

EIGHTY-FOURTH DAY - MAY 22, 2025

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION**

EIGHTY-FOURTH DAY

Legislative Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska
Thursday, May 22, 2025

PRAYER

The prayer was offered by Father Matthew Pohlman, St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church, Omaha.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Senator Juarez.

ROLL CALL

Pursuant to adjournment, the Legislature met at 9:00 a.m., Senator Dorn presiding.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senators Bostar and Conrad who were excused until they arrive.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL

On page 1637, remove the language from lines 20 to 38.
The Journal for the eighty-second day is approved as corrected.

The Journal for the eighty-third day was approved.

REPORTS

Agency reports electronically filed with the Legislature can be found on the [Nebraska Legislature's website](#).

REPORT OF REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

Following is a list of all lobbyists who have registered as of May 21, 2025, in accordance with Section 49-1481, Revised Statutes of Nebraska. Additional lobbyists who have registered will be filed weekly.

(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

Ficke, Melissa
Lexia Learning
Lindsay Harr MacDonald
192 and Dodge LLC
Zulkoski Weber LLC
American Society of Travel Advisors, Inc.

MOTION(S) - Reconsider Action on LB258

Senator Ballard offered [MO256](#), found on page 1531, to reconsider the vote taken on LB258.

SPEAKER ARCH PRESIDING

Senator Dungan requested a point of order questioning whether the reconsideration motion is out of order; and additionally, can any bill that fails on final reading be reconsidered.

The Chair explained a bill failing on final reading is reconsiderable as long as all the conditions within Rule 7, Sec. 7 are met.

The Chair ruled the reconsideration of LB258 is in order.

SENATOR DEBOER PRESIDING

SENATOR FREDRICKSON PRESIDING

SENATOR DEBOER PRESIDING

Senator Ballard moved for a call of the house. The motion prevailed with 37 ayes, 2 nays, and 10 not voting.

Senator Ballard requested a roll call vote on the motion to reconsider.

Voting in the affirmative, 33:

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Holdcroft | McKeon | Sorrentino |
| Arch | DeKay | Hughes | Meyer | Storer |
| Armendariz | Dorn | Ibach | Moser | Storm |
| Ballard | Dover | Jacobson | Murman | Strommen |
| Bosn | Hallstrom | Kauth | Raybould | von Gillern |
| Brandt | Hansen | Lippincott | Riepe | |
| Clements | Hardin | Lonowski | Sanders | |

Voting in the negative, 16:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Bostar | DeBoer | Hunt | Quick |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Dungan | Juarez | Rountree |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Fredrickson | McKinney | Spivey |
| Conrad | Guereca | Prokop | Wordekemper |

The Ballard motion to reconsider prevailed with 33 ayes, 16 nays, and 0 not voting.

The Sorrentino motion, [MO279](#), found on page 1638, to reconsider the vote taken on the final passage of LB258, was not considered.

The Chair declared the call raised.

AMENDMENT(S) - Print in Journal

Senator Murman filed the following amendments to [LB306](#):

[FA272](#)

Strike Section 1.

[FA273](#)

Strike Section 2.

[FA274](#)

Strike Section 3.

[FA275](#)

Strike Section 4.

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 274. Introduced by Storer, 43; Andersen, 49; Arch, 14; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Bosn, 25; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Clouse, 37; Conrad, 46; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Fredrickson, 20; Guereca, 7; Hallstrom, 1; Hansen, 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Juarez, 5; Kauth, 31; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; McKeon, 41; McKinney, 11; Meyer, 17; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, the Celebrating 80 Years of Victory medal is awarded to living veterans that served in the United States Armed Forces between December 1, 1941, and December 31, 1946, are a current legal resident of Nebraska or demonstrate Nebraska residency at the time of entering service, and must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Mills is the last World War II veteran at Post 3576 in Broken Bow and received the Celebrating 80 Years of Victory medal recognizing the eightieth anniversary of the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mills was drafted into the United States Army in 1944, was assigned to an infantry battalion in Europe, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and was wounded in action; and

WHEREAS, after recovering, Mills was transferred to France in 1945 to guard German prisoners of war and was reassigned in 1946 to Belgium to help locate fallen soldiers buried in the area; and

WHEREAS, Mills returned home in 1946 to farm for the next four decades where he remains strong at 99 years old.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Wayne Mills and Post 3576 in Broken Bow on receiving the Celebrating 80 Years of Victory medal.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Wayne Mills and Post 3576.

Laid over.

