt of a statement required by  
30 section 76-214 indicating that the underlying real estate transfer was  
31 between relatives or, if to a trustee, where the trustor or settlor and

1 the beneficiary are relatives, the register of deeds shall send a copy of  
2 such statement, together with the parcel identification number, if  
3 ascertainable, to the department. The copy shall be provided to the  
4 department in a delivery manner and at an address designated by the  
5 department, which manner may include email. The department shall post the  
6 acceptable manner of delivering the copy on its web site or otherwise  
7 communicate the manner of delivery to the registers of deeds.

8 (4) The lien imposed by subsection (2) of this section becomes  
9 effective upon the filing of a notice of lien in accordance with this  
10 subsection. The department may file a notice of the lien imposed by  
11 subsection (2) of this section only after the department receives an  
12 application for medical assistance on behalf of a transferor. The notice  
13 must be filed in the office of the register of deeds of the county or  
14 counties in which the real estate subject to the lien is located. The  
15 notice must provide the legal description of the real estate subject to  
16 the lien, specify the amount then secured by the lien, and indicate that  
17 the lien also covers any future medical assistance provided to the  
18 transferor. The department shall provide the register of deeds with a  
19 self-addressed return envelope bearing sufficient postage for purposes of  
20 returning to the department a file-stamped copy of the notice of lien,  
21 which the register of deeds shall mail to the department. The lien is not  
22 valid against the owner of an interest in real estate received by a  
23 grantee who is not a related transferee pursuant to a deed or other  
24 instrument if such deed or other instrument is filed prior to the notice  
25 of lien. A lien that is not valid under this subsection shall be released  
26 by the department upon notice thereof from such grantee or a subsequent  
27 bona fide purchaser. A lien is valid against any subsequent creditor only  
28 if notice of such lien has been filed by the department in accordance  
29 with this subsection. Any mortgage or trust deed recorded prior to the  
30 filing of a notice of lien shall have priority over such lien. Except as  
31 provided in subsection (5) of this section, any optional future advance

1 or advance necessary to protect the security secured by the mortgage or  
2 trust deed shall have the same priority as the mortgage or trust deed.

3 (5) Any optional future advance made pursuant to a mortgage or trust  
4 deed on real estate recorded prior to the filing of a notice of lien  
5 under subsection (4) of this section shall be junior to such lien only if  
6 the optional future advance is made after:

7 (a) A notice of lien has been filed by the department in accordance  
8 with subsection (4) of this section; and

9 (b) Written notice of the filing for record of such notice of lien  
10 has been received by the mortgagee or beneficiary at the address of the  
11 mortgagee or beneficiary set forth in the mortgage or trust deed or, if  
12 the mortgage or trust deed has been assigned, by the assignee at the  
13 address of the most recent assignee reflected in a recorded assignment of  
14 the mortgage or trust deed. The notice under this subdivision shall be  
15 sent by the department by certified mail to the applicable mortgagee,  
16 beneficiary, or assignee.

17 (6)(a) The lien authorized in this section is limited to the lesser  
18 of (i) the amount necessary to fully satisfy any reimbursement  
19 obligations remaining unpaid after application of any assets from the  
20 transferor's probate estate or (ii) the actual value of the real estate  
21 at the time that the lien is enforced minus the consideration adjustment  
22 and minus the cost of the improvements made to the real estate by or on  
23 behalf of the related transferee, if any.

24 (b) For purposes of this subsection:

25 (i) Actual value has the same meaning as in section 77-112;

26 (ii) Consideration adjustment means the amount of consideration paid  
27 by the related transferee to the transferor for the real estate  
28 multiplied by the growth factor; and

29 (iii) Growth factor means the actual value of the real estate at the  
30 time the lien is enforced divided by the actual value of the real estate  
31 at the time the consideration was paid.

1        (c) The burden of proof for showing the consideration paid for the  
2 real estate, the cost of any improvements to the real estate, and the  
3 actual value of the real estate rests with the related transferee or his  
4 or her successor in interest.

5        (7) If a deed or other instrument transferring an interest in real  
6 estate contains a recital acknowledged by the grantor stating that the  
7 grantee is not a related transferee, the real estate being transferred  
8 shall not be subject to the lien imposed by this section. A related  
9 transferee who takes possession or otherwise enjoys the benefits of the  
10 transfer knowing the recital is false becomes personally liable for  
11 medical assistance reimbursement to the extent necessary to discharge any  
12 claim remaining unpaid after application of the assets of the  
13 transferor's probate estate, not to exceed the amount determined under  
14 subsection (6) of this section.

