

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

**ARCH:** Good morning, Senators. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the second day of the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator DeBoer. Please rise.

**DeBOER:** Oh, Holy One, in this season of new beginnings, bring hope to all who work here, hope that the world not-- need not be as it has always been, but that you bring surprises in our midst. Embolden us with visions of change. In this place, as we set off on the work of shepherding the state, help us to see your divine face in each one who works here with us. Move within us a spirit of charity and compassion to each other and to all those in our state. We thank you for our new Governor and Lieutenant Governor as they begin their service today. Bring wisdom and patience and strength to them. We thank you for the work of all the new and returning staff members who work for the Legislature. Bring blessings on their service as they begin new tasks and learn new roles. We thank you for all the support workers in this building who make it possible for us to do our work: the custodians and technical supporters, all of those we've seen moving people in this office, the reporters, and yes, the lobbyists. Bring courage and patience and kindness and wisdom and strength to each person who labors here. Bless our service together. In the name of the one who is, who was, and always will be, amen.

**ARCH:** Senator Albrecht, you're recognized for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ALBRECHT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please join me. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Senator. I call to order the second day of the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

**CLERK:** There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any corrections for the Journal?

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

**ARCH:** Do you have any messages, reports or announcements?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

**CLERK:** I do, Mr. President. Attorney General's Opinions addressed to Senator Dorn, Erdman and Senator Halloran. Additionally, letters from Governor Pete Ricketts concerning the appointments to the State Board of Health, Board of Public Roads Classification and Standards, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, Nebraska Power Review Board, Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, Crime Victim's Reparations Committee, Nebraska Information Technology Commission, Health Information Technology Board, Natural Resources Commission, Board of Educational Lands and Funds, Child Abuse Prevention Fund, Nebraska Brand Committee, State Racing and Gaming Commission, Nebraska State Fair Board, Board of Emergency Medical Services, State Electrical Board, State Personnel Board, Nebraska Ethanol Board, Rural Health Advisory Commission, Nebraska Arts Council, Board of Educational Lands and Funds, Technical Advisory Committee on Statewide Assessment, Nebraska Motor Vehicle License-- Industry Licensing Board, Nebraska Investment Council, Health Information Technology Board, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, and the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Additionally, communications from the state of Louisiana and the state of South Carolina concerning legislative resolutions. Next, the report on the disposition of interim studies resolutions, as necessary for the Journal. A communication from State Accounting concerning the completion of the Nebraska Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year of June 30, 2021. And finally, Mr. President, a preliminary report from the Committee on Committees concerning appointments to the standing committees. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Albrecht, you are recognized for an announcement. And members, please come to order.

**ALBRECHT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Committee on Committees did meet yesterday afternoon to deliver the preliminary slate. I would like, if there's any changes, that everyone return to their designated chairfolks that are selected, the four that will be in Committee on Committees this afternoon, with any changes. Make sure you see them before noon. And I'd like to request the Committee on Committees to meet under the north balcony as soon as we get done here. Thanks.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Senator Albrecht. Senator Conrad, you are recognized for a point of personal privilege.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

**CONRAD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning, colleagues. It's my honor to have an opportunity to mark a really special aspect of state law. Under the current Nebraska Revised Statutes 84-104.04, which was adopted back in 1981, and 84-104.05, adopted contemporaneously thereto, our state saw fit to recognize appropriately that today, January 5 of each year, shall be designated as George W. Norris Day, and shall be set apart for holding suitable exercises in the schools and in state government to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of this great Nebraskan, which of course includes the establishment of this unique, special, effective and efficient nonpartisan Unicameral Legislature, which is the envy of our peers across our sister states and I think perhaps even the federal government. With that being said, I know that Senator McCollister helped to start this tradition in years past, and he read into the record the first speech that Senator Norris provided to the Unicameral Legislature back in 1937. I will spare you reading the full speech because you can find it for yourself in the record, or we'd be happy to go ahead and pass it out so that people can have that available. But I think it's right to not only recognize this day in our state law, but to set the tone for our work ahead, to remember the institution that we have sworn an oath to protect and defend as we carry our work forward. So to quote Senator Norris from his first speech to the Legislature, remember this: every professional lobbyist, professional politician and representative of greed and monopoly is hoping and praying that our-- your work will be a failure. Everything that special interests can do to embarrass you and misinterpret your actions will be attempted. On the other hand, every lover of his fellow man, every person who wants to place our state on a higher standard of efficiency, every person who's anxious to bring about improvement in our state affairs, every patriot who wants to place our government on a higher level of good, every lover of human liberty and equal justice, every believer in the business administration of state affairs as distinguished from the political machine control is hoping, praying, and believing that our official work will be crowned with unlimited success and satisfaction. Remember this, that we are serving without regard to partisan, political obligation or any machine or any boss or any political leader. Our constituents do not expect perfection. They know that it is human to err, but they do expect and have the right to expect absolute, honestly-- honesty, unlimited courage and a reasonable degree of efficiency and wisdom. I encourage each of our colleagues, returning and new, to reflect on George Norris today, as marked in our state law and as marked in our traditions. It is critical that we honor these traditions. It is critical we honor

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate January 5, 2023  
Rough Draft

our state law. It is critical we honor our oath to defending our nonpartisan institution, which is enshrined in our state constitution. Thank you, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Senator Conrad. Senator Briese, you're recognized for an announcement.

