AMENDMENTS TO LB1031

Introduced by Transportation and Telecommunications.

- 1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
- 2 sections:
- 3 Section 1. Section 75-109.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 75-109.01 Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, the
- 6 Public Service Commission shall have jurisdiction, as prescribed, over
- 7 the following subjects:
- 8 (1) Common carriers, generally, pursuant to sections 75-101 to
- 9 75-158;
- 10 (2) Grain pursuant to the Grain Dealer Act and the Grain Warehouse
- 11 Act and sections 89-1,104 to 89-1,108;
- 12 (3) Manufactured homes and recreational vehicles pursuant to the
- 13 Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles;
- 14 (4) Modular housing units pursuant to the Nebraska Uniform Standards
- 15 for Modular Housing Units Act;
- 16 (5) Motor carrier registration, licensure, and safety pursuant to
- 17 sections 75-301 to 75-343, 75-369.03, 75-370, and 75-371;
- 18 (6) Pipeline carriers and rights-of-way pursuant to the Major Oil
- 19 Pipeline Siting Act, the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, and sections
- 20 75-501 to 75-503. If the provisions of Chapter 75 are inconsistent with
- 21 the provisions of the Major Oil Pipeline Siting Act, the provisions of
- 22 the Major Oil Pipeline Siting Act control;
- 23 (7) Railroad carrier safety pursuant to sections 74-918, 74-919,
- 24 74-1323, and 75-401 to 75-430;
- 25 (8) Telecommunications carriers pursuant to the Automatic Dialing-
- 26 Announcing Devices Act, the Emergency Telephone Communications Systems
- 27 Act, the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act, the 911 Service System Act,

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- 1 the Intrastate Pay-Per-Call Regulation Act, the Nebraska
- 2 Telecommunications Regulation Act, the Nebraska Telecommunications
- 3 Universal Service Fund Act, the Telecommunications Relay System Act, the
- Telephone Consumer Slamming Prevention Act,—and sections 86-574 to 4
- 5 86-578, 86-1307, and 86-1308, and section 13 of this act;
- 6 (9) Transmission lines and rights-of-way pursuant to sections 70-301
- 7 and 75-702 to 75-724;
- 8 (10) Water service pursuant to the Water Service Regulation Act; and
- 9 (11) Jurisdictional utilities governed by the State Natural Gas
- Regulation Act. If the provisions of Chapter 75 are inconsistent with the 10
- provisions of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, the provisions of the 11
- State Natural Gas Regulation Act control. 12
- Sec. 2. Section 86-124, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 13
- 14 2022, is amended to read:
- 15 86-124 (1) The commission shall not regulate the following:
- (a) One-way broadcast or cable television transmission of television 16
- 17 or radio signals;
- (b) Mobile radio services, radio paging services, and wireless 18
- telecommunications service; 19
- 20 (c) Interexchange services; and
- 21 (d) Internet-protocol-enabled service and voice over
- 22 protocol service, including rates, service or contract terms, conditions,
- 23 or requirements for entry for such service.
- 24 (2) This section shall not affect or modify:
- (a) The enforcement of criminal or civil laws, including, but not 25
- 26 limited to, laws concerning consumer protection and unfair or deceptive
- trade practices which apply generally to the conduct of business; 27
- (b)(i) Any entity's obligations or rights or commission authority 28
- 29 under section 86-122 and under 47 U.S.C. 251 and 252, as such sections
- 30 existed on January 1, 2019, and (ii) any carrier-to-carrier tariff rates,
- 31 service quality standards, interconnection agreements, other

