

FIFTY-FIRST DAY - MARCH 27, 2025

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION**

FIFTY-FIRST DAY

Legislative Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska
Thursday, March 27, 2025

PRAYER

The prayer was offered by Raymond Wicks, First Baptist Church, Plattsmouth.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Sergeant Tom Aguirre, Army, Lincoln.

ROLL CALL

Pursuant to adjournment, the Legislature met at 9:00 a.m., Speaker Arch presiding.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senators Bostar, Conrad, Guereca, and Jacobson who were excused until they arrive.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL

The Journal for the fiftieth day was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)
Enrollment and Review

LEGISLATIVE BILL 41. Placed on Final Reading Second.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 9. Placed on Select File with amendment.

ER31

- 1 1. In the Standing Committee amendments, AM549:
- 2 a. On page 13, line 26, after "77-2622" insert "and this section";
- 3 b. On page 14, line 5, strike the second "the"; in line 6 after
- 4 "77-2622" insert "and this section"; in line 8 after "of" insert "a
- 5 deficiency"; and in line 12 after the second "of" insert "a"; and
- 6 c. On page 21, line 24, after "of" insert "a deficiency"; and in
- 7 line 28 after the second "of" insert "a".
- 8 2. On page 1, line 4, strike "and 77-4003.01" and insert

9 "77-4003.01, 77-4007, and 77-4008"; in line 9 strike "deficiency" and
 10 insert "a deficiency determination"; and in line 10 strike "sanctions"
 11 and insert "taxation of alternative nicotine products, sanctions,".

LEGISLATIVE BILL 78. Placed on Select File with amendment.

[ER29](#)

1 1. On page 1, line 2, after "sections" insert "29-2260,"; and in
 2 line 5 after the first semicolon insert "to provide for sentencing
 3 consideration of a defendant's status as a victim of abuse or
 4 trafficking;".
 5 2. On page 6, line 29, after "sections" insert "29-2260,".

(Signed) Dunixi Guereca, Chairperson

Natural Resources

LEGISLATIVE BILL 317. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM711](#) is available in the Bill Room.

(Signed) Tom Brandt, Chairperson

Revenue

LEGISLATIVE BILL 526. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM691](#)

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
 2 sections:
 3 Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section:
 4 (a) Cryptocurrency mining means validating transactions for addition
 5 to a blockchain distributed ledger;
 6 (b) Cryptocurrency mining operation means any facility of one
 7 megawatt in size or greater that conducts cryptocurrency mining; and
 8 (c) Public power supplier means a public power district, municipal
 9 electric utility, or any other government entity providing electric
 10 service.
 11 (2) A public power supplier may impose requirements on any
 12 cryptocurrency mining operation for the cost of infrastructure upgrades
 13 necessitated by such operations, including, but not limited to:
 14 (a) Requiring direct payment or a letter of credit from such
 15 operation for such cost; or
 16 (b) Imposing terms and conditions on such operation.
 17 (3) Requirements imposed pursuant to this section shall be fair,
 18 reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory.
 19 (4) Before any requirement is imposed pursuant to this section, the
 20 public power supplier shall conduct a load study to determine the costs,
 21 impacts, and infrastructure upgrades necessitated by the cryptocurrency
 22 mining operation.
 23 (5) Any person intending to install a cryptocurrency mining
 24 operation is responsible for notifying the local public power supplier of
 25 such intent, and such operation is subject to the interconnection
 26 requirements of such supplier.
 27 (6) Each public power supplier shall make available to the public on
 1 the supplier's website the number of cryptocurrency mining operations
 2 under the jurisdiction of the supplier and the annual energy usage of
 3 each operation.
 4 (7) A cryptocurrency mining operation shall allow a public power

5 supplier to interrupt such operation's electric service according to such
 6 supplier's established rate schedules and policies.
 7 Sec. 2. This act becomes operative on October 1, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 622. Placed on General File with amendment.

AM723

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
 2 sections:

3 Section 1. Section 58-708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
 4 amended to read:

5 58-708 (1) During each calendar year in which funds are available
 6 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for use by the Department of
 7 Economic Development, the department shall make its best efforts to
 8 allocate not less than thirty percent of such funds to each congressional
 9 district. The department shall announce a grant and loan application
 10 period of at least ninety days duration for all projects. Before a grant
 11 application for any new construction project can be submitted to the
 12 department, the land for the project shall be identified. In selecting
 13 projects to receive trust fund assistance, the department shall develop a
 14 qualified allocation plan and give first priority to financially viable
 15 projects that serve the lowest income occupants for the longest period of
 16 time. The qualified allocation plan shall:

17 (a) Set forth selection criteria to be used to determine housing
 18 priorities of the housing trust fund which are appropriate to local
 19 conditions, including the community's immediate need for affordable
 20 housing, proposed increases in home ownership, private dollars leveraged,
 21 level of local government support and participation, and repayment, in
 22 part or in whole, of financial assistance awarded by the fund; and

23 (b) Give first priority in allocating trust fund assistance among
 24 selected projects to those projects which are located in whole or in part
 25 within an enterprise zone designated pursuant to the Enterprise Zone Act
 26 or an opportunity zone designated pursuant to the federal Tax Cuts and
 27 Jobs Act, Public Law 115-97, serve the lowest income occupant, are
 1 located in an area that has been declared an extremely blighted area
 2 under section 18-2101.02, and are obligated to serve qualified occupants
 3 for the longest period of time.