15        (8) The department shall release or subordinate the lien authorized  
16 in this section upon application by the related transferee in which the  
17 related transferee agrees to indemnify the department for medical  
18 assistance reimbursement pursuant to section 68-919 to the extent  
19 necessary to discharge any such claim remaining unpaid after application  
20 of the assets of the transferor's probate estate, not to exceed the  
21 amount determined under subsection (6) of this section. The department  
22 may require the application submitted pursuant to this subsection to be  
23 accompanied by good and sufficient sureties or other evidence determined  
24 by the department to be sufficient to secure the liability. The  
25 department shall also release the lien upon a satisfactory showing of  
26 undue hardship or a showing that the interest subject to the lien is not  
27 one from which medical assistance reimbursement may be had.

28        (9)(a) Any indemnity and any lien shall be released upon:

29        (i) Notice delivered to the department, by certified mail, return  
30 receipt requested, of (A) the death and identification, including the  
31 social security number, of the transferor, (B) the legal description of

1 the real estate subject to the indemnity or lien, and (C) the names and  
2 addresses of the owners of record of the real estate; and

3 (ii) The department either (A) filing a release of lien with the  
4 register of deeds of the county or counties in which the real estate  
5 subject to the lien is located or (B) not filing an action to foreclose  
6 the lien or collect on the indemnity within one year after delivery of  
7 the notice required under subdivision (9)(a)(i) of this section.

8 (b) Proof of delivery of such notice shall be made by filing a copy  
9 of the notice and a copy of the certified mail return receipt with the  
10 register of deeds of the county or counties in which the real estate  
11 subject to the lien is located.

12 (10) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations  
13 to carry out this section.

14 Sec. 13. A medical provider shall have the authority of a guardian  
15 and conservator for the limited purpose of making application for medical  
16 assistance on behalf of a person whom the provider is treating if the  
17 person is unconscious or otherwise is unable to apply for medical  
18 assistance and does not have an existing power of attorney or a court-  
19 appointed individual to apply on the person's behalf.

20 Sec. 14. Section 68-919, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
21 2016, is amended to read:

22 68-919 (1) The recipient of medical assistance under the medical  
23 assistance program shall be indebted to the department for the total  
24 amount paid for medical assistance on behalf of the recipient if:

25 (a) The recipient was fifty-five years of age or older at the time  
26 the medical assistance was provided; or

27 (b) The recipient resided in a medical institution and, at the time  
28 of institutionalization or application for medical assistance, whichever  
29 is later, the department determines that the recipient could not have  
30 reasonably been expected to be discharged and resume living at home. For  
31 purposes of this section, medical institution means a nursing facility,

1 an intermediate care facility for persons with developmental  
2 disabilities, or an inpatient hospital.

3 (2) The debt accruing under subsection (1) of this section arises  
4 during the life of the recipient but shall be held in abeyance until the  
5 death of the recipient. Any such debt to the department that exists when  
6 the recipient dies shall be recovered only after the death of the  
7 recipient's spouse, if any, and only after when the recipient is not  
8 survived by a child who either is under twenty-one years of age or is  
9 blind or totally and permanently disabled as defined by the Supplemental  
10 Security Income criteria. In recovering such debt, the department shall  
11 not foreclose on a lien on the home of the recipient (a) if a sibling of  
12 the recipient with an equity interest in the home has lawfully resided in  
13 the home for at least one year before the recipient's admission and has  
14 lived there continuously since the date of the recipient's admission or  
15 (b) while the home is the residence of an adult child who has lived in  
16 the recipient's home for at least two years immediately before the  
17 recipient was institutionalized, has lived there continuously since that  
18 time, and can establish to the satisfaction of the department that he or  
19 she provided care that delayed the recipient's admission.

20 (3) The debt shall include the total amount of medical assistance  
21 provided when the recipient was fifty-five years of age or older or  
22 during a period of institutionalization as described in subsection (1) of  
23 this section and shall not include interest.