**BRIESE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I really have three announcements here. Number one, Steve Ramos, coordinator of legislative services, has been working diligently to finalize office assignments for all members and will be pulling members off the floor this morning to help complete that process. Number two, please save the date for new staff orientation, which will take place on Monday, January 9, in Room 1524. Orientation is intended for staff who are new to the Legislature, but all staff are welcome to attend. Portions of the orientation will be held in both the morning and the afternoon. An agenda and additional information will be sent out later this week. Finally, members should have received a memo from my office listing various appointments to special committees, commissions and councils that are made by the Executive Board. If you wish to be appointed to any of these committees, please send a letter or email to my office by noon on Tuesday, January 10. Thank you, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Senator Briese. Senator Clements would like to recognize our doctor for the day, Dr. Dale Michels from Walton, Nebraska, who is seated under the balcony. Please rise and welcome Dr. Michels. We will now proceed to the introduction of new bills. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, quickly, if I could, first, announcement: the Exec-- excuse me, the Committee on Committees will meet in Executive Session now under the north balcony. Committee on Committees, now under the north balcony. New bills. LB1, introduced by Senator Briese, as Chair of the Executive Board. It's a bill for an act relating to agriculture; eliminates obsolete funds that have been terminated; and outright repeals several sections. LB2, introduced by Senator Sanders, is a bill for an act relating to government; creates the Commission on Asian American Affairs. LB3, introduced by Senator Sanders, a bill for an act relating to bonds; amends several sections; changes provisions relating to levying of taxes for bond sinking funds; provides for the levying of taxes for bonds prior to the bond being issued and a deadline for notifying the county assessor of approved bonds in order to correct valuation of property; harmonize provisions; and repeals the original section. LB4, introduced by Senator Sanders, is a bill

for an act relating to homestead exemptions; amends several sections; changes provisions relating to veterans who qualify for exemption, application requirements, and penalties; harmonize provisions; provides an operative date; and repeals the original section. LB5, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act; amends section 48-101.01; provides for comp-- compensability of mental injuries and mental illness resulting from workplace violence; defines a term; harmonize provisions; and repeals the original section. LB6, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to political subdivisions; amends several sections; prohibits granting conditional use permit to persons delinquent in the payment of real property taxes, provides a waiver of prescribed; provides duties, a contracting requirement, and a waiver under the Community Development Law; harmonize provisions; provides a duty for the Revisor of Statutes; and repeals the original section. LB7, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to civil actions; amends section 25-224; provides for a statute of limitations for actions based on the exposure to hazardous or toxic chemicals; harmonize provisions; and repeals the original section. LB8, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to mobile homes; amends several sections; changes and eliminates provisions under the Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act relating to rules and regulations, prohibited acts, termination of tenancy, landlord remedies, retaliational [SIC] conduct and abandonment; and provides for in-park sales; creates liens on landowners-- land-- excuse me, landlords as prescribed and provides for certificates of title, priority, enforcement, and challenges; eliminates obsolete provisions; provides for applicability; defines terms; harmonize provisions; repeals the original section; outright repeals section 76-14, 101. LB9, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to Nebraska Political, Political Accountability and Disclosure Act; amends several sections; defines a term; changes reporting requirements for independent expenditures; requires reporting regarding electioneering communications; provides for late filing fees; to provide a penalty; harmonize provisions; repeals the original section. LB10, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; amends several sections; changes a motor vehicle tax exemption and property tax exempt relating to certain disabled veterans; harmonize provisions; provides an operative date; and repeals the original section. LB11, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to Protection from Domestic Abuse Act; amends sections 42-903 and 42-924; defines a term; provides for additional relief for protection orders

as prescribed; repeals-- and repeals the original section. LB12, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to human breast milk; creates the Nebraska Human Breast, Breast Milk Bank. LB13, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to the Medical Assistance Act; amends sections 68-901 and 68-911; requires coverage of human breast milk; and repeals the original section. LB14, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to child welfare; amends several, several sections; changes provisions relating to written independent living transition proposals as prescribed; restates intent; changes provisions relating to eligibility, extended services and support, and court-appointed representation under the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act; provides powers and duties; harmonize provisions; and repeals the original section. LB15, introduced by Senator Briese, is a bill for an act relating to the Wage and Hour Act; amends section 48-1203.01 and section 48-1203; provides youth minimum wage as prescribed; changes provisions relating to training wage wait-- wage rate; harmonize provisions; and repeals the original sections. LB16, introduced by Senator Briese, is a bill for an act relating to occupational licenses; amends several sections of Chapter 84; changes provisions for membership of the State Electrical Board; provides powers and duties for the State Electrical Board; defines a term; provides for federal preemption; provides for applicability of provisions; requires occupational boards to make a determination regarding the applicant with a criminal conviction; requires occupational boards to issue occupational license or government certificate based on the occupational licensure, government certification, private certification, or work experience in another state or in the United States Military; provides for jurisprudential examinations and appeals from denial of license; changes provisions relating to preliminary applications by individuals with criminal conviction; harmonize provisions; repeals the original section. LB17, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to firearms; authorizes possession of a firearm on school grounds by full-time, off-duty peace officers; and repeals the original section. LB18 by Senator Wayne. It's a bill for an act relating to criminal procedure; amends section 29-2101 and 29-2103; changes provisions relating to motions for a new trial; provides for applicability; and repeals the original section. LB19, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act related to crimes and offenses; amends several sections; changes dollar amount thresholds for criminal penalties of certain offenses; redefines terms; provides for applicability of changes; eliminates obsolete provisions; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