4 (2) Beginning on July 1, 2026:

5 (a) The Department of Economic Development shall disburse grant
 6 funds to a qualified recipient equal to eighty percent of the housing
 7 development costs of such recipient, excluding general administration
 8 costs, housing management fees, lead-based paint test costs, and
 9 technical assistance costs, once the department approves such recipient
 10 for grant funds; and

11 (b) The department shall disburse grant funds to a qualified
 12 recipient equal to twenty percent of the housing development costs of
 13 such recipient, excluding general administration costs, housing
 14 management fees, lead-based paint test costs, and technical assistance
 15 costs, upon the completion of the project.

16 (3)(a) Beginning on the operative date of this act, a qualified
 17 recipient shall submit to the Department of Economic Development a
 18 schedule of uses of funds for eligible activities on a quarterly basis,
 19 no later than thirty days after the end of each calendar quarter, during
 20 the time of performance under the award agreement.

21 (b) The schedule of uses of funds for eligible activities shall
 22 include an itemization of costs for eligible activities. If reasonable,
 23 the department may require source documentation and proof of payment,
 24 including, but not limited to, a paid invoice, completed payment, or
 25 cleared check, to be submitted with the schedule as evidence of
 26 appropriate use of funds. Qualified recipients shall ensure proper use of
 27 funds. The department is not responsible for the audit or approval of

28 each of the qualified recipient's transactions involving funds.

29 (c) The department may initiate any of the following actions if a
30 qualified recipient does not submit a schedule of uses of funds for
31 eligible activities:

1 (i) Disqualification of the qualified recipient in pending
2 applications for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund;

3 (ii) Disqualification of the qualified recipient in pending
4 applications for other department programs;

5 (iii) Disqualification of the qualified recipient as an eligible
6 applicant for Affordable Housing Trust Fund applications for up to
7 twenty-four months from the date of the department action; or

8 (iv) Other actions deemed necessary by the department to meet the
9 department's responsibility to ensure proper use of funds so long as such
10 actions do not unduly harm a qualified recipient's reputation and ability
11 to successfully operate in Nebraska. This subdivision does not prohibit
12 the department from taking appropriate actions against qualified
13 recipients that have committed illegal actions, such as fraud and theft.

14 (4)(2) The Department of Economic Development department shall fund
15 in order of priority as many applications as will utilize available funds
16 less actual administrative costs of the department in administering the
17 program. In administering the program the department may contract for
18 services or directly provide funds to other governmental entities or
19 instrumentalities.

20 (5)(a)(3) The Department of Economic Development department may
21 recapture any funds which were allocated to a qualified recipient for an
22 eligible project through an award agreement if such funds were not
23 utilized for eligible costs within the time of performance under the
24 agreement and are therefor no longer obligated to the project.

25 (b) Upon completion of a project, the department shall recapture a
26 percentage of the funds which were allocated to a qualified recipient for
27 an eligible project through an award agreement equal to the percentage of
28 the housing development the qualified recipient agreed to construct under
29 the award agreement but failed to complete.

30 (c) A qualified recipient shall recapture any funds allocated to
31 such recipient from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund that are provided
1 to a homebuyer by the recipient as financial assistance for the purchase
2 of a home upon sale of such home from the net proceeds of such sale, if
3 any.

4 (d) The recaptured funds shall be credited to the Affordable Housing
5 Trust Fund.

6 Sec. 2. Section 58-711, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 58-711 (1) The Department of Economic Development shall submit, as
9 part of the department's annual status report under section 81-1201.11,
10 the following information regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund:

11 (a) The applications funded during the previous calendar year; (b) the
12 applications funded in previous years; (c) the identity of the
13 organizations receiving funds; (d) the location of each project; (e) the
14 amount of funding provided to each project; (f) the amount of funding
15 leveraged as a result of each project; (g) the number of units of housing
16 created by each project and the occupancy rate; (h) the expected cost of
17 rent or monthly payment of those units; (i) the projected number of new
18 employees and community investment as a result of each project; (j) the
19 amount of revenue deposited into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
20 pursuant to section 76-903; (k) the total amount of funds for which
21 applications were received during the previous calendar year, the year-
22 end fund balance, and, if all available funds have not been committed, an
23 explanation of the reasons why all such funds have not been so committed;
24 (l) the amount of appropriated funds actually expended by the department
25 for the previous calendar year; (m) the department's current budget for