24 (4)(a) This subsection applies to the fullest extent permitted by 42  
25 U.S.C. 1396p, as such section existed on January 1, 2017. It is the  
26 intent of the Legislature that the debt specified in subsection (1) of  
27 this section be collected by the department before any portion of the  
28 estate of a recipient of medical assistance is enjoyed by or transferred  
29 to a person not specified in subsection (2) of this section as a result  
30 of the death of such recipient. The debt may be recovered from the estate  
31 of a recipient of medical assistance. 7

1           (b) For purposes of this section:

2           (i) Estate of a recipient of medical assistance means including any  
3 real estate property, personal property, or other asset in which the  
4 recipient had any legal title or interest at the time of the recipient's  
5 death, to the extent of such interests. In furtherance and not in  
6 limitation of the foregoing, for purposes of this section, the estate of  
7 a the recipient of medical assistance also includes:

8           (A) Assets assets to be transferred to a beneficiary described in  
9 section 77-2004 or 77-2005 in relation to the recipient through a  
10 revocable trust or other similar arrangement which has become irrevocable  
11 by reason of the recipient's death; and -

12           (B) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in subdivision (3) or  
13 (4) of section 68-923, assets conveyed or otherwise transferred to a  
14 survivor, heir, assign, beneficiary, or devisee of the recipient of  
15 medical assistance through joint tenancy, tenancy in common, transfer on  
16 death deed, survivorship, conveyance of a remainder interest, retention  
17 of a life estate or of an estate for a period of time, living trust, or  
18 other arrangement by which value or possession is transferred to or  
19 realized by the beneficiary of the conveyance or transfer at or as a  
20 result of the recipient's death to the full extent authorized in 42  
21 U.S.C. 1396p(b)(4)(B). Such other arrangements include insurance policies  
22 or annuities in which the recipient of medical assistance had at the time  
23 of death any incidents of ownership of the policy or annuity or the power  
24 to designate beneficiaries and any pension rights or completed retirement  
25 plans or accounts of the recipient. A completed retirement plan or  
26 account is one which because of the death of the recipient of medical  
27 assistance ceases to have elements of retirement relating to such  
28 recipient and under which one or more beneficiaries exist after such  
29 recipient's death; and

30           (ii) Estate of a recipient of medical assistance does not include:

31           (A) Insurance policies in proportion to the premiums and other

1 payments to the insurance carrier that were paid by someone other than  
2 the recipient of medical assistance or the recipient's spouse;

3 (B) Insurance proceeds and accounts in institutions under federal  
4 supervision or supervision of the Department of Banking and Finance or  
5 Department of Insurance to the extent subject to a security interest  
6 where the secured party is not a related transferee as defined in section  
7 12 of this act;

8 (C) Insurance proceeds, any trust account subject to the Burial Pre-  
9 Need Sale Act, or any limited lines funeral insurance policy to the  
10 extent used to pay for funeral, burial, or cremation expenses of the  
11 recipient of medical assistance;

12 (D) Conveyances of real estate made prior to the effective date of  
13 this act that are subject to the grantor's retention of a life estate or  
14 an estate for a period of time; and

15 (E) Any pension rights or completed retirement plans to the extent  
16 that such rights or plans are exempt from claims for reimbursement of  
17 medical assistance under federal law.

18 (c) As to any interest in property created after the effective date  
19 of this act and for as long as any portion of the debt arising under  
20 subsection (1) of this section remains unpaid, the death of the recipient  
21 of medical assistance shall not trigger a change in the rights to  
22 possession, enjoyment, access, income, or otherwise that the recipient  
23 had at the time of death and the personal representative of the  
24 recipient's estate is empowered to and shall exercise or enjoy such  
25 rights for the purpose of paying such debt, including, but not limited  
26 to, renting such property held as a life estate, severing joint  
27 tenancies, bringing partition actions, claiming equitable rights of  
28 contribution, or taking other actions otherwise appropriate to effect the  
29 intent of this section. Such rights shall survive the death of the  
30 recipient of medical assistance and shall be administered, marshaled, and  
31 disposed of for the purposes of this section. In the event that a claim

1 for reimbursement is made as to some, but not all, nonprobate transferees  
2 or assets, the party or owner against whom the claim is asserted may seek  
3 equitable contribution toward the claim from the other nonprobate  
4 transferees or assets in a court of applicable jurisdiction. Except as  
5 otherwise provided in this section and except for the right of the  
6 department to recover the debt from such interests in property, this  
7 subsection in and of itself does not create any rights in any other  
8 person or entity.

