LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION

## **LEGISLATIVE BILL 820**

Introduced by Albrecht, 17; at the request of the Governor; Briese, 41; Clements, 2; Linehan, 39; Sanders, 45.

Read first time January 25, 2023

Committee: Revenue

1	A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation; to amend sections
2	19-2428, 46-294.03, 76-710.04, 77-103.01, 77-1327, 77-1359, 77-1371,
3	77-1507.01, 77-5007, and 77-5022, Reissue Revised Statutes of
4	Nebraska, and sections 77-201, 77-1363, 77-4212, 77-5023, 79-1016,
5	79-1036, and 86-1403, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022;
6	to adopt the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act; to change and
7	eliminate provisions relating to the valuation of agricultural land
8	and horticultural land; to change the Tax Equalization and Review
9	Commission Act; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates;
10	to repeal the original sections; to outright repeal sections
11	77-1343, 77-1345, 77-1345.01, 77-1346, and 77-1347.01, Reissue
12	Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 77-1344 and 77-1347,
13	Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; and to declare an
14	emergency.

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

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1	Section 1. <u>Sections 1 to 9 of this act shall be known and may be</u>
2	cited as the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act.
3	Sec. 2. Pursuant to Article VIII, section 1, subdivisions (4) and
4	(5) of the Constitution of Nebraska, the Legislature finds and declares
5	<u>that:</u>
6	<u>(1) The agricultural industry is a vital part of the economy of this</u>
7	<u>state;</u>
8	(2) The nature of the agricultural industry and commodity prices
9	affect the value of agricultural land and horticultural land;
10	<u>(3) All agricultural land and horticultural land in Nebraska has an</u>
11	actual value as defined in section 77-112 reflecting purposes or uses
12	other than agricultural or horticultural purposes or uses;
13	<u>(4) Market influences to use agricultural land and horticultural</u>
14	land for purposes other than agricultural or horticultural purposes are
15	present throughout the state and cause the prices paid for agricultural
16	land and horticultural land to exceed the value such land has for
17	agricultural or horticultural purposes;
18	<u>(5) The best and most uniform way to exclude any value that</u>
19	<u>agricultural land and horticultural land has for purposes other than</u>
20	agricultural or horticultural purposes is to rely on the income-producing
21	characteristics of the land; and
22	<u>(6) Agricultural land and horticultural land should be assessed at</u>
23	its agricultural use value using an income approach that complies with
24	professionally accepted mass appraisal techniques.
25	Sec. 3. For purposes of the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act:
26	(1) Agricultural land and horticultural land means a parcel of land,
27	excluding land associated with a building or enclosed structure located
28	on the parcel, which is primarily used for agricultural or horticultural
29	purposes, including wasteland lying in or adjacent to and in common
30	ownership or management with other agricultural land and horticultural
31	land;

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1	(2) Agricultural or horticultural purposes means used for the
2	commercial production of any plant or animal product in a raw or
3	unprocessed state that is derived from the science and art of
4	agriculture, aquaculture, or horticulture. Agricultural or horticultural
5	purposes includes the following uses of land:
6	<u>(a) Land retained or protected for future agricultural or</u>
7	horticultural purposes under a conservation easement approved as required
8	by section 76-2,112 except when the parcel or a portion thereof is being
9	used for purposes other than agricultural or horticultural purposes; and
10	<u>(b) Land enrolled in a federal or state program in which payments</u>
11	are received for removing such land from agricultural or horticultural
12	production;
13	<u>(3) Agricultural use value means the value of land for agricultural</u>
14	or horticultural purposes or uses without regard to the value of such
15	land for other purposes or uses as determined pursuant to the
16	Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act;
17	<u>(4) Farm home site means land contiguous to a farm site which</u>
18	includes an inhabitable residence and improvements used for residential
19	purposes and which is located outside of urban areas or outside a platted
20	and zoned subdivision; and
21	(5) Farm site means the portion of land contiguous to land actively
22	devoted to agriculture which includes improvements that are agricultural

23 or horticultural in nature, including any uninhabitable or unimproved 24 farm home site.

Sec. 4. Section 77-1359, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 25 amended to read: 26

(1) Agricultural The Legislature finds and declares that 27 <del>77-1359</del> agricultural land and horticultural land shall be a separate and distinct 28 class of real property for purposes of assessment. 29

30 (2) The assessed value of agricultural land and horticultural land 31 shall not be uniform and proportionate with all other real property, but

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the assessed value shall be uniform and proportionate within the class of agricultural land and horticultural land <u>based on the income potential of</u> <u>the land</u>.

4 (3) Agricultural land and horticultural land shall be valued at its
5 agricultural use value as determined pursuant to the Agricultural
6 Valuation Fairness Act regardless of any value which such land might have
7 for purposes other than agricultural or horticultural purposes.

8 <u>(4) Agricultural use value shall be determined each year as of</u> 9 January 1. If land qualifying for agricultural use value becomes 10 <u>disqualified on or before December 31 of that year, it shall continue to</u> 11 <u>receive agricultural use value until January 1 of the year following.</u>

12 For purposes of this section and section 77-1363:

13 (1) Agricultural land and horticultural land means a parcel of land, 14 excluding land associated with a building or enclosed structure located 15 on the parcel, which is primarily used for agricultural or horticultural 16 purposes, including wasteland lying in or adjacent to and in common 17 ownership or management with other agricultural land and horticultural 18 land;

19 (2)(a) Agricultural or horticultural purposes means used for the 20 commercial production of any plant or animal product in a raw or 21 unprocessed state that is derived from the science and art of 22 agriculture, aquaculture, or horticulture;

23 (b) Agricultural or horticultural purposes includes the following
 24 uses of land:

25 (i) Land retained or protected for future agricultural or 26 horticultural purposes under a conservation easement as provided in the 27 Conservation and Preservation Easements Act except when the parcel or a 28 portion thereof is being used for purposes other than agricultural or 29 horticultural purposes; and

30 (ii) Land enrolled in a federal or state program in which payments
 31 are received for removing such land from agricultural or horticultural

1 production; and

2 (c) Whether a parcel of land is primarily used for agricultural or 3 horticultural purposes shall be determined without regard to whether some 4 or all of the parcel is platted and subdivided into separate lots or 5 developed with improvements consisting of streets, sidewalks, curbs, 6 gutters, sewer lines, water lines, or utility lines;

7 (3) Farm home site means land contiguous to a farm site which 8 includes an inhabitable residence and improvements used for residential 9 purposes and which is located outside of urban areas or outside a platted 10 and zoned subdivision; and

11 (4) Farm site means the portion of land contiguous to land actively 12 devoted to agriculture which includes improvements that are agricultural 13 or horticultural in nature, including any uninhabitable or unimproved 14 farm home site.

