LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 166

FINAL READING

Introduced by Geist, 25.

Read first time January 08, 2021

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; to amend sections 60-301,
 60-393, 60-395, 60-396, 60-3,104, and 60-3,130.04, Revised Statutes
 Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to provide for Josh the Otter-Be Safe
 Around Water Plates; to create the Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around
 Water Cash Fund; to provide powers and duties for the Game and Parks
 Commission; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
 sections.

8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 60-301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
 2020, is amended to read:

3 60-301 Sections 60-301 to 60-3,254 <u>and sections 7 and 8 of this act</u>
4 shall be known and may be cited as the Motor Vehicle Registration Act.

5 Sec. 2. Section 60-393, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
6 2020, is amended to read:

7 60-393 Any owner who has two or more motor vehicles or trailers required to be registered under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act may 8 9 register all such motor vehicles or trailers on a calendar-year basis or 10 on an annual basis for the same registration period beginning in a month chosen by the owner. When electing to establish the same registration 11 period for all such motor vehicles or trailers, the owner shall pay the 12 13 registration fee, the motor vehicle tax imposed in section 60-3,185, the 14 motor vehicle fee imposed in section 60-3,190, and the alternative fuel fee imposed in section 60-3,191 on each motor vehicle for the number of 15 16 months necessary to extend its current registration period to the 17 registration period under which all such motor vehicles or trailers will be registered. Credit shall be given for registration paid on each motor 18 19 vehicle or trailer when the motor vehicle or trailer has a later expiration date than that chosen by the owner except as otherwise 20 provided in sections 60-3,121, 60-3,122.02, 60-3,122.04, 21 60-3,128, 60-3,224, 60-3,227, 60-3,233, 60-3,235, 60-3,238, 60-3,240, 60-3,242, 22 23 60-3,244, 60-3,246, 60-3,248, 60-3,250, 60-3,252, and 60-3,254 and section 8 of this act. Thereafter all such motor vehicles or trailers 24 25 shall be registered on an annual basis starting in the month chosen by the owner. 26

27 Sec. 3. Section 60-395, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 28 2020, is amended to read:

60-395 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this
section and sections 60-3,121, 60-3,122.02, 60-3,122.04, 60-3,128,
60-3,224, 60-3,227, 60-3,231, 60-3,233, 60-3,235, 60-3,238, 60-3,240,

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60-3,242, 60-3,244, 60-3,246, 60-3,248, 60-3,250, 60-3,252, and 60-3,254 1 2 and section 8 of this act, the registration shall expire and the 3 registered owner or lessee may, by returning the registration 4 certificate, the license plates, and, when appropriate, the validation 5 decals and by either making application on a form prescribed by the department to the county treasurer of the occurrence of an event 6 7 described in subdivisions (a) through (e) of this subsection or, in the case of a change in situs, displaying to the county treasurer the 8 9 registration certificate of such other state as evidence of a change in situs, receive a refund of that part of the unused fees and taxes on 10 motor vehicles or trailers based on the number of unexpired months 11 remaining in the registration period from the date of any of the 12 13 following events:

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(a) Upon transfer of ownership of any motor vehicle or trailer;

(b) In case of loss of possession because of fire, natural disaster,theft, dismantlement, or junking;

(c) When a salvage branded certificate of title is issued;

(d) Whenever a type or class of motor vehicle or trailer previously
registered is subsequently declared by legislative act or court decision
to be illegal or ineligible to be operated or towed on the public roads
and no longer subject to registration fees, the motor vehicle tax imposed
in section 60-3,185, the motor vehicle fee imposed in section 60-3,190,
and the alternative fuel fee imposed in section 60-3,191;

(e) Upon a trade-in or surrender of a motor vehicle under a lease;or

(f) In case of a change in the situs of a motor vehicle or trailerto a location outside of this state.

(2) If the date of the event falls within the same calendar month in
which the motor vehicle or trailer is acquired, no refund shall be
allowed for such month.

31 (3) If the transferor or lessee acquires another motor vehicle at

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the time of the transfer, trade-in, or surrender, the transferor or lessee shall have the credit provided for in this section applied toward payment of the motor vehicle fees and taxes then owing. Otherwise, the transferor or lessee shall file a claim for refund with the county treasurer upon an application form prescribed by the department.

6 (4) The registered owner or lessee shall make a claim for refund or 7 credit of the fees and taxes for the unexpired months in the registration 8 period within sixty days after the date of the event or shall be deemed 9 to have forfeited his or her right to such refund or credit.