- obligations for which the commission has jurisdiction under state or 1
- 2 federal law;
- 3 (c) Any requirement to contribute to any fund administered by the
- commission authorized by the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act or the 4
- 5 Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act;
- 6 (d) Any commission jurisdiction over intrastate switched access
- 7 rates, terms, and conditions, including the resolution of disputes
- 8 arising from, and implementation of federal and state law with respect
- 9 to, intercarrier compensation;
- (e) The eligibility and requirements for the receipt of funds from 10
- 11 the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund and the rules,
- 12 regulations, and orders under the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal
- Service Fund Act or the receipt of funds from the federal universal 13
- 14 service fund, regardless of the unregulated status of the provider's
- 15 service under this section; and
- (f) Any entity's rights and obligations with respect to (i) 16
- 17 registration under section 86-125, (ii) the use of public streets, roads,
- highways, and rights-of-way, or (iii) a certificate of public convenience 18
- 19 and necessity or a permit; and -
- 20 (g) The commission's authority under section 11 of this act.
- 21 Sec. 3. Section 86-314, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 22 amended to read:
- 23 86-314 (1) The commission shall establish standards, procedures, and
- 24 training specifications for the telecommunications relay system and shall
- supervise its operation. The telecommunications relay system shall assure 25
- 26 prompt and accurate relay of all messages seven days per week, twenty-
- 27 four hours per day, including holidays, to all deaf, hard of hearing, or
- speech-impaired persons living in Nebraska who possess specialized 28
- 29 telecommunications equipment. Any person using the telecommunications
- 30 relay system shall not be charged for access to such system other than
- charges billed for instate and out-of-state long-distance telephone 31

- service. The telecommunications relay system shall at least provide the 1
- 2 following telephone services: (a) Statewide instate calls with charges
- 3 for long-distance calls billed to the person making the call in a manner
- which the commission determines will recover the cost of long-distance 4
- 5 calls to the system; (b) out-of-state calls with charges billed to the
- 6 person making the call; and (c) emergency calls.
- 7 (2) The commission shall establish standards and criteria and shall
- 8 determine the eligibility of qualified deaf, hard of hearing, and speech-
- 9 impaired persons applying for specialized telecommunications equipment.
- The eligible standards and criteria shall include the following: (a) That 10
- 11 two persons residing at the same address Only one person per household
- may each be a recipient of the telecommunications equipment; (b) an 12
- applicant shall reside in a household that has telephone service; (c) a 13
- 14 recipient of equipment may not reapply for assistance more than once
- 15 every three five years; and (d) a nursing home or institution resident is
- eligible for specialized telecommunications equipment only if he or she 16
- 17 has personal telephone service.
- (3) The commission may approve applications for specialized 18
- telecommunications equipment if they meet the guidelines established by 19
- the commission. 20
- 21 (4) The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
- 22 necessary for implementation of the Telecommunications Relay System Act
- 23 and guidelines for the specialized telecommunications equipment program.
- 24 The commission may enter into contracts with other agencies or private
- organizations, which may include the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of 25
- 26 Hearing, to operate the telecommunications relay system and the
- 27 specialized telecommunications equipment program.
- (5) The Public Service Commission may administratively fine pursuant 28
- 29 to section 75-156 any person who violates the act.
- 30 Sec. 4. Section 86-324.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 31 2022, is amended to read:

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86-324.02 (1) Any recipient of ongoing high-cost support from the 1 Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund shall agree to submit 2 3 to speed tests as determined by the commission. Upon the commission's request, such recipient shall conduct the speed tests and submit the 4 5 results to the commission. The speed tests shall be conducted for one week using a random sample of locations of consumers who subscribe to 6 7 services provided over infrastructure for which ongoing high-cost support 8 is received.

- 9 (2) For purposes of this subsection, broadband serviceable location means a business or residential location in Nebraska at which fixed 10 11 broadband access service is or is able to be installed. Beginning 12 eighteen months after the operative date of this section, the commission shall not provide ongoing high-cost support from the Nebraska 13 14 <u>Telecommunications Universal Service Fund for any broadband serviceable</u> 15 location not capable of access to the Internet at speeds of at least one hundred megabits per second for downloading and at least twenty megabits 16 per second for uploading, except that: 17
- (a) If a broadband serviceable location is subject to a federally 18 19 enforceable commitment for deployment of infrastructure capable of access 20 to the Internet at speeds of at least one hundred megabits per second for 21 downloading and at least twenty megabits per second for uploading, the 22 commission shall continue to provide ongoing high-cost support from the 23 fund so long as the recipient of the ongoing high-cost support is in 24 compliance with the deployment obligations of such federally enforceable 25 commitment and the requirements of the fund; and
- 26 (b) Beginning January 1, 2029, the commission shall not provide 27 ongoing high-cost support for any broadband serviceable location not capable of access to the Internet at speeds of at least one hundred 28 29 megabits per second for downloading and at least twenty megabits per 30 second for uploading, notwithstanding any federally enforceable

31 commitment for deployment.