LB20, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to voting rights; amends sections 29-112, 29-1113 [SIC], 32-313, and 32-1530; provides for the restoration of voting rights upon completion of a felony sentence; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB21, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to cities of the metropolitan class; amends several sections; changes provisions relating to elections, districts, terms, number of city council members, and redistricting, redistricting procedures; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section. LB22, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to marijuana; repeals-- excuse me, amends several sections; decriminalizes use and possession of marijuana; remove marijuana from the marijuana and controlled substances tax; renames a fund; eliminates obsolete provisions; harmonize provisions; and repeals several-- repeals the original sections; and outright repeals several sections. LB23, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to paternity; amends sections 43-1401 and section 43-1411; defines and redefines terms; changes provisions relating to interventions in paternity actions; and harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB24, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to Tobacco Products Tax Act; amends section 77-4008; changes provisions relating to tax on cigars, cheroots, stogies as prescribed; provides an operative date; and repeals the original sections. LB25, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to courts; states findings; defines terms; authorizes punitive damages as prescribed. LB26, introduced by Senator Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to municipalities; amends section 86-594; to adopt the Rural Municipal Broadband Access Act; harmonizes provisions; provides a duty for the Revisor of Statutes; and repeals the original section. LB27, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to criminal procedure; amends section 29-2318; provides for appointment of counsel for defendants; and repeals the original section. LB28, introduced by Senator Erdman, is a bill for an act relating to taxate-- Tax Equalization and Review Commission [SIC]; amends section 77-5015; change provisions relating decisions on appeals; repeals the original section; declares an emergency. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**DORN:** Mr. Clerk-- Mr. Speaker, you're recognized for an announcement.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I am going to be distributing a schedule, a memo this morning and I want to talk you through it. They'll distribute it right after I'm done speaking here for a second, but if I could have your attention for a minute. I want

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

to, I want to talk to you about a-- one, one change that is-- that probably might catch you a little by surprise, something we're going to do a little bit differently this year. So my observation over the first four years is that we spend a lot of time in the beginning of the session waiting for bills, waiting for floor debate, waiting-- we do a lot of waiting at the beginning of the session. Then we get to the end of the session and we're here at 10:00 at night and I'm-- and so what I would like to do is, is I would really-- if at all possible, I'd like to kind of smooth out the load over the session to avoid-- especially at the end of the session. I mean, it-- sometimes it feels as though sometimes we're like the poor student that doesn't get their work done at the beginning of the semester and then crams for all-nighters at the end of the, at the end of the semester. I'd kind of like to smooth that out a little bit and so I'm going to make an attempt to do that with, with the scheduling. So that's, that's what's behind this. So the memo's-- the memo-- just-- and you'll, you'll, you'll get all the detail here in just a second. But the-- this next week, we're-- the Rules Committee will be meeting. They'll be working on that. We'll be doing bill introductions next week. That will be as, as expected. January 17-- we'll begin Rules debate on the 17th. The 18th, by the way, is the last day of bill introduction so be sure and mark that on your calendar to get the, get the bills in. And then beginning January 23 through 27, we'll be-- begin committee hearings. We'll begin with half-day committee hearings the 23rd through the 27th. We have a number of new, new clerks that are assuming responsibilities. We want to give them a little bit of time to ease into the committee responsibilities so the 23rd to the 27th will be half days. But here's where, here's where I'd like to try something a little bit different. When we were in COVID, of course, many of us remembered the full-day committee hearings. And frankly, we all said, like, don't do that again because-- especially when it was like that was all we were doing all day long. It was a tremendous burden on the committee clerks. But one of the things I would like to do is I would, I would like to do all-day committee hearings January 30 through February 10, so two weeks. And there's a, there's a day in there that's just a half day because of, of, of other, of other of-- obligations and a recess day February 6. But I would like to try to frontload the session a little bit with some all-day hearings and get bills moving so that when we begin debate on February 13, that we've got good bills. And, and, and some of those will be priority bills and we'll be, we'll be ready to tackle the, the responsibilities that we have. So you'll see that in the, in the memo. The only thing that I would, I would also mention is that April 11 through June 2, I'm,

I'm-- I-- as I said, my goal is I, I just don't think we make tremendously good decisions at 10:00 at night. After long days, we're all tired. So I would really like to stay off evenings, but I am asking you to keep the evenings open from April 11 through June 2 and hopefully we don't-- we'll use those very sparingly, if at all, so that's, that's my goal. So I would also ask for today that you please review the agenda for the day. You have all been given assignments for escorting. Please note what, what you are escorting into the room for the swearing in ceremonies because we aren't going to announce those by name. So, so you just need to stay ahead of it and see where your name is identified there and be prepared. So we'll announce that the people that are escorting please go to the back and escort, but we won't be announcing the individual names. And with that, second day, we're, we're off and running. So thank you very much for your attention.

**DORN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Clerk, introduction of more bills.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President. LB29, introduced by Senator Erdman, is a bill for an act relating to property taxes; amends several sections within Chapter 77; changes provisions relating to the assessment of real property that suffers significant property damage; redefines and eliminates terms; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section; declares an emergency. LB30, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Juvenile Code; amends sections 43-279 and 43 -280; provides for answers of no contest in adjudication hearings; harmonizes provisions; and review-- and repeals the original section. LB31, introduced by Senator Jacobson. It's a bill for an act relating to railroads; requires a train crew of at least two individuals as prescribed; provides fines; and provides duties for the Public Service Commission. LB32, introduced by Senator Jacobson. It's a bill for an act relating to Medical Supplement Insurance Minimum Standards Act; amends section 44-3601; changes provisions relating requirements for issuers of medicare supplement insurance policies or certificates that-- and coverage of individuals under sixty-five years of age who are eligible for medicare by reason of disability or end-stage renal, renal disease; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section. LB33, introduced by Senator Jacobson, is a bill for an act relating to municipalities; amends several sections; changes provisions relating to voting powers of mayors of cities of the first class and cities of the second class; eliminates obsolete provisions relating to revised election district boundaries; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section. LB34, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to the