Sec. 5. Section 77-1363, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2022, is amended to read:

17 77-1363 (1) The county assessor shall use an income-approach 18 calculation to determine the agricultural use value for each assessment 19 year. The income-approach calculation shall be consistent with the 20 Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act and any rules and regulations adopted 21 and promulgated by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to the act and shall 22 comply with professionally accepted mass appraisal techniques.

23 (2) For purposes of assessing agricultural land and horticultural land using the income-approach calculation, agricultural Agricultural 24 25 land and horticultural land shall be divided into classes and subclasses of real property under section 77-103.01, including, but not limited to, 26 27 irrigated cropland, dryland cropland, grassland used for grazing, 28 grassland used for hay, wasteland, nurseries, feedlots, and orchards, so that the categories reflect uses appropriate for the valuation of such 29 land according to law. Classes shall be inventoried by subclasses of real 30 property based on soil classification standards developed by the Natural 31

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Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of
 Agriculture as converted into land capability groups by the Property Tax
 Administrator. Land capability groups shall be Natural Resources
 Conservation Service specific to the applied use and not all based on a
 dryland farming criterion.

(3) County assessors shall use the values for the class of 6 agricultural land and horticultural land and the capitalization rates 7 determined by the Agricultural Land Valuation Committee in determining 8 9 the agricultural use value of agricultural land and horticultural land. 10 utilize soil surveys from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture as directed by the Property 11 12 Tax Administrator. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit 13 the classes and subclasses of real property that may be used by county assessors or the Tax Equalization and Review Commission to achieve more 14 15 uniform and proportionate valuations.

16 Sec. 6. <u>(1) Beginning October 1, 2023, the Agricultural Land</u> 17 <u>Valuation Committee is created. The committee's purpose shall be to</u> 18 <u>develop income and expense estimates for all agricultural land and</u> 19 <u>horticultural land in Nebraska and capitalization rates necessary to</u> 20 <u>produce uniform and proportionate assessed valuations. The committee</u> 21 <u>shall consist of the following five persons:</u>

(a) A representative of county assessors appointed by the Tax
 Commissioner. Such representative shall be skilled in the valuation of
 agricultural land and horticultural land and shall hold a certificate
 issued under section 77-422;

(b) A representative of the agricultural and horticultural industry appointed by the Tax Commissioner. The appointment shall be based on recommendations made by not less than three industry groups designated by the Tax Commissioner;

30 (c) The Property Tax Administrator or a designee of his or her
 31 staff. Such person shall serve as the chairperson of the committee;

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1	<u>(d) An appraiser from the private sector appointed by the Tax</u>
2	<u>Commissioner. Such appraiser must hold either a valid credential as a</u>
3	certified general real property appraiser under the Real Property
4	Appraiser Act or an MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute; and
_	(a) A manufactive from the fourther of the second

5 (e) A representative from the faculty of one of the research
6 universities in the state specializing in agricultural economics.

7 (2) The committee shall meet annually in November to establish assessed values for agricultural land and horticultural land based on 8 9 information available to the committee from the United States Department 10 of Agriculture, the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and 11 Natural Resources, the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, the Department of Revenue, and any other sources determined necessary by the 12 13 committee. The Department of Revenue shall electronically publish notice 14 of such meeting no less than thirty days in advance.

15 (3) Agricultural land and horticultural land shall be valued based 16 on the agricultural use value, reflected in a capitalized income approach 17 developed pursuant to the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act and professionally accepted mass appraisal techniques. The assessed values 18 19 for agricultural land and horticultural land shall be determined on the basis of the land's value in use for agricultural or horticultural 20 21 purposes, by capitalizing the net income by a rate that reflects the 22 agricultural use value in the ordinary course of trade. The difference 23 between the market value of agricultural land and horticultural land and 24 its agricultural use value shall be expressly exempt from taxation.

(4) Gross income shall be determined by multiplying the average yield for each county by the prior year average commodity price for each major crop type harvested in each county. For irrigated cropland, dryland cropland, and grassland used for hay, the average yield information shall be determined based on the eight prior years published by the United States Department of Agriculture for those commodities appropriate for each land capability group, with the highest and lowest yields for that period excluded. The average commodity price shall be based on an average of the most recent eight years, excluding the highest and lowest prices of that period.

4 (5) For grassland used for grazing, the average yield shall be based on the carrying capacity in terms of animal unit months and the current 5 rental value per animal unit month for each land capability group. 6 7 Carrying capacity, by land capability group, shall be based on productivity estimates published by the Natural Resources Conservation 8 9 Service of the United States Department of Agriculture or other state or 10 federal agencies as determined by the committee. Rental values per animal unit month shall be based on an average of the most recent eight years, 11 excluding the highest and lowest values of that period. 12

13 (6) The gross income shall be established as a dollar per acre 14 value, by weighting the major crop types harvested in each county by the 15 number of acres harvested in the previous year. Such crops may include 16 continuous cropland wheat, summer fallow wheat, corn for grain, dry 17 beans, sorghum for grain, sugar beets, soybeans for beans, oats, and 18 alfalfa. Additional crop information appropriate for predominant crops in 19 a county or land capability group shall also be included when available.