- 1 Sec. 5. Section 86-515, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 2 2022, is amended to read:
- 3 86-515 (1) The Nebraska Information Technology Commission is
- 4 created. The commission shall consist of (a) one member representing
- 5 elementary and secondary education, (b) one member representing
- 6 postsecondary education, (c) the Governor or his or her designee, (d) one
- 7 member representing communities, and (e) five members representing the
- 8 general public who have experience in developing strategic plans and
- 9 making high-level business decisions. Of the members representing the
- 10 general public, the principal business or occupation of at least one such
- 11 <u>member shall be agriculture.</u> A member of the Transportation and
- 12 Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature shall be appointed by the
- 13 Executive Board of the Legislative Council to serve as an ex officio,
- 14 nonvoting member of the commission. The Executive Board shall make the
- 15 initial appointment of such member after January 5, 2011, and shall
- 16 appoint a member every two years after the initial appointment. At any
- 17 time that there is not a member of the Educational Service Unit
- 18 Coordinating Council serving on the Nebraska Information Technology
- 19 Commission, the technical panel established pursuant to section 86-521,
- 20 or any working groups established pursuant to sections 86-512 to 86-524
- 21 that establish, coordinate, or prioritize needs for education, the
- 22 Governor shall appoint to the commission one member who serves on the
- 23 Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council.
- 24 (2) The Governor or a designee of the Governor shall serve as
- 25 chairperson of the commission.
- 26 (3) The members of the commission other than the legislative member
- 27 shall be appointed by the Governor with the approval of a majority of the
- 28 Legislature. Members of the commission shall serve for terms of four
- 29 years, except that two members initially appointed to represent the
- 30 general public shall be appointed for a term of two years and any member
- 31 appointed to represent the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council

- 1 shall be appointed for a term of one year. Members shall be limited to
- 2 two consecutive terms. The Governor or his or her designee shall serve on
- 3 the commission for his or her term. The legislative member of the
- 4 commission shall serve until he or she is reappointed or a successor is
- 5 appointed. Each member shall serve until the appointment and
- 6 qualification of his or her successor. In case of a vacancy occurring
- 7 prior to the expiration of the term of a member, the appointment shall be
- 8 made only for the remainder of the term.
- 9 (4) Members shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections
- 10 81-1174 to 81-1177.
- 11 (5) The commission may employ or designate an executive director to
- 12 provide administrative and operational support for the commission. The
- 13 Department of Administrative Services and Nebraska Educational
- 14 Telecommunications Commission shall assist with administrative and
- operational support for the Nebraska Information Technology Commission as
- 16 necessary to carry out its duties.
- 17 Sec. 6. Section 86-577, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 18 2022, is amended to read:
- 19 86-577 (1) For purposes of this section:
- 20 (a) Served location means:
- 21 (i) Before the operative date of this section, a location receiving,
- 22 or at the time the lease is filed with the Public Service Commission able
- 23 to receive, communications service at a minimum download speed of twenty-
- 24 five megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of three megabits per
- 25 second or higher speeds, as determined by the Public Service Commission;
- 26 and
- 27 (ii) On and after the operative date of this section, a location
- 28 <u>receiving</u>, or at the time the lease is filed with the Public Service
- 29 <u>Commission able to receive, communications service at a minimum download</u>
- 30 speed of one hundred megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of
- 31 <u>twenty megabits per second or higher speeds, as determined by the Public</u>

