

AMENDMENTS TO LB616

Introduced by Revenue.

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

3           Section 1. Section 77-6832, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
4 2022, is amended to read:

5           77-6832 (1)(a) The credits prescribed in section 77-6831 for a year  
6 shall be established by filing the forms required by the Tax Commissioner  
7 with the income tax return for the taxable year which includes the end of  
8 the year the credits were earned. The credits may be used and shall be  
9 applied in the order in which they were first allowable under the Imagine  
10 Nebraska Act. To the extent the taxpayer has credits under the Nebraska  
11 Advantage Act or the Employment and Investment Growth Act still available  
12 for use in a year or years which overlap the performance period or  
13 carryover period of the Imagine Nebraska Act, the credits may be used and  
14 shall be applied in the order in which they were first allowable, and  
15 when there are credits of the same age, the older tax incentive program's  
16 credits shall be applied first. The credits may be used after any other  
17 nonrefundable credits to reduce the taxpayer's income tax liability  
18 imposed by sections 77-2714 to 77-27,135. Credits may be used beginning  
19 with the taxable year which includes December 31 of the year the required  
20 minimum levels were reached. The last year for which credits may be used  
21 is the taxable year which includes December 31 of the last year of the  
22 carryover period. Any decision on how part of the credit is applied shall  
23 not limit how the remaining credit could be applied under this section.

24           (b) The taxpayer may use the credit provided in subsection (4) of  
25 section 77-6831 (i) to reduce the taxpayer's income tax withholding  
26 employer or payor tax liability under section 77-2756 or 77-2757, to the  
27 extent such liability is attributable to the number of new employees

1 employed at the qualified location or locations, excluding any wages in  
2 excess of one million dollars paid to any one employee during the year or  
3 (ii) to reduce a qualified employee leasing company's income tax  
4 withholding employer or payor tax liability under section 77-2756 or  
5 77-2757, when the taxpayer is the client-lessee of such company, to the  
6 extent such liability is attributable to the number of new employees  
7 performing services for such client-lessee at the qualified location or  
8 locations, excluding any wages in excess of one million dollars paid to  
9 any one employee during the year. To the extent of the credit used, such  
10 withholding shall not constitute public funds or state tax revenue and  
11 shall not constitute a trust fund or be owned by the state. The use by  
12 the taxpayer or the qualified employee leasing company of the credit  
13 shall not change the amount that otherwise would be reported by the  
14 taxpayer, or such qualified employee leasing company, to the employee  
15 under section 77-2754 as income tax withheld and shall not reduce the  
16 amount that otherwise would be allowed by the state as a refundable  
17 credit on an employee's income tax return as income tax withheld under  
18 section 77-2755. The amount of credits used against income tax  
19 withholding shall not exceed the withholding attributable to the number  
20 of new employees employed at the qualified location or locations or, for  
21 a qualified employee leasing company, the number of new employees  
22 performing services for the applicable client-lessee at the qualified  
23 location or locations, excluding any wages in excess of one million  
24 dollars paid to any one employee during the year. If the amount of credit  
25 used by the taxpayer or the qualified employee leasing company against  
26 income tax withholding exceeds such amount, the excess withholding shall  
27 be returned to the Department of Revenue in the manner provided in  
28 section 77-2756, such excess amount returned shall be considered unused,  
29 and the amount of unused credits may be used as otherwise permitted in  
30 this section or shall carry over to the extent authorized in subdivision  
31 (1)(g) of this section.

1 (c) Credits may be used to obtain a refund of sales and use taxes  
2 under the Local Option Revenue Act, the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967, the  
3 Qualified Judgment Payment Act, and sections 13-319, 13-324, and 13-2813  
4 that are not subject to direct refund under section 77-6831 and that are  
5 paid on purchases, including rentals, for use at a qualified location.

6 (d) The credits provided in subsections (4) and (5) of section  
7 77-6831 may be used to repay a loan for job training or infrastructure  
8 development as provided in section 77-6841.