9 (d) Unless includable in the estate of a recipient of medical  
10 assistance pursuant to this section as it existed prior to the effective  
11 date of this act, an interest in real estate transferred to a related  
12 transferee as defined in section 12 of this act and vested in such  
13 related transferee prior to the effective date of this act shall not be  
14 part of the estate of the recipient of medical assistance unless required  
15 disclosures were not made at the time of application for medical  
16 assistance under section 11 of this act or at the time of any review by  
17 the department of the recipient's eligibility for medical assistance.

18 (e) The department, upon application of the personal representative  
19 of an estate, any person otherwise authorized under the Nebraska Probate  
20 Code to act on behalf of a decedent, any person having an interest in  
21 assets of the decedent which are subject to this subsection, a successor  
22 trustee of a revocable trust or other similar arrangement which has  
23 become irrevocable by reason of the decedent's death, or any other person  
24 holding assets of the decedent described in this subsection, shall  
25 release some or all of the property of a decedent from the provisions of  
26 this subsection in cases in which the department determines that either  
27 there is no medical assistance reimbursement due and no application for  
28 medical assistance has been filed on behalf of the decedent or that there  
29 will be sufficient assets of the probate estate of the decedent to  
30 satisfy all such claims for medical assistance reimbursement. If there is  
31 no medical assistance reimbursement due and no application for medical

1 assistance has been filed on behalf of the decedent, the department shall  
2 certify to the applicant that no reimbursement is due as expeditiously as  
3 reasonably possible but in no event more than sixty days after receipt of  
4 the application, the decedent's name and social security number, and, if  
5 the decedent was predeceased by a spouse, the name and social security  
6 number of such spouse. Failure of the department to timely make such  
7 certification shall subject the department to payment of the applicant's  
8 reasonable attorney's fees and costs in an action for mandamus filed in  
9 either Lancaster County or the county in which the probate action or  
10 inheritance tax proceeding is pending. The department shall annually  
11 report to the Legislature the amount and circumstances of such attorney's  
12 fees and costs paid. If the department determines that there is medical  
13 assistance reimbursement due or that an application for medical  
14 assistance has been filed on behalf of the decedent, the department shall  
15 mail notice thereof to the applicant within such sixty-day period. Notice  
16 stating that a demand for notice has been filed pursuant to subsection  
17 (3) of section 71-605 shall suffice for purposes of the notice  
18 requirement. Failure of the department to provide the required notice  
19 discharges the debt created under this section unless the department has  
20 previously filed a demand for notice under subsection (3) of section  
21 71-605. An application under this subdivision shall be provided to the  
22 department in a delivery manner and at an address designated by the  
23 department, which manner may include email. The department shall post the  
24 acceptable manner of delivery on its web site. Any application that fails  
25 to conform with such manner is void. The department shall not require, as  
26 part of the application, that an applicant submit information beyond what  
27 is needed to implement this subdivision. Notwithstanding the lack of an  
28 order by a court designating a trustee or successor trustee of a  
29 revocable trust or other similar arrangement which has become irrevocable  
30 by reason of the decedent's death as a person who may receive information  
31 in conjunction with applicable privacy law, such person shall have the

1 authority of a personal representative with respect to the trust assets,  
2 including, but not limited to, the authority to seek and to obtain from  
3 the department information protected by applicable privacy law, and the  
4 department shall release the information requested to the trustee to the  
5 extent it is relevant to resolving issues relating to reimbursement of  
6 medical assistance or the administration thereof.

7 (f) In the event that the department does not seek to recover  
8 medical assistance reimbursement for a period of eighteen months after it  
9 is entitled to do so, the county attorney of the county in which the  
10 recipient of medical assistance last resided, or in the case of real  
11 estate, the county where the real estate is located, may seek the consent  
12 of the department to enforce the rights of the department. The department  
13 shall determine whether or not to grant such consent within sixty days  
14 after the consent is requested. If the department fails to make a  
15 determination within the sixty-day period, such consent shall be deemed  
16 to have been granted. The department may not unreasonably withhold  
17 consent to the bringing of such action. If the county attorney brings  
18 such an action, the county shall be entitled to such reasonable  
19 attorney's fees as determined by the court with jurisdiction of the  
20 action. The department shall give its full cooperation to such county  
21 attorney.