1 Service Commission; and

- 2 (b) Unserved location means:
- 3 (i) Before the operative date of this section, a location not
- receiving, and at the time the lease is filed with the Public Service 4
- 5 Commission not able to receive, communications service at a minimum
- 6 download speed of twenty-five megabits per second and a minimum upload
- 7 speed of three megabits per second or higher speeds, as determined by the
- 8 Public Service Commission; and -
- 9 (ii) On and after the operative date of this section, a location not
- receiving, and at the time the lease is filed with the Public Service 10
- 11 Commission not able to receive, communications service at a minimum
- download speed of one hundred megabits per second and a minimum upload 12
- speed of twenty megabits per second or higher speeds, as determined by 13
- 14 the Public Service Commission.
- 15 (2) Any agency or political subdivision of the state may lease its
- dark fiber if: 16
- 17 (a) The lessee is a certificated telecommunications common carrier
- or a permitted telecommunications contract carrier pursuant to section 18
- 86-128 or an Internet service provider; 19
- 20 (b) The lease terms are fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory; and
- 21 (c) The lease complies with this section.
- 22 (3)(a) Before a lease of dark fiber under this section becomes
- 23 effective, it shall be filed with the commission which shall
- 24 expeditiously cause notice of the lease, including lease rates, to be
- 25 published.
- 26 (b)(i) The lease shall become effective fourteen business days after
- 27 the date of the published notice unless a protest is filed with the
- commission, in which event the commission shall consider the lease as a 28
- 29 contested matter and consider the contested lease according to the
- 30 commission's rules of procedure.
- 31 (ii) If the allocation of served location and unserved location in

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- the lease is contested, the commission shall determine such allocation 1
- 2 under the lease as a contested matter and consider the contested lease
- 3 according to the commission's rules of procedure.
- (4) For the lease of dark fiber: 4
- 5 (a) The commission shall establish a safe harbor range of market
- rates for all dark fiber leases using a competitive price determination 6
- 7 comparison. When conducting a competitive price determination comparison,
- 8 the commission, in its discretion, shall use rate schedules,
- 9 interconnection agreements, or other documents within its regulatory
- oversight and shall gather other market rate information as deemed 10
- 11 necessary. If a lease utilizes rates within the safe harbor range, such
- 12 rates shall be deemed approved. Any other term of the lease may be
- contested pursuant to subdivision (3)(b) of this section; and 13
- 14 (b) Fifty percent of the profit earned by the agency or political
- 15 subdivision under a lease of dark fiber leased to serve a served location
- shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Nebraska 16
- Telecommunications Universal Service Fund. 17 For purposes
- subdivision, profit earned by the agency or political subdivision means 18
- lease price less the cost of infrastructure deployment. 19
- subdivision does not apply to a lease or portion of a lease of dark fiber 20
- 21 leased to exclusively serve unserved locations.
- 22 (5) The lessee shall make every reasonable effort to activate the
- 23 maximum amount of the leased fiber as is possible, within one year after
- entering into the lease, unless good cause is shown. 24
- Sec. 7. Section 86-1001, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 25
- 26 2022, is amended to read:
- 27 86-1001 Sections 86-1001 to 86-1029.03 <u>and sections 10 and 11 of</u>
- this act shall be known and may be cited as the 911 Service System Act. 28
- 29 Sec. 8. Section 86-1003, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 30 2022, is amended to read:
- 86-1003 It is the intent of the Legislature that: 31