administration of justice; amends several sections; provides a presumption of disposition under the Nebraska Juvenile Code for crimes committed by defendants under eighteen years of age; changes the definition of juvenile under the Nebraska Juvenile Code; and repeals the original section. LB35, introduced by Senator DeBoer, is a bill for an act relating to child care; amends sections 68-1206 and 68-1724; adopts changes to federal law; extends the applicability for-- of certain-- of criteria for eligibility of-- for assistance; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB36, introduced by Senator DeBoer, is a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; amends section 77-2715.03; changes provisions-- changes individual income tax rates; and repeals the original section. LB37, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title Act; amends section 60-146; changes identification inspection requirements as prescribed; and repeals the original section. LB38, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; amends section 77-2716; provides an income tax adjustment related to federal retirement annuities; and repeals the original section. LB39, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to the Legislature; states findings; provides for disability impact statements for legislation; and provides powers and duties for the office of Legislative Research. LB40, introduced by Senator Blood, is a bill for an act relating to agriculture; adopts the Riparian Protection and Water Quality Practices Act; and provides an operative date. LB41, introduced by Senator Hansen, is a bill for an act relating to the Administrative Procedure Act; amends section 84-920; prohibits state agencies from imposing annual filing and reporting requirements on charitable organizations as prescribed; states intent; defines a term; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB42, introduced by Senator Hansen, is a bill for an act relating to children and families; amends several sections; defines and redefines terms; changes provisions relating to what constitutes child abuse and neglect under the Child Protection and Family Safety Act and the Nebraska Juvenile Code; changes grounds for juvenile court jurisdiction and termination of parental rights; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB40-- excuse me LB43, introduced by Senator Sanders, is a bill for an act relating to the Administrative Procedure Act; amends section 84-920; requires hearing officers to interpret state agency rules and regulations de novo on the record; and requires courts and hearing officers to interpret statutes and regulations to limit agency power and maximize individual liberty; and repeals the original section. LB44, introduced by Senator Dungan, is a bill for an act relating to railroads; adopts

the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact. LB45, introduced by Senator Dorn, is a bill for an act relating to cities and villages; creates the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant Program; provides powers and duties; creates a fund; and provides for fund transfers; and creates an emergency. LB46, introduced by Senator Dorn, is a bill for an act relating to appropriations; appropriates funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for a rate study. LB47, introduced by Senator Dorn. It's a bill for an act relating to the Open Meeting Act; amends section 84-1411; changes a public notice requirement relating to meetings by a rural fire, fire district or a suburban fire protection district; and repeals the original section. LB48, introduced by Senator Dorn, is a bill for an act relating to appropriations; appropriates money to the State Department of Education for educational service units. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you. Mr. Clarke will stand at ease at this point and wait for additional bills.

[EASE]

**ARCH:** Mr. Clerk, please, for introduction of new bills.

**CLERK:** LB49, introduced by Senator Dungan is a bill for an act relating to solar energy; amends several sections within Chapter 16 [SIC]; restates legislative findings; changes provisions relating considerations for zoning regulations, ordinances, and comprehensive development plans; prohibits certain restrictions relating to solar energy collection and use; provides a cause of action; to harmonize provisions; provide severability; and repeals the original section. LB50, introduced by Senator Geist is a bill for an act relating to criminal justice; amends several sections; changes provisions regarding problem solving courts, set asides, and restitution; defines terms; restates legislative intent regarding appropriations; creates pilot programs related to courts, probation, and parole; terminates the Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight; provides duties for courts, the probation administrator, the Board of Parole, the Division of Parole Supervision, and the State Court Administrator; changes provisions relating to parole and provides for streamlined parole contracts; provides for applicability; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB51, introduced by Senator Briese, is a bill for an act relating to state government; amends section 81-1120.27; changes provisions relating to the use of the state's telecommunication system; and repeals the original section. LB52,

introduced by Senator Lippincott, is a bill for an act relating to tuition credits; changes the amount of tuition credits during the fiscal year; repeals the original section; and declares an emergency. LB53, introduced by McKinney and Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to holidays; establishes El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Muhammad X [SIC] Day; and changes provisions relating to holidays; and repeals the original section. LB54, introduced by Senator McKinney, is a bill for an act relating to the Legislature; states findings; provides for racial impact statements for legislation; provides powers and duties for the office of Legislative Research. LB55, introduced by Senator McKinney, is a bill for an act relating to self-sufficiency contracts; amends section 68-1735; allows applicants to complete monthly work activity requirements remotely or online; provides for verification requirements; and repeals the original sections. LB56, introduced by Senator McKinney, is a bill for an act relating to public health; adopts the Diaper Changing Accommodation Act; and provides an operative date. LB57, issued by Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, is a bill for an act relating to employment; amends section 48-652 and section 71-7611; adopts the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act; creates a fund; transfers funds; changes provisions relating to experience accounts under the Employment Security Law; harmonizes provisions; provides severability; and repeals the original section. LB58, introduced by Senator John Cavanaugh, is a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; amends several sections within Chapter 77; provides a sales and use tax exemption for diapers as prescribed; defines a term; harmonizes provisions; provides an operative date; and repeals the original section. LB59, introduced by Senator John Cavanaugh, is a bill for an act relating to criminal procedure; amends section 29-3001; changes provisions relating to limitations of a postconviction relief action; and repeals the original section. LB60, introduced by Senator John Cavanaugh, is a bill for an act relating to juvenile facilities; amends section 83-4,134.01; changes provisions relating to room confinement of juveniles and required reports; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB61, introduced by Senator Brandt, DeKay, Dorn, and Wayne, is a bill for an act relating to dark fiber; amends several sections; authorizes the licensing of dark fiber by an agency or political subdivision of the state as prescribed; eliminates Public Service Commission jurisdiction relating to certain violations and appeals; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section; and outright repeals section 86-578. LB62, introduced by Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, is a bill for an act relating to the medical assistance program; amends section 68-911; to provide for coverage of translation

and interpretation services; and repeals the original section. Finally, Mr. President, just an announcement. Senator Lowe has been selected as the Vice Chair of the Committee on Committees. Senator Lowe, Vice Chair of Committee on Committees. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, for additional bills.