22 (g) The debt created under subsection (1) of this section shall be  
23 subject to the limitation on actions provided in section 25-206. The  
24 cause of action accrues on the later of the death of the recipient of  
25 medical assistance or the death of the recipient's spouse, if any.

26 (5) In any probate proceedings in which the department has filed a  
27 claim under this section, no additional evidence of foundation shall be  
28 required for the admission of the department's payment record supporting  
29 its claim if the payment record bears the seal of the department, is  
30 certified as a true copy, and bears the signature of an authorized  
31 representative of the department.

1           (6) The department may waive or compromise its claim, in whole or in  
2 part, if the department determines that enforcement of the claim would  
3 not be in the best interests of the state or would result in undue  
4 hardship as provided in rules and regulations of the department.

5           (7) Whenever the department has provided medical assistance because  
6 of sickness or injury to any person resulting from a third party's  
7 wrongful act or negligence and the person has recovered or may recover  
8 damages from such third party, to the fullest extent permitted by federal  
9 law and understandings entered into between the state and federal  
10 government, the department shall have the right to recover the medical  
11 assistance it paid from any amounts that the person has received or may  
12 receive from or on behalf of the third party. When, with the consent of  
13 the department, an action or claim is brought by the person alone and the  
14 person incurs or will incur a personal liability to pay attorney's fees  
15 and costs of litigation or costs incurred in pursuit of a claim, to the  
16 fullest extent permitted by federal law and understandings entered into  
17 between the state and federal government, the department's claim for  
18 reimbursement of the medical assistance provided to the person shall be  
19 reduced by twenty-five percent of the full amount of the judgment, award,  
20 or settlement, which the person may retain, though otherwise subject to  
21 applicable law including but not limited to eligibility criteria, and a  
22 pro rata share that represents the department's reasonable share of  
23 attorney's fees paid by the person and that portion of the costs of  
24 litigation or the costs incurred in pursuit of a claim determined by  
25 multiplying the amount of the costs of litigation or the costs incurred  
26 in pursuit of a claim by the ratio of the full amount of benefit  
27 expenditures made by the department to or on behalf of the person to the  
28 full amount of the judgment, award, or settlement. The department may not  
29 unreasonably withhold consent to the bringing of such action or claim.  
30 The department shall determine whether or not to grant such consent  
31 within thirty days after the consent is requested. If the department

1 fails to make a determination within the thirty-day period, such consent  
2 shall be deemed to have been granted.

3 (8) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to  
4 carry out this section.

5 Sec. 15. Section 71-605, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
6 2016, is amended to read:

7 71-605 (1) The funeral director and embalmer in charge of the  
8 funeral of any person dying in the State of Nebraska shall cause a  
9 certificate of death to be filled out with all the particulars contained  
10 in the standard form adopted and promulgated by the department. Such  
11 standard form shall include a space for veteran status and the period of  
12 service in the armed forces of the United States and a statement of the  
13 cause of death made by a person holding a valid license as a physician,  
14 physician assistant, or nurse practitioner who last attended the  
15 deceased. The standard form shall also include the deceased's social  
16 security number and a notice that, pursuant to section 30-2413, demands  
17 for notice which may affect the estate of the deceased are filed with the  
18 county court in the county where the decedent resided at the time of  
19 death. Death and fetal death certificates shall be completed by the  
20 funeral directors and embalmers and physicians, physician assistants, or  
21 nurse practitioners for the purpose of filing with the department and  
22 providing child support enforcement information pursuant to section  
23 43-3340.

24 (2) The physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner shall  
25 have the responsibility and duty to complete and sign by electronic means  
26 pursuant to section 71-603.01, within twenty-four hours from the time of  
27 death, that part of the certificate of death entitled medical certificate  
28 of death. In the case of a death when no person licensed as a physician,  
29 physician assistant, or nurse practitioner was in attendance, the funeral  
30 director and embalmer shall refer the case to the county attorney who  
31 shall have the responsibility and duty to complete and sign the death

1 certificate by electronic means pursuant to section 71-603.01.

2 No cause of death shall be certified in the case of the sudden and  
3 unexpected death of a child between the ages of one week and three years  
4 until an autopsy is performed at county expense by a qualified  
5 pathologist pursuant to section 23-1824. The parents or guardian shall be  
6 notified of the results of the autopsy by their physician, physician  
7 assistant, nurse practitioner, community health official, or county  
8 coroner within forty-eight hours. The term sudden infant death syndrome  
9 shall be entered on the death certificate as the principal cause of death  
10 when the term is appropriately descriptive of the pathology findings and  
11 circumstances surrounding the death of a child.