<u>(7) Land uses such as accretion land, waste land, orchards,</u>
 <u>vineyards, nurseries, and other agricultural land uses without sufficient</u>
 <u>income information available shall be valued using a sales comparison</u>
 <u>approach or other professionally accepted mass appraisal technique that</u>
 <u>produces an assessment at seventy-five percent of its actual value.</u>

(8) Expenses shall be determined by the committee to reflect typical expenses associated for each land use, based on information from the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, landowner surveys made available to the committee, or other sources that yield reliable information. The committee may also use the typical landowner share, which reflects the proportion of the gross receipts received by the

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<u>landowner in the normal course of farm operation, and typical leasing</u>
 <u>arrangements as determined from surveys conducted by the Property Tax</u>
 <u>Administrator or as published by other state or federal agencies.</u>

4 The Agricultural Land Valuation Committee shall establish Sec. 7. the capitalization rates to be applied to each class or subclass of 5 agricultural land and horticultural land within each county. The 6 7 capitalization rates shall be developed based on the information reported pursuant to section 77-1327 and be based on comparable sales pursuant to 8 9 section 77-1371. The committee shall ensure that the capitalization rates 10 established under this section result in an aggregate agricultural use value for the class of agricultural land and horticultural land that is 11 between sixty-nine and seventy-five percent of the actual value that the 12 agricultural land and horticultural land has for agricultural or 13 horticultural purposes. 14

15 Sec. 8. <u>(1) The county assessor shall implement the values</u> 16 <u>determined by the Agricultural Land Valuation Committee under sections 6</u> 17 <u>and 7 of this act. The resulting assessed values for the class of</u> 18 <u>agricultural land and horticultural land shall be reported on the</u> 19 <u>abstract of real property pursuant to section 77-1514.</u>

(2) If a county assessor, based on the facts and circumstances, 20 21 believes that the values for agricultural land and horticultural land as 22 determined by the committee under sections 6 and 7 of this act result in 23 values that are not uniform and proportionate within the class of agricultural land <u>and horticultural land</u>, the county assessor may 24 petition the Tax Commissioner, on or before February 1, for alternative 25 values to be applied to the class of agricultural land and horticultural 26 27 land. The county assessor shall show that the use of the committee's 28 values as determined under sections 6 and 7 of this act result in 29 agricultural use values that are not uniform and proportionate. The Tax 30 Commissioner shall issue a written order to the county assessor no later 31 than March 1.

1 (3) If the Property Tax Administrator, based on the facts and 2 circumstances, believes that any agricultural use value as determined by 3 the county assessor does not comply with the requirements of the 4 Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act, the Property Tax Administrator may 5 petition the Tax Commissioner, on or before April 7, for an order to adjust the agricultural use value to achieve compliance with the act. The 6 7 Tax Commissioner shall issue a written order to the Property Tax Administrator no later than May 1. 8

9 (4) Upon receipt of a petition by either the county assessor or the 10 Property Tax Administrator under this section, the Tax Commissioner shall set a date for hearing and shall give notice thereof to the county 11 assessor or Property Tax Administrator, as applicable. The hearing shall 12 13 be held at least five days following the mailing of such notice. At the hearing, the county assessor, the Property Tax Administrator, or their 14 15 legal representatives may appear and show cause why the class or subclass 16 of agricultural land and horticultural land in the county should or 17 should not be adjusted. At the hearing, the Tax Commissioner may receive testimony from any interested person. The Tax Commissioner's order may be 18 19 appealed within thirty days after the date of the order to the Tax Equalization and Review Commission in accordance with section 77-5013. 20

(5) On or before June 5 of each year, the county assessor of any
 county adjusted by an order of the Tax Commissioner shall recertify the
 county abstract of assessment to the Property Tax Administrator. The
 Property Tax Administrator shall audit the records of the county assessor
 to determine whether the orders were implemented.

26 (6) The total statewide assessed value for agricultural land and 27 horticultural land, based on the certified abstract of assessment for 28 real property filed pursuant to section 77-1514, shall not increase more 29 than three and one-half percent from the prior year. In years when the 30 total statewide assessed value for agricultural land and horticultural 31 land exceeds three and one-half percent from the prior year, the Property

Tax Administrator shall determine a single adjustment factor to 1 2 proportionately reduce assessments to a statewide assessed value increase of three and one-half percent over the prior year. The Property Tax 3 4 Administrator shall provide the adjustment factor to county assessors on or before May 1. On or before May 20, county assessors shall apply the 5 reduction factor to the assessed value of each parcel of agricultural 6 7 land and horticultural land in that county. On or before June 5, the county assessor shall submit an abstract of assessment pursuant to 8 9 section 77-1514. 10 Sec. 9. The Tax Commissioner may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the Agricultural Valuation Fairness 11

12 <u>Act.</u>

Sec. 10. Section 19-2428, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

19-2428 (1) Whenever the city council of a city of the first class 15 or city of the second class or the village board of trustees of a village 16 17 creates an improvement district as specified in section 19-2427 which includes land adjacent to such city or village and such adjacent land is 18 within an agricultural use zone and is used exclusively for agricultural 19 use, the owners of record title of such adjacent land may apply for a 20 21 deferral from special assessments pursuant to sections 19-2428 to 22 19-2431.

23 (2) For purposes of sections 19-2428 to 19-2431:

(a) Agricultural use means the use of land as described in section <u>3</u>
 <u>of this act</u> <del>77-1359</del>, so that incidental use of the land for
 nonagricultural <u>and <del>or</del> nonhorticultural purposes shall not disqualify the</u>
 land; and

28 Agricultural designation land (b) use zone means of any predominantly for agricultural and or horticultural use by any political 29 30 subdivision pursuant to sections 19-925 to 19-933, Chapter 14, article 4, Chapter 15, article 9, Chapter 16, article 9, Chapter 17, article 10, or 31

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1 Chapter 23, article 1. The primary objective of the agricultural use 2 zoning shall be to preserve and protect agricultural activities and the potential for the agricultural, horticultural, or open use of land. Uses 3 4 to be allowed on such lands include primarily agricultural-related and or 5 horticultural-related uses, and nonagricultural and <del>or</del> nonhorticultural industrial, commercial, or residential uses allowed on such lands shall 6 be restricted so that they do not conflict with or detract from this 7 objective. 8