9 (e) Credits may be used to obtain a payment from the state equal to  
10 the amount which the taxpayer demonstrates to the director was paid by  
11 the taxpayer after the date of the complete application for job training  
12 and talent recruitment of employees who qualify in the number of new  
13 employees, to the extent that proceeds from a loan described in section  
14 77-6841 were not used to make such payments. For purposes of this  
15 subdivision:

16 (i) Job training means training for a prospective or new employee  
17 that is provided after the date of the complete application by a Nebraska  
18 nonprofit college or university, a Nebraska public or private secondary  
19 school, a Nebraska educational service unit, or a company that is not a  
20 member of the taxpayer's unitary group or a related person to the  
21 taxpayer; and

22 (ii) Talent recruitment means talent recruitment activities that  
23 result in a newly recruited employee who is hired by the taxpayer after  
24 the date of the complete application and who is paid compensation during  
25 the year of hire at a rate equal to at least one hundred percent of the  
26 Nebraska statewide average hourly wage for the year of application,  
27 including marketing, relocation expenses, and search-firm fees. Talent  
28 recruitment payments that may be reimbursed include, without limitation,  
29 payment by the taxpayer, without repayment by the employee, of an  
30 employee's student loans, an employee's tuition, and an employee's  
31 downpayment on a primary residence in Nebraska. Talent recruitment

1 payments that may be reimbursed shall not include payments for the  
2 recruitment of a person who constitutes a related person to the taxpayer  
3 when the taxpayer is an individual or recruitment of a person who  
4 constitutes a related person to an owner of the taxpayer when the  
5 taxpayer is a partnership, a limited liability company, or a subchapter S  
6 corporation.

7 (f) The credits provided in subsections (4) and (5) of section  
8 77-6831 may be used to obtain a payment from the state equal to the  
9 amount which the taxpayer demonstrates to the director was paid for  
10 taxpayer-sponsored child care at the qualified location or locations  
11 during the performance period and the carryover period.

12 (g) Credits may be carried over until fully utilized through the end  
13 of the carryover period.

14 (h) A taxpayer that is also a Nebraska-based covered entity as  
15 described in 15 U.S.C. 4651 that qualifies under the Creating Helpful  
16 Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act, Public Law  
17 116-283, may use credits to obtain a payment from the state equal to the  
18 amount which the taxpayer demonstrates to the director was paid by the  
19 taxpayer after the date of the complete application to repay the  
20 principal or interest on revenue bonds issued by an inland port authority  
21 pursuant to section 13-3308.

22 (2)(a) No refund claims shall be filed until after the required  
23 levels of employment and investment have been met.

24 (b) Refund claims shall be filed no more than once each quarter for  
25 refunds under the Imagine Nebraska Act, except that any claim for a  
26 refund in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars may be filed at any  
27 time.

28 (c) Refund claims for materials purchased by a purchasing agent  
29 shall include:

30 (i) A copy of the purchasing agent appointment;

31 (ii) The contract price; and

1 (iii)(A) For refunds under subdivision (2)(a)(iii) or (2)(a)(v) of  
2 section 77-6831, a certification by the contractor or repairperson of the  
3 percentage of the materials incorporated into or annexed to the qualified  
4 location on which sales and use taxes were paid to Nebraska after  
5 appointment as purchasing agent; or

6 (B) For refunds under subdivision (2)(a)(iv) of section 77-6831, a  
7 certification by the contractor or repairperson of the percentage of the  
8 contract price that represents the cost of materials annexed to the  
9 qualified location and the percentage of the materials annexed to the  
10 qualified location on which sales and use taxes were paid to Nebraska  
11 after appointment as purchasing agent.

12 (d) All refund claims shall be filed, processed, and allowed as any  
13 other claim under section 77-2708, except that the amounts allowed to be  
14 refunded under the Imagine Nebraska Act shall be deemed to be  
15 overpayments and shall be refunded notwithstanding any limitation in  
16 subdivision (2)(a) of section 77-2708. The refund may be allowed if the  
17 claim is filed within three years from the end of the year the required  
18 levels of employment and investment are met or within the period set  
19 forth in section 77-2708. Refunds shall be paid by the Tax Commissioner  
20 within one hundred eighty days after receipt of the refund claim. Such  
21 payments shall be subject to later recovery by the Tax Commissioner upon  
22 audit.