12 If the circumstances show it possible that death was caused by  
13 neglect, violence, or any unlawful means, the case shall be referred to  
14 the county attorney for investigation and certification. The county  
15 attorney shall, within twenty-four hours after taking charge of the case,  
16 state the cause of death as ascertained, giving as far as possible the  
17 means or instrument which produced the death. All death certificates  
18 shall show clearly the cause, disease, or sequence of causes ending in  
19 death. If the cause of death cannot be determined within the period of  
20 time stated above, the death certificate shall be filed to establish the  
21 fact of death. As soon as possible thereafter, and not more than six  
22 weeks later, supplemental information as to the cause, disease, or  
23 sequence of causes ending in death shall be filed with the department to  
24 complete the record. For all certificates stated in terms that are  
25 indefinite, insufficient, or unsatisfactory for classification, inquiry  
26 shall be made to the person completing the certificate to secure the  
27 necessary information to correct or complete the record.

28 (3) A completed death certificate shall be filed with the department  
29 within five business days after the date of death. If it is impossible to  
30 complete the certificate of death within five business days, the funeral  
31 director and embalmer shall notify the department of the reason for the

1 delay and file the certificate as soon as possible. Within ten days after  
2 the filing of the certificate of death and prior to the issuance of any  
3 certified copies of the certificate of death, the department shall search  
4 its records to determine if the deceased had applied for or received  
5 medical assistance under the Medical Assistance Act. If the deceased made  
6 such application or received such assistance, the department shall,  
7 before or contemporaneously with the issuance of the first certified copy  
8 of the certificate of death, file a demand for notice pursuant to section  
9 30-2413 in the county court of the county in which the decedent was  
10 domiciled at the time of death. The department shall annually report the  
11 following to the Legislature:

12 (a) The number of demands for notice filed pursuant to this section;  
13 and

14 (b) The number of times in the prior year that the time between a  
15 request for a certified copy of the certificate of death and the mailing  
16 of such certificate exceeded twenty-one days.

17 (4) Before any dead human body may be cremated, a cremation permit  
18 shall first be signed electronically by the county attorney, or by his or  
19 her authorized representative as designated by the county attorney in  
20 writing, of the county in which the death occurred on an electronic form  
21 prescribed and furnished by the department.

22 (5) A permit for disinterment shall be required prior to  
23 disinterment of a dead human body. The permit shall be issued by the  
24 department to a licensed funeral director and embalmer upon proper  
25 application. The request for disinterment shall be made by the person  
26 listed in section 30-2223 or a county attorney on a form furnished by the  
27 department. The application shall be signed by the funeral director and  
28 embalmer who will be directly supervising the disinterment. When the  
29 disinterment occurs, the funeral director and embalmer shall sign the  
30 permit giving the date of disinterment and file the permit with the  
31 department within ten days of the disinterment.

1           (6) When a request is made under subsection (5) of this section for  
2 the disinterment of more than one dead human body, an order from a court  
3 of competent jurisdiction shall be submitted to the department prior to  
4 the issuance of a permit for disinterment. The order shall include, but  
5 not be limited to, the number of bodies to be disinterred if that number  
6 can be ascertained, the method and details of transportation of the  
7 disinterred bodies, the place of reinterment, and the reason for  
8 disinterment. No sexton or other person in charge of a cemetery shall  
9 allow the disinterment of a body without first receiving from the  
10 department a disinterment permit properly completed.

11           (7) No dead human body shall be removed from the state for final  
12 disposition without a transit permit issued by the funeral director and  
13 embalmer having charge of the body in Nebraska, except that when the  
14 death is subject to investigation, the transit permit shall not be issued  
15 by the funeral director and embalmer without authorization of the county  
16 attorney of the county in which the death occurred. No agent of any  
17 transportation company shall allow the shipment of any body without the  
18 properly completed transit permit prepared in duplicate.

19           (8) The interment, disinterment, or reinterment of a dead human body  
20 shall be performed under the direct supervision of a licensed funeral  
21 director and embalmer, except that hospital disposition may be made of  
22 the remains of a child born dead pursuant to section 71-20,121.