26 administration of the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act and the
27 department's planned use and distribution of funds, ~~including details on~~
28 ~~the amount of funds to be expended on projects and the amount of funds to~~
29 ~~be expended by the department for administrative purposes; and (n)~~
30 project summaries, including the applicant ~~municipality~~, project
31 description, ~~and grant amount requested, amount and type of matching~~
1 ~~funds, and reasons for approval or denial~~ for every application seeking
2 funds during the previous calendar year.
3 (2) The status report shall contain no information that is protected
4 by state or federal confidentiality laws.
5 Sec. 3. This act becomes operative on October 1, 2025.
6 Sec. 4. Original sections 58-708 and 58-711, Reissue Revised
7 Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

(Signed) R. Brad von Gillern, Chairperson

MESSAGE(S) FROM THE GOVERNOR

March 19, 2025

Mr. President, Speaker Arch
and Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Arch, and Members of the Legislature:

Contingent upon your approval, the following individual is being appointed
as a member of the Nebraska Power Review Board - Lay Member -
Independent:

Dennis Grennan, 1877 W Calle Colombo, Columbus, NE 68601

The aforementioned appointee is respectfully submitted for your
consideration. Copies of the certificate and background information are
included for your review.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Jim Pillen
Governor

Enclosures

AMENDMENT(S) - Print in Journal

Senator Holdcroft filed the following amendment to LB135:

[AM779](#)

1 1. On page 11, strike beginning with "The" in line 16 through the
2 period in line 18 and all amendments thereto.

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 89. Introduced by Meyer, 17; Andersen, 49; Bostar, 29; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clouse, 37; Guereca, 7; Hallstrom, 1; Prokop, 27; Rountree, 3; Storer, 43; Storm, 23.

WHEREAS, the 2025 Nebraska School Activities Association State Wrestling Tournament was held from February 20 through February 22 at the CHI Health Center in Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Tony Palmer competed in the tournament for the South Sioux City boys wrestling team; and

WHEREAS, Tony won the Boys Class A 215-pound State Wrestling Championship by pinning Jaeden Thompson of Norfolk (Fall 1:23); and

WHEREAS, Tony completed the 2025 high school wrestling season with a record of 52-1; and

WHEREAS, Tony finished the 2025 wrestling season as a four-time medalist, including winning gold in the 2024 Class B 215-pound championship match; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska State Legislature recognizes the outstanding athletic achievements of the youth of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates South Sioux City High School wrestler Tony Palmer on winning gold in the 2025 Boys Class A 215-pound State Wrestling Championship.

2. That copies of this resolution be sent to South Sioux City High School and Tony Palmer.

Laid over.

GENERAL FILE

LEGISLATIVE BILL 415. The first committee amendment, [AM770](#), found on page 888 and considered on page 890, was renewed.

Senator McKinney renewed [MO111](#), found on page 858 and considered on page 890, to bracket until June 9, 2025.

SENATOR DEBOER PRESIDING

Pending.

BILL ON FIRST READING

The following bill was read for the first time by title:

LEGISLATIVE BILL 78A. Introduced by Bostar, 29.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate funds to aid in carrying out the provisions of Legislative Bill 78, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session, 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)
Enrollment and Review

LEGISLATIVE BILL 527A. Placed on Final Reading.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 287. Placed on Select File with amendment:

[ER32](#)

1 1. On page 1, strike beginning with "the" in line 1 through line 4
2 and insert "political subdivisions; to amend section 31-752, Reissue
3 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 14-102, 31-735, and 71-1572,
4 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to provide powers to cities
5 of the metropolitan class to regulate housing authorities by ordinance;
6 to change provisions relating to the election of a board of trustees and
7 assessments for sanitary and improvement districts; to provide duties for
8 certain housing agencies relating to bed bugs under the Nebraska Housing
9 Agency Act; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; to
10 repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency."

LEGISLATIVE BILL 41A. Placed on Select File.

(Signed) Dunixi Guereca, Chairperson

REFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Legislative Council Executive Board submits the following report:

Anderson, Kyle - Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards -
Transportation and Telecommunications
Grennan, Dennis - Nebraska Power Review Board - Natural Resources
Muotri, Alysson - Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee - Health and
Human Services
Ritz, Tyler C - State Electrical Board - General Affairs
Smith, Clay - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission -
Education
Sorben, Nathan J - Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards -
Transportation and Telecommunications
Turman, Paul - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission -
Education
Yi, Rui - Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee - Health and Human
Services

(Signed) Ben Hansen, Chairperson
Executive Board

AMENDMENT(S) - Print in Journal

Senator Ballard filed the following amendment to [LB295](#):

[AM797](#)

1 1. Insert the following new section:

2 Section 1. Section 4-108, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
3 2024, is amended to read:

4 4-108 (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, unless
5 exempted from verification under section 4-110 or pursuant to federal
6 law, no state agency or political subdivision of the State of Nebraska
7 shall provide public benefits to a person not lawfully present in the
8 United States.