9 Sec. 11. Section 46-294.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
10 amended to read:

46-294.03 For purposes of assessment pursuant to the Agricultural 11 Valuation Fairness Act sections 77-1343 to 77-1363, neither the temporary 12 13 transfer or change of an appropriation nor any resulting land-use changes on the land to which the appropriation was appurtenant prior to the 14 transfer or change shall cause the land to be reclassified to a lower 15 value use or the valuation of the land to be reduced, but the land may be 16 17 reclassified to a higher value use and its valuation may be increased if a higher value use is made of the land while the temporary transfer or 18 19 change is in effect. Land from which an appropriation has been permanently transferred shall be classified and valued for tax purposes 20 in accordance with the use of the land after the transfer. 21

22 Sec. 12. Section 76-710.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 23 amended to read:

76-710.04 (1) A condemner may not take property through the use of
eminent domain under sections 76-704 to 76-724 if the taking is primarily
for an economic development purpose.

(2) For purposes of this section, economic development purpose means
taking property for subsequent use by a commercial for-profit enterprise
or to increase tax revenue, tax base, employment, or general economic
conditions.

31 (3) This section does not affect the use of eminent domain for:

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(a) Public projects or private projects that make all or a major
 portion of the property available for use by the general public or for
 use as a right-of-way, aqueduct, pipeline, transmission line, or similar
 use;

5 (b) Removing harmful uses of property if such uses constitute an
6 immediate threat to public health and safety;

7 (c) Leasing property to a private person who occupies an incidental
8 part of public property or a public facility, such as a retail
9 establishment on the ground floor of a public building;

10 (d) Acquiring abandoned property;

11 (e) Clearing defective property title;

12 (f) Taking private property for use by a utility or railroad;

(g) Taking private property based upon a finding of blighted or
substandard conditions under the Community Development Law if the private
property is not agricultural land <u>and</u> <del>or</del> horticultural land as defined in
section <u>3 of this act</u> <del>77-1359</del>; and

(h) Taking private property for a transmission line to serve a
privately developed facility generating electricity using wind, solar,
biomass, or landfill gas. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed
to grant the power of eminent domain to a private entity.

21 Sec. 13. Section 77-103.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 22 amended to read:

23 77-103.01 Class or subclass of real property means a group of 24 properties that share one or more characteristics typically common to all 25 the properties in the class or subclass, but are not typically found in the properties outside the class or subclass. Class or subclass includes, 26 but is not limited to, the classifications of agricultural land and or 27 28 horticultural land listed in section <u>5 of this act</u> <del>77-1363</del>, parcel use, parcel type, location, geographic characteristics, zoning, city size, 29 land capability group, and market 30 characteristics parcel size, appropriate for the valuation of such land. A class or subclass based on 31

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1 market characteristics shall be based on characteristics that affect the 2 actual value in a different manner than it affects the actual value of 3 properties not within the market characteristic class or subclass.

Sec. 14. Section 77-201, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2022, is amended to read:

6 77-201 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) <u>and (3)</u> through (4) 7 of this section, all real property in this state, not expressly exempt 8 therefrom, shall be subject to taxation and shall be valued at its actual 9 value.

10 (2) Agricultural land and horticultural land as defined in section 3 of this act 77-1359 shall constitute a separate and distinct class of 11 property for purposes of property taxation, shall be subject to taxation, 12 unless expressly exempt from taxation, and shall be valued at its 13 agricultural use value as provided in the Agricultural Valuation Fairness 14 Act seventy-five percent of its actual value, except that for school 15 16 district taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on bonds that are 17 approved by a vote of the people on or after January 1, 2022, such land shall be valued at fifty percent of its actual value. 18

(3) Agricultural land and horticultural land actively devoted to 19 agricultural or horticultural purposes which has value for purposes other 20 21 than agricultural or horticultural uses and which meets the 22 qualifications for special valuation under section 77-1344 shall 23 constitute a separate and distinct class of property for purposes of 24 property taxation, shall be subject to taxation, and shall be valued for 25 taxation at seventy-five percent of its special valuation as defined in section 77-1343, except that for school district taxes levied to pay the 26 27 principal and interest on bonds that are approved by a vote of the people 28 on or after January 1, 2022, such land shall be valued at fifty percent of its special valuation as defined in section 77-1343. 29

30 <u>(3)</u> (4) Historically significant real property which meets the 31 qualifications for historic rehabilitation valuation under sections

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1 77-1385 to 77-1394 shall be valued for taxation as provided in such
 2 sections.

3 (4) (5) Tangible personal property, not including motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers registered for operation on the highways of 4 5 this state, shall constitute a separate and distinct class of property for purposes of property taxation, shall be subject to taxation, unless 6 expressly exempt from taxation, and shall be valued at its net book 7 value. Tangible personal property transferred as a gift or devise or as 8 9 part of a transaction which is not a purchase shall be subject to taxation based upon the date the property was acquired by the previous 10 owner and at the previous owner's Nebraska adjusted basis. Tangible 11 personal property acquired as replacement property for converted property 12 13 shall be subject to taxation based upon the date the converted property was acquired and at the Nebraska adjusted basis of the converted property 14 unless insurance proceeds are payable by reason of the conversion. For 15 16 purposes of this subsection, (a) converted property means tangible 17 personal property which is compulsorily or involuntarily converted as a result of its destruction in whole or in part, theft, seizure, 18 requisition, or condemnation, or the threat or imminence thereof, and no 19 gain or loss is recognized for federal or state income tax purposes by 20 the holder of the property as a result of the conversion and (b) 21 22 replacement property means tangible personal property acquired within two 23 years after the close of the calendar year in which tangible personal 24 property was converted and which is, except for date of construction or 25 manufacture, substantially the same as the converted property.