23           (9) All transit permits issued in accordance with the law of the  
24 place where the death occurred in a state other than Nebraska shall be  
25 signed by the funeral director and embalmer in charge of burial and  
26 forwarded to the department within five business days after the interment  
27 takes place.

28           Sec. 16. Section 77-2018.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
29 2016, is amended to read:

30           77-2018.02 (1) In the absence of any proceeding brought under  
31 Chapter 30, article 24 or 25, in this state, proceedings for the

1 determination of the tax may be instituted in the county court of the  
2 county where the property or any part thereof which might be subject to  
3 tax is situated.

4 (2) Upon the filing of the petition referred to in subsection (1) of  
5 this section, the county court shall order the petition set for hearing,  
6 not less than two nor more than four weeks after the date of filing the  
7 petition, and shall cause notice thereof to be given to all persons  
8 interested in the estate of the deceased and the property described in  
9 the petition, except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this  
10 section, in the manner provided for in subsection (3) of this section.

11 (3) The notice, provided for by subsection (2) of this section,  
12 shall be given by one publication in a legal newspaper of the county or,  
13 in the absence of such legal newspaper, then in a legal newspaper of some  
14 adjoining county of general circulation in the county. In addition to  
15 such publication of notice, personal service of notice of the hearing  
16 shall be had upon the county attorney of each county in which the  
17 property described in the petition is located, at least one week prior to  
18 the hearing.

19 (4) If it appears to the county court, upon the filing of the  
20 petition, by any person other than the county attorney, that no  
21 assessment of inheritance tax could result, it shall forthwith enter  
22 thereon an order directing the county attorney to show cause, within one  
23 week from the service thereof, why determination should not be made that  
24 no inheritance tax is due on account of the property described in the  
25 petition and the potential lien thereof on such property extinguished.  
26 Upon service of such order to show cause and failure of such showing by  
27 the county attorney, notice of such hearing by publication shall be  
28 dispensed with, and the petitioner shall be entitled without delay to a  
29 determination of no tax due on account of the property described in the  
30 petition, and any potential lien shall be extinguished.

31 (5) If it appears to the county court that (a) the county attorney

1 of each county in which the property described in the petition is located  
2 has executed a waiver of notice upon him or her to show cause, or of the  
3 time and place of hearing, and has entered a voluntary appearance in such  
4 proceeding in behalf of the county and the State of Nebraska, and (b)  
5 either (i) all persons against whom an inheritance tax may be assessed  
6 are either a petitioner or have executed a waiver of notice upon them to  
7 show cause, or of the time and place of hearing, and have entered a  
8 voluntary appearance, or (ii) a party to the proceeding has agreed to pay  
9 to the proper counties the full inheritance tax so determined, the court  
10 may dispense with the notice provided for in subsections (2) and (3) of  
11 this section and proceed without delay to make a determination of  
12 inheritance tax, if any, due on account of the property described in the  
13 petition.

14 (6) If the decedent was fifty-five years of age or older or resided  
15 in a medical institution as defined in subsection (1) of section 68-919,  
16 a notice of the filing of the petition referred to in subsection (1) of  
17 this section shall be provided ~~mailed~~ to the Department of Health and  
18 Human Services with the decedent's social security number and, if the  
19 decedent was predeceased by a spouse available upon reasonable  
20 investigation, the name and social security number of ~~the decedent's~~  
21 ~~spouse if such spouse is deceased~~. A certificate of the providing mailing  
22 of the notice to the department shall be filed in the inheritance tax  
23 proceedings by an attorney for the petitioner or, if there is no  
24 attorney, by the petitioner, prior to the entry of an order pursuant to  
25 this section. The notice shall be provided to the department in a  
26 delivery manner and at an address designated by the department, which  
27 manner may include email. The department shall post the acceptable manner  
28 of delivering notice on its web site. Any notice that fails to conform  
29 with such manner is void and constitutes neither notice to the department  
30 nor a waiver application for purposes of any statute or regulation that  
31 requires that a notice or waiver application be provided to the

1 department.