9 (2) Except as provided in section 4-110 or if exempted by federal
10 law, every agency or political subdivision of the State of Nebraska shall
11 verify the lawful presence in the United States of any person who has
12 applied for public benefits administered by an agency or a political
13 subdivision of the State of Nebraska. This section shall be enforced
14 without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or national origin.

15 (3) No employee of a state agency or political subdivision of the
16 State of Nebraska shall be authorized to participate in any retirement
17 system, including, but not limited to, the systems provided for in the
18 Class V School Employees Retirement Act, the County Employees Retirement
19 Act, the Judges Retirement Act, the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act,
20 the School Employees Retirement Act, and the State Employees Retirement
21 Act, unless the employee is a United States citizen or is lawfully
22 present in the United States. The employing state agency or political
23 subdivision of the State of Nebraska and the employee shall maintain at
24 least one of the following documents, which shall be unexpired; if
25 applicable to the particular document or which has an expiration date
26 that has been extended by the United States Department of Homeland
27 Security or the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services so
1 that such document is still valid, to demonstrate United States
2 citizenship or lawful presence in the United States as of the employee's
3 date of hire and produce any such document so maintained upon request of
4 the Public Employees Retirement Board or the Nebraska Public Employees
5 Retirement Systems:

6 (a) A state-issued driver's license;

7 (b) A state-issued identification card;

8 (c) A state-issued motor vehicle learner's permit;

9 (d)(e) A certified copy of a birth certificate or delayed birth
10 certificate issued in any state, territory, or possession of the United
11 States;

12 (e)(d) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad issued by the United States
13 Department of State;

14 (f)(e) A United States passport;

15 (g)(f) A foreign passport with a United States visa;

16 (h)(g) A United States Certificate of Naturalization;

17 (i)(h) A United States Certificate of Citizenship;

18 (j)(i) A tribal certificate of Native American blood or similar
19 document;

20 (k)(j) A United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
21 Employment Authorization Document, Form I-766;

22 (l)(k) A United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
23 Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551; or

24 (m)(l) Any other document issued by the United States Department of
25 Homeland Security or the United States Citizenship and Immigration
26 Services granting employment authorization in the United States and
27 approved by the Public Employees Retirement Board.

28 2. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.

29 3. Correct the operative date and repealer sections so that the
30 section added by this amendment becomes operative three calendar months
31 after the adjournment of this legislative session.

Senator DeBoer filed the following amendments to LB322:

[FA60](#)

Strike Section 1.

[FA61](#)

Strike Section 2.

[FA62](#)

Strike Section 1.

[FA63](#)

Strike Section 3.

Senator DeBoer filed the following amendments to LB79:

[FA64](#)

Strike the enacting clause

[FA65](#)

Strike the enacting clause

Senator DeBoer filed the following amendments to LB340:

[FA66](#)

Strike the enacting clause

[FA67](#)

Strike Section 1.

Senator Raybould filed the following amendment to LB113:

[AM811](#)

- 1 1. On page 3, line 11, strike "(1)", show as stricken, and insert
- 2 "(1)(a)"; after line 30 insert the following new subdivision:
- 3 "(b) Except as otherwise permitted by the self-distribution
- 4 provisions of subsection (2) of this section, any alcoholic products not
- 5 produced at the physical location being used for the retail sale of
- 6 alcoholic products must be transported and delivered to the physical
- 7 location by a licensed wholesaler."
- 8 2. On page 4, line 31, strike "(1)", show as stricken, and insert
- 9 "(1)(a)".
- 10 3. On page 5, after line 26, insert the following new subdivision:
- 11 "(b) Except as otherwise permitted by the self-distribution
- 12 provisions of subsection (2) of this section, any alcoholic products not
- 13 produced at the physical location being used for the retail sale of
- 14 alcoholic products must be transported and delivered to the physical
- 15 location by a licensed wholesaler."

Senator Clements filed the following amendment to LB113:

[AM624](#)

- 1 1. On page 3, line 11, strike "(1)", show as stricken, and insert
- 2 "(1)(a)"; and after line 30 insert the following new subdivision:
- 3 "(b) To ensure an accurate measurement of tax due to the state, the
- 4 holder of a craft brewery license with one or more retail locations
- 5 separate from such licensee's licensed premises where beer is produced
- 6 shall affix to such licensee's production equipment devices that measure
- 7 the amount of beer produced by the craft brewery at such premises and
- 8 submit a report detailing the flow of all beer produced by such licensee

9 to the commission along with the licensee's monthly report required under
10 section 53-164.01."

11 2. On page 4, line 31, strike "(1)", show as stricken, and insert
12 "(1)(a)".

13 3. On page 5, after line 26 insert the following new subdivision:

14 "(b) To ensure an accurate measurement of tax due to the state, the
15 holder of a microdistillery license with one or more retail locations
16 separate from such licensee's licensed premises where distilled product
17 is produced shall affix to such licensee's production equipment devices
18 that measure the amount of distilled product produced by the
19 microdistillery at such premises and submit a report detailing the flow
20 of all distilled product produced by such licensee to the commission
21 along with the licensee's monthly report required under section
22 53-164.01."