26 Sec. 15. Section 77-1327, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 27 amended to read:

77-1327 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that accurate and comprehensive information be developed by the Property Tax Administrator and made accessible to the taxing officials and property owners in order to ensure the uniformity and proportionality of the assessments of real

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property valuations in the state in accordance with law and to provide
 the statistical and narrative reports pursuant to section 77-5027.

3 (2) All transactions of real property for which the statement 4 required in section 76-214 is filed shall be available for development of 5 a sales file by the Property Tax Administrator. All transactions with stated consideration of more than one hundred dollars or upon which more 6 than two dollars and twenty-five cents in documentary stamp taxes are 7 paid shall be considered sales. All sales shall be deemed to be arm's 8 9 length transactions unless determined to be otherwise under professionally accepted mass appraisal techniques. The Department of 10 Revenue shall not overturn a determination made by a county assessor 11 regarding the qualification of a sale unless the department reviews the 12 13 sale and determines through the review that the determination made by the county assessor is incorrect. 14

(3) The Property Tax Administrator annually shall make and issue 15 16 comprehensive assessment ratio studies of the average level of 17 assessment, the degree of assessment uniformity, and the overall compliance with assessment requirements for each major class of real 18 property subject to the property tax in each county, except for 19 agricultural land and horticultural land. The comprehensive assessment 20 ratio studies shall be developed in compliance with professionally 21 accepted mass appraisal techniques and shall employ such statistical 22 23 analysis as deemed appropriate by the Property Tax Administrator, 24 including measures of central tendency and dispersion. The comprehensive assessment ratio studies shall be based upon the sales file as developed 25 in subsection (2) of this section and shall be used by the Property Tax 26 Administrator for the analysis of the level of value and quality of 27 assessment for purposes of section 77-5027 and by the Property Tax 28 Administrator in establishing the adjusted valuations required by section 29 79-1016. Such studies may also be used by assessing officials in 30 establishing assessed valuations. 31

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1 (4) For purposes of determining the level of value of agricultural 2 and horticultural land subject to special valuation under sections 77-1343 to 77-1347.01, the Property Tax Administrator shall annually make 3 4 and issue a comprehensive study developed in compliance with 5 professionally accepted mass appraisal techniques to establish the level of value if in his or her opinion the level of value cannot be developed 6 7 through the use of the comprehensive assessment ratio studies developed in subsection (3) of this section. 8

9 (4) (5) County assessors and other taxing officials shall 10 electronically report data on the assessed valuation and other features of the property assessment process for such periods and in such form and 11 content as the Property Tax Administrator shall deem appropriate. The 12 13 Property Tax Administrator shall so construct and maintain the system used to collect and analyze the data to enable him or her to make 14 intracounty comparisons of assessed valuation, including school districts 15 16 and other political subdivisions, as well as intercounty comparisons of 17 assessed valuation, including school districts and other political subdivisions. The Property Tax Administrator shall include analysis of 18 19 real property sales pursuant to land contracts and similar transfers at the time of execution of the contract or similar transfer. 20

21 Sec. 16. Section 77-1371, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 22 amended to read:

23 77-1371 Comparable sales are recent sales of properties that are 24 similar to the property being assessed in significant physical, 25 functional, and location characteristics and in their contribution to 26 value. When using comparable sales in determining actual value of an 27 individual property under the sales comparison approach provided in 28 section 77-112, the following guidelines shall be considered in 29 determining what constitutes a comparable sale:

30 (1) Whether the sale was financed by the seller and included any
 31 special financing considerations or the value of improvements;

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(2) Whether zoning affected the sale price of the property;

2 (3) For sales of agricultural land and or horticultural land as
3 defined in section <u>3 of this act</u> <del>77-1359</del>, whether a premium was paid to
4 acquire property. A premium may be paid when proximity or tax
5 consequences cause the buyer to pay more than actual value for
6 agricultural land or horticultural land;

7 (4) Whether sales or transfers made in connection with foreclosure,
8 bankruptcy, or condemnations, in lieu of foreclosure, or in consideration
9 of other legal actions should be excluded from comparable sales analysis
10 as not reflecting current market value;

(5) Whether sales between family members within the third degree of consanguinity include considerations that fail to reflect current market value;

(6) Whether sales to or from federal or state agencies or local
 political subdivisions reflect current market value;

(7) Whether sales of undivided interests in real property or parcels
 less than forty acres or sales conveying only a portion of the unit
 assessed reflect current market value;

(8) Whether sales or transfers of property in exchange for other
 real estate, stocks, bonds, or other personal property reflect current
 market value;

(9) Whether deeds recorded for transfers of convenience, transfers
of title to cemetery lots, mineral rights, and rights of easement reflect
current market value;

(10) Whether sales or transfers of property involving railroads or
other public utility corporations reflect current market value;

(11) Whether sales of property substantially improved subsequent to
assessment and prior to sale should be adjusted to reflect current market
value or eliminated from such analysis; <u>and</u>

30 (12) For agricultural land or horticultural land as defined in
 31 section 77-1359 which is or has been receiving the special valuation

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pursuant to sections 77-1343 to 77-1347.01, whether the sale price reflects a value which the land has for purposes or uses other than as agricultural land or horticultural land and therefor does not reflect current market value of other agricultural land or horticultural land;

5 (12) (13) Whether sales or transfers of property are in a similar 6 market area and have similar characteristics to the property being 7 assessed.; ; and

(14) For agricultural land and horticultural land as defined in 8 9 section 77-1359 which is within a class or subclass of irrigated cropland 10 pursuant to section 77-1363, whether the difference in well capacity or in water availability due to federal, state, or local regulatory actions 11 12 or limited source affected the sale price of the property. If data on 13 current well capacity or current water availability is not available from a federal, state, or local government entity, this subdivision shall not 14 be used to determine what constitutes a comparable sale. 15

16 The Property Tax Administrator may issue guidelines for assessing 17 officials for use in determining what constitutes a comparable sale. 18 Guidelines shall take into account the factors listed in this section and 19 other relevant factors as prescribed by the Property Tax Administrator.