- (1) The commission plan, implement, coordinate, manage, maintain, 1
- 2 and provide funding assistance for a cost-efficient 911 service system;
- 3 (2) The commission provide for the coordination of 911 service on a 4 statewide basis;
- 5 (3) Local governing bodies be responsible for the dispatch and
- 6 provision of emergency services;
- 7 (4) As part of the coordination of statewide 911 service, the
- commission secure stakeholder support and provide public education, 8
- 9 training, standards enforcement, dispute resolution, and program
- 10 evaluation for public safety answering points;
- (5) The jurisdictions of the state, regional, and local governing 11
- 12 bodies be clearly defined and aligned to produce the most efficient
- 911 service, including next-generation 911 service 13 provision of
- 14 capability;
- 15 (6) The commission adopt statewide uniform standards for technical
- support, training efficiency, and quality assurance for public safety 16
- 17 answering points;
- (7) The express authority granted to the commission to implement the 18
- 911 Service System Act not be deemed to supersede or otherwise modify 19
- 20 section 86-124 or to provide the commission with any additional authority
- 21 not provided by law existing on April 19, 2016, including, but not
- 22 limited to, regulatory authority over originating service providers
- 23 except as provided under section 11 of this act; and
- 24 (8) Except as specifically provided in the 911 Service System Act,
- nothing in the 911 Service System Act be deemed to supersede or modify 25
- 26 any commission authority provided by law or any commission order, rule,
- 27 or regulation existing on April 19, 2016.
- Sec. 9. Section 86-1004, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 28
- 29 2022, is amended to read:
- 30 86-1004 For purposes of the 911 Service System Act, the definitions
- found in sections 86-1005 to 86-1024 and section 10 of this act apply. 31

- 1 Telecommunications relay services has the same meaning as
- 2 in 47 C.F.R. 9.3, as such regulation existed on January 1, 2024.
- 3 (1) For purposes of this section, originating service Sec. 11.
- provider means the telecommunications service provider, whether by 4
- 5 wireline or wireless service, or the voice over Internet protocol service
- provider providing the capability for customers to originate 911 calls. 6
- 7 (2)(a) No later than January 1, 2026, unless otherwise required by
- 8 the Federal Communications Commission, an originating service provider
- 9 and the next-generation 911 service contractor shall ensure that:
- 10 (i) All 911 calls are transmitted to next-generation 911 or other
- 11 points designated by the state 911 director that allow 911 calls to be
- 12 answered; and
- 13 (ii) All translation and routing is completed to deliver all 911
- 14 calls, including associated location information in the requested
- 15 Internet protocol-enabled service format, to next-generation 911 or other
- 16 points designated by the state 911 director that allow 911 calls to be
- 17 answered.
- (b) An originating service provider may enter into an agreement with 18
- 19 the state 911 director to establish an alternative timeframe for meeting
- 20 the requirements of subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section. The
- 21 originating service provider shall notify the state 911 director of the
- 22 dates and terms of the alternative timeframe within thirty days after
- 23 entering into such agreement.
- (3)(a) No later than January 1, 2026, unless otherwise required by 24
- 25 the Federal Communications Commission, a provider of telecommunications
- 26 relay services and the next-generation 911 service contractor shall
- 27 ensure that:
- 28 (i) All 911 calls are transmitted to next-generation 911 or other
- 29 points designated by the state 911 director that allow 911 calls to be
- 30 answered; and
- 31 (ii) All translation and routing is completed to deliver all 911

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- calls, including associated location information in the requested 1
- 2 <u>Internet protocol-enabled service format, to next-generation 911 or other</u>
- 3 points designated by the state 911 director that allow 911 calls to be
- 4 answered.
- 5 (b) A provider of telecommunications relay services may enter into
- 6 an agreement with the state 911 director to establish an alternative
- 7 timeframe for meeting the requirements of subdivision (3)(a)(ii) of this
- 8 section. The provider shall notify the state 911 director of the dates
- 9 and terms of the alternative timeframe within thirty days after entering
- 10 into such agreement.
- 11 (4) No later than November 15, 2024, and no later than November 15
- 12 of each year thereafter, the next-generation 911 service contractor shall
- 13 submit an annual report electronically to the Transportation and
- 14 Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature and to the state 911
- 15 director on the capabilities and redundancies of the next-generation 911
- <u>service network</u>. 16
- Sec. 12. Section 86-1029, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 17
- 2022, is amended to read: 18
- 86-1029 The express authority granted to the commission to implement 19
- the 911 Service System Act shall not be deemed to supersede or otherwise 20
- 21 modify section 86-124 or to provide the commission with any additional
- 22 authority not provided by law existing on April 19, 2016, including, but
- 23 not limited to, regulatory authority over originating service providers
- 24 except as provided under section 11 of this act.
- 25 Sec. 13. (1) For purposes of this section:
- 26 (a) Communications service provider has the same meaning as in
- 27 <u>section 86-1214;</u>
- 28 (b) 911 service has the same meaning as in section 86-1018; and
- 29 (c) Outage has the same meaning as described in 47 C.F.R. 4.5(e).
- 30 (2) A communications service provider that is required to file
- reports with the Federal Communications Commission regarding a 911 31