23 (e) If a claim for a refund of sales and use taxes under the Local  
24 Option Revenue Act, the Qualified Judgment Payment Act, or sections  
25 13-319, 13-324, and 13-2813 of more than twenty-five thousand dollars is  
26 filed by June 15 of a given year, the refund shall be made on or after  
27 November 15 of the same year. If such a claim is filed on or after June  
28 16 of a given year, the refund shall not be made until on or after  
29 November 15 of the following year. The Tax Commissioner shall notify the  
30 affected city, village, county, or municipal county of the amount of  
31 refund claims of sales and use taxes under the Local Option Revenue Act,

1 the Qualified Judgment Payment Act, or sections 13-319, 13-324, and  
2 13-2813 that are in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars on or before  
3 July 1 of the year before the claims will be paid under this section.

4 (f) For refunds of sales and use taxes under the Local Option  
5 Revenue Act, the deductions made by the Tax Commissioner for such refunds  
6 shall be delayed in accordance with section 77-27,144.

7 (g) Interest shall not be allowed on any taxes refunded under the  
8 ImagiNE Nebraska Act.

9 (3) The appointment of purchasing agents shall be recognized for the  
10 purpose of changing the status of a contractor or repairperson as the  
11 ultimate consumer of tangible personal property purchased after the date  
12 of the appointment which is physically incorporated into or annexed at a  
13 qualified location and becomes the property of the owner of the  
14 improvement to real estate or the taxpayer. The purchasing agent shall be  
15 jointly liable for the payment of the sales and use tax on the purchases  
16 with the owner of the property.

17 (4) The determination of whether the application is complete,  
18 whether a location is a qualified location, and whether to approve the  
19 application and sign the agreement shall be made by the director. All  
20 other interpretations of the ImagiNE Nebraska Act shall be made by the  
21 Tax Commissioner. The Commissioner of Labor shall provide the director  
22 with such information as the Department of Labor regularly receives with  
23 respect to the taxpayer which the director requests from the Commissioner  
24 of Labor in order to fulfill the director's duties under the act. The  
25 director shall use such information to achieve efficiency in the  
26 administration of the act.

27 (5) Once the director and the taxpayer have signed the agreement  
28 under section 77-6828, the taxpayer, and its owners or members where  
29 applicable, may report and claim and shall receive all incentives allowed  
30 by the ImagiNE Nebraska Act, subject to the base authority limitations  
31 provided in section 77-6839, without waiting for a determination by the

1 director or the Tax Commissioner or other taxing authority that the  
2 taxpayer has met the required employment and investment levels or  
3 otherwise qualifies, has qualified, or continues to qualify for such  
4 incentives, provided that the tax return or claim has been signed by an  
5 owner, member, manager, or officer of the taxpayer who declares under  
6 penalties of perjury that he or she has examined the tax return or claim,  
7 including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of his  
8 or her knowledge and belief (a) the tax return or claim is correct and  
9 complete in all material respects, (b) payment of the claim has not been  
10 previously made by the state to the taxpayer, and (c) with respect to  
11 sales or use tax refund claims, the taxpayer has not claimed or received  
12 a refund of such tax from a retailer. The payment or allowance of such a  
13 claim shall not prevent the director or the Tax Commissioner or other  
14 taxing authority from recovering such payment, exemption, or allowance,  
15 within the normal period provided by law, subject to normal appeal rights  
16 of a taxpayer, if the director or Tax Commissioner or other taxing  
17 authority determines upon review or audit that the taxpayer did not  
18 qualify for such incentive or exemption.

