

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 13, 2021

FOLEY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the first day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Lowe. Please rise.

LOWE: Please join me in prayer. Lord God of Heaven, we look to you and ask you for your grace as we begin this special session. Please look over us as we work with each other and help us move lines and boundaries so that-- so that the Nebraska citizens feel that we looked at a population as a whole and not just those of our districts. We thank you for this last weekend to remember 20 years ago and revisit our feelings and emotions and the guidance you gave us to, to survive such a devastating time. We would also like to ask you to keep events in the world like this from ever happening again. And if we have not said it enough in the last week, the last month, this last year, or the last 20 years, please look over our first responders and our military, guide them so they are able to go home and be with their families at the end of the day. In your name, we pray. Amen.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Lowe. I recognize Senator Geist for the Pledge of Allegiance.

GEIST: Join me for the pledge. 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.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Geist. I call to order the first day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session to order. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a quorum present.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Pursuant to a proclamation issued by the Honorable Pete Ricketts, Governor of Nebraska, we are here and now assembled in the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session of the Nebraska Legislature. I, as President of the Legislature, declare that we are now open for the transaction of business. The Chair recognizes the Clerk to read the proclamation.

CLERK: Mr. President, proclamation issued by Governor Pete Ricketts by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor of Article IV, Section 8 of the Nebraska Constitution, I, Pete Ricketts, as Governor, believing that an extraordinary occasion has arisen, and do hereby call the Legislature of Nebraska to convene in extraordinary session

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at the State Capitol on September 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of considering and enacting legislation on only the following subjects: 1. Enacting legislation to redistrict boundaries of the Supreme Court judicial districts; 2. Enacting legislation to redistrict boundaries of the Public Service Commission districts; 3. Enacting legislation to redistrict boundaries for members of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska; 4. Enacting legislation to redistrict boundaries for members of the State Board of Education; 5. Enacting legislation to redistrict boundaries for members of the Legislature; 6. Enacting legislation to redistrict boundaries for the Representatives of Congress of the United States; and 7. Enacting legislation to appropriate funds to the Legislative Council for the necessary expenses incurred by the Legislature due to the convening of the extraordinary special session. Now, therefore, I direct that members of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska be notified of the convening of this by presenting to each of them a copy of this proclamation. I might indicate to the members that copies of the proclamation are on your desk. That's all that I had, Mr. President.

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

CLERK: I do, Mr. President, certificate with Secretary of State regarding the membership to be comprised for the first convening of the First Special Session of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature. I have communications from the Redistricting Committee signed by Senator Linehan regarding operating procedures and administrative guidelines that were adopted by the committee. Mr. President, a series of gubernatorial appointments since the Legislature adjourned sine die in May. Appointments to the Liquor Control Commission, to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, the Public Employees Retirement Board, Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board, State Racing and Gaming Commission, to the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, to the Nebraska Tourism Commission, to the Foster Care Advisory Committee, to the Commission of Industrial Relations, to the Environmental Control [SIC] Council, to the Health Information Technology Board, to the Health Information Technology Board, to the Nebraska Board of Parole, to the Technical Advisory Committee for Statewide Assessments. Those will all be referred to Reference for purposes of conducting confirmation hearings. Have an Attorney General's Opinion addressed to Senator Blood (re LB635) we received and that will also be inserted in the Journal. That's all that I had, Mr. President.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, we're now going to proceed to the introduction of new bills. If anyone has bills, could you please bring them forward right now to the Clerk's desk? We'll stand at ease for just a few minutes while the new bills are brought forward. Thank you. Members, if I could ask you to please cease all conversations for a few moments, please. Senator Lathrop, you're recognized.

LATHROP: Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. It is with great sadness that I share with you the passing of a friend, Mike Boyle passed away this morning at 77 years old. Mike was a terrific friend to many of us here. He was a public servant, very much committed to the city of Omaha and to Douglas County. Those of us who are proud members of the Democratic Party saw Mike as a mentor. I know when I got involved back in 2006, Mike counseled me and coached me and gave me a great deal of advice. He was a personal friend. Mike was married to Anne Boyle-- Anne Howell Boyle who passed away in 2019. Mike and Anne had 5 children and 18 grandchildren. Mike had the good fortune to serve on the Douglas County Board with his daughter Maureen since 2020. I'm sure that was a great source of pride for Mike. His political history includes two terms as the mayor of the city of Omaha. He was appointed to the county board in 1997 and served on that board right up until this morning. He was a great friend. And on a personal note, I can say as a fellow Douglas County Democrat, I would oftentimes attend different functions. And as many of you know, you go to these functions and there's an awful lot of people in the room you try to get around to talk to. But I always made a point to go talk to Mike Boyle. He was an independent thinker. He was clever. He was charming. He was often-- oftentimes we had great conversations, some of it with colorful language. But the one thing that you got from Mike Boyle is his commitment to his community, his commitment to public service, and I will just tell you we've lost, we've lost an individual committed to public service whose name is synonymous with Nebraska Democratic politics. And I've lost a friend. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Members, if there are any additional bills that need to be introduced today, please bring them forward immediately. Mr. Clerk, you're recognized for purpose of reading bills.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills: LB1 is introduced by the Redistricting Committee and signed by its members. It's bill for an act relating to redistricting; it amends sections 32-504 and 505; sets the district boundaries for Representatives in the Congress of the United States by the adoption of maps by reference. LB2 offered by the Redistricting Committee. It's a bill for act relating to