- 1 <u>service outage shall also file copies of such reports with the Public</u>
- 2 <u>Service Commission</u>. The reports filed with the Public Service Commission
- 3 shall follow the same timelines and provide the same information as
- 4 outlined in 47 C.F.R. 4.9 and 4.11. Reports filed pursuant to this
- 5 <u>section shall be deemed confidential and shall not be subject to public</u>
- 6 <u>disclosure pursuant to sections 84-712 to 84-712.09.</u>
- 7 (3)(a) The Public Service Commission shall hold a public hearing no
- 8 <u>later than ninety days after receipt of the first report filed by a</u>
- 9 communications service provider pursuant to subsection (2) of this
- 10 <u>section. The commission may delay the hearing for good cause shown, but</u>
- 11 <u>such delay shall be extended no longer than thirty days. The commission</u>
- 12 <u>may hold subsequent hearings as it deems necessary.</u>
- 13 <u>(b) This subsection shall not apply if:</u>
- 14 (i) The communications service provider has, in good faith,
- 15 withdrawn the first report filed pursuant to subsection (2) of this
- 16 section; or
- 17 (ii) The Public Service Commission has waived the requirements of
- 18 this subsection by a majority vote of the commission.
- 19 (4) The Public Service Commission may adopt and promulgate rules and
- 20 <u>regulations to carry out this section.</u>
- 21 (5) This section shall only apply to 911 service outages in
- 22 <u>Nebraska.</u>
- 23 (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the
- 24 Public Service Commission to regulate any activities prohibited by
- 25 section 86-124.
- 26 Sec. 14. Section 86-1101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 27 2022, is amended to read:
- 28 86-1101 The Legislature finds and declares that:
- 29 (1) The availability, quality, and affordability of broadband
- 30 telecommunications service is important to the residents of Nebraska; and
- 31 (2) Because availability, quality, and affordability of broadband

telecommunications service is lacking in certain rural areas in Nebraska, 1

combined with greater investment in urban areas, the state may be facing 2

3 a digital divide.

4 Ιt is intent of the Legislature that broadband 5 telecommunications service in rural areas of the state should be 6 comparable in download and upload speed and price to urban areas in the 7 state where possible and that state resources should be utilized to 8 ensure that the rural residents of the state should not be penalized 9 simply because of their rural residence. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the residents of this state should have access to 10 11 broadband telecommunications service at a minimum download speed of one 12 hundred twenty-five megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of one <u>hundred</u> three megabits per second. 13

14 Sec. 15. Section 86-1102, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 15 2022, is amended to read:

86-1102 (1) The Rural Broadband Task Force is hereby created. Task 16 17 force members shall include the chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature and a member of the 18 Legislature selected by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council 19 20 who shall both serve as nonvoting, ex officio members, a member of the 21 Public Service Commission who shall be selected by the chairperson of 22 such commission, the chairperson of the Nebraska Information Technology 23 Commission or his or her designee who shall act as chairperson of the 24 task force, the Director of Economic Development or his or her designee, the Director of Agriculture or his or her designee, and the following 25 26 members to be appointed by the Governor: A representative of the 27 agribusiness community, a representative of the Nebraska business community, a representative of the regulated wireline telecommunications 28 29 industry, a representative of the wireless telecommunications industry, a 30 representative of the public power industry, a representative of health care providers, a representative of Nebraska postsecondary educational 31