(5) For purposes of this section, the date of the event shall be:
(a) In the case of a transfer or loss, the date of the transfer or loss;
(b) in the case of a change in the situs, the date of registration in
another state; (c) in the case of a trade-in or surrender under a lease,
the date of trade-in or surrender; (d) in the case of a legislative act,
the effective date of the act; and (e) in the case of a court decision,
the date the decision is rendered.

(6) Application for registration or for reassignment of license
plates and, when appropriate, validation decals to another motor vehicle
or trailer shall be made within thirty days of the date of purchase.

(7) If a motor vehicle or trailer was reported stolen under section 60-178, a refund under this section shall not be reduced for a lost plate charge and a credit under this section may be reduced for a lost plate charge but the applicant shall not be required to pay the plate fee for new plates.

(8) The county treasurer shall refund the motor vehicle fee and registration fee from the fees which have not been transferred to the State Treasurer. The county treasurer shall make payment to the claimant from the undistributed motor vehicle taxes of the taxing unit where the tax money was originally distributed. No refund of less than two dollars shall be paid.

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Sec. 4. Section 60-396, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

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1 2020, is amended to read:

2 60-396 Whenever the registered owner files an application with the county treasurer showing that a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is 3 4 disabled and has been removed from service, the registered owner may, by 5 returning the registration certificate, the license plates, and, when appropriate, the validation decals or, in the case of the unavailability 6 7 of such registration certificate or certificates, license plates, or validation decals, then by making an affidavit to the county treasurer of 8 9 such disablement and removal from service, receive a credit for a portion 10 of the registration fee from the fee deposited with the State Treasurer at the time of registration based upon the number of unexpired months 11 remaining in the registration year except as otherwise provided in 12 13 sections 60-3,121, 60-3,122.02, 60-3,122.04, 60-3,128, 60-3,224, 60-3,227, 60-3,233, 60-3,235, 60-3,238, 60-3,240, 60-3,242, 60-3,244, 14 60-3,246, 60-3,248, 60-3,250, 60-3,252, and 60-3,254 and section 8 of 15 this act. The owner shall also receive a credit for the unused portion of 16 the motor vehicle tax and fee based upon the number of unexpired months 17 remaining in the registration year. When the owner 18 registers a replacement motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer at the time of filing 19 such affidavit, the credit may be immediately applied against the 20 registration fee and the motor vehicle tax and fee for the replacement 21 22 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer. When no such replacement motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is so registered, the county treasurer 23 24 shall forward the application and affidavit, if any, to the State 25 Treasurer who shall determine the amount, if any, of the allowable credit for the registration fee and issue a credit certificate to the owner. For 26 27 the motor vehicle tax and fee, the county treasurer shall determine the 28 amount, if any, of the allowable credit and issue a credit certificate to the owner. When such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is removed 29 from service within the same month in which it was registered, no credits 30 shall be allowed for such month. The credits may be applied against taxes 31

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and fees for new or replacement motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers 1 2 incurred within one year after cancellation of registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer for which the credits were allowed. When 3 4 any such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is reregistered within 5 the same registration year in which its registration has been canceled, the taxes and fees shall be that portion of the registration fee and the 6 7 motor vehicle tax and fee for the remainder of the registration year. Sec. 5. Section 60-3,104, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 8 9 2020, is amended to read:

10 60-3,104 The department shall issue the following types of license 11 plates:

12 (1) Amateur radio station license plates issued pursuant to section
13 60-3,126;

14 (2) Apportionable vehicle license plates issued pursuant to section15 60-3,203;

16 (3) Autocycle license plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,100;

17 (4) Boat dealer license plates issued pursuant to section 60-379;

18 (5) Breast Cancer Awareness Plates issued pursuant to sections
19 60-3,230 and 60-3,231;

20 (6) Bus license plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,144;

21 (7) Choose Life License Plates issued pursuant to sections 60-3,232
22 and 60-3,233;

(8) Commercial motor vehicle license plates issued pursuant to
 section 60-3,147;

(9) Dealer or manufacturer license plates issued pursuant to
sections 60-3,114 and 60-3,115;

(10) Disabled veteran license plates issued pursuant to section
60-3,124;

29 (11) Donate Life Plates issued pursuant to sections 60-3,245 and 30 60-3,246;