19 (6) An audit of employment and investment thresholds and incentive  
20 amounts shall be made by the Tax Commissioner to the extent and in the  
21 manner determined by the Tax Commissioner. Upon request by the director  
22 or the Tax Commissioner, the Commissioner of Labor shall report to the  
23 director and the Tax Commissioner the employment data regularly reported  
24 to the Department of Labor relating to number of employees and wages paid  
25 for each taxpayer. The director and Tax Commissioner, to the extent they  
26 determine appropriate, shall use such information to achieve efficiency  
27 in the administration of the Imagine Nebraska Act. The Tax Commissioner  
28 may recover any refund or part thereof which is erroneously made and any  
29 credit or part thereof which is erroneously allowed by issuing a  
30 deficiency determination within three years from the date of refund or  
31 credit or within the period otherwise allowed for issuing a deficiency

1 determination, whichever expires later. The director shall not enter into  
2 an agreement with any taxpayer unless the taxpayer agrees to  
3 electronically verify the work eligibility status of all newly hired  
4 employees employed in Nebraska within ninety days after the date of hire.  
5 For purposes of calculating any tax incentive under the act, the hours  
6 worked and compensation paid to an employee who has not been  
7 electronically verified or who is not eligible to work in Nebraska shall  
8 be excluded.

9 (7) A determination by the director that a location is not a  
10 qualified location or a determination by the Tax Commissioner that a  
11 taxpayer has failed to meet or maintain the required levels of employment  
12 or investment for incentives, exemptions, or recapture, or does not  
13 otherwise qualify for incentives or exemptions, may be protested by the  
14 taxpayer to the Tax Commissioner within sixty days after the mailing to  
15 the taxpayer of the written notice of the proposed determination by the  
16 director or the Tax Commissioner, as applicable. If the notice of  
17 proposed determination is not protested in writing by the taxpayer within  
18 the sixty-day period, the proposed determination is a final  
19 determination. If the notice is protested, the Tax Commissioner, after a  
20 formal hearing by the Tax Commissioner or by an independent hearing  
21 officer appointed by the Tax Commissioner, if requested by the taxpayer  
22 in such protest, shall issue a written order resolving such protest. The  
23 written order of the Tax Commissioner resolving a protest may be appealed  
24 to the district court of Lancaster County in accordance with the  
25 Administrative Procedure Act within thirty days after the issuance of the  
26 order.

27 Sec. 2. Section 77-6841, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
28 2022, is amended to read:

29 77-6841 (1) The Legislature finds that providing job training is  
30 critical to the public purpose of attracting and retaining businesses and  
31 that the growth of high-paying jobs in Nebraska is limited by an unmet



1 need for workforce training and infrastructure development. The  
2 Legislature further finds that many communities in Nebraska lack the  
3 infrastructure, including broadband access, necessary to provide high-  
4 paying jobs for residents. The Legislature further finds that workforce  
5 training and infrastructure development help businesses and improve the  
6 quality of life for workers and communities in Nebraska. Because there is  
7 a statewide benefit from workforce training and infrastructure  
8 development, the Legislature intends to provide a revolving loan program  
9 as a rational means to address these needs.

10 (2) The Department of Economic Development shall establish and  
11 administer a revolving loan program for workforce training and  
12 infrastructure development expenses to be incurred by applicants for  
13 incentives under the Imagine Nebraska Act.

14 (3) The Imagine Nebraska Revolving Loan Fund is hereby created. The  
15 fund shall receive money from transfers authorized by appropriations from  
16 the Legislature, grants, private contributions, repayment of loans, and  
17 all other sources. Any money in the fund available for investment shall  
18 be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska  
19 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. It is  
20 the intent of the Legislature to transfer five million dollars from the  
21 General Fund to the Imagine Nebraska Revolving Loan Fund for fiscal years  
22 2022-23 and 2023-24 for purposes of carrying out the workforce training  
23 and infrastructure development revolving loan program pursuant to the  
24 Imagine Nebraska Act. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate  
25 five million dollars for fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 for purposes of  
26 carrying out the workforce training and infrastructure development  
27 revolving loan program pursuant to the Imagine Nebraska Act.