- 1 institutions, and a representative of rural schools offering kindergarten
- 2 through grade twelve. The members appointed by the Governor shall serve
- 3 for a term of two years and may be reappointed.
- 4 (2) The task force may appoint advisory groups to assist the task
- 5 force in providing technical expertise and advice on any issue. The
- 6 advisory groups may be composed of representatives of stakeholder groups
- 7 which may include, but not necessarily be limited to, representatives
- 8 from small and large wireline companies, wireless companies, public power
- 9 districts, electric cooperative corporations, cable television companies,
- 10 Internet service providers, low-income telecommunications and electric
- 11 utility customers, health care providers, and representatives of
- 12 educational sectors. No compensation or expense reimbursement shall be
- 13 provided to any member of any advisory group appointed by the task force.
- 14 (3) The Nebraska Information Technology Commission shall provide
- 15 staff assistance to the task force in consultation with staff from the
- 16 Public Service Commission and other interested parties. The task force
- 17 may hire consultants to assist in carrying out its duties. The task force
- 18 shall review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability
- 19 of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska. In particular, the task
- 20 force shall:
- 21 (a) Determine how Nebraska rural areas compare to neighboring states
- 22 and the rest of the nation in average download and upload speeds and in
- 23 subscription rates to higher speed tiers, when available;
- 24 (b) Examine the role of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal
- 25 Service Fund in bringing comparable and affordable broadband services to
- 26 rural residents and any effect of the fund in deterring or delaying
- 27 capital formation, broadband competition, and broadband deployment;
- 28 (c) Review the feasibility of alternative technologies and providers
- 29 in accelerating access to faster and more reliable broadband service for
- 30 rural residents;
- 31 (d) Examine alternatives for deployment of broadband services to

- areas that remain unserved or underserved, such as funding redirection 1
- programs described in section 86-330, public-private partnerships, 2
- 3 funding for competitive deployment, and other measures, and make
- recommendations to the Public Service Commission to encourage deployment 4
- 5 in such areas;
- 6 (e) Recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal
- 7 service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support
- 8 and other federal funding;
- 9 (f) Make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature as to the
- that 10 most effective and efficient ways federal broadband
- 11 infrastructure funds received after July 1, 2018, should be expended if
- 12 such funds become available; and
- (g) Determine other issues that may be pertinent to the purpose of 13
- 14 the task force.
- 15 (4) Task force members shall serve on the task force without
- compensation but shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for expenses 16
- 17 incurred for such service as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.
- (5) The task force shall meet at the call of the chairperson and 18
- shall present its findings in a report to the Executive Board of the 19
- Legislative Council no later than November 1, 2019, and by November 1 20
- 21 every odd-numbered year thereafter. The report shall be submitted
- 22 electronically.
- 23 (6) For purposes of this section, broadband services means high-
- 24 speed telecommunications capability at a minimum download speed of one
- hundred twenty-five megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of one 25
- 26 hundred three megabits per second, and that enables users to originate
- 27 and receive high-quality voice, data, and video telecommunications using
- any technology. 28
- 29 Sec. 16. Section 86-1301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 30 2022, is amended to read:
- 86-1301 Sections 86-1301 to 86-1312 and section 17 of this act shall 31

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- be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act. 1
- On or before July 30, 2024, and by July 30 each year 2 Sec. 17.
- 3 thereafter, each provider operating in this state shall submit a report
- to the Nebraska Broadband Office that provides specific information 4
- 5 regarding each standard Internet service plan advertised by the provider
- 6 and the rates associated with each such plan.
- 7 Sections 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, and 19
- of this act become operative three calender months after the adjournment 8
- 9 of this legislative session. The other sections of this act become
- operative on their effective date. 10
- 11 Sec. 19. Original section 86-314, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 12 Nebraska, sections 86-124, 86-1001, 86-1003, 86-1004, 86-1029, and
- 86-1301, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, and section 13
- 14 75-109.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, are repealed.
- 15 Sec. 20. Original sections 86-324.02, 86-515, 86-577, 86-1101, and
- 86-1102, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed. 16
- 17 Sec. 21. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
- passed and approved according to law. 18