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redistricting; it amends sections 32-504 and 505; it sets the district boundaries of the Representatives in Congress of the United States by adoption of maps by reference. LB3 by the Redistricting Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting; it amends sections 30-- or excuse me, 50-1153 and 50-1154; it sets the district boundaries of the legislative districts by the adoption of maps by reference; provides for applicability of sections; and harmonizes provisions. LB4 by the Redistricting Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting; it sets the district boundaries of legislative districts by the adoption of maps by reference; it provides for applicability of sections. LB5 by the Redistricting Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting. LB5 by the Redistricting Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting; it sets the boundaries of the public service commissioner districts by the adoption of maps by reference. LB6 by the Redistricting Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting; it sets the boundaries of the Supreme Court judicial districts by the adoption of maps by reference. LB7 is by the Redistricting Committee. It's bill for an act relating to redistricting; it sets the district boundaries for members of the State Board of Education by the adoption of maps by reference. LB8 by the Redistricting Committee. It's bill for an act relating to redistricting; it amends section 85-103; it sets the district boundaries for members of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska by adoption of maps by reference. LB9 is by Senator Wayne. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting; it sets the district boundaries of Representatives in Congress of the United States by adoption of maps by reference. LB10 is by Senator Wayne. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting; it sets the district boundaries of the legislative districts by adoption of maps by reference. Mr. President, LB11 is by Senator Wayne. It's a bill for an act relating to redistricting; it sets the district boundaries of the legislative districts by adoption of maps by reference. LB12 is by Senator Kolterman. Bill for act relating to the Legislature; it changes the number of members of the Legislature; and repeal the original section. LB13 is by Senator Morfeld. Bill for act relating to redistricting; it sets the district boundaries of the legislative districts by adoption of maps by reference; provides for applicability of sections. LB14 is by Senator Hughes. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; it appropriates funds for the expenses incurred during the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session, 2021. That's all that I had, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, please come to order. Speaker Hilgers, you're recognized.

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HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. It's good to see everyone again on this fall Monday. I wanted to give you two brief updates, one about what we're going to do this morning, and then one, at least give you a little bit of a preview about what's going to happen the rest of the week, although a preview to that preview is we'll wait until tomorrow. So what's going to happen in the next two hours is we are going to stand at ease for some period of time to allow the Reference Committee to meet and to do its work with the bills that were just introduced. That will come back from the committee, it will be read across. Then we will stand at ease again in order to have the, the hearing notices completed, finalized, and have those read across. As you know, we have hearings Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week. So that process will probably take about two hours. But for the most part, we'll just be standing at ease. So there won't be any votes. But I appreciate those who will remain on the floor. After today-- tomorrow morning, I anticipate giving you a more fulsome update about how the next ten days, two weeks are going to go. And, and we were waiting to see what bills got introduced. I think most of them have been introduced already here yet this morning. So I do anticipate having a better update for you tomorrow in terms of the rest of the week. But I will say big picture, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, we will have hearings, as I noted, and you should anticipate that we will start General File debate on some maps, maybe all the maps, maybe one of the maps, it will depend on Friday morning. I've had a number of you ask me about Saturday. Currently, we are scheduled to meet Saturday morning. I'm very well aware of what is taking place on that Saturday and I'm still holding Saturday. We'll see what kind of progress we make during the course of the week. And I'll try to give everyone daily updates as we get near the end of the week so we can all prepare. And I appreciate your flexibility and nimbleness as we try to get this work done over the next two weeks. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Clerk, you're recognized.

CLERK: Mr. President, an announcement, Reference Committee will meet immediately in Room 1525. Reference Committee in Room 1525 immediately.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Legislature will stand at ease while the Reference Committee meets.

[EASE]

FOLEY: Mr. Clerk, you're recognized.

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CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. I have Reference reports referring legislative bills 1 through 11 (LB1, LB2, LB3, LB4, LB5, LB6, LB7, LB8, LB9, LB10, LB11) and LB13 and LB14. I also have a series of hearing notices with-- or a Reference report-- excuse me, with respect to gubernatorial appointees. As a result of that action, I have hearing notices from the Retirement Systems Committee, Natural Resources Committee, Health and Human Services Committee, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs, General Affairs, Business and Labor, and Judiciary, and Education. Those are all on confirmation hearings. That's all that I have at this time, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will continue to stand at ease.

[EASE]

HILGERS: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, hearing notices from the Redistricting Committee with respect to LB1, LB2, LB3, LB4, LB5, LB6, LB7, and LB8, all signed by Senator Linehan as Chair of the committee. Other than that, Mr. President, I have a priority motion from Senator Hughes. Senator Hughes would move to adjourn the body until Tuesday morning, September 14, at 9:00 a.m.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.