**CLERK:** New bills, Mr. President. LB63, introduced by Senator, Bostar, is a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act; and sections 86-324 and 86-328; withholds universal service support from telecommunication companies using certain equipment or services identified as posing a national security threat as prescribed; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB64, introduced by Senator Day, is a bill for an act relating to child abuse or neglect; amends sections 28-713.01; requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide notice regarding certain persons entered into the central registry; and harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB65, introduced by Senator Day, is a bill for an act relating to child care licensing; amends section 71-1918 and 71-1920; adds requirements for the complaint tracking system and notification for disciplinary actions against license holders, holders; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB66, introduced by Senator Slama, is a bill for an act relating to motor vehicles; amends section-- several sections; authorizes county boards should regulate the operation of all-- of certain all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles; harmonizes terms; changes provisions of the Motor Vehicle Certification of Title Act relating to all-terrain vehicles in utility-type vehicles; provides for registration fees and taxes for certain all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act; changes provisions of the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act; changes certain safety provisions and authorizes the operation of certain all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles on certain highways as prescribed under the Nebraska Rules of the Road; harmonizes provisions; provides an operative date; and repeals the original section. LB67, introduced by Senator Slama, is a bill for an act relating to state government; amends section 84-602; provides duties for the State Treasurer; and repeals the original section. LB68, introduced by Senator Slama, is a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act; amends several sections in Chapter 44; increases limits on and changes provisions relating to medical malpractice liability; changes provisions relating to proof of financial responsibility and the

Excess Liability Fund; provides for applicability; harmonizes provisions; and provides an operative date; and repeals the original section. LB69, introduced by Senator Jacobson, is a bill for an act relating to insurance; requires issuers of certain life insurance policies to provide notice of lapse and termination of such policies as prescribed; authorizes senior citizens with certain life insurance policies to designate a third party to receive certain notifications regarding such senior citizen's life insurance policies as prescribed. LB70, introduced by Senator Machaela Cavanaugh and Senator Conrad, is a bill for an act relating to government; amends section, section 71-612 and section 60-4,115; eliminates the fee for certain state identification cards and certified copies of birth certificates; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original sections; and declares an emergency. LB71, introduced by Senators Sanders, Albrecht, Briese, Linehan, and Murman. It's a bill for an act relating to schools; amends section 79-530 and 79-531 79-532, and 79-533; changes provisions relating to the involvement of parents and guardians in the education of their children; requires each public school district to develop and adopt a policy relating to the rights of each parent and guardian to access testing information and curriculum and excuse their child from certain instruction or activities; provides powers and duties to the Commissioner of Education; and repeals the original sections. LB72, introduced by Senator Aguilar. It's a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act; amends section 9-606; redefines a term; and repeals the original section. LB73, introduced by Senator Aguilar, is a bill for an act relating to the Nebraska Visitors Development Act; amends sections 81-3717 and 81-3720; changes provisions related to authorized uses for County Visitors Improvement Fund; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB74, introduced by Senator Linehan, is a bill for an act relating to sales and use taxes; amends sections-- several sections of Chapter 71; changes provisions relating to purchasing agents; harmonizes provisions; provides an operative date; and repeals the original section. LB75, introduced by Senator Vargas, Jacobson, DeBoer, is a bill for an act relating to the Child and Maternity Death Review Act; amends several sections of Chapter 71; provides for the review of incidents of severe maternal morbidity; and defines a term; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB76, introduced by Senator Geist, is a bill for an act relating to the administration of justice; amends several sections; provides access to certain information relating to probationers, juveniles, and parolees to law enforcement agencies; provides duties for the probation administrator, courts, and the Board of Parole and the Nebraska

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate January 5, 2023  
Rough Draft

Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice; repeals the original section. LB77, introduced by Senators Brewer, Aguilar, Albrecht, Ballard, Bostelman, Brandt, Briese, Clements, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Erdman, Halloran, Hansen, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Jacobson, Linehan, Lippincott, Lowe, Moser, Murman, Sanders, and Slama. It's a bill for an act relating to firearms; amends several sections; prohibits regulation of weapons by cities, villages, and counties; provides for the carrying of a concealed handgun without a permit; changes provisions relating to other concealed weapons; provides for requirements, limits, and off-- offenses relating to carrying a concealed handgun; provides an affirmative defense; changes provisions of the Concealed Handgun Permit Act; provides penalties; changes, provides, and eliminates definitions; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senators, I would ask that if you have bills that need to be turned in, that you'd turn those in. We would like to adjourn around 11:30 so that the, the room can be set up for the swearing in ceremonies this afternoon. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, for some additional bills.