Senator Quick filed the following amendments to LB192:

[FA68](#)

On Page 2, Line 14, insert "(DHHS)" after "department".

[FA69](#)

On Page 2, Line 3, insert "(DHHS)" after "Services".

Senator M. Cavanaugh filed the following amendment to LB668:

[FA70](#)

On Page 7, strike Line 15 starting with ",except" through Line 23.

Senator Rountree filed the following amendments to LB319:

[FA71](#)

On Page 2, Line 14, insert "(DHHS)" after "department".

[FA72](#)

Insert "(DHHS)" after "Services" on Line 3, Page 2.

Senator Fredrickson filed the following amendment to LB437:

[AM782](#)

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM659)

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and

2 insert the following new section:

3 Section 1. Section 71-5830.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,

4 is amended to read:

5 71-5830.01 Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Nebraska

6 Health Care Certificate of Need Act, a certificate of need is not

7 required for:

8 (1) A change in classification between an intermediate care

9 facility, a nursing facility, or a skilled nursing facility;

10 (2) A project of a county in which is located a city of the

11 metropolitan class for which a bond issue has been approved by the

12 electorate of such county on or after January 1, 1994;

13 (3) A project of a federally recognized Indian tribe to be located

14 on tribal lands within the exterior boundaries of the State of Nebraska

15 where (a) a determination has been made by the tribe's governing body

16 that the cultural needs of the tribe's members cannot be adequately met

17 by existing facilities if such project has been approved by the tribe's

18 governing body and (b) the tribe has a self-determination agreement in

19 place with the Indian Health Service of the United States Department of

20 Health and Human Services so that payment for enrolled members of a

21 federally recognized Indian tribe who are served at such facility will be

22 made with one hundred percent federal reimbursement; ~~and~~
 23 (4) A transfer or relocation of long-term care beds from one
 24 facility to another entity in the same health planning region or any
 25 other health planning region. The receiving entity shall obtain a license
 26 for the transferred or relocated beds within two years after the transfer
 1 or relocation. The department shall grant an extension of such time if
 2 the receiving entity is making progress toward the licensure of such
 3 beds; ~~and~~.
 4 (5) ~~The establishment of long-term care beds for a period not to~~
 5 ~~exceed two years from the date of the closure of a facility located in a~~
 6 ~~city of the second class or village with long-term care beds that have~~
 7 ~~not been sold, transferred, or relocated to allow a political subdivision~~
 8 ~~or nonprofit organization to establish a facility in the same city of the~~
 9 ~~second class or village with the same number of previously licensed long-~~
 10 ~~term care beds.~~
 11 Sec. 2. Original section 71-5830.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of
 12 Nebraska, is repealed.

Senator Murman filed the following amendment to [LB390](#):

[AM653](#)

1 1. On page 2, after line 20, insert the following new subsection:
 2 "(3) This section shall only apply to a school library that is
 3 located on school district property and shall not apply to any other
 4 public library regardless if such library contracts with a school
 5 district for use by students."

Senator Hallstrom filed the following amendment to [LB326](#):

[AM836](#)

1 1. On page 10, lines 14 and 22, after "insurer" insert ", health
 2 insurance lead generator, or person".

MOTION(S) - Print in Journal

Senator DeBoer filed the following motions to [LB79](#):

[MO129](#)

Recommit to the Judiciary Committee.

[MO130](#)

Indefinitely postpone.

[MO131](#)

Bracket until June 9, 2025.

[MO132](#)

Recommit to the Judiciary Committee.

Senator DeBoer filed the following motions to [LB340](#):

[MO134](#)

Recommit to the Judiciary Committee.

[MO135](#)

Bracket until June 30, 2025.

[MO136](#)

Indefinitely postpone.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)
Health and Human Services

LEGISLATIVE BILL 379. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM378](#)

1 1. On page 2, line 4, strike "~~twenty-four~~" and insert "thirty-six";
2 and in lines 7 and 8 and 10 strike "~~twenty-four-month~~" and insert
3 "thirty-six-month".

LEGISLATIVE BILL 630. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM704](#) is available in the Bill Room.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 656. Placed on General File with amendment.