MOTION(S) - Confirmation Report(s)

Senator Ballard moved the adoption of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 1600:

Public Employees Retirement Board

Michael Donley

Voting in the affirmative, 37:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Hallstrom | Kauth | Riepe |
| Armendariz | Conrad | Hardin | Lippincott | Sanders |
| Ballard | DeBoer | Holdcroft | McKeon | Storer |
| Bosn | DeKay | Hughes | Meyer | Storm |
| Bostar | Dorn | Hunt | Moser | Wordekemper |
| Brandt | Dover | Ibach | Murman | |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Fredrickson | Jacobson | Prokop | |
| Clements | Guereca | Juarez | Quick | |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 12:

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Arch | Hansen | Raybould | Spivey |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Lonowski | Rountree | Strommen |
| Dungan | McKinney | Sorrentino | von Gillern |

The appointment was confirmed with 37 ayes, 0 nays, and 12 present and not voting.

Senator Ballard moved the adoption of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 1601:

Public Employees Retirement Board
Brent Larson

Voting in the affirmative, 35:

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Hallstrom | Kauth | Quick |
| Armendariz | Conrad | Holdcroft | Lippincott | Riepe |
| Ballard | DeBoer | Hughes | McKeon | Sanders |
| Bosn | DeKay | Hunt | Meyer | Storer |
| Bostar | Dorn | Ibach | Moser | Storm |
| Brandt | Dover | Jacobson | Murman | von Gillern |
| Clements | Guereca | Juarez | Prokop | Wordekemper |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 14:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|------------|----------|
| Arch | Dungan | Hardin | Raybould | Spivey |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Fredrickson | Lonowski | Rountree | Strommen |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Hansen | McKinney | Sorrentino | |

The appointment was confirmed with 35 ayes, 0 nays, and 14 present and not voting.

Senator Hardin moved the adoption of the Health and Human Services Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 1626:

Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Roy Christensen

Voting in the affirmative, 37:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Hallstrom | Lippincott | Sanders |
| Armendariz | Conrad | Hansen | Lonowski | Storer |
| Ballard | DeBoer | Hardin | McKeon | Storm |
| Bosn | DeKay | Holdcroft | Moser | von Gillern |
| Bostar | Dorn | Ibach | Murman | Wordekemper |
| Brandt | Dover | Jacobson | Prokop | |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Fredrickson | Juarez | Raybould | |
| Clements | Guereca | Kauth | Riepe | |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 12:

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Arch | Hughes | Meyer | Sorrentino |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Hunt | Quick | Spivey |
| Dungan | McKinney | Rountree | Strommen |

The appointment was confirmed with 37 ayes, 0 nays, and 12 present and not voting.

Senator Sanders moved the adoption of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 1650:

Nebraska State Patrol
Bryan D Waugh

Voting in the affirmative, 43:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clements | Holdcroft | Meyer | Sorrentino |
| Arch | Clouse | Hunt | Moser | Spivey |
| Armendariz | Conrad | Ibach | Murman | Storer |
| Ballard | DeBoer | Jacobson | Prokop | Storm |
| Bosn | DeKay | Juarez | Quick | Strommen |
| Bostar | Dorn | Kauth | Raybould | von Gillern |
| Brandt | Fredrickson | Lippincott | Riepe | Wordekemper |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Hansen | Lonowski | Rountree | |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Hardin | McKeon | Sanders | |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 6:

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| Dover | Guereca | Hughes |
| Dungan | Hallstrom | McKinney |

The appointment was confirmed with 43 ayes, 0 nays, and 6 present and not voting.

Senator Brandt moved the adoption of the Natural Resources Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 1653:

Department of Water, Energy and Environment
Jesse Bradley

Voting in the affirmative, 40:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clements | Holdcroft | McKeon | Sanders |
| Arch | Clouse | Hunt | Meyer | Sorrentino |
| Armendariz | Conrad | Ibach | Moser | Spivey |
| Ballard | DeKay | Jacobson | Murman | Storer |
| Bosn | Dorn | Juarez | Quick | Storm |
| Bostar | Fredrickson | Kauth | Raybould | Strommen |
| Brandt | Hansen | Lippincott | Riepe | von Gillern |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Hardin | Lonowski | Rountree | Wordekemper |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 9:

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Cavanaugh, M. | Dover | Guereca | Hughes | Prokop |
| DeBoer | Dungan | Hallstrom | McKinney | |

The appointment was confirmed with 40 ayes, 0 nays, and 9 present and not voting.