**CLERK:** Thank you, Mr. President. LB78, introduced by Senator Day, is a bill for an act relating to massage therapy; amends section 38-1706; redefines a term; and repeals the original section. LB79, introduced by Senator Erdman and others, a bill for an act relating to revenue and taxation; amends several sections within Chapters 13 and 77; adopts the Nebraska EPIC Option Consumption Tax Act; terminates the Nebraska Budget Act, tax-increment financing, and property tax, inheritance tax, sales and use tax, the income tax, the homestead exemption, the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act, and the Community College Aid Act as prescribed; changes the application deadline under the ImagiNE Nebraska Act; and repeals the original section. LB80, introduced by Senator Aguilar and others. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; states intent regarding appropriations to the Department of Veterans' Affairs; and declares an emergency. LB81, introduced by Senators Aguilar, Blood, Briese, Conrad, DeBoer, Ibach, Lippincott, Slama. It's a bill for an act relating to county courts; amend section 24-503; changes the number of county judges in Buffalo and Hall County; and repeals the original section. LB82, introduced by Senator DeBoer, is a bill for an act relating to corrections; amends sections 83-4,114 and 83-918; changes provisions relating to certain reports; defines terms; provides a duty for the Department of Correctional Services; eliminates obsolete

provisions relating to work group; appeals the original section; and outright repeal section 83-7-- 83-173.02. LB83, introduced by Senator DeBoer. It's a bill for an act relating to community property; amend section 24-517; adopts the Uniform Community Property Disposition at Death Act; changes provisions relating to court jurisdiction; provides severability; and repeals the original section. LB84, introduced by Senator Day and others, is a bill for an act relating to supp-- the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; amends section 68-1017.02; removes Legislative intent regarding federal funding for administrative costs; changes the gross income eligibility limit and reports-- and reporting requirement; and repeals the original section. LB85, introduced by Senator Day and others. It's a bill for an act relating to the Medical Assistance Act; amends section 68-901; requires the Department of Health and Human Services to implement express lane eligibility; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. LB86, introduced by Senator Hunt, is a bill for an act relating to state contracts; amends section 73-104; requires public works contractors to pay the state minimum wage; and repeals the original section. LB87, introduced by Senator Hunt, is a bill for an act relating to minors; changes provisions relating to the age of majority; and repeals the original section. LB88, introduced by Senator Hunt. It's a bill for an act relating to public assistance; amends section 68-1017.02; changes provisions relating to eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits as prescribed; and repeals the original section.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, first of all, new, new bills. LB89, introduced by Senator Hunt and others, is a bill for an act relating to surrogate parenthood contracts; eliminates provisions stating that such contracts are void and unenforceable; and outright repeals section 25-21,200. LB90, introduced by Senator Day, is a bill for an act relating to Legislative Performance Audit Act; amends section 50-1209; eliminates provisions relating to tax incentive performance audits for certain tax incentive programs; redefines terms; and repeals the original section. LB91, introduced by Senator Hansen and others. It's a bill for an act relating to motor vehicles; amends section 60-6,279; changes provisions relating to helmets as prescribed; and requires eye protection as prescribed; and repeals the original section. LR1CA, introduced by Senator Blood, petitioning-- excuse me, moving to adopt a proposed amendment to the constitution. LR2CA, from Senator Erdman, moving, moving the state of Nebraska to a two-house system. LR3CA, from Senator John Cavanaugh, constitutional amendment providing for

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

nonpartisan nomination of the election of Governor, Lieutenant Governor. Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor, and Treasurer. LR4CA, from Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, removing felony convictions other than treason from being a disqualification from voting. LR5, from Senator Blood, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States-- excuse me, moving to adopt an-- moving to approve a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States. LR6CA, from Senator Erdman, moving that no government entity in the state of Nebraska may impose taxes other than retail consumption or exercise taxes. LR7CA, from Senator Erdman and others, providing the state of Nebraska shall impose a retail consumption tax or an excise tax on all new goods and services and that the Legislature may authorize political subdivisions to do the same and there shall be no exemption from such taxes except for grocery items purchased for off-premises consumption. Additionally, Mr. President, motions from Senator Conrad on LB15 and LB79 to indefinitely postpone pursuant to Rule 6, Section 3(f). Those will be printed in the Journal. An announcement, announcement: members who do not currently have an office assignment, please meet in Room 1307 upon recess. Members without an office, Room 1307 upon recess. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Aguilar, you are recognized for a motion.

**AGUILAR:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a series of committees be appointed to escort the various state and constitutional officers for the purpose of administrating their oath of office.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Senator Aguilar. The question is the adoption of the motion to appoint escort committees for the constitutional and state officers for inauguration purposes this afternoon. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have any items for the record?

**CLERK:** One final item, Mr. President. Senator McKinney would move to recess the body until 1:30 p.m.

**ARCH:** The question is the motion to recess until 1:30. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. We are in recess.

[RECESS]

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate January 5, 2023  
Rough Draft

**ARCH:** Good afternoon and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for this afternoon's proceedings. Will members please check in? Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any messages, reports or announcements?

**CLERK:** Just one, Mr. President. An appointment from the Governor concerning the state-- the Nebraska State Fair Board. That's all I have at this time.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This is a special afternoon today, and we want to take time to welcome families and friends of those who will be sworn in this afternoon. We consider it a real privilege to host this in the Legislative Chamber, and welcome to-- welcome to all of the guests this afternoon. Members, just a reminder that as we proceed, please read ahead in your agenda. You have all been assigned to escort committees, and so please pay attention. We won't be announcing the names of the members of the escort committees. We will simply be announcing that the individual that will be escorted or the group that will be escorted in. So please pay attention and it will all flow very smoothly. So we would like to invite the escort committee to please retire to the rear of the chamber to escort the family of the Lieutenant Governor.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting the Lieutenant Governor-elect of the great state of Nebraska, Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly, and his wife, Suzanne.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee please retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the family of the Governor.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, the family of Governor-elect Jim Pillen.