2       Sec. 17. Section 77-3903, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
3 2016, is amended to read:

4       77-3903 (1)(a) A notice of lien provided for in the Uniform State  
5 Tax Lien Registration and Enforcement Act upon real property shall be  
6 presented in the office of the Secretary of State. Such notice of lien  
7 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of State to and filed in the office  
8 of the register of deeds by the register of deeds of the county or  
9 counties in which the real property subject to the lien is situated as  
10 designated in the notice of lien. The register of deeds shall enter the  
11 notice in the alphabetical state tax lien index, showing on one line the  
12 name and residence of the person liable named in such notice, the last  
13 four digits of the social security number or the federal tax  
14 identification number of such person, the Tax Commissioner's or  
15 Commissioner of Labor's serial number of such notice, the date and hour  
16 of filing, and the amount due. Such presentments to the Secretary of  
17 State may be made by direct input to the Secretary of State's data base  
18 or by other electronic means. All such notices of lien shall be retained  
19 in numerical order in a file designated state tax lien notices, except  
20 that in offices filing by the roll form of microfilm pursuant to section  
21 23-1517.01, the original notices need not be retained. A lien subject to  
22 this subsection shall be effective upon real property when filed by the  
23 register of deeds as provided in this subsection.

24       (b) A notice of lien provided for in the Uniform State Tax Lien  
25 Registration and Enforcement Act upon personal property shall be filed in  
26 the office of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enter  
27 the notice in the state's central tax lien index, showing on one line the  
28 name and residence of the person liable named in such notice, the last  
29 four digits of the social security number or the federal tax  
30 identification number of such person, the Tax Commissioner's or  
31 Commissioner of Labor's serial number of such notice, the date and hour

1 of filing, and the amount due. Such filings with the Secretary of State  
2 may be filed by direct input to the Secretary of State's data base or by  
3 other electronic means. All such notices of lien shall be retained in  
4 numerical order in a file designated state tax lien notices.

5 ~~(2) (2)(a) This subdivision applies until January 1, 2018.~~ The  
6 uniform fee, payable to the Secretary of State, for presenting for  
7 filing, releasing, continuing, or subordinating or for filing, releasing,  
8 continuing, or subordinating each tax lien pursuant to the Uniform State  
9 Tax Lien Registration and Enforcement Act shall be two times the fee  
10 required for recording instruments with the register of deeds as provided  
11 in section 33-109. There shall be no fee for the filing of a termination  
12 statement. The uniform fee for each county more than one designated  
13 pursuant to subdivision (1)(a) of this section shall be the fee required  
14 for recording instruments with the register of deeds as provided in  
15 section 33-109. The Secretary of State shall deposit each fee received  
16 pursuant to this subsection ~~subdivision~~ in the Uniform Commercial Code  
17 Cash Fund. Of the fees received and deposited pursuant to this subsection  
18 ~~subdivision~~, the Secretary of State shall remit the fee required for  
19 recording instruments with the register of deeds as provided in section  
20 33-109 to the register of deeds of a county for each designation of such  
21 county in a filing pursuant to subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

22 ~~(b) This subdivision applies on and after January 1, 2018.~~ The  
23 uniform fee, payable to the Secretary of State, for presenting for  
24 filing, releasing, continuing, or subordinating or for filing, releasing,  
25 continuing, or subordinating each tax lien pursuant to the Uniform State  
26 Tax Lien Registration and Enforcement Act shall be six dollars. There  
27 shall be no fee for the filing of a termination statement. The uniform  
28 fee for each county more than one designated pursuant to subdivision (1)  
29 (a) of this section shall be three dollars. The Secretary of State shall  
30 deposit each fee received pursuant to this ~~subdivision~~ in the Uniform  
31 Commercial Code Cash Fund. Of the fees received and deposited pursuant to

1 ~~this subdivision, the Secretary of State shall remit three dollars to the~~  
2 ~~register of deeds of a county for each designation of such county in a~~  
3 ~~filing pursuant to subdivision (1)(a) of this section.~~

4 (3) The Secretary of State shall bill the Tax Commissioner or  
5 Commissioner of Labor on a monthly basis for fees for documents presented  
6 to or filed with the Secretary of State. No payment of any fee shall be  
7 required at the time of presenting or filing any such lien document.

8 Sec. 18. If any section in this act or any part of any section is  
9 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration shall not affect  
10 the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.

11 Sec. 19. Original sections 24-517, 25-2154, 30-2483, 30-3880,  
12 30-3881, 30-3882, 33-109, and 44-371, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
13 Nebraska, and sections 52-1004, 68-901, 68-919, 71-605, 77-2018.02, and  
14 77-3903, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2016, are repealed.