31 (12) Down Syndrome Awareness Plates issued pursuant to sections

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60-3,247 and 60-3,248; 1 (13) Farm trailer license plates issued pursuant to section 2 3 60-3, 151;4 (14) Farm truck license plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,146; 5 (15) Farm trucks with a gross weight of over sixteen tons license 6 plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,146; 7 (16) Fertilizer trailer license plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,151; 8 9 (17) Former military vehicle license plates issued pursuant to 10 section 60-3,236; (18) Gold Star Family license plates issued pursuant to sections 11 60-3,122.01 and 60-3,122.02; 12 13 (19) Handicapped or disabled person license plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,113; 14 (20) Historical vehicle license plates issued pursuant to sections 15 60-3,130 to 60-3,134; 16 17 (21) Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates issued pursuant to section 8 of this act; 18 (22) (21) Local truck license plates issued pursuant to section 19 60 - 3, 145;20 (23) (22) Metropolitan utilities district license plates issued 21 22 pursuant to section 60-3,228; (24) (23) Military Honor Plates issued pursuant to sections 23 24 60-3,122.03 and 60-3,122.04; 25 (25) (24) Minitruck license plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,100; 26 (26) (25) Motor vehicle license plates for motor vehicles owned or 27 operated by the state, counties, municipalities, or school districts 28 issued pursuant to section 60-3,105; 29 (27) (26) Motor vehicles exempt pursuant to section 60-3,107; 30 (28) (27) Motorcycle license plates issued pursuant to section 31

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1 60-3,100;

2 (29) (28) Mountain Lion Conservation Plates issued pursuant to
 3 sections 60-3,226 and 60-3,227;

4 <u>(30)</u> (29) Native American Cultural Awareness and History Plates 5 issued pursuant to sections 60-3,234 and 60-3,235;

6 (31) (30) Nebraska Cornhusker Spirit Plates issued pursuant to
 7 sections 60-3,127 to 60-3,129;

8 (32) (31) Nebraska 150 Sesquicentennial Plates issued pursuant to
 9 sections 60-3,223 to 60-3,225;

10 <u>(33)</u> (32) Nonresident owner thirty-day license plates issued 11 pursuant to section 60-382;

(34) (33) Passenger car having a seating capacity of ten persons or
 less and not used for hire issued pursuant to section 60-3,143 other than
 autocycles;

(35) (34) Passenger car having a seating capacity of ten persons or
 less and used for hire issued pursuant to section 60-3,143 other than
 autocycles;

18 (36) (35) Pearl Harbor license plates issued pursuant to section 19 60-3,122;

20 <u>(37)</u> (36) Personal-use dealer license plates issued pursuant to 21 section 60-3,116;

(38) (37) Personalized message license plates for motor vehicles,
 trailers, and semitrailers, except motor vehicles, trailers, and
 semitrailers registered under section 60-3,198, issued pursuant to
 sections 60-3,118 to 60-3,121;

26 (39) (38) Pets for Vets Plates issued pursuant to sections 60-3,249 27 and 60-3,250;

28 (40) (39) Prisoner-of-war license plates issued pursuant to section 29 60-3,123;

30 (41) (40) Prostate Cancer Awareness Plates issued pursuant to 31 section 60-3,240;

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1 (42) (41) Public power district license plates issued pursuant to 2 section 60-3,228; (43) (42) Purple Heart license plates issued pursuant to section 3 4 60-3,125; (44) (43) Recreational vehicle license plates issued pursuant to 5 section 60-3,151; 6 7 (45) (44) Repossession license plates issued pursuant to section 60-375; 8 9 (46) (45) Sammy's Superheroes license plates for childhood cancer 10 awareness issued pursuant to section 60-3,242; (47) (46) Special interest motor vehicle license plates issued 11 12 pursuant to section 60-3,135.01; 13 (48) (47) Specialty license plates issued pursuant to sections 60-3,104.01 and 60-3,104.02; 14 (49) (48) Support the Arts Plates issued pursuant to sections 15 60-3,251 and 60-3,252; 16 17 (50) (49) Support Our Troops Plates issued pursuant to sections 60-3,243 and 60-3,244; 18 (51) (50) The Good Life Is Outside Plates issued pursuant to 19 sections 60-3,253 and 60-3,254; 20 (52) (51) Trailer license plates issued for trailers owned or 21 22 operated by the state, counties, municipalities, or school districts issued pursuant to section 60-3,106; 23 24 (53) (52) Trailer license plates issued for trailers owned or 25 operated by a metropolitan utilities district or public power district pursuant to section 60-3,228; 26 (54) (53) Trailer license plates issued pursuant to section 27 60 - 3, 100;28 (55) (54) Trailers exempt pursuant to section 60-3,108; 29 (56) (55) Transporter license plates issued pursuant to section 30