28 (4)(a) ~~(4)~~ The Department of Economic Development, as part of its  
29 comprehensive business development strategy, shall administer the Imagine  
30 Nebraska Revolving Loan Fund and may loan funds to applicants under the  
31 Imagine Nebraska Act to secure new, high-paying jobs in Nebraska based on

1 the criteria established in sections 77-6842 and 77-6843. Loans made to  
2 applicants under the Imagine Nebraska Act and interest on such loans may  
3 be repaid using credits earned under the Imagine Nebraska Act. If that  
4 occurs, the Department of Revenue shall certify the credit usage to the  
5 State Treasurer, who shall, within thirty days, transfer the amount of  
6 the credit used from the General Fund to the Imagine Nebraska Revolving  
7 Loan Fund.

8 (b) (5) If a taxpayer with an agreement under the Imagine Nebraska  
9 Act obtains a loan under this subsection ~~section~~ and fails to attain the  
10 required minimum number of new employees, minimum compensation, and  
11 minimum required cumulative investment necessary for that taxpayer to  
12 earn a credit, the principal and interest of the loan shall be considered  
13 an underpayment of tax and may be recovered by the Department of Revenue.

14 (c) (6) Whether repaid using credits or repaid directly by the  
15 recipient of the loan, loans made from the Imagine Nebraska Revolving  
16 Loan Fund shall be repaid with interest at the rate established in  
17 section 45-102.

18 (5)(a) The Department of Economic Development shall award funds to  
19 match any federal grant, loan, loan guarantee, or other financial  
20 incentive for a project for which a Nebraska-based covered entity as  
21 defined in 15 U.S.C. 4651 qualifies under the Creating Helpful Incentives  
22 to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act, Public Law 116-283.  
23 The amount of the award, when combined with all other eligible state  
24 funds and incentives, shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the total  
25 cost of the project. The department may waive any interest payments for  
26 qualifying projects.

27 (b) The Department of Economic Development shall approve any  
28 Nebraska-based covered entity that meets the eligibility requirements  
29 under the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS)  
30 for America Act, Public Law 116-283, if the eligible project has a total  
31 project cost in excess of fifty million dollars. The department shall

1 award funds under this subsection upon receipt by an application of an  
2 award of federal or other funds. Fund sources include federal, local,  
3 private, and charitable contributions.

4 (c) An applicant shall apply to the Department of Economic  
5 Development for an award under this subsection. The applicant shall  
6 certify the investment made by the United States Government.

7 (d) Of the total funds awarded under this subsection and consistent  
8 with section 9902(a)(2)(B) of the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce  
9 Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act, Public Law 116-283, five-tenths  
10 of one percent of the amount awarded under this subsection shall be  
11 awarded to an educational institution for the purpose of assisting a  
12 Nebraska-based covered entity with the obligations under the federal law  
13 for domestic semiconductor workforce development.

14 (e) An applicant may use award funds received under this subsection  
15 for:

16 (i) Public and private sector initiatives that will improve  
17 Nebraska's ability to attract microelectronic enterprises, especially  
18 those incentivized under the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce  
19 Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act, Public Law 116-283, by making  
20 necessary investments to the semiconductor industry, including, but not  
21 limited to, grants for the establishment of private sector entities for  
22 such purposes within eligible economically disadvantaged areas in  
23 Nebraska, as set forth in section 9902(a)(2)(B) of the Creating Helpful  
24 Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act, Public Law  
25 116-283; and

26 (ii) A community college located in a city of the metropolitan class  
27 working in collaboration with private sector partners and any interested  
28 university, college, other community college, and technical school  
29 located in this state to support education expansion and curricula  
30 development in order to meet the needs of the domestic semiconductor  
31 workforce in Nebraska set forth in section 9902(a)(2)(B) of the Creating

1 Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act,  
2 Public Law 116-283.

3       Sec. 3. Original sections 77-6832 and 77-6841, Revised Statutes  
4 Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed.

5       Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
6 passed and approved according to law.