[AM424](#)

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:
3 Section 1. Section 68-1017.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2024, is amended to read:
5 68-1017.02 (1)(a) The Department of Health and Human Services shall
6 apply for and utilize to the maximum extent possible, within limits
7 established by the Legislature, any and all appropriate options available
8 to the state under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
9 and regulations adopted under such program to maximize the number of
10 Nebraska residents being served under such program within such limits.
11 The department shall seek to maximize federal funding for such program
12 and minimize the utilization of General Funds for such program and shall
13 employ the personnel necessary to determine the options available to the
14 state and issue the report to the Legislature required by subdivision (b)
15 of this subsection.
16 (b) The department shall submit electronically an annual report to
17 the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature by December 1
18 on efforts by the department to carry out the provisions of this
19 subsection. Such report shall provide the committee with all necessary
20 and appropriate information to enable the committee to conduct a
21 meaningful evaluation of such efforts. Such information shall include,
22 but not be limited to, a clear description of various options available
23 to the state under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
24 the department's evaluation of and any action taken by the department
25 with respect to such options, the number of persons being served under
26 such program, and any and all costs and expenditures associated with such
27 program.
28 (c) The Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature,
29 after receipt and evaluation of the report required in subdivision (b) of
30 this subsection, shall issue recommendations to the department on any
31 further action necessary by the department to meet the requirements of
32 this section.
33 (2)(a) The department shall develop a state outreach plan to promote
34 access by eligible persons to benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition
35 Assistance Program. The plan shall meet the criteria established by the
36 Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture
37 for approval of state outreach plans. The Department of Health and Human
38 Services may apply for and accept gifts, grants, and donations to develop
39 and implement the state outreach plan.
40 (b) For purposes of developing and implementing the state outreach

14 plan, the department shall partner with one or more counties or nonprofit
15 organizations. If the department enters into a contract with a nonprofit
16 organization relating to the state outreach plan, the contract may
17 specify that the nonprofit organization is responsible for seeking
18 sufficient gifts, grants, or donations necessary for the development and
19 implementation of the state outreach plan and may additionally specify
20 that any costs to the department associated with the award and management
21 of the contract or the implementation or administration of the state
22 outreach plan shall be paid out of private or federal funds received for
23 development and implementation of the state outreach plan.

24 (c) The department shall submit the state outreach plan to the Food
25 and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for
26 approval on or before August 1, 2011, and shall request any federal
27 matching funds that may be available upon approval of the state outreach
28 plan. It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of Nebraska and
29 the Department of Health and Human Services use any additional public or
30 private funds to offset costs associated with increased caseload
31 resulting from the implementation of the state outreach plan.

1 (d) The department shall be exempt from implementing or
2 administering a state outreach plan under this subsection, but not from
3 developing such a plan, if it does not receive private or federal funds
4 sufficient to cover the department's costs associated with the
5 implementation and administration of the plan, including any costs
6 associated with increased caseload resulting from the implementation of
7 the plan.

8 (3)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that:

9 (i) Hard work be rewarded and no disincentives to work exist for
10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants;

11 (ii) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants be
12 enabled to advance in employment, through greater earnings or new,
13 better-paying employment;

14 (iii) Participants in employment and training pilot programs be able
15 to maintain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits while
16 seeking employment with higher wages that allow them to reduce or
17 terminate such program benefits; and

18 (iv) Nebraska better utilize options under the Supplemental
19 Nutrition Assistance Program that other states have implemented to
20 encourage work and employment.

21 (b)(i) The department shall create a TANF-funded program or policy
22 that, in compliance with federal law, establishes categorical eligibility
23 for federal food assistance benefits pursuant to the Supplemental
24 Nutrition Assistance Program to maximize the number of Nebraska residents
25 being served under such program in a manner that does not increase the
26 current gross income eligibility limit except as otherwise provided in
27 subdivision (3)(b)(ii) of this section.

28 (ii) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, such TANF-
29 funded program or policy shall increase the gross income eligibility
30 limit to one hundred sixty-five percent of the federal Office of
31 Management and Budget income poverty guidelines as allowed under federal
1 law and under 7 C.F.R. 273.2(j)(2), as such law and regulation existed on
2 April 1, 2021, but shall not increase the net income eligibility limit.
3 Beginning October 1, 2025, the gross income eligibility limit shall
4 return to the amount used prior to the increase required by this
5 subdivision. The department shall evaluate the TANF-funded program or
6 policy created pursuant to this subsection and provide a report
7 electronically to the Health and Human Services Committee of the
8 Legislature and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst on or before December 15
9 of each year regarding the gross income eligibility limit and whether it
10 maximizes the number of Nebraska residents being served under the program
11 or policy. The evaluation shall include an identification and