31 60-378;

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1 (57) (56) Trucks or combinations of trucks, truck-tractors, or 2 trailers which are not for hire and engaged in soil and water 3 conservation work and used for the purpose of transporting pipe and 4 equipment exclusively used by such contractors for soil and water 5 conservation construction license plates issued pursuant to section 6 60-3,149;

7 (58) (57) Utility trailer license plates issued pursuant to section
8 60-3,151;

9 (59) (58) Well-boring apparatus and well-servicing equipment license
 10 plates issued pursuant to section 60-3,109; and

11 (60) (59) Wildlife Conservation Plates issued pursuant to section 12 60-3,238.

Sec. 6. Section 60-3,130.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2020, is amended to read:

60-3,130.04 (1) An owner of a historical vehicle eligible for 15 16 registration under section 60-3,130 may use a license plate or plates 17 designed by this state in the year corresponding to the model year when the vehicle was manufactured in lieu of the plates designed pursuant to 18 section 60-3,130.03 subject to the approval of the department. The 19 20 department shall inspect the plate or plates and may approve the plate or plates if it is determined that the model-year license plate or plates 21 are legible and serviceable and that the license plate numbers do not 22 23 conflict with or duplicate other numbers assigned and in use. An 24 original-issued license plate or plates that have been restored to 25 original condition may be used when approved by the department.

(2) The department may consult with a recognized car club in
 determining whether the year of the license plate or plates to be used
 corresponds to the model year when the vehicle was manufactured.

(3) If only one license plate is used on the vehicle, the license
plate shall be placed on the rear of the vehicle. The owner of a
historical vehicle may use only one plate on the vehicle even for years

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1 in which two license plates were issued for vehicles in general.

2 (4) License plates used pursuant to this section corresponding to the year of manufacture of the vehicle shall not be personalized message 3 4 license plates, Pearl Harbor license plates, prisoner-of-war license plates, disabled veteran license plates, Purple Heart license plates, 5 amateur radio station license plates, Nebraska Cornhusker Spirit Plates, 6 7 handicapped or disabled person license plates, specialty license plates, special interest motor vehicle license plates, Military Honor Plates, 8 9 Nebraska 150 Sesquicentennial Plates, Breast Cancer Awareness Plates, Prostate Cancer Awareness Plates, Mountain Lion Conservation Plates, 10 Choose Life License Plates, Donate Life Plates, Down Syndrome Awareness 11 Plates, Native American Cultural Awareness and History Plates, Sammy's 12 13 Superheroes license plates for childhood cancer awareness, Wildlife Conservation Plates, Pets for Vets Plates, Support the Arts Plates, 14 Support Our Troops Plates, or The Good Life Is Outside Plates, or Josh 15 the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates. 16

17 Sec. 7. (1) The department shall design license plates to be known as Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates. The design shall include a 18 blue background with the head of an otter surfacing above water 19 surrounded by the words "Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water". The design 20 shall be selected on the basis of limiting the manufacturing cost of each 21 22 plate to an amount less than or equal to the amount charged for license plates pursuant to section 60-3,102. The department shall make 23 24 applications available for this type of plate beginning January 1, 2022. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry 25 out this section and section 8 of this act. 26

27 (2) One type of Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates shall be
 28 alphanumeric plates. The department shall:

29 (a) Assign a designation up to five characters; and

30 <u>(b) Not use a county designation.</u>

31 (3) One type of Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates shall be

personalized message plates. Such plates shall be issued subject to the
 same conditions specified for personalized message license plates in
 section 60-3,118, except that a maximum of five characters may be used.

4 <u>(4) The department shall cease to issue Josh the Otter-Be Safe</u> 5 Around Water Plates beginning with the next license plate issuance cycle 6 that begins in 2023 pursuant to section 60-3,101 if the total number of 7 registered vehicles that obtained such plates is less than five hundred 8 per year within any prior consecutive two-year period.