**ARCH:** We will now have the Presentation of the Colors from the Nebraska Army National Guard, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, and the Nebraska State Patrol. Please rise. Would the escort committee to escort the Board of Regents please retire to the back of the Chamber. You may be seated.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting Paul Kenney and Kathy Wilmot.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the State Board of Education please retire to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting Sherry Jones, Deborah Neary, Kirk Penner and Elizabeth Tegtmeier.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the Public Service Commission members please retire to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting Eric Kamler and Kevin Stocker.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the Attorney General please retire to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting Mike or-- Mike Hilgers, Attorney General.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the State Auditor please retire to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting Mike Foley, Auditor of Public Accounts.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the State Treasurer please retire to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Your committee now escorting State Treasurer Mike Murante-- correction, John Murante.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the Secretary of State please retire to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting Secretary of State Even near--

\_\_\_\_\_ : Bob Evnen.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Bob Evnen. Bob Evnen.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court please retire to the, to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the great state of Nebraska, Mike Heavican and members of his court.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee please retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the Lieutenant Governor?

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting the Lieutenant Governor-elect of the great state of Nebraska, Lieutenant Governor-elect Joe Kelly and his wife, Suzie.

**ARCH:** Would the escort committee to escort the Governor please retire to the back of the Chamber.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Mr. Speaker, your committee now escorting the Governor-elect of the great state of Nebraska, Jim Pillen.

**ARCH:** You may be seated. We will now proceed to the swearing-in ceremonies. At this time, I'd like to recognize the Chief Justice of and Nebraska Supreme Court, Michael Heavican.

**MIKE HEAVICAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The oath-taking will begin with the Board of Regents, and that would be Paul R. Kenney and Kathy Wilmot. And this works best if you stand in front here. Please raise your right hand. Do each of you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge your duties as Board of Regents members according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much and congratulations. And now from the State Board of Education, Kirk Penner, Sherry Jones, Elizabeth Tegtmeier and Deborah Neary. Please each of you raise your right hand. Do each of you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, and will faithfully discharge your duties as a State Board of Education member according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much and congratulations. Up next, we have members of the Public Service Commission, Commission. That would be Eric Kamler and Kevin Stocker. Please each of you raise your right hand. Do each of you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge your duties as a member of the Public Service Commission according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm".

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

Thank you very much and congratulations to you. And now constitutional officers, beginning with the Attorney General. Mike Hilgers, please raise your right hand. Do you, Mike Hilgers, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Attorney General according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much. Congratulations. And now the Auditor of Public Accounts, Mike Foley. Please raise your right hand. Do you, Mike Foley, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Auditor of Public Accounts according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much. Congratulations. State Treasurer John Murante. Please raise your right hand. Do you, John Murante, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of State Treasurer according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm" Thank you very much and congratulations. Secretary of State Bob Evnen. Please raise your right hand. Do you, Bob Evnen, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Secretary of State according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much. Congratulations. And now members of the Supreme Court. Justice William Cassel, Justice Jonathan Papik and Justice John Freudenberg. Please raise your right hand. Do each of you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Supreme Court justice according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much. And congratulations. Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly. Please raise your right hand. Do you, Joe Kelly, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Lieutenant Governor according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much and congratulations.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

**ARCH:** Lieutenant Governor Kelly, now that you have been duly inaugurated, one of your constitutional obligations and privileges is to serve as president of the Legislature.

**KELLY:** Mr. Chief Justice, please administer the oath to the Governor.

**MIKE HEAVICAN:** Mr. President, thank you very much. Governor Jim Pillen. There you go. Please raise your right hand. Do you, Jim Pillen, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of governor according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either "I so swear" or "I so affirm". Thank you very much and congratulations.

**JIM PILLEN:** Thank you.

**KELLY:** At this time, please join me in welcoming the Governor of the great state of nebraska for his inaugural address, the honorable Jim Pillen.

**JIM PILLEN:** Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Incredible day. Certainly not normal. Let me just say, Lieutenant Governor Kelly, Speaker Arch, Chief Justice Heavican, members of the 108th Legislature, family, friends and distinguished guests. My fellow Nebraskans, we live in a very special place where the son of a tenant farmer and seamstress can get a good education, go to college, receive a doctorate in veterinary medicine, raise a family, build a business and be elected to lead the greatest state in America. I am incredibly honored and humbled to stand before you today as the 41st Governor of the state of Nebraska. And I am incredibly excited to work with each one of you to serve the people of Nebraska. We have long attracted the very best, those with a pioneering spirit, a drive for innovation and an appetite for risk-taking and a lot of hard work. Our forefathers came from places of fewer opportunities and fewer freedoms to build better lives for themselves and their children and all of us right here in Nebraska. Over the last two years, I've had the privilege of meeting countless Nebraskans across our great state in their homes, at their farms and ranches, in their businesses and churches, and at lots of community gatherings in all 93 counties, most of them multiple times. And I can tell you with absolute certainty, wherever you travel, you won't find more innovative, more hardworking, and God-fearing people. I'm guilty. I love Nebraska. I think you all agree there is truly no place like it. Since the beginning, when pioneers settled the territory of Nebraska, our