12 determination of additional administrative costs resulting from the
13 increase to the gross income eligibility limit, a recommendation
14 regarding the gross income eligibility limit, and a determination of the
15 availability of federal funds for the program or policy.
16 (iii) To the extent federal funds are available to the Department of
17 Labor for the SNAP Next Step Program, until September 30, 2023, any
18 recipient of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits whose
19 household income is between one hundred thirty-one and one hundred sixty-
20 five percent of the federal Office of Management and Budget income
21 poverty guidelines and who is not exempt from work participation
22 requirements shall be encouraged to participate in the SNAP Next Step
23 Program administered by the Department of Labor if the recipient is
24 eligible to participate in the program and the program's services are
25 available in the county in which such household is located. It is the
26 intent of the Legislature that no General Funds be utilized by the
27 Department of Labor for the processes outlined in this subdivision (iii).
28 For purposes of this section, SNAP Next Step Program means a partnership
29 program between the Department of Health and Human Services and the
30 Department of Labor to assist under-employed and unemployed recipients of
31 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in finding self-
1 sufficient employment.
2 (iv) Such TANF-funded program or policy shall eliminate all asset
3 limits for eligibility for federal food assistance benefits, except that
4 the total of liquid assets which includes cash on hand and funds in
5 personal checking and savings accounts, money market accounts, and share
6 accounts shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars pursuant to the
7 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as allowed under federal law
8 and under 7 C.F.R. 273.2(j)(2).
9 (v) This subsection becomes effective only if the department
10 receives funds pursuant to federal participation that may be used to
11 implement this subsection.
12 (c) For purposes of this subsection:
13 (i) Federal law means the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7
14 U.S.C. 2011 et seq., and regulations adopted under the act; and
15 (ii) TANF means the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
16 program established in 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.
17 (4)(a) Within the limits specified in this subsection, the State of
18 Nebraska opts out of the provision of the federal Personal Responsibility
19 and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as such act existed on
20 January 1, 2009, that eliminates eligibility for the Supplemental
21 Nutrition Assistance Program for any person convicted of a felony
22 involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.
23 (b) A person shall be ineligible for Supplemental Nutrition
24 Assistance Program benefits under this subsection if he or she (i) has
25 had three or more felony convictions for the possession or use of a
26 controlled substance or (ii) has been convicted of a felony involving the
27 sale or distribution of a controlled substance or the intent to sell or
28 distribute a controlled substance. A person with one or two felony
29 convictions for the possession or use of a controlled substance shall
30 only be eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
31 benefits under this subsection if he or she is participating in or has
1 completed a state-licensed or nationally accredited substance abuse
2 treatment program since the date of conviction. The determination of such
3 participation or completion shall be made by the treatment provider
4 administering the program.
5 (5)(a) Unless expressly required by federal law, the department
6 shall not seek, apply for, accept, or renew a waiver of any work
7 requirement established by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
8 under 7 U.S.C. 2015(o), as such section existed on January 1, 2025.
9 (b) The department shall not exercise the state's option to provide

10 an exemption from the work requirement under 7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(6), as such
 11 section existed on January 1, 2025.
 12 (6) Under the authority given to a state agency to operate the
 13 general work requirement pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2015(d), as such section
 14 existed on January 1, 2025, the department shall assign all individuals
 15 who are over sixteen years of age and younger than sixty years of age to
 16 an employment and training program as defined in 7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4), as
 17 such section existed on January 1, 2025, unless specifically exempted by
 18 federal regulations or law.
 19 Sec. 2. This act becomes operative on January 1, 2026.
 20 Sec. 3. Original section 68-1017.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative
 21 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.

(Signed) Brian Hardin, Chairperson

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 90. Introduced by Hallstrom, 1; Andersen, 49; Arch, 14; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Bosn, 25; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Clouse, 37; Conrad, 46; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Fredrickson, 20; Guereca, 7; Hansen, 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Juarez, 5; Kauth, 31; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; McKeon, 41; McKinney, 11; Meyer, 17; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13; Storer, 43; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, the 2025 Nebraska School Activities Association Boys State Wrestling Tournament was held from February 20 through February 22 at the CHI Health Center Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Brock Goebel competed in the tournament for the Syracuse High School boys wrestling team; and

WHEREAS, Goebel won the Boys Class C 106-pound State Wrestling Championship by defeating Philip Streff of North Bend Central High School; and

WHEREAS, Goebel dominated four matches earning him the title; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the academic, athletic, and artistic achievements of the youth of our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Syracuse High School wrestler Brock Goebel on winning the 2025 Boys Class C 106-pound State Wrestling Championship.

2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Syracuse High School and Brock Goebel.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 91. Introduced by Hallstrom, 1; Andersen, 49; Arch, 14; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Bosn, 25; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Clouse, 37; Conrad, 46; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Fredrickson, 20; Guereca, 7; Hansen, 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Juarez, 5; Kauth, 31; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; McKeon, 41; McKinney, 11; Meyer, 17; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13; Storer, 43; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, the 2025 Nebraska School Activities Association Girls State Wrestling Tournament was held from February 18 through February 19 at the CHI Health Center Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Makayla Vasser competed in the tournament for the Nebraska City High School girls wrestling team; and

WHEREAS, Makayla won the Girls Class A 190-pound State Wrestling Championship by defeating Jazmyn Garcia of Scottsbluff High School; and

WHEREAS, Makayla achieved a perfect 42-0 season; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the academic, athletic, and artistic achievements of the youth of our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Nebraska City High School wrestler Makayla Vasser on winning the 2025 Girls Class A 190-pound State Wrestling Championship.