9 (1) Beginning January 1, 2022, a person may apply to the Sec. 8. 10 department for Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates in lieu of regular license plates on an application prescribed and provided by the 11 department for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, except for a 12 13 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer registered under section 60-3,198. An applicant receiving a Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plate for a 14 15 farm truck with a gross weight of over sixteen tons or for a commercial motor vehicle registered for a gross weight of five tons or over shall 16 17 affix the appropriate tonnage decal to the plate. The department shall make forms available for such applications through the county treasurers. 18 19 The license plates shall be issued upon payment of the license fee described in subsection (2) of this section. 20

21 (2)(a) In addition to all other fees required for registration under 22 the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance 23 or renewal of alphanumeric Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates 24 shall be accompanied by a fee of five dollars. County treasurers 25 collecting fees pursuant to this subdivision shall remit such fees to the 26 State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit five dollars of the fee 27 to the Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund.

(b) In addition to all other fees required for registration under
 the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, each application for initial issuance
 or renewal of personalized message Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water
 Plates shall be accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. County treasurers

collecting fees pursuant to this subdivision shall remit such fees to the
 State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit twenty-five percent of
 the fee for initial issuance and renewal of such plates to the Department
 of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund and seventy-five percent of the fee to the
 Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund.

6 (3) When the department receives an application for Josh the Otter-7 Be Safe Around Water Plates, the department may deliver the plates and registration certificate to the applicant by United States mail or to the 8 9 county treasurer of the county in which the motor vehicle, trailer, or 10 semitrailer is registered and the delivery of the plates and registration certificate shall be made through a secure process and system. Beginning 11 12 on an implementation date designated by the director on or before January 1, 2023, if delivery of the plates and registration certificate is made 13 by the department to the applicant, the department may charge a postage 14 15 and handling fee in an amount not more than necessary to recover the cost 16 of postage and handling for the specific items mailed to the registrant. 17 The department shall remit the fee to the State Treasurer for credit to the Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund. The county treasurer or the 18 19 department shall issue Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates in lieu of regular license plates when the applicant complies with the other 20 21 provisions of the Motor Vehicle Registration Act for registration of the 22 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer. If Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates are lost, stolen, or mutilated, the licensee shall be issued 23 24 replacement license plates upon request pursuant to section 60-3,157.

25 (4) The county treasurer or the department may issue temporary 26 license stickers to the applicant under this section for the applicant to 27 lawfully operate the vehicle pending receipt of the license plates. No 28 charge in addition to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance 29 of a temporary license sticker under this subsection. The department 30 shall furnish temporary license stickers for issuance by the county 31 treasurer at no cost to the counties. The department may adopt and 1 promulgate rules and regulations regarding the design and issuance of 2 temporary license stickers.

(5) The owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer bearing 3 Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates may apply to the county 4 treasurer to have such plates transferred to a motor vehicle, trailer, or 5 semitrailer other than the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer for 6 7 which such plates were originally purchased if such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is owned by the owner of the plates. The owner 8 9 may have the unused portion of the fee for the plates credited to the 10 other motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that will bear the plates at the rate of eight and one-third percent per month for each full month 11 left in the registration period. Application for such transfer shall be 12 13 accompanied by a fee of three dollars. Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the 14 15 Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund.

16 (6) If the cost of manufacturing Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water 17 Plates at any time exceeds the amount charged for license plates pursuant to section 60-3,102, any money to be credited to the Josh the Otter-Be 18 19 Safe Around Water Cash Fund shall instead be credited first to the Highway Trust Fund in an amount equal to the difference between the 20 manufacturing costs of Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Plates and the 21 22 amount charged pursuant to section 60-3,102 with respect to such plates and the remainder shall be credited to the Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around 23 24 Water Cash Fund.

Sec. 9. The Game and Parks Commission shall create a program for the purpose of providing financial support for the education of persons about water safety in general and specifically for the education of children about staying away from water unless accompanied by an adult. The commission shall use the Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund to award grants to nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to educating children about water safety. The grants shall be used by the

1 recipient organization to support educating persons about water safety in general and specifically for the education of children about water 2 3 safety. 4 Sec. 10. The Josh the Otter-Be Safe Around Water Cash Fund is 5 created for the purpose of funding the program set forth in section 9 of 6 this act. The fund shall consist of any money credited to the fund 7 pursuant to section 8 of this act. The fund may also receive gifts, 8 bequests, grants, or other contributions or donations from public or 9 private entities. The state investment officer shall invest any money in the fund available for investment pursuant to the Nebraska Capital 10 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. 11 12 Sec. 11. Original sections 60-301, 60-393, 60-395, 60-396,

13 60-3,104, and 60-3,130.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020,
14 are repealed.