Senator Brandt moved the adoption of the Natural Resources Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 1653:

Department of Water, Energy and Environment
Matthew T Manning

Voting in the affirmative, 39:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clements | Hardin | Lonowski | Rountree |
| Arch | Clouse | Holdcroft | McKeon | Sanders |
| Armendariz | Conrad | Hunt | Meyer | Spivey |
| Ballard | DeBoer | Ibach | Moser | Storer |
| Bosn | Dorn | Jacobson | Murman | Storm |
| Bostar | Dungan | Juarez | Prokop | von Gillern |
| Brandt | Fredrickson | Kauth | Quick | Wordekemper |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Guereca | Lippincott | Raybould | |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 10:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------|----------|------------|
| Cavanaugh, M. | Dover | Hansen | McKinney | Sorrentino |
| DeKay | Hallstrom | Hughes | Riepe | Strommen |

The appointment was confirmed with 39 ayes, 0 nays, and 10 present and not voting.

Senator Brandt moved the adoption of the Natural Resources Committee report for the confirmation of the following appointment(s) found on page 1653:

Nebraska Environmental Trust Board
Joshua N Andersen

Voting in the affirmative, 35:

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clements | Hansen | Juarez | Quick |
| Armendariz | Clouse | Hardin | Kauth | Rountree |
| Ballard | DeBoer | Holdcroft | Lippincott | Storer |
| Bosn | DeKay | Hughes | Lonowski | Storm |
| Bostar | Dorn | Hunt | Meyer | Strommen |
| Brandt | Dover | Ibach | Moser | von Gillern |
| Cavanaugh, J. | Guereca | Jacobson | Murman | Wordekemper |

Voting in the negative, 0.

Present and not voting, 14:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Arch | Dungan | McKeon | Raybould | Sorrentino |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Fredrickson | McKinney | Riepe | Spivey |
| Conrad | Hallstrom | Prokop | Sanders | |

The appointment was confirmed with 35 ayes, 0 nays, and 14 present and not voting.

SELECT FILE

LEGISLATIVE BILL 530. [ER74](#), found on page 1340, was offered.

ER74 was adopted.

Senator Spivey withdrew [MO214](#), found on page 1259, to bracket until June 9, 2025.

Senator Spivey withdrew [MO215](#), found on page 1259, to recommit to the Judiciary Committee.

Senator Bosn asked unanimous consent to withdraw [FA151](#), found on page 1254, and replace it with substitute amendment, [AM1489](#), found on page 1603.

No objections. So ordered.

Senator Bosn offered [AM1489](#), found on page 1603.

Senator McKinney offered [AM1539](#), found on page 1638, to the Bosn amendment.

Senator McKinney moved for a call of the house. The motion prevailed with 21 ayes, 0 nays, and 28 not voting.

Senator McKinney requested a roll call vote on his amendment, to the Bosn amendment.

Voting in the affirmative, 14:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Cavanaugh, J. | DeBoer | Guereca | McKinney | Rountree |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Dungan | Hunt | Quick | Spivey |
| Conrad | Fredrickson | Juarez | Raybould | |

Voting in the negative, 33:

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Holdcroft | McKeon | Storer |
| Armendariz | DeKay | Hughes | Meyer | Storm |
| Ballard | Dorn | Ibach | Moser | Strommen |
| Bosn | Dover | Jacobson | Murman | von Gillern |
| Bostar | Hallstrom | Kauth | Riepe | Wordekemper |
| Brandt | Hansen | Lippincott | Sanders | |
| Clements | Hardin | Lonowski | Sorrentino | |

Excused and not voting, 2:

| | |
|------|--------|
| Arch | Prokop |
|------|--------|

The McKinney amendment, to the Bosn amendment, lost with 14 ayes, 33 nays, and 2 excused and not voting.

The Chair declared the call raised.

Senator McKinney offered [AM1540](#), found on page 1638, to the Bosn amendment.

Senator McKinney moved for a call of the house. The motion prevailed with 34 ayes, 1 nay, and 14 not voting.

Senator McKinney requested a roll call vote on his amendment, to the Bosn amendment.

Voting in the affirmative, 14:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Cavanaugh, J. | DeBoer | Guereca | McKinney | Rountree |
| Cavanaugh, M. | Dungan | Hunt | Quick | Spivey |
| Conrad | Fredrickson | Juarez | Raybould | |

Voting in the negative, 31:

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Andersen | Clouse | Hughes | Meyer | Storm |
| Armendariz | DeKay | Ibach | Moser | von Gillern |
| Ballard | Dorn | Jacobson | Murman | Wordekemper |
| Bosn | Dover | Kauth | Riepe | |
| Bostar | Hallstrom | Lippincott | Sanders | |
| Brandt | Hardin | Lonowski | Sorrentino | |
| Clements | Holdcroft | McKeon | Storer | |

Present and not voting, 1:

Strommen

Excused and not voting, 3:

Arch Hansen Prokop

The McKinney amendment, to the Bosn amendment, lost with 14 ayes, 31 nays, 1 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

The Chair declared the call raised.