20 Sec. 17. Section 77-1507.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 21 is amended to read:

22 77-1507.01 Any person otherwise having a right to appeal may 23 petition the Tax Equalization and Review Commission in accordance with 24 section 77-5013, on or before December 31 of each year, to determine the 25 actual value or <u>agricultural use</u> <del>special</del> value of real property for that 26 year if a failure to give notice prevented timely filing of a protest or 27 appeal provided for in sections 77-1501 to 77-1510.

Sec. 18. Section 77-4212, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2022, is amended to read:

30 77-4212 (1) For tax year 2007, the amount of relief granted under
31 the Property Tax Credit Act shall be one hundred five million dollars.

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1 For tax year 2008, the amount of relief granted under the act shall be 2 one hundred fifteen million dollars. It is the intent of the Legislature to fund the Property Tax Credit Act for tax years after tax year 2008 3 using available revenue. For tax year 2017, the amount of relief granted 4 5 under the act shall be two hundred twenty-four million dollars. For tax year 2020 and each tax year thereafter, the minimum amount of relief 6 granted under the act shall be two hundred seventy-five million dollars. 7 If money is transferred or credited to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund 8 9 pursuant to any other state law, such amount shall be added to the minimum amount required under this subsection when determining the total 10 amount of relief granted under the act. The relief shall be in the form 11 of a property tax credit which appears on the property tax statement. 12

13 (2)(a) For tax years prior to tax year 2017, to determine the amount 14 of the property tax credit, the county treasurer shall multiply the 15 amount disbursed to the county under subdivision (4)(a) of this section 16 by the ratio of the real property valuation of the parcel to the total 17 real property valuation in the county. The amount determined shall be the 18 property tax credit for the property.

(b) Beginning with tax year 2017, to determine the amount of the property tax credit, the county treasurer shall multiply the amount disbursed to the county under subdivision (4)(b) of this section by the ratio of the credit allocation valuation of the parcel to the total credit allocation valuation in the county. The amount determined shall be the property tax credit for the property.

(3) If the real property owner qualifies for a homestead exemption under sections 77-3501 to 77-3529, the owner shall also be qualified for the relief provided in the act to the extent of any remaining liability after calculation of the relief provided by the homestead exemption. If the credit results in a property tax liability on the homestead that is less than zero, the amount of the credit which cannot be used by the taxpayer shall be returned to the Property Tax Administrator by July 1 of

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1 the year the amount disbursed to the county was disbursed. The Property 2 Tax Administrator shall immediately credit any funds returned under this subsection to the Property Tax Credit Cash Fund. Upon the return of any 3 4 funds under this subsection, the county treasurer shall electronically file a report with the Property Tax Administrator, on a form prescribed 5 by the Tax Commissioner, indicating the amount of funds distributed to 6 7 each taxing unit in the county in the year the funds were returned, any 8 collection fee retained by the county in such year, and the amount of 9 unused credits returned.

(4)(a) For tax years prior to tax year 2017, the amount disbursed to 10 each county shall be equal to the amount available for disbursement 11 determined under subsection (1) of this section multiplied by the ratio 12 of the real property valuation in the county to the real property 13 valuation in the state. By September 15, the Property Tax Administrator 14 shall determine the amount to be disbursed under this subdivision to each 15 16 county and certify such amounts to the State Treasurer and to each 17 county. The disbursements to the counties shall occur in two equal payments, the first on or before January 31 and the second on or before 18 April 1. After retaining one percent of the receipts for costs, the 19 county treasurer shall allocate the remaining receipts to each taxing 20 unit levying taxes on taxable property in the tax district in which the 21 real property is located in the same proportion that the levy of such 22 taxing unit bears to the total levy on taxable property of all the taxing 23 24 units in the tax district in which the real property is located.

(b) Beginning with tax year 2017, the amount disbursed to each county shall be equal to the amount available for disbursement determined under subsection (1) of this section multiplied by the ratio of the credit allocation valuation in the county to the credit allocation valuation in the state. By September 15, the Property Tax Administrator shall determine the amount to be disbursed under this subdivision to each county and certify such amounts to the State Treasurer and to each

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1 county. The disbursements to the counties shall occur in two equal 2 payments, the first on or before January 31 and the second on or before 3 April 1. After retaining one percent of the receipts for costs, the 4 county treasurer shall allocate the remaining receipts to each taxing 5 unit based on its share of the credits granted to all taxpayers in the 6 taxing unit.

7 (5) For purposes of this section, credit allocation valuation means 8 the taxable value for all real property except agricultural land and 9 horticultural land, <u>and</u> one hundred twenty percent of taxable value for 10 agricultural land and horticultural land<u>that is not subject to special</u> 11 valuation, and one hundred twenty percent of taxable value for 12 agricultural land and horticultural land that is subject to special 13 valuation.

(6) The State Treasurer shall transfer from the General Fund to the
Property Tax Credit Cash Fund one hundred five million dollars by August
1, 2007, and one hundred fifteen million dollars by August 1, 2008.

17 (7) The Legislature shall have the power to transfer funds from the18 Property Tax Credit Cash Fund to the General Fund.

Sec. 19. Section 77-5007, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, isamended to read:

21 77-5007 The commission has the power and duty to hear and determine22 appeals of:

(1) Decisions of any county board of equalization equalizing the
value of individual tracts, lots, or parcels of real property so that all
real property is assessed uniformly and proportionately;

26 (2) Decisions of any county board of equalization granting or
27 denying tax-exempt status for real or personal property or an exemption
28 from motor vehicle taxes and fees;

(3) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner determining the taxable
property of a railroad company, car company, public service entity, or
air carrier within the state;

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(4) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner determining adjusted valuation
 pursuant to section 79-1016;

3 (5) Decisions of any county board of equalization on the valuation
4 of personal property or any penalties imposed under sections 77-1233.04
5 and 77-1233.06;

6 (6) Decisions of any county board of equalization on claims that a 7 levy is or is not for an unlawful or unnecessary purpose or in excess of 8 the requirements of the county;

9 (7) Decisions of any county board of equalization granting or 10 rejecting an application for a homestead exemption;

(8) Decisions of the Department of Motor Vehicles determining the
 taxable value of motor vehicles pursuant to section 60-3,188;

13 (9) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner made under section 77-1330;

14 (10) Any other decision of any county board of equalization;

(11) Any other decision of the Tax Commissioner regarding propertyvaluation, exemption, or taxation;

17 (12) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner pursuant to section 77-3520;

18 (13) Final decisions of a county board of equalization appealed by
19 the Tax Commissioner or Property Tax Administrator pursuant to section
20 77-701;

(14) Determinations of the Rent-Restricted Housing Projects Valuation Committee regarding the capitalization rate to be used to value rent-restricted housing projects pursuant to section 77-1333 or the requirement under such section that an income-approach calculation be used by county assessors to value rent-restricted housing projects;

(15) The requirement under section 77-1314 that the income approach,
 including the use of a discounted cash-flow analysis, be used by county
 assessors; and

29 (16) Decisions of the Tax Commissioner pursuant to section 8 of this
 30 act; and

31 (<u>17</u>) (<del>16</del>) Any other decision, determination, action, or order from

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1 which an appeal to the commission is authorized.

2 The commission has the power and duty to hear and grant or deny3 relief on petitions.

Sec. 20. Section 77-5022, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
amended to read:

6 77-5022 The commission shall annually equalize the assessed value or 7 special value of all <u>residential and commercial</u> real property as 8 submitted by the county assessors on the abstracts of assessments and 9 equalize the values of real property that is valued by the state. The 10 commission shall have the power to recess from time to time until the 11 equalization process is complete. Meetings held pursuant to this section 12 may be held by means of videoconference or telephone conference.

Sec. 21. Section 77-5023, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2022, is amended to read:

15 77-5023 (1) Pursuant to section 77-5022, the commission shall have 16 the power to increase or decrease the value of a class or subclass of 17 <u>residential or commercial</u> real property in any county or taxing authority 18 or of real property valued by the state so that all classes or subclasses 19 of real property in all counties fall within an acceptable range.

(2) An acceptable range is the percentage of variation from a 20 standard for valuation as measured by an established indicator of central 21 22 tendency of assessment. The acceptable range Acceptable ranges are: (a) For agricultural land and horticultural land as defined in section 23 24 77-1359, sixty-nine to seventy-five percent of actual value, except that 25 for school district taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on bonds that are approved by a vote of the people on or after January 1, 26 27 2022, the acceptable range is forty-four to fifty percent of actual 28 value; (b) for lands receiving special valuation, sixty-nine to seventyfive percent of special valuation as defined in section 77-1343, except 29 30 that for school district taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on bonds that are approved by a vote of the people on or after January  $1_{r}$ 31

1 2022, the acceptable range is forty-four to fifty percent of special 2 valuation as defined in section 77-1343; and (c) for all residential and 3 commercial other real property<sub> $\tau$ </sub> is ninety-two to one hundred percent of 4 actual value.

5 (3) Any increase or decrease shall cause the level of value 6 determined by the commission to be at the midpoint of the applicable 7 acceptable range.

8 (4) Any decrease or increase to a subclass of property shall also 9 cause the level of value determined by the commission for the class from 10 which the subclass is drawn to be within the applicable acceptable range.

(5) Whether or not the level of value determined by the commission falls within <u>the</u> an acceptable range or at the midpoint of <u>the</u> an acceptable range may be determined to a reasonable degree of certainty relying upon generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.

Sec. 22. Section 79-1016, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2022, is amended to read:

17 79-1016 (1) On or before August 20, the county assessor shall certify to the Property Tax Administrator the total taxable value by 18 19 school district in the county for the current assessment year on forms prescribed by the Tax Commissioner. The county assessor may amend the 20 filing for changes made to the taxable valuation of the school district 21 in the county if corrections or errors on the original certification are 22 23 discovered. Amendments shall be certified to the Property Тах 24 Administrator on or before August 31.

25 (2) On or before October 10, the Property Tax Administrator shall 26 compute and certify to the State Department of Education the adjusted 27 valuation for the current assessment year for each class of property in 28 each school district and each local system. The adjusted valuation of 29 property for each school district and each local system, for purposes of 30 determining state aid pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational 31 Opportunities Support Act, shall reflect as nearly as possible state aid

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value as defined in subsection (3) of this section. The Property Tax 1 2 Administrator shall notify each school district and each local system of its adjusted valuation for the current assessment year by class of 3 property on or before October 10. Establishment of the adjusted valuation 4 shall be based on the taxable value certified by the county assessor for 5 each school district in the county adjusted by the determination of the 6 7 level of value for each school district from an analysis of the comprehensive assessment ratio study or other studies developed by the 8 9 Property Tax Administrator, in compliance with professionally accepted mass appraisal techniques, as required by section 77-1327. The Tax 10 Commissioner shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations setting 11 forth standards for the determination of level of value for state aid 12 13 purposes.

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(3) For purposes of this section, state aid value means:

(a) For real property other than agricultural <u>land</u> and horticultural
land, ninety-six percent of actual value;

(b) For agricultural <u>land</u> and horticultural land, <u>the agricultural</u>
<u>use value as provided in the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act</u> seventytwo percent of actual value as provided in sections 77-1359 to 77-1363.
For agricultural and horticultural land that receives special valuation
pursuant to section 77-1344, seventy-two percent of special valuation as
defined in section 77-1343; and

(c) For personal property, the net book value as defined in section77-120.

(4) On or before November 10, any local system may file with the Tax Commissioner written objections to the adjusted valuations prepared by the Property Tax Administrator, stating the reasons why such adjusted valuations are not the valuations required by subsection (3) of this section. The Tax Commissioner shall fix a time for a hearing. Either party shall be permitted to introduce any evidence in reference thereto. On or before January 1, the Tax Commissioner shall enter a written order

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modifying or declining to modify, in whole or in part, the adjusted 1 valuations and shall certify the order to the State Department of 2 Education. Modification by the Tax Commissioner shall be based upon the 3 evidence introduced at hearing and shall not be limited to the 4 modification requested in the written objections or at hearing. A copy of 5 the written order shall be mailed to the local system within seven days 6 after the date of the order. The written order of the Tax Commissioner 7 may be appealed within thirty days after the date of the order to the Tax 8 9 Equalization and Review Commission in accordance with section 77-5013.

(5) On or before November 10, any local system or county official 10 may file with the Tax Commissioner a written request for a nonappealable 11 correction of the adjusted valuation due to clerical error as defined in 12 13 section 77-128 or, for agricultural and horticultural land, assessed 14 value changes by reason of land qualified or disqualified for special use valuation pursuant to sections 77-1343 to 77-1347.01. On or before the 15 16 following January 1, the Tax Commissioner shall approve or deny the request and, if approved, certify the corrected adjusted valuations 17 resulting from such action to the State Department of Education. 18

(6) On or before May 31 of the year following the certification of 19 adjusted valuation pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, any local 20 system or county official may file with the Tax Commissioner a written 21 request for a nonappealable correction of the adjusted valuation due to 22 changes to the tax list that change the assessed value of taxable 23 24 property. Upon the filing of the written request, the Tax Commissioner shall require the county assessor to recertify the taxable valuation by 25 school district in the county on forms prescribed 26 by the Тах Commissioner. The recertified valuation shall be the valuation that was 27 certified on the tax list, pursuant to section 77-1613, increased or 28 decreased by changes to the tax list that change the assessed value of 29 taxable property in the school district in the county in the prior 30 31 assessment year. On or before the following July 31, the Tax Commissioner

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shall approve or deny the request and, if approved, certify the corrected
 adjusted valuations resulting from such action to the State Department of
 Education.

4 (7) No injunction shall be granted restraining the distribution of 5 state aid based upon the adjusted valuations pursuant to this section.

(8) A school district whose state aid is to be calculated pursuant 6 to subsection (5) of this section and whose state aid payment is 7 postponed as a result of failure to calculate state aid pursuant to such 8 9 subsection may apply to the state board for lump-sum payment of such postponed state aid. Such application may be for any amount up to one 10 hundred percent of the postponed state aid. The state board may grant the 11 entire amount applied for or any portion of such amount. The state board 12 13 shall notify the Director of Administrative Services of the amount of funds to be paid in a lump sum and the reduced amount of the monthly 14 payments. The Director of Administrative Services shall, at the time of 15 the next state aid payment made pursuant to section 79-1022, draw a 16 17 warrant for the lump-sum amount from appropriated funds and forward such 18 warrant to the district.

Sec. 23. Section 79-1036, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
 2022, is amended to read:

79-1036 (1) In making the apportionment under section 79-1035, the 21 Commissioner of Education shall distribute from the school fund for 22 school purposes to (a) for school fiscal years prior to school fiscal 23 24 year 2017-18, any and all learning communities and school districts which are not members of a learning community, and (b) for school fiscal year 25 2017-18 and each school fiscal year thereafter, all school districts in 26 which there are situated school lands which have not been sold and 27 28 transferred by deed or saline lands owned by the state, which lands are being used for a public purpose, an amount in lieu of tax money that 29 would be raised by school district levies if such lands were taxable, to 30 be ascertained in accordance with subsection (2) of this section. 31

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1 (2) The county assessor shall certify to the Commissioner of 2 Education the tax levies of each school district and, for levies certified prior to January 1, 2017, learning community in which school 3 land or saline land is located and the last appraised value of such 4 5 school land, which value shall be the same as the agricultural use value established under the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act percentage of 6 7 the appraised value as the percentage of the assessed value is of market value in subsection (2) of section 77-201 for the purpose of applying the 8 9 applicable tax levies for each district and, for levies certified prior to January 1, 2017, learning community in determining the distribution to 10 the districts of such amounts. The school board of any school district 11 and, for levies certified prior to January 1, 2017, the learning 12 community coordinating council of any learning community in which there 13 is located any leased or undeeded school land or saline land subject to 14 this section may appeal to the Board of Educational Lands and Funds for a 15 16 reappraisement of such school land if such school board or learning community coordinating council deems the land not appraised in proportion 17 to the value of adjoining land of the same or similar value. The Board of 18 19 Educational Lands and Funds shall proceed to investigate the facts involved in such appeal and, if the contention of the school board or 20 learning community coordinating council is correct, make the proper 21 reappraisement. The value calculation in this subsection shall be used by 22 23 the Commissioner of Education for making distributions in each school 24 fiscal year.

Sec. 24. Section 86-1403, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
26 2022, is amended to read:

27 86-1403 (1) The Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program 28 is created. The commission shall administer the program. The purposes of 29 the program are to:

30 (a) Propel Nebraska agricultural producers to lead the nation in
 31 precision agriculture connectivity, sustainability, traceability, and

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1 autonomy to accelerate rural economic development; and

2 (b) Provide high-speed Internet service to farm sites as defined in
3 section <u>3 of this act</u> <del>77-1359</del> in unserved areas of the state as defined
4 in section 86-1302.

5 (2) For the purpose of carrying out the program, the commission may 6 utilize funds provided to the state through the federal Broadband Equity, 7 Access, and Deployment Program, not to exceed two million dollars per 8 year.

9 Sec. 25. Sections 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 10 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, and 27 of this act become operative on January 1, 11 2024. The other sections of this act become operative on their effective 12 date.

13 Sec. 26. Original sections 19-2428, 46-294.03, 76-710.04, 77-103.01, 77-1327, 77-1359, 77-1371, 77-1507.01, 77-5007, and 77-5022, 14 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 77-201, 77-1363, 15 77-4212, 77-5023, 79-1016, 79-1036, and 86-1403, 16 Revised Statutes 17 Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed.

Sec. 27. The following sections are outright repealed: Sections 77-1343, 77-1345, 77-1345.01, 77-1346, and 77-1347.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 77-1344 and 77-1347, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022.

22 Sec. 28. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when 23 passed and approved according to law.

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