2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Nebraska City High School and Makayla Vasser.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 92. Introduced by Dungan, 26; Andersen, 49; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Fredrickson, 20; Hallstrom, 1; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Juarez, 5; Lonowski, 33; McKinney, 11; Murman, 38; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Sorrentino, 39; Storer, 43; Storm, 23.

WHEREAS, Don Wesely was born in David City, Nebraska, was a graduate of Northeast High School, and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Wesely of Lincoln was a distinguished member of the Legislature, serving from 1979 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, Wesely was elected to the Nebraska Legislature at the age of twenty-four and was elected as chairman of several committees, including the Rules Committee, Retirement Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Health and Human Services Committee; and

WHEREAS, Wesely turned his attention from the Legislature in 1999 and became the forty-ninth mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Wesely and his administration oversaw and implemented the opening of the new Haymarket Park baseball and softball stadiums, parking garage, and pedestrian bridge, brought back minor league baseball to the capital city, and won approval to begin construction on the two hundred million dollar Antelope Valley Project; and

WHEREAS, Wesely opened two libraries, two public pools, two parks, acquired three hundred additional acres of parks for the city, built twelve new miles of trails, and opened the F Street Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Wesely remained active in state politics as a highly respected lobbyist and lived his entire adult life as a public servant; and

WHEREAS, Wesely passed away on March 19, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature honors the memory of Don Wesely for his personal accomplishments and service to the State of Nebraska.
2. That the Legislature extends its sympathy and condolences to the family of Don Wesely.
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Don Wesely.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 93. Introduced by Murman, 38.

WHEREAS, Keith Berns of Bladen, Nebraska, is recognized for his outstanding contributions to soil conservation and is the recipient of the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts Outstanding Soil Conservation Award; and

WHEREAS, Berns has combined over twenty-five years of no-till farming experience with a decade of teaching agriculture and computer science, demonstrating his commitment to both the practice and education of sustainable farming techniques; and

WHEREAS, Berns co-owns and operates Green Cover Seed, one of the leading cover crop seed providers and educators in the United States, and has conducted extensive research on over one hundred twenty different cover crop species, analyzing their growth patterns, nitrogen fixation, moisture usage, and grazing potential; and

WHEREAS, Berns and his brother, Brian Berns, began experimenting with cover crops and studying water usage on their south-central Nebraska farm, leading to the founding of Green Cover Seed, which has since been at the forefront of advancing soil health practices; and

WHEREAS, Berns has maintained a one thousand five hundred acre farm that has been one hundred percent continuous no-till for over a decade, incorporating innovative cover crop strategies to improve soil structure, moisture retention, and nutrient cycling; and

WHEREAS, Berns has developed the SmartMix Calculator, one of the most widely used online cover crop selection tools, helping farmers nationwide make informed decisions about cover crop integration; and

WHEREAS, Berns holds a master's degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Nebraska and has dedicated himself to sharing knowledge on cover crops and soil health; and

WHEREAS, Berns was appointed by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts to serve on the Nebraska Healthy Soil Task Force and was honored to serve as its chairman, furthering the mission of soil conservation across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Keith Berns for receiving the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts Outstanding Soil Conservation Award for his dedication to soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, and education.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Keith Berns.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 94. Introduced by Bostar, 29; Andersen, 49; Arch, 14; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Bosn, 25; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Clouse, 37; Conrad, 46; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Fredrickson, 20; Guereca, 7; Hallstrom, 1; Hansen, 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Juarez, 5; Kauth, 31; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; McKeon, 41; McKinney, 11; Meyer, 17; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13; Storer, 43; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, Bryan Health is celebrating one hundred years of elevating quality of life through better health throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Health began as William Jennings Bryan and his family donated ten acres of land and their family home to build a hospital in 1922. Bryan Memorial Hospital was opened on June 6, 1926; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, Lincoln General Hospital was created and later absorbed into Bryan Health where it operates under the name Bryan Medical Center to this day; and

WHEREAS, collectively they were the first hospital in America to incorporate inpatient psychiatric care, they pioneered heart care, they delivered the first surviving twenty-two week gestation baby in Nebraska, and they became the birthplace for Advanced Trauma Life Support; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Health employs over seven thousand five hundred individuals and has grown over the last one hundred years to include six medical centers, a private foundation, a robust physician network, and a college of health sciences that serves Nebraskans from every county; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes Bryan Health's impact, history, innovation, and commitment to the health of all Nebraskans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates and thanks Bryan Health for one hundred years of service to the community.
2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Bryan Health and Chief Executive Officer Russ Gronewold.

Laid over.

VISITOR(S)

Visitors to the Chamber were Sydney Dunn, Lincoln; Lorie Meyer, Pender; Linda Prinz, West Point; members of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Nebraska; members of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters and Jesuit Academy; members of Habitat for Humanity Nebraska from across the state; members of ECHO Collective, Lincoln; students from Trumble Park Elementary, Papillion; students from Grant Elementary, Norfolk.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:59 a.m., on a motion by Senator Ballard, the Legislature adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Friday, March 28, 2025.

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