Senator Dungan offered the following amendment, to the Bosn amendment:

[FA276](#)

In AM1489, Strike Section 10.

The Dungan amendment, to the Bosn amendment, was adopted with 38 ayes, 0 nays, 8 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

Senator Spivey offered the following amendment, to the Bosn amendment:

[FA277](#)

In AM1489, insert the following new section: "Any increase in costs for a political subdivision caused by the changes made by this legislative bill shall be the responsibility of, and paid or reimbursed by, the State of Nebraska. Such payment or reimbursement shall be in the form of a specific appropriation or an increase in state distribution of revenue to the political subdivision incurring such increased costs." And renumber the remaining sections and correct internal references accordingly.

The Spivey amendment, to the Bosn amendment, lost with 12 ayes, 23 nays, 11 present and not voting, and 3 excused and not voting.

Senator Kauth moved for a call of the house. The motion prevailed with 32 ayes, 1 nay, and 16 not voting.

The Bosn amendment, as amended, was adopted with 41 ayes, 5 nays, 2 present and not voting, and 1 excused and not voting.

The Chair declared the call raised.

Senator Spivey asked unanimous consent to withdraw [MO213](#), found on page 1259, to indefinitely postpone.

No objections. So ordered.

Senator Spivey withdrew [FA162](#), found on page 1314.

Senator M. Cavanaugh requested a record vote on the advancement of the bill.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment with 35 ayes, 9 nays, 4 present and not voting, and 1 excused and not voting.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 530A. Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)
Enrollment and Review

LEGISLATIVE BILL 644A. Placed on Final Reading.

(Signed) Dunixi Guereca, Chairperson

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 275. Introduced by Raybould, 28.

WHEREAS, Steve Hennessey, a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska, has overcome an astonishing amount of adversity in his life; and

WHEREAS, Steve was born in 1959 and after losing both of his parents at a young age, was the only child of three not adopted; and

WHEREAS, after growing up at the Martin Luther Home in Beatrice, now MOSAIC, and through support from Vocational Rehabilitation, the ARC of Lincoln, and a short stay at a group home as a young adult, Steve succeeded at living independently and working independently as a janitor for over four decades at the Denney Federal Building in Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, Steve was a hard worker and went many years without missing a single day of work due to illness; and

WHEREAS, known for his joyful personality and his intense work ethic, he befriended United States Marshalls, the FBI office staff, and federal judges; and

WHEREAS, he was nominated in 2015 by Judge C. Arlen Beam to be the Goodwill International Achiever of the year and was honored with the world wide award in a ceremony in San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, Steve has been recognized as an outstanding individual throughout his lifetime on the front pages of the Lincoln Journal and the Omaha World-Herald as well as in several YouTube videos and part of a Nebraska Stories segment on Nebraska Educational Telecommunications; and

WHEREAS, it has been said that the worth of a nation is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members and Steve benefited from the compassionate care found in the Aging and Developmental Disabilities waiver program which has allowed him to live in his own apartment; and

WHEREAS, Steve's story is an illustration of what a more perfect union looks like in practice; a sterling example of the words of the Declaration of Independence that in this country, and in this state, all are indeed created equal, and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Everyone matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes Steve Hennessey for overcoming great adversity in his life and for his dedication and commitment to the people he worked with and befriended in his job and his community.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Steve Hennessey.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 276. Introduced by Fredrickson, 20; Andersen, 49; Arch, 14; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Bosn, 25; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Clouse, 37; Conrad, 46; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Guereca, 7; Hallstrom, 1; Hansen, 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Juarez, 5; Kauth, 31; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; McKeon, 41; McKinney, 11; Meyer, 17; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13; Storer, 43; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, Andrew Ozaki, KETV's Lincoln Bureau Chief is retiring after forty-three years of fair and objective reporting including decades here at the Nebraska Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Andrew is a graduate of Lincoln High School and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he earned degrees in Political Science and Journalism; and

WHEREAS, Andrew has spent his career working in journalism starting as an intern for KETV in college, then for KOLN/KGIN News until he returned to KETV in the Capitol Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Andrew's reporting has covered the Legislature and state government for many years including eight Nebraska Governors, granting him exceptional institutional knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Andrew was part of the reporting team to receive the prestigious National Edward R. Murrow Award for their work on Chronicle: Mission to Africa; and

WHEREAS, Andrew and his wife Margaret have raised three sons and now enjoy four grandchildren. His family and community have all benefited from Andrew's devotion and tireless work ethic; and

WHEREAS, now that Andrew is retiring, he leaves a legacy impacting future community leaders and media here in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Andrew Ozaki on the occasion of his retirement and expresses sincere appreciation for his outstanding contributions to our state.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Andrew Ozaki.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 277. Introduced by Clements, 2.