strength has come from our people, not from government. Our people bring their best every single day. We work to earn a good living, to do our jobs to the best of our ability, raise our family, look after our neighbors, and make things better for our grandkids. We all, we all do the hard work for keeping Nebraska great. Growing up, our family would make it to Lincoln maybe once a year. My brothers and I were always excited to see who could first see that Capitol coming in from the northwest. This Chamber and this building is, it's just amazing. It is just amazing. But I believe it's important for us all to remember that as incredible as this building and Chamber are, we don't look to this building for prosperity. Prosperity comes from the private sector: families, ranchers, business leaders who work hard, innovate and take risks. We don't look to government for our rights and freedoms. Those are innate, God-given by our God Almighty. And we don't want to be handed anything. We want to earn every bit of it. But we do expect that government does the-- does well in those limited functions that only it can perform. We expect low taxes, carefully controlled spending, transparency and accountability. We expect the business of the people to be handled like business. We expect good schools, quality roads, safe neighborhoods. We expect a government that promotes opportunity instead of limiting it. And we expect the leaders we elect to work together to find solutions to difficult challenges. You see, great people want limited government that respects their freedoms, does its job, and then gets the heck out of the way. Great people want the opportunity to succeed through grit and determination. Great people want to live and work around other great people, and they want the same for their children. That's why great people want to live right here in Nebraska. And the demand, the demand for the good life is as strong as ever. But today, we have some obstacles to overcome. Too much of our talent leaves the state. We have to do a better job of keeping our kids here, equipping them with the skill sets that they'll need, and attracting even more top tier talent across the nation to our state. Our broken tax code is burdensome and uncompetitive. It weighs on all Nebraskans, and it limits our state's economic potential. That's why we have to achieve transformational tax change now. Our state funding education formula is outdated and unfair to far too many of our students. State aid to education must be modernized so that it is more equitable, meeting the needs of our students in all across communities in Nebraska. All Nebraskans agree, we never, ever give up on kids. And we all agree that they are our future. We can never, ever, ever give up on our kids. Thank you. These are not easy feats to accomplish, and there will do-- be even more to do in this session. The question for all of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office

Floor Debate January 5, 2023

Rough Draft

us today is whether we can live up to the example set by us-- for us, by those we serve. Can we, can we live up to the example set by the-- set for us by those we serve? Whether we can come together and do the big, difficult things that require us to secure a more prosperous future. As I look to the 108th Nebraska Legislature, the answer is clear. We can do big things by working together. Together we can. Together we can and must build productive working relationships of trust and goodwill. Together we can and must achieve attitudinal change and not have our focus not on what's best for your community or mine, but to focus on what's best for the future of the entire state of Nebraska. Thank you. And together we can and must rise to meet any challenge, overcome any obstacle, and do the hard work of keeping Nebraska great for the generations to come. I'm here to do my part to bring my knowledge and experience to the table and to listen to all Nebraskans. To advocate for the values and interests of our citizens from the Missouri River to Harrison and everywhere in between, to hold our cabinet agencies to the highest standards of performance and expectations and treat-- and to treat our tax dollars as my own. My dad taught me that every nickel matters. We need to treat nickels like manhole covers. Making decisions with fiscal conservatism and the constant drive to do more with less. I will work as a good-faith partner with my fellow constitutional officers, the Judiciary and the Legislature in doing the people's work. As we embark on a new chapter of Nebraska's history, I want to thank all of you for answering the call to public service. Also to thank your families and mine for being, for being there, supporting us, because we'll need their help to do the hard work that lies ahead. To thank-- thank you. And I also want to thank the brave men and women of our armed forces, law enforcement and first responders for all they do to keep us safe and free. And most of all, I want to express, express my thanks to the people of Nebraska for placing their trust in all of us here. May we always prove worthy of their faith and confidence. Today, I'm joined in the Chamber by my bride, Suzanne, and our incredible family. We're so proud of our children, Sarah, Brock, Polly and Izic. Our daughter-in-law-- our son-in-law, Jared [PHONETIC], and our daughter-in-law, Sarah [PHONETIC]. And my grandbabies: Will, Halle, Eloise, Henry, Harrison, Ava and Thomas. They are my inspiration to work as hard as possible every single day to create a brighter future for all Nebraska's kids. One grounded in faith, rooted in the values of family and freedom and abundant in prosperity. Together, we can make that vision a reality by putting in the work day by day. The great Nebraska statesman, a number of us who are blessed to call him our mentor, Coach Osborne, he taught me and my teammates that nobody

ever just stays the same. Every day, every day we can either decide to put in the effort to get better or we allow ourselves to get worse. Took me five years to learn that from coach, but I finally got it. We never stay the same. Think of that. We never say the same. So let's all commit to getting better each day, aspiring to be the greatest examples of our forefathers. When we do, we will look back on this first session of the 108th Nebraska Legislature with pride for all we've accomplished together. May God guide all of us in our work, bless us and our families. And may God continue to bless the great, great state of Nebraska. Thank you all very much. Thank you.

**KELLY:** Thank you very much, Governor. Would the escort committee for the Governor please come to the front of the Chamber. Please escort the Governor. Would the escort committee for the Governor's family please come forward. Please escort the Governor's family. Would the escort for the Lieutenant Governor's family please come forward. Please escort the family of the Lieutenant Governor. Would the escort for the Secretary of State please come forward. Please escort the Secretary of State. Would the escort for the State Treasurer please come forward. Please escort the state Treasurer. Would the escort for the State Auditor please come forward. Please escort the State Auditor. Will the escort for the Attorney General please come forward. Please escort the Attorney General. Will the escort for the Public Service Commission please come forward. Please escort the Public Service Commission. Will the escort for the State Board of Education please come forward. Please escort the State Board of Education. Will the escort for the Board of Regents please come forward. Please escort the Board of Regents. Would the escort for the Nebraska Supreme Court please come forward. Please escort the Nebraska Supreme Court. Mr. Clerk, do you have any messages, reports or announcements?

**CLERK:** I do, Mr. President. A single announcement. The Committee on Committees will be meeting in Room 1524 upon adjournment. Committee on Committees, 1524 upon adjournment. Senator Aguilar would move to adjourn the body until Friday, January 6, at 10:00 a.m.

**KELLY:** Recognize the Clerk for a motion to adjourn. The question is the adoption of the motion to adjourn. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed-- all those opposed, nay. Motion carried. We are adjourned.