WHEREAS, Casey Clements is being recognized as the 2025 NCA-Hudl Cheer Coach of the Year by the Nebraska Coaches Association; and

WHEREAS, Coaches of the Year are selected by their peers for service to their respective sports and for the success they have had in recent years; and

WHEREAS, Casey has coached the Elmwood-Murdock High School Spirit Squad for ten years; and

WHEREAS, Casey will receive a ring and a plaque in recognition of this honor at the Nebraska Coaches Association awards banquet in July; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the academic, athletic, and artistic achievements of the citizens of our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Casey Clements on her selection as 2025 NCA-Hudl Cheer Coach of the Year.
2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Elmwood-Murdock High School and Casey Clements.

Laid over.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 278. Introduced by Bostar, 29; Andersen, 49; Ballard, 21; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Conrad, 46; Dorn, 30; Guereca, 7; Hansen, 16; Kauth, 31; McKinney, 11; Prokop, 27; Sorrentino, 39; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Public Power District purchased two hundred two acres of farmland for more than five million dollars from the Nebraska Public Power District's Land Management Manager, who is responsible for the land purchase and the Chief Audit and Ethics Officer; and

WHEREAS, neither the Land Management Manager nor the Chief Audit and Ethics Office filed a conflict-of-interest statement as of May 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, section 49-1499.03 requires that an employee of a political subdivision identify potential conflicts if the salary and benefits of the employee exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars and if the employee would be required to take any action that would cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Audit and Ethics Officer made more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the substantive discussion by the Nebraska Public Power District's Board of Directors regarding the purchase took place in an executive session, closed to the general public; and

WHEREAS, an appraisal conducted by the Nebraska Public Power District priced the fair market value of the land at eleven thousand dollars per acre, approximately two million three hundred thousand dollars total, but the final purchase price was set at twenty-five thousand dollars per acre, just over five million dollars total; and

WHEREAS, the difference of two million seven hundred thousand dollars will be paid by Nebraska ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska Public Power District's Chief Executive Officer stated "As I look back at this particular transaction and how it was approached, I think we did all things right.".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the Nebraska Public Power District for its purchase of the two hundred two acres of farmland.

Laid over.

COMMUNICATION

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Jim Pillen
Governor – State of Nebraska
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Governor Pillen:

This correspondence serves to formally return Legislative Bills 261e and 264e to your office.

Article IV, Section 15 states:

Every bill passed by the Legislature, before it becomes a law, shall be presented to the Governor. **If he approves he shall sign it, and thereupon it shall become a law**, but if he does not approve or reduces any item or items of appropriations, he **shall return it with his objections to the Legislature**, which shall enter the objections at large upon its journal, and proceed to reconsider the bill with the objections as a whole, or proceed to reconsider individually the item or items disapproved or reduced. ... **Any bill which shall not be returned by the Governor within five days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, shall become a law in like manner as if he had signed it**; unless the Legislature by their adjournment prevent its return; in which case it

shall be filed, with his objections, in the office of the Secretary of State within five days after such adjournment, or become a law.

The facts at present are as follows: On May 15, 2025, LB261e and LB264e were passed by the Legislature and delivered to the Governor on the same date. The bills were signed by the Governor on May 21, 2025, with the inclusion of line-item vetoes. The signed bills were delivered to the Secretary of State on May 21, 2025. On May 22, 2025, at 12:01am, the signed bills were in the possession of the Secretary of State. The morning of May 22, 2025, the bills were returned to the Legislature, signed by the Governor and a receipt stamp from the Secretary of State indicating the bills were received on May 21, 2025.

In light of the aforementioned considerations, the Legislature is hereby remitting these bills to the Governor's Office pending further determination regarding the constitutionality of the present circumstances.

Sincerely,
(Signed) Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

BM:jl

VISITOR(S)

Visitors to the Chamber were Kathleen Durkin, Seattle, Amy Krutz, Lincoln; Mauricio Lang, Lincoln; students from Loveland Elementary, Omaha; students and teachers from Omaha Memorial Adventist School, Omaha; Linda Spencer, Omaha; Margaret Mary Traffas and her children, nieces and nephews, Kansas and Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:37 p.m., on a motion by Senator Hardin, the Legislature adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature

