KELLY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the forty-third day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator DeKay. Please rise.

DeKAY: Please join me in prayer. Today, we gather as stewards, entrusted with the worldly inheritance, but also an eternal inheritance from our Father. Lord, let our toil on this earth not blind us. In Christ's parable of the rich fool, the man believed his life was the abundance of his possessions, and so he stored up the treasures that could not last. We are blessed to have inherited immaterial wealth, but it, too, can also blind us. This institution and our government cannot even be stored in a barn, yet we take pride in them, though they, too, are temporary. Lord, allow us to see how foolish it is to take pride in what is fleeting, and grant us humble hearts, for Christ showed us that true stewardship is not found in storing up what fades, but dedicating ourselves to the greater inheritance you have prepared. As the light to mankind, Christ showed us that the truest use of what we are given is to love and serve one another, let all know that we all bleed the same blood, that we are all to love one another, and that love, like light, dispels all darkness. Amen.

KELLY: I recognize Senator Storm for the Pledge of Allegiance.

STORM: Colleagues, please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

KELLY: I call to order the forty-third day of the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

KELLY: Are there any corrections for the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: I have no corrections for the Journal.

KELLY: Messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Yes, Mr. President. New resolution, LR366, introduced by Senator Holdcroft. That will be referred to the Executive Board. A list of all lobbyists who have registered as of March 11, 2026. That report will be placed in the Journal, as well as agency reports electronically filed with the Legislature can be found on the Nebr-- on the Legislature's website. That's all I have, Mr. Pres-- oh. And-- that's all I have, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Bosn would like to recognize the physician of the day, Dr. Marlon Weiss of Lincoln. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Mr. Clerk, please proceed to the first item on the agenda.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. The Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee desires to report favorably upon the appointment of Horo-- Horacio J. Wheelock to the Public Employees Retirement Board.

KELLY: Senator Ballard, you're recognized to open.

BALLARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee held a confirmation hearing on March 9, on the appointment of Judge Horacio Wheelock to Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board. Judge Wheelock was appointed by the Governor to the-- fill a vacancy on the judge's planned member seat of the board. His term will expire on January 1, 2031. Judge Wheelock received both his bachelor's of science degree in finance and economics and an MBA from Spring Hills College in Alabama, and a Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law. Following law school, Judge Wheelock began his legal career as an assistant state attorney in the Dade, in the Dade County, Florida, before returning to Nebraska to working in the assistant public defender's office in Douglas-- in the Douglas County Public Defender-- Defender's Office. In 2005, Judge Wheelock left the Public Defender's Office for private practice, where he practiced for more than a decade, before receiving an appointment to the district court-- judge, in the 4th Judicial District in Douglas County. In addition to his service on the bench, Judge Wheelock also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Creighton University Heiders College of Business and will be named as adjunct faculty-- and was named adjunct faculty member of the year in 2025. At his confirmation hearing, Judge Wheelack demonstrated a keen understanding of the role of the PERB Board and managing the State Retirements Plan. The committee voted unanimously to-- for the appointment to the floor, and we ask for your green vote on Judge Horacio Wheelock to the, to the PERB Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Ballard. Senator John Cavanaugh, you're recognized to speak.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I just wanted to rise in support of Judge Wheelock. I've known him for a long time, and I've known him as a judge and as a, a practicing lawyer. And he's a very reasonable, intelligent person; does a very good job. And so, I really appreciate his willingness to continue to serve in other capacities, as well, and he'll be a great addition to the Retirement Board. So I encourage your green vote on Judge Wheelock. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Ballard, you're recognized to close and waive. Senators, the question is the adoption of the committee report from the Retirement Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee report, Mr. President.

KELLY: The committee report is adopted. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, LB759A, introduced by Senator Brandt. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; appropriates funds to aid in the carrying out of the provisions of LB759. The bill was read for the first time on March 9 of this year and placed directly on General File.

KELLY: Senator Brandt, you're recognized to open.

BRANDT: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. LB759A is simply the transfer of funds, including ARPA and other federal funds, from a DWEE Cash Fund, the Livestock Waste Management Cash Fund, and the Integrated Solid Waste Management Cash Fund into specific programs to carry out the purposes of LB759 in the gap before the fees are collected. LB759 is the Natural Resources Committee's first priority bill, and the Department's programs are directed to address contamination problems created in the past, assure that current activities are conducted in accordance with the recognized principles of sound environmental management, and enhance the environment of the future through pollution prevention. What this is, it's just simply a gap between the fiscal and calendar year-- the funds will be there to cover this. So I would ask for your green vote on LB759A.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Brandt. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close and waive. Senators, the question is the advancement of LB759A to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB759A is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, LB1237A, introduced by Senator Hansen. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations; appropriates funds-- provides for reappropriation of funds; and repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on March 6 of this year, and placed directly on General File.

KELLY: Senator Hansen, you're recognized to open.

HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. LB1237A is the appropriations bill for the Capitol security bill. To implement this bill, we'll be moving unexpec-- unexpended carryover funds from the Legislature's budget to the State Patrol and DAS. The State Patrol will be receiving $871,419 for fiscal year '26-27, while DAS will be receiving $50,000 for initial implementation, mainly the electrical. And this was on par with exactly what we expected and, and what we talked about on General File, so nothing new here. This is just the A bill for the implementation of the Capitol security bill. So I ask you for support to advance LB1237A. Thank you, Mr. President

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized-- and waive closing. Senators, the question is the advancement of LB1237A to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1237A is advanced to E&R Initial. Senators, please return to your seats for Final Reading. The first bill on Final Reading is LB948e. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All of those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB948]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB948 pass with the emergency clause? All of those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Arch, Armendariz, Bosn, Brandt, Clements, Clouse, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Ibach, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Andersen, Ballard, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Conrad, Hunt, McKinney, Storer, Storm, Strommen. Not voting: Senators Bostar, DeBoer, Dungan, and Jacobson. Vote is 35 ayes, 10 nays, 4 excused not voting, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB948 passes with the emergency clause. The next bill is LB1001, with the emergency clause. The first vote is to dispense with the formal at-large reading. All of those in favor vote aye; all of those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 41 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading.

KELLY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

CLERK: [Read title of LB1001]

KELLY: Members, according to the Constitution, Article III, Section 2, amending a law enacted by the people by initiative requires a two-thirds vote, 33 votes, to pass. LB1001 will require 33 votes. All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1001 pass with the emergency clause? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Armendariz, Ballard, Bosn, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Juarez, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: none. Not voting: Senators Bostar, DeBoer, Dungan, and Jacobson. Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 4 excused not voting, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1001 passes with the emergency clause. The next bill is the LB1001A, with the emergency clause.

CLERK: [Read LB1001A on Final Reading]

KELLY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB1001A pass, with the emergency clause? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Voting aye: Senators Andersen, Arch, Ballard, Bosn, Brandt, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Clouse, Conrad, DeKay, Dorn, Dover, Fredrickson, Guereca, Hallstrom, Hansen, Hardin, Holdcroft, Hughes, Hunt, Ibach, Kauth, Lippincott, Lonowski, McKinney, Meyer, Meyer, Moser, Murman, Prokop, Quick, Raybould, Riepe, Rountree, Sanders, Sorrentino, Spivey, Storer, Storm, Strommen, von Gillern, Wordekemper. Voting no: Senators Armendariz and Juarez. Not voting: Senators Bostar, DeBoer, Dungan, Jacobson. The vote is 43 ayes, 2 nays, 4 excused not voting, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1001A passes with the emergency clause. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB948 with the emergency clause, LB1001 with the emergency clause, and LB1001A with the emergency clause. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, an announcement quickly. The HHS committee will have an executive session now in room 2102, Health and Human Services Committee, exec session now, in room 2102. And a new LR, LR367 from Senator Murman. That will be laid over. As it concerns the agenda, Mr. President, General File, LB1133, introduced by Senator Kauth. It's a bill for an act relating to claims against the state; it appropriates funds for the payment of certain claims; provides for payment of the claims; authorizes agencies to write off certain claims as prescribed; and declares an emergency. The bill was read for the first time on January 20 of this year, and referred to the Business and Labor Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File, with committee amendments. There is an additional amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Kauth, you're recognized to open.

KAUTH: Thank you, Mr. President. LB1133 is a state claims bill. It seeks to appropriate funds from the General Fund and the Workers' Compensation Revolving Fund to pay for claims against the state of Nebraska, as well as writing off debts owed to state agencies. The Attorney General has reached one state settlement on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs in regards to VA disability and dependent benefits owed to Rodney Gerald Hoelscher, totaling $51,791.88 to be paid out of the General Fund. The State Claims Board and the Attorney General have offered one indemnification claim totaling $354,456.23 to be paid out of the General Fund. This offer comes from the Nebraska State Patrol settling with former captain Kurt Von Minden, who claimed retaliation after Von Minden investigated and disciplined troopers accused of significant criminal activity and unlawful conduct. The Attorney General has settled 5 Workers' Compensation Court claims totaling $882,500, to be paid out of the Workers' Compensation Revolving Fund. A variety of state agencies, the State Fire Marshal, DHHS, Department of Transportation, Department of Labor, and the Department of Veterans Affairs are seeking to write off certain accounts that have been approved by the State Claims Board, totaling $2,842,751.13. AM2008 amends LB1133 to add 3 additional workers' compensation claims that have been settled by the Attorney General. The first is for $110,000 to Anthony O. Dix, Jr. The second is for $125,000 to Tina Vaughn, and the third is for $50,000 to Tiffany Colvin Mills. AM2413 is a white copy amendment to AM2008 that adds to the General Fund payments $289,360.48, for line of duty claim number 2026-01453, against the state of Nebraska, for Kyle McAcy, a State Trooper who died in the line of duty, 2 years ago, when he was struck by a snow plow as he was helping motorists during a snowstorm. I ask for your green vote.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Kauth. As the Clerk stated, there is a committee amendment. Senator Kauth, you're recognized to open.

KAUTH: And I apologize, I went through the committee amendment already. The Business and Labor 2008 is-- to refresh, added 3 additional workers' compensation claims that were settled by the Attorney General. They weren't available at the time of our first hearing.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Kauth. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kauth would move to amend the committee amendments with AM2413.

KELLY: Senator Kauth, you're recognized to open.

KAUTH: Thank you. And again, I jumped the gun. AM2413 is adding the settlement for State Trooper Kyle McAcy.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Kauth. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close on the amendment, and waive. Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2413. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: AM2413 is adopted. Moving to the queue, Senator Conrad, you're recognized to speak.

CONRAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I appreciate Senator Kauth's really good work in shepherding the state claims bill, as is always the responsibility and prerogative of the chair of Business and Labor, and think she's done a, a great job in that regard. In preparing for the debate, I had a chance to look through some of the component parts therein, and one part in this measure on LB113 [SIC] caught my attention. And I'm supportive of the amendments and supportive of the bill, and they should be paid out appropriately. But if you look at one of the instances that was flagged, wherein now, state taxpayers will be providing a pretty significant settlement to a now-retired state trooper, you can see that it is in relation to a case, a complaint, a claim, wherein a longstanding, decorated member of the Nebraska State Patrol, who had received significant accolades for his leadership and management over many different troop divisions, had brought forward internal affairs, essentially whistleblower-type complaints in regards to anti-LGBTQ slurs being made and other unprofessional remarks about NSP officers. There was discussion as well, about claims and comments and unprofessional remarks made about Hispanic officers. There were some additional complaints in regards to some pretty serious claims, in regards to general, unprofessional instances, which he had identified and reported. And after making those reports, as a decorated supervisor and working essentially as a whistleblower, he was then retaliated against, based upon his complaint, by NSP leadership and management. And he challenged those adverse employment decisions. And it seems as if this case, from what I can glean in QuickLook, went into perhaps mediation, and then was settled, again, for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Additionally, in In addition to the monetary settlement, there was also an exec-- a part of the executed settlement agreement wherein the plaintiff was also favorably reinstated to his previous rank of captain and then allowed to file for retirement at that level, in order to ensure he did not have a "dis-ription"-- or disruption or "disminishment" in terms of his retirement benefits, based upon the previous, perhaps adverse employment decisions. So my point, friends, in bringing this forward is that when we talk about things like discrimination, no matter what protected class they are directed towards, discrimination is wrong and it hurts us all, including the taxpayer. When we have instances of discrimination in employment and when it comes to public employment, if those measures are left unaddressed and give rise to credible legal claims like the ones that were settled in regards to this state claims bill, ultimately it's the state taxpayer who bears the burden thereof. So I wanted to lift that up so that it did not go unnoticed in regards to Senator Kauth's good handling of the state claims bill, appropriately and professionally. But it is a very serious component of the state's claims bill that is deserving of members' attention. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Conrad. Senator Spivey has a guest under the-- or in the north balcony. Naasir Spivey, her son, from Omaha. Please stand and be recognized. Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, you're recognized to speak.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. I just-- echoing some of the sentiments that Senator Conrad made about the state claims being-- essentially, this was a whistleblower case. And it-- there was retribution, which is why we have the whistleblowers protections in law. And over my 8 years, colleagues, I have had numerous, so many I can't count state employees contact me with concerns and information, and I have always been very, very, protective of sharing that information with anybody, even in the body, to ensure that they didn't receive similar retribution. And it's unfortunate that we have to have these types of laws in place. But I'm grateful to Senator Kauth and the Business and Labor Committee for moving forward the state claims bill, even though it's going to make our next executive session for Appropriations a little bit more painful, but we got to pay our bills. So thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Kauth, you're recognized to close and waive closing. Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2008. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: AM2008 is adopted. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Kauth, you're recognized to close on the bill and waive. Senators, the question is the advancement of LB1133 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr President.

KELLY: LB1133 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, LB1235. First of all, Senator, there are E&R amendments.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB1235 be adopted.

KELLY: Senators, you've heard the motion. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. The E&R amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kauth, I have FA895 with a note that you'd withdraw.

KELLY: So ordered.

CLERK: In that case, Mr. President, Senator Holdcroft would move to amend with AM2524.

KELLY: Senator Holdcroft, you're recognized to open on the amendment.

HOLDCROFT: Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, this is a cleanup amendment. In reviewing between General File and-- I mean, between General and, and Select File, the Bill Drafters found a number of typographical errors and a couple little additions, and so this is really-- I invite you to look at the amendments-- about half a page. And there's, there's nothing substantive in this amendment, but it just cleans up the language. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Holdcroft. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close on the amendment, and waive. Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2524. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 41 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: AM2524 is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, I have nothing further on the bill.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that LB1235 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

KELLY: Members, you have heard the motion. All of those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. LB1235 is advanced to E&R Engrossing. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, LB1155. There are no E&R amendments. Senator Kauth, I have FA815 with a note you'd withdraw.

KELLY: So ordered.

CLERK: In that case, Mr. President, there's nothing further on the bill.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that LB1155 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

KELLY: Senators, you've heard the motion. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, nay. LB1155 is advanced to E&R Engrossing. Mr. Clerk

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, LB1101. First of all, Senator, there are E&R amendments.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB1101 be adopted.

KELLY: Senators, you heard the motion. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. The amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Sen-- Senator Kauth, I have FA760 with a note you'd withdraw.

KELLY: So ordered.

CLERK: In that case, Senator, I have nothing further on the bill.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that LB1101 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

KELLY: Senators, you've heard the motion. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. LB1101 is advanced to E&R Engrossing. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, LB985. First of all, Senator, there are E&R amendments.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB985 be adopted.

KELLY: Senators, you heard the motion. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. The E&R amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kauth, I have FA641 with a note you'd withdraw.

KELLY: So ordered.

CLERK: In that case, Mr. President, Senator, I've nothing further on the bill.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that LB985 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

KELLY: Members, you heard the motion. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. LB985 is advanced to E&R Engrossing. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, LB1205. There are no E&R amendments. Senator Kauth, I have FA865 with a note you'd withdraw.

KELLY: So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: In that case, Mr. President, Senator Clouse would move to amend with AM2630.

KELLY: Senator Clouse, you're recognized to open on the amendment.

CLOUSE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker-- or President. This amendment is simply changing the, the dates and the timeline. In, in looking at the bill, the staff had some issues with cash flows, so we, we tweaked the dates so that they could make the cash flow work, and then implemented the statute going forward, starting in the fiscal year, in '27-28. So it's just simply a date change, timing change. Thank you.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Clouse. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close on the amendment, and waive. Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2630. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: AM2630 is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, I have nothing further on the bill.

KELLY: Senator Guereca, you're recognized for a motion.

GUERECA: Mr. President, I move that LB1205 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

KELLY: Members, you heard the motion. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. LB1205 is advanced to E&R Engrossing. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, an announcement quickly. The Appropriations Committee will meet in executive session at 10:00 in room 2022, Appropriations Committee, exec session, 10:00, room 2022. As it concerns the agenda, Mr. President, General File, LB912, introduced by Senator Hardin. It's a bill for an act relating to public health and welfare. It adopts the Community Health Worker Training Endorsement Act. The bill was read for the first time on January 9 of this year and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File, with committee amendments. There are additional amendments, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hardin, you're recognized to open.

HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. President. LB912 adopts the Community Health Worker Training Endorsement Act. The committee amendment, AM2224, incorporates LB912, as well, as well as the following bills: LB887, as amended, provide changes to the pharmacy provisions; LB735, as amended, adopt the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact; LB736, as amended, adopt the Athletic Trainers Compact; LB892, as amended, provide changes to the Massage Therapy Act; and LB891, provide changes to childcare licensing provisions. I ask for your green vote on AM2224 to LB912. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hardin. Mr. Clerk, for an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hansen would move to amend the committee amendment with AM2423.

KELLY: Senator Hansen, you're recognized to open.

HANSEN: All right. Just waiting for the number to get up there. Thank you. Colleagues, I'm going to touch on 3 bills that are in here, 2 of them, 2 of them that are in the committee amendment, and the other one is with my amendment. All these bills came out unopposed, and they came out unanimously. These are pretty simple bills, but I still want to touch on them anyway, so everybody knows what's going on. One of them is a-- has a little bit more to it that I'll explain here in just a second, but the first one with AM2423 amends my bill, LB1012, into LB912. This updates Nebraska's medical lien statute to include physical therapists among the healthcare providers who may file a medical lien for postinjury care. Currently, physicians, nurses, chiropractors, hospitals, and EMS providers are included in the statute. A medical lien is a legal claim filed by a healthcare provider against a patient's personal injury settlement or lawsuit proceeds. It provides repayment for medical treatment received after an accident, allowing patients to defer paying bills until they receive compensation, while also getting rehabilitative treatment critical to the recovery. To clarify, this bill does not apply to workers' compensation cases, and a lien filed by an attorney takes precedence over a medical lien. AM2423 is straightforward legislation that enables physical therapists to get patients care promptly, with a reasonable expectation of payment. Again, this bill was voted out of committee 7-0, and I would appreciate your green vote. The 2 bills that we have in AM2224 that I want to touch on, one of them, first, was LB892. This was brought to me because of a discovered discrepancy between the statutes and rules and regulations regarding massage therapy. The statute currently reads that massage therapists can only provide therapeutic services in licensed establishments unless specifically permitted by the act. Rules and regulations allow for massage therapists to perform therapy in all kinds of places, such as homes, other businesses, or even outside the finish lines of events, like marathons. While originally, the language allowed the board to regulate where massage therapy can be provided as they are already doing, DHHS asks us to designate the responsibility to the department. This follows language often used in the statute, and the massage therapists were supportive of this as well. And lastly, LB891, this was-- I was, I was working closely with First Five Nebraska, so I appreciate all their help on this one. This one has to do with, I would say, cutting some of the red tape when it comes to childcare, to make it more affordable and easier for those to have childcare facilities or operate them in Nebraska. And it is a bill designed to reduce administrative burdens on childcare providers, and remove regulatory barriers that restrict access to care. We are thankful for the work of the committee and for DHHS coming together to clean up the language and make sure the intent of the bill is clear. LB891 focuses on 3 core areas: staffing, flexibility, and transparency. So, first it creates provis-- provis-- creates provisional hire. Staffing bottlenecks for childcare providers waiting on background checks to be processed is on the rise. LB891 staff-- staff will be able to begin work under supervision once fingerprint-based background checks clear. Next, LB891 prioritizes portability. Staff already deemed eligible to be healthcare workers would not need to resubmit a duplicative background check application when changing jobs. This does not change the requirement to resubmit a fingerprint every 5 years, nor does it change the requirement for a new fingerprint if there is a break in employment longer than 180 days. It simply allows for portability of paperwork and background checks within the childcare community. LB891 also emphasizes opportunities for flexibility by allowing providers to adapt their business models. It prevents local regulations from requiring primary residence for family care homes, expanding options for shared spaces, and allows for alternative models for care. To alleviate some concerns from the cities, we added that this does not prohibit a political subdivision from regulating business use relating to outside appearance, nuisances, or public health and safety. And finally, this language implements a structure for qualified volunteers to be able to volunteer for 10 hours a week and count in the staff-to-child ratio requirements. This will help rural providers fill critical gaps where the workforce is most thin. Overall, LB891 is about streamlining the licensing system to move Nebraska toward a more stable, commonsense framework that supports both child safety and childcare availability. So this is the one I, I did want to mention that I, I made a mistake when I opened, that this one did not come out unanimously. There were 2 people more concerned about the city portion, so I just wanted to clarify that. But again, we did put some language in there for the cities to prohibit a political subdivision from regulating business use relating to outside appearance, nuisance, or public health and safety. So they do have that ability to address that if they, if they deem fit. But on that, I would appreciate your green vote on AM2423, and the committee amendment, and the underlying bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ARCH: Turning to the queue, Senator Hansen, you are next in the queue.

HANSEN: Yeah, I'll, I'll waive that, Mr. Speaker. I put that in there, just so I can touch on this stuff.

ARCH: Senator Hallstrom, you are recognized to speak.

HALLSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. AM2224 to LB912 contains, in part, the provisions of LB887, which make changes to provisions of law relating to pharmacists and the transfer of prescriptions. The first issue, the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination, is part of the pharmacist licensure requirements, testing knowledge of federal and Nebraska-specific pharmacy laws and regulations, developed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. The exam assesses a pharmacist student's ability to apply legal principles to pharmacy practice, ensuring competency in state-specific rules like the Nebraska Pharmacy Practice Act alongside federal laws. Currently, Nebraska interprets this section of law to require applicants for licensure as a pharmacist to take this exam after graduation from a pharmacy program. Section 12 of AM2224 amends Section 38-2852 to allow accredited pharmacy programs to determine when the MPJE should occur, including prior to graduation. This would bring Nebraska into line with other states and is supported by UNMC and Creighton. Last year, Senator Hardin introduced LB118, which allowed supervision by a pharmacist of up to 4, 4 pharmacy technicians or pharmacist interns. As part of the compromise, the NPA agreed to the supervision ratio so long as a pharmacist was not supervising 4 pharmacy technicians with none of them being certified. The requirement for a certified pharmacy technician mistakenly also applied to supervision of pharmacist interns. Section 13 of this amendment corrects that drafting error. Under current law, a prescription may only be transferred one time. Section 14 would modify this to allow a prescription to be transferred between pharmacies so long as the number of transfers does not exceed the number of authorized refills and the original prescription is still valid. The original bill contained provisions eliminating a reporting requirement pursuant to the Parkinson's Disease Registry Act. The department requested that these provisions be retained rather than being eliminated in case federal funding became-- becomes available in the future, so those provisions were removed by the committee amendment. I would encourage your green vote for the amendment.

ARCH: Senator Rountree, you're recognized to speak.

ROUNTREE: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues, and good morning to those that are watching online. I rise also to introduce my portions of AM2224, which contains LB735 and LB736. LB735 is the Respiratory Therapist Licensure Compact. LB736 is the Athletic Trainer Licensure Compact, and they both aim to make it easier for licensed professionals to work in our state. The Department of Defense and the Council of State Governments have partnered over recent years to craft interstate compacts for many occupations of which Nebraska has become a member state. In Sarpy County, we have many families that move in and out of our community due to military service. It is important that we create a welcoming environment in our state for these families and make their transition to living in Nebraska as easy as possible. Allowing licensed individuals to get to work sooner helps families plant roots in Nebraska and become members of our community. The Respiratory Care Interstate Compact and Athletic Trainer Interstate Compact would allow a licensed professional who wishes to move into a member state to use their existing license as proof that they are qualified to receive a license in the new state. The Compact Commission, which would be made up of representatives from each member state, will facilitate the transfer of documentation. Professionals who hold an active, unencumbered license in a member state would be eligible to use the interstate compact and obtain a license in another member state. Allowing greater mobility shows that Nebraska is a worker-friendly state, ready for new providers to practice in our communities. As we continue discussing how to attract and retain talent in our state, this is a small piece to allow highly-skilled professionals the opportunity to come to Nebraska, put down roots, and prosper. I appreciate your attention to these bills. I ask that you vote green on LB-- yes, on AM2224, which includes these 2 amendments. And just for record, in the Respiratory Therapy Compact, we have 5 that are joining, 7 are considering joining. In the Athletic Trainer Compact, 7 are considering joining. Any fiscal concerns that we had earlier will be taken care of through licensing fees, and it's been amended also to remove any concerns from the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys. So I appreciate your support on this and ask for a green vote on these compacts. Thank you.

ARCH: Seeing no one left in the queue, Senator Hansen, you're recognized to close on AM2423.

HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate your green vote on, on the underlying-- both amendments and the, and the bill itself. And again, I want to thank the committee, my staff, and then First Five, especially-- specifically for that childcare bill that's in AM2224. I think that's really going to be transformational for both urban and rural childcare, by cutting some of the regulations red tape, to hopefully move things forward here in the state of Nebraska. So with that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ARCH: Members, the question before the body is the adoption of AM2423. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

ARCH: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Ballard, we move to amend-- Senator DeKay would move to amend with AM2409.

ARCH: Senator DeKay, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

DeKAY: Thank you, Mr. President. AM2409 would amend the provisions of my bill, LB796, into LB912. LB796 was a shell bill I originally introduced to serve as a placeholder, in the event legislation proved necessary to address an unexpected problem that fell within the jurisdiction of the Health and Human Services Committee. In the course of the session, a dispute arose between DHHS and rural pharmacy in my district regarding the authority of such pharmacy to permit patients to pick up their prescriptions in person at a third-party healthcare facility, like a hospital. This particular issue came to my attention because it began to impact constituents in the area of Boyd County, western Knox County, and northern Holt County. My bill, LB796, as amended by AM2328, was drafted with input from DHHS and the Nebraska Pharmacists Association as a remedy. Specifically, the bill would clarify that individuals who are employed by a third-party healthcare facility or dispense drugs and devices are delivered from a pharmacy to be picked up by a patient or caregiver at the request by the patient are not considered to be engaging in the practice of pharmacy if the following specific criteria are met: {a) the drug or device has been prepaid by the patient or caregiver; (b) the dispensing pharmacist has offered patient counseling either prior to or at the time of dispensing; (c) the drug or device is maintained in a packaging as received from the dispensing pharmacy and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and kept in a separate area from other drugs or devices held by the healthcare facility, like possibly in a clearly designated, secure cabinet or refrigerator; the drug or device being delivered is not a controlled substance; (e) a drug or a device that is not picked up within 30 days after delivery is donated or destroyed by the healthcare facility or returned to the pharmacy, and is not eligible for refund of any amount paid; (f) the healthcare facility has implemented a written policy relating to the donation or destruction of a drug or device that is not picked up by a patient or caregiver within 30 days after delivery to the facility; and (g), the healthcare facility maintains the documentation of the delivery of a drug or device under this subsection, including the date received, the name of the pharmacy, the name of the patient, the signature and printed name of the individual picking up the drug or device, and the date it was picked up and the date of donation, destruction, or return to the pharmacy. The bill also makes clear that a health care facility other than a pharmacy acting in according-- in accordance with this bill shall not be liable for contents of a drug or a device delivered to a patient that the decision to accept a drug or device for delivery to a patient rests solely with the receiving facility. DHHS, with the recommendation of the Pharmacy Board, would then have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this bill. I want to close by noting that there is a critical shortage of rural pharmacies. A 2022 report by UNMC noted that 13 of Nebraska's 93 counties have no practicing primary care physician, 16 counties do not have a pharmacist, and these numbers are growing. With this mind-- issue in mind, we need to be creative in how we look at access. In rural Nebraska, a pharmacy may be 2 hours away round trip, but there may be a third-party healthcare facility that is much closer and willing to let people pick up their prescriptions in person at their location. There are many people living in rural Nebraska who now struggle driving long distances. This can be really concerning for the elderly and during times when there is adverse weather conditions, but people still need to get their prescriptions. Allowing people to pick up prescriptions at a closer third-party healthcare facility can be a way to help alleviate some of the access issues that we have to pharmacies in rural Nebraska. Again, under this bill, DHHS, with the recommendation of the Board of Pharmacy, would have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this bill and establish the necessary guardrails to ensure patient safety as the prescription pickup arrangements become more prevalent in rural areas. LB796, as amended by AM2328, was heard by the DHHS Committee on February 27, and was advanced by a unanimous 7-0 vote. The Nebraska Pharmacists Association testified in support of the bill, while DHHS testified in the neutral capacity. There were no opponents at the hearing and no written comments submitted online. There's also no reported fiscal impact, and I would appreciate a green vote on AM2409. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Turning to the queue, Senator Hallstrom, you are recognized to speak.

HALLSTROM: Mr. Speaker, members, Senator DeKay stole a little bit of my thunder. I was just going to go through some of the facts that tell the story behind why legislation is needed and important, particularly in this area. Between 2010 and 2021, more than one-third of the pharmacists across the nation-- pharmacies across the nation closed. As Senator DeKay indicated, there's 16 counties in Nebraska that do not have a pharmacy. That constitutes a pharmacy desert in my opinion. It's real, it's growing, and the pharmacists are looking outside the box to continue to provide-- find ways to provide services to their patients and their consumers in a safe and convenient manner, and that's exactly what the automated systems provided under Senator DeKay's AM2409-- will provide. In the interest of time, rather than getting up later, I'll also say similar benefits accrue from Senator Riepe's AM2464, which I also support, and would encourage you to support AM2409, Senator Riepe's amendment, and advancement of the bill. Thank you.

ARCH: We have some special guests with us today that we'd like to introduce. Senator Ibach would first like to introduce 65 fourth grade students from Bryan Elementary from Lexington, and they are located in the north balcony. Students, please rise and be welcomed by your Nebraska Legislature. Senator Hallstrom would also like to recognize some guests from Nemaha County Leadership in Nemaha County, and they are also located in the north balcony. Please rise and be welcomed by your Nebraska Legislature. Returning to the queue, Senator Juarez, you are recognized to speak.

JUAREZ: Yes, I would like to ask if Senator DeKay would yield to some questions.

ARCH: Senator DeKay, will you yield to some questions?

DeKAY: Yes.

JUAREZ: OK. I was trying to, you know, read through this bill here, and what I wondered is, is it just going to be something that's going to work only for rural communities, or is it open to others in the state who may not live in a rural community?

DeKAY: Well, obviously, in rural communities, like I indicated earlier, for my nearest pharmacy is like 45 minutes to an hour away, so it would be more impactful for rural communities. When you have Walgreens and other pharmacies, CVSs and stuff, within minutes of where people live throughout the metro areas-- so it's primarily designed for rural communities, or--

JUAREZ: But--

DeKAY: --community sector.

JUAREZ: So does that mean that someone in the city is not going to be able to use this kind of service? Because, you know, what I'm thinking of in the city-- I mean, I understand your point that there are pharmacies all over the city. But, you know, if-- when you're a senior and if you're not driving anymore, maybe there needs to be some options in the city to also help our elderly in these areas.

DeKAY: That would be something that would probably have to be considered on maybe dropoff pharmacy that people-- elderly that can't drive. That would be a discussion probably for a different amendment or a different bill going in future, so.

JUAREZ: OK. So this is just in, in particular to service the rural needs. And I don't object to that. I understand all of your points that you made, but I just wanted clarification on that note. And the other question that I had was-- and I've been sitting here trying to think of the name, because I know that there's a certain drug that you have to go into the pharmacy to get it because it's so strong, versus other kind of medications, but I can't think of what it's called. Would that even apply? It's going to be any type of medicine will be able to be distributed this way, at a local hospital or something? There's no restrictions on the type of medication?

DeKAY: Under the, under the name of narcotics, drugs like that will not be distributed to-- they would have to go to the facility-- to the pharmacy and be instructed on use and how to use them, and they-- those types of drugs would have to-- prescriptions would have be picked up at a pharmacy.

JUAREZ: OK. Thank you. That was exactly the type of drug I was thinking about. Thanks for your clarification. I yield the rest of my time.

ARCH: Senator DeKay, you're recognized to speak.

DeKAY: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I'd like to pull the amendment. There are issues that have come up with-- in regard to this, that I think this needs to have a hearing on, so I would like to pull this amendment at this time.

ARCH: So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Riepe would move to amend with AM2464.

ARCH: Senator Riepe, you are recognized to open on your amendment.

RIEPE: Thank you, Mr. President. I would first like to thank Senator Hallstrom for the introduction. I rise today to open on AM2464, which amends my LB1211 to LB912. LB1211 updates our Automated Medication Systems Act and expressly authorizes the use of automated pickup kiosks in Nebraska to better serve customers, patients, and to support our local pharmacies. LB1211 is not a mandatory piece of legislation, nor does it have a fiscal note. These are secure, pharmacy-operated devices that store and release prescription medications other than controlled substances directly to a patient or caregiver, essentially an automated pickup option tied to a licensed pharmacy. To keep it simple, imagine a Red Box or an Amazon pickup point that ins--instead of containing packages or movies, contains your pres-- prescribed medications. Most of these kiosks today are located inside the storefront of a pharmacy or in the foyer, and patients must affirmatively elect to have their medications placed into the kiosk for retrieval. These are now utilized in about 38 states. LB1211 modernizes our definitions so kiosks are clearly recognized and distinguished from automated systems used inside hospitals and long-term care facilities, and it puts them under a clear licensing and inspection framework. The pharmacist is charged-- in charge must obtain an annual kiosk license from the Department of Health and Human Services with a fee capped at $50, designated a pharmacy responsible for kiosk operations, and maintain records for 5 years, and comply with all existing storage, recordkeeping, labeling, and pharmacy care requirements. Automated, automated pickup kiosks generally may not store or dispense controlled substances, with a narrow exception for hospital-based kiosks under tight oversight, and outdoor kiosks must meet environmental and security standards, as determined by the Board of Pharmacy, to protect medication integrity and prevent diversion. In practice, that means a patient in any part of the state, whether they are seen at a rural clinic, a hospital outpatient clinic, or a busy community pharmacy may pick up his or her noncontrolled prescriptions from a secured kiosk at a time that works for them, rather than only during explicit pharmacy hours, while a Nebraska-licensed pharmacy-- pharmacist remains fully responsibility for verification, counseling, availability, and recordkeeping. LB1211 is a measured practice bill that explicitly enables automated pickup kiosks, clarifies where they can be located, and defines who is responsible for them, while keeping pharmacist oversight and patient safety at the center. LB1211, as amended by AM2202, was written in conjunction with the Nebraska Pharmacy Association and with support from the Nebraska Hospital Association. Had no opponents adhering, and was advanced from the Health and Human Services Committee on a unanimous vote. Again, it has no A bill, as the regulatory costs are baked into the fee itself, and therefore is not, again, I repeat, not mandatory for participation, meaning it's just another tool in the toolbox for pharmacists, is a great opportunity to let medical technology be utilized in Nebraska, expand safe access to medications, and do so with clear accountability. I respectfully ask for your green vote on AM2464. And I guess, in summary, I say the intent of writing this was with the idea that for smaller pharmacies that might not have operational hours beyond a certain time, say 6:00, they would be able to program-- or to place these medications with an access code outside of their facility, that people could pick them up on their way home or at their own convenience. And so with that, Mr. President, I thank you very much.

ARCH: Returning to the queue, Senator Conrad, you're recognized to speak.

CONRAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Just briefly, I wanted to rise in support of this amendment by my friend, Senator Riepe. And in particular, I wanted to give a shout out to him and to his fantastic staff. I believe that this proposal emanates from a very comprehensive, very robust interim study that they conducted, in regards to rural healthcare access and delivery and medical workforce. And I had an opportunity to review this report over the interim, and it was so incredibly well done, and comprehensive, and thoughtful, and chock full of good ideas to build our healthcare safety net in both urban and rural environments. And I know Senator Riepe and his staff, Gerald, worked really, really hard on it. It caught my attention, and it just had a, a ton of, of great policy proposals that I think are, are very common ground, common sense, that I hope can be debated and moved forward, in addition to this more discreet component on the broader items discussed in the interim study. So I just wanted to give a shoutout for that really, really good work. Thank you.

ARCH: Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Riepe, you are recognized to close on AM2464. Senator Riepe waives close. Question before the body is the adoption of AM2464. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

ARCH: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Ballard would move to amend with AM2578.

ARCH: Senator Ballard, you are recognized to open on your amendment.

BALLARD: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, colleagues. I'd like to thank Senator Hardin for allowing me to amend LB912 with AM2578. AM2578 is a bill I'd introduced for nurse practitioners-- LB3-- LB936. LB936 is a scope of practice or 407 process bill. The process was conducted by the nurse practitioners over the last year and has, has successfully completed the 407 process. I brought forward LB936 and proposed would update Nebraska's credentialing statutes to explicitly allow nurse practitioners to perform and utilize fluoroscopy, only that-- if the nurse practitioner has completed the approved education and training, the changes align with Nebraska law, the current clinical realities and support efficiency of term-based patient care. The scope change is important for several reasons. Improving access to care for the Department of Health and Human Services credentialing review report found that expanding fluoroscopy utilization to nurse practitioners with the appropriate training and regulation safeguards would increase access to care, particularly in rural areas. Reinforcing patient safety, the bill preserves existing oversight and required approved education and training for nurse practitioners who perform and utilize fluoroscopy, consistent with the Radiation Control Act requirements. Supporting collaborative practice by explicitly recognizing the collaboration between nurse practitioners and radiographers, the bill modernized statutes to reflect real-world, real-world professional practice and improves workflow for patient outcomes. LB936 advanced out of the Health and Human Services unanimously, on a 7-0 vote. I'd ask for your green, your green light. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Ballard, you're recognized to close, and Senator Ballard waives close. Question before the body is the adoption of AM2578. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

ARCH: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have nothing further at this time.

ARCH: Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Hardin, you are recognized to close on AM2224, and Senator Hardin waives close. Question before the body is the adoption of AM2224. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

ARCH: The amendment is adopted. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Hardin, you're recognized to close on LB912.

HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. President. LB912 is the first half of HHS-related bills for this year. More to come, and I would appreciate your green vote. Thank you.

ARCH: Members, the question before the body is the advancement of LB912 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

ARCH: LB912 does advance. Mr. Clerk, for items, for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, thank you. Your Committee on Appropriations, chaired by Senator Clements, reports LB1210 to General File. Your Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Brandt, reports LB1226 to General File. Bills read this morning on Final Reading were presented to the Governor. Additionally, amendments to be printed from

Senator Hansen to LB304. New LR, LR368, from Senator Spivey. That'll be laid over. As it concerns the agenda, Mr. President, General File, LB1010, introduced by Senator Brandt. It's a bill for an act relating to electricity; provides for eminent domain of electrical energy storage property; provides for storage of electrical energy under the Electric Cooperative Corporation Act, defines and redefines terms; changes application, notice, filing, exemption, and violation provisions, and provides for certain energy storage resources relating to certain electric suppliers; harmonizes provisions; and repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 13 of this year, and referred to the Natural Resources Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File, with committee amendments. There are additional amendments, Mr. President.

ARCH: Senator Brandt, you are recognized to open on LB1010.

BRANDT: Thank you, Mr. President. Today I'm introducing LB1010, a Natural Resources Committee priority bill that addresses several issues related to Nebraska's electric system, including the development of energy storage resources and new reporting and regulatory requirements for large energy users, such as data centers. Also included in the package are LB1064, from Senator Bostar, and LB1111, from Senator Machaela Cavanaugh. I would ask those senators to discuss their bills once I move to the committee amendment. For now, I will begin by explaining my bill, LB1010. As many of you know, Nebraska is unique in the nation because we operate under a public power model. Our electric utilities are owned by the 2 million people they serve, and decisions about generation, transmission, and infrastructure are made with the long-term interests of Nebraska ratepayers in mind by locally-elected boards. As new technologies emerge from the energy sector, particularly large-scale battery storage, we need to make sure our policies keep pace while protecting the structure that has served this state well for decades. Energy storage resources, batteries, are facilities that can take electricity from the grid or from a generation source at a low cost, store it, and then release it-- that electricity back to the grid at a later time at a higher rate. These projects are becoming more common across the country, particularly alongside renewable generation, and they can provide important benefits, such as additional capacity, grid reliability, and other operational services. LB1010 is a result of a collaborative effort among Nebraska's public power utilities, to make sure that privately developed energy storage projects can move forward in a way that works for both developers and the public power systems that ultimately serve our citizens. The goal of this legislation is to put guardrails on ESRs to protect our public power system. It creates a clear process for privately-developed energy storage facilities to be reviewed and approved before construction, ensuring those projects are coordinated with the utilities and transmission systems that we all rely on. It also requires private developers to work directly with the public power through negotiated agreements, so that both sides benefit from these projects. Under the bill, private developers would enter into long-term agreements with public power utilities for the purchase and release of electricity, capacity, and other services produced by these storage facilities. This provides developers with a stable revenue stream while ensuring that the benefits of these projects-- things like capacity, reliability, and ancillary grid services remain with Nebraska's public power systems, and ultimately, the ratepayers they serve. The legislation also requires coordination with the utilities whose transmission systems will be affected, ensuring that they have input on design, interconnection, and upgrades necessary to safeguard-- safely integrate these projects into the grid. Just as importantly, LB1010 preserves Nebraska's public power structure. It makes clear that privately-developed storage facilities cannot sell electricity at retail or operate distribution systems in the state. LB1010 ensures that as the technology develops, Nebraska can welcome private investment while still protecting the public power model and ensuring these projects operate in a way that benefits our utilities, our infrastructure, and ultimately the people of this state. With that, Mr. President, I would like to move into the committee amendment.

ARCH: As the Clerk indicated, there is a committee amendment. Senator Brandt, you are recognized to open.

BRANDT: The committee adopted AM2422, which is a white copy amendment that makes some changes to LB1010 as originally introduced, and adds LB1064 and LB1111 as amended. The changes we made to LB1010 came out of discussions with private energy storage resource developers. First, we added statutory language clarifying that public power cannot use the power of eminent domain over these energy storage facilities. Second, private developers will no longer be required to file an application jointly with a public power entity when seeking approval from the Power Review Board. Now we'll discuss the other two bills. Senator Bostar, would you yield for a question?

ARCH: Senator Bostar, will you yield?

BOSTAR: Yes.

BRANDT: Senator Bostar, would you like to explain LB1064?

BOSTAR: Absolutely. And thank you, and good morning. LB1064, included within LB1010, is legislation to establish guardrails to protect affordability and reliability for Nebraska's energy ratepayers from the impacts of large load customers, such as data centers. Reliable affordable energy supply is critical to power-- to power our communities, support economic growth, and ensure the safety and wellbeing of our families. Yet, the transitioning energy needs of growing industries like artificial intelligence are straining our electric grid, while at the same time, repairs and modernization upgrades are needed on our aging infrastructure. Here in Nebraska, many residential customers and small businesses are already experiencing the financial impacts of significant investments public power has had to make to build new electrical generation supply to supply large load customers that have chosen to locate in Nebraska. LB1064 is modeled off legislation passed last year in Texas, which established new requirements to better allocate costs to data centers and ramp down their power use if ordered by the state. While LB1064 is modeled off this Texas legislation, important modifications were made in consultation with public power to better fit Nebraska's 100% public power structure. Legislation requires public power suppliers to establish standards for interconnecting large load customers in a manner designed to support business development in the state while maintaining system reliability, reducing the potential for a stranded infrastructure cost and minimizing rate impacts to Nebraskans. This bill does not overly prescribe what the standard should be. It establishes baseline requirements and outlines what the standard should address, but in keeping with Nebraska's long-held commitment to local control, it gives public power the authority to determine the specific standards that will best fit their service territory. LB1064 sets rules for data centers that bring their own power generation. This legislation requires disclosure of the customer's backup generation and requires public power suppliers to establish standards for demand, response, and load flexibility for large load customers. This bill also contains a provision which allows public power suppliers to order large load customers to curtail their load or switch to backup generation during a grid emergency. These provisions are designed to address concerns with reliability that these large power users bring and ensure that their power needs do not supersede the needs of Nebraskans. This legislation goes on to address interconnection shopping, where developers apply in multiple places for projects that may not materialize. This has a negative impact on our public power providers because it makes it more difficult for them to develop accurate load forecasts, which undergirds much of their decision-making around investments in generation. In order to ensure good faith by large load developers, this legislation requires they pay an upfront study fee of $50,000 or $1,000 per megawatt, whichever is greater, and provide public power with more transparency about whether their project will actually materialize. LB1064 was supported at the hearing by representatives from public power, received no opposition, and included in this package 7-0 with one member absent, and I would urge your support for the amendment and the underlying bill.

BRANDT: Thank you, Senator Bostar. Would Senator Machaela Cavanaugh please yield for a question?

ARCH: Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, would you yield to a question?

M. CAVANAUGH: Yes. Thank you.

BRANDT: Sen-- Senator Cavanaugh, could you explain LB1111?

M. CAVANAUGH: Yes. Thank you, Senator Brandt. LB1111 seeks to protect Nebraska's-- Nebraskans by mandating that large data centers pay the full cost of providing electrical services to provide them, including the cost of new generation and transmission infrastructure, provide financial assurance that they will pay for stranded electric infrastructure costs in the event a data center closes prematurely, and consider building their own electric generation capacity, including using renewable energy, plan and provide funding for their decommissioning, and enter into community benefit agreements that minimize site-specific impacts. Public power suppliers would be prohibited from trans-- transferring electricity costs triggered by large data centers to residential and industrial consumers. In addition, LB1111 also requires disclosure of basic information about data centers so that Nebraskans can understand the impact of data centers on their families, businesses, and communities. This is not a partisan issue. It is also done in Florida, Oklahoma, and other Republican-led states that are concerned about issues addressed in this bill. So basically, it is a data-collection piece that will then result in a report so that we can start to understand more how data centers are impacting our state. And currently, it's not really regulated, so this will help us figure out what the appropriate guardrails in the future should be for data centers. So it's a new industry, and we don't want to overregulate something that we don't understand, so this is step one in understanding the industry. Thank you, Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Thank you, Senators Bostar and Cavanaugh, for those explanations. With that, colleagues, I will ask for your green vote on AM2442. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Mr. President, Senator Brandt would move to amend with AM2387.

ARCH: Senator Brandt, you are recognized to open on the amendment.

BRANDT: Thank you, Mr. President. This is a very simple amendment. This addresses the tax issue with these batteries-- energy storage resources. And AM2387 shifts battery energy storage resource facilities, ESRs, from depreciable, tangible, personal property tax in the same manner, just like other privately-developed energy suppliers, and makes the ESRs subject to the annual nameplate capacity tax of $3,518 per megawatt under Section 77-202 and 77-6203, similar to what we do on windmills right now. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Seeing no one in the queue, you're recognized to close. Senator Brandt waives close. Members, the question is the adoption of AM2387. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

ARCH: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Prokop would move to amend with AM2517.

ARCH: Senator Prokop, you are recognized to open on your amendment.

PROKOP: Thank you, Mr. President. AM2517 is a pretty straightforward amendment. I'll touch on that in one second here. I did want to thank Senator Brandt, for working with me on, on the battery storage portion of the bill. It's something we've had quite a bit of conversation on to try and find a good, reasonable compromise to set up a framework for battery storage to get, get more of a foothold here in the state, and complement the good work that our public powers do in making sure that we're powered, here in Nebraska. You know, and battery storage, it's something that I have had to, to get up to speed on. The more

I've learned about it, I think there's some exciting opportunities about what we can do in the state around it, while also making sure we've, we've got good safeguards in place, to some of the comments that Senator Brandt mentioned. So-- and kind of in that spirit of making sure that we're protecting ratepayers, I've offered AM2517. It's a really straightforward amendment. So the amendment essentially puts in safeguards against public powers using any of their financial resources to lease private suites at any sporting events or entertainment venues, hosting tailgates, hosting sports tournaments, operating aircraft, or purchasing country club memberships or paying for golf. So really, it comes down to making sure that, you know, in a, in a time where electricity rates and energy costs are high, making sure everyday Nebraskans are protected and, and making sure that, you know, the old saying, let's keep the main thing the main thing, that this applies to our, to our public powers, and, and that resources are used appropriately. So I would encourage everyone to vote green on AM2517, in order to, again, protect ratepayers and, and stick in line with that-- with the emphasis of the bill. Thank you.

ARCH: Turning to the queue, Senator Clouse, you are recognized to speak.

CLOUSE: Thank you, Mr. President. This is an interesting amendment, and I was looking through it, several things in there that raised some questions in my mind. As a 46-plus-year employee of a power district, I know there were a lot of things that we just simply didn't do. As a account manager, I had the ability to work with customers. I never paid for golf, never paid for alcohol. I took that responsibility seriously, that we were paying ratepayers' dollars, everything that we spent money on. So when I look at the list, there are some things that cause me a little bit of concern and some questions. For example, aircraft. That really came up in an election, a local election, former board members a few years ago, and there was a lot of false information put out. NPPD, may-- more so than maybe LES or OPPD, we travel the whole state. So oftentimes, we need to use aircraft. Because it-- in the long run, it saves money, saves a lot of travel time-- you fill the planes, you go out, and you do a lot of these things. So that particular issue is, is one that I think we need to have some discussion about. And then, basically, it comes down to what is the role of public power? And you know, we talk about is it a monopoly, is it not? Public power districts across the state, they're important to our state. And one of the things that we have issues with a lot of times, is if you get private enterprise that comes in, and they can do all these things and they can market themselves, and quite frankly, they can distort the facts. And so I think sometimes we need to sit back and take a look at this, and say, OK, well, where are we really at? Are there things in here that are considered unreasonable? Absolutely. I think we need to maybe have some discussion about it. But public power is important to our state. I'm a firm believer in it. I worked in that industry forever, but I also know that we have a lot of safeguards and controls in place to protect our ratepayers. So this amendment caught me off guard. I need to chew on it a little bit, maybe talk to some colleagues or past colleagues, because I do know for a fact that there are things that are distorted, and there are outside influences that would love nothing better than to see public power go away in this state. And I am a strong supporter of public power, having lived that world most of my life, and I think we really need to take a step back and take a look at what we are doing here. And I think that there can be some compromises on this as we talk about what some of these expenditures are about. With that, thank you for the opportunity to make some comments.

ARCH: Senator DeKay, you are recognized to speak.

DeKAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank Senator Prokop for his concern, for looking out for the ratepayers in the state of Nebraska. But I do have to disagree wholeheartedly with this amendment. I don't think it's needed at this time. Most of the things that are in this amendment NPPD is already implementing and practicing. And when it comes to the airplane, that is-- as Senator Clouse said, that is an essential part of NPPD's-- they need that plane. They-- not only do we travel the state-- they travel the state, being a member of SPP, they travel to North Dakota, they travel to Arkansas. When Monolith was coming to Nebraska, there was multiple trips to the San Francisco area with use of the plane, for different personnel and different directors to see how Monolith worked, to try to incorporate Monolith coming to the state of Nebraska. And it's a common practice. If you sent people out by car to travel to these places, spend the travel costs, the lodging, the meals, the plane is more efficient. And in regards to say, Cooper Nuclear Station, if Cooper Nuclear Station had to be shut down and needed repairs that could get it up and running, shutting down Cooper Nuclear for one day costs the state-- or ratepayers over $1 million. If they-- there's times that they flew that plane to New Jersey to pick up a part and had that put in place and had Cooper back up and running within 24 hours, so it is a necessary part of NPPD's business model. And I don't-- I see this kind of as a hostile amendment at this time. I don't see the need with it. Because for most of the other things talked about in this amendment, NPPD is already implementing those practices. With that, I yield back the rest of my time. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Senator Moser, you're recognized to speak.

MOSER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And good morning, colleagues, and Nebraskans, following along. I agree with Senator DeKay that this is a hostile amendment. These issues have come up before. And if they were going to be raised, they should have been raised at the hearing that we had for LB1010 so that the utilities had a chance to respond and, and we would have been able to question them about whether they're actually doing any of these things that this amendment prohibits. I know they do advertise for public service announcements about outages and safe operation around downed power lines and those sorts of things. And then, I know they do do some community service support of nonprofits like schools and, and some of those things. Overall, NPPD has some of the lowest power rates in the country. So overall, their business model is very economical and they do a great job. If we're going to get into the minutiae and try to micromanage them, then we should have a separate bill to do that and it should have its own hearing and give these power districts an opportunity to come in and testify. And if you're going to get into this kind of micromanagement, then you should go to the University of Nebraska and UNMC and other public entities and ask them about whether they're buying tickets to sporting events. I-- you know, I don't know. I don't know if-- Senator Prokop, if you have evidence of this or not. Maybe you could punch in and, and give us more information. But again, this is a hostile amendment. The-- LB1010 and its other amendments is critically important to the power industry in Nebraska, because there are companies that have lots of capital and expertise in power storage. Power usage is way up. The power districts are required to serve customers within their areas, so this bill that Senator Brandt brought with the amendments also-- or the other bills from our other colleagues, is critic-- these are critically important to keeping Nebraska relevant in the ever-changing power industry. So that's important. This is just more like poking the power district in the eye with a sharp stick. You know, this should have been brought up at a hearing. The power district people were all there. They could have responded. And, you know, I'm, I'm not saying they should do any of this, or they-- but this isn't the time or the place to bring that up. And it's specific to public power, when there are other entities in this state that if you're going to get into this micromanagement, you should have them all come in and explain what they do. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARCH: Mr. Clerk, for an announcement.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. The Health and Human Services Committee will have an exec session at 11:00 in room 2022. Health and Human Services Committee, exec session, 2022, at 11:00. That's all I have at this time.

ARCH: Returning to the queue, Senator Brandt, you're recognized to speak.

BRANDT: Thank you, Mr. President. I would echo what Senator Moser, DeKay, and Clouse have said so far. The bill probably needs a hearing. It got-- the amendment, excuse me, got dropped this morning about an hour ago, and this is the first time that we've seen it, or the industry has seen it. I think there's some good points in there. I think that there's some bad points in there. But I would treat this as, as a hostile amendment. But this is, this is kind of what I'd like to say. I'm on my way out. But if Senator Prokop would make this more of a broad-reaching amendment next year-- for example, CHI Center in Omaha, I think CHI spent $20 million for the naming rights on that. A nonprofit hospital. I think those dollars could be better spent helping people in the state of Nebraska, than having your name on an event center. So I think there's some validity to nonprofits. Utilities are a little bit different. They aren't technically a nonprofit, but they're a public entity in a sense in Nebraska. It's 100% public power. But yeah, I would gladly work with him in the interim, to work on something like that. But today, I would view this as a hostile amendment and I would encourage everybody to vote red on AM2517. Thank you.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Brandt. Senator Conrad, you're recognized to speak.

CONRAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I appreciate the amendment that Senator Prokop has brought forward here, and think it aligns with the spirit and intent of our unique and proud culture that has fostered a truly public power system in, in our state in contrast to our sister states, which see perhaps components of their approach to power being publicly owned, but not wholly owned like we have here in Nebraska. And I think it's important to remember that public power is meeting its laudable goals of ensuring that our power is more reliable and more affordable than we see in private configurations from our sister states. So that's critically important. But one thing that I've definitely noticed, as a new member of the Natural Resources Committee with jurisdiction over many of these issues, it's been great to get to know my, my colleagues who serve on that committee a little bit better, but it's it's a pretty steep learning curve for me in trying to get up to speed on energy policy because that wasn't an area of public policy I'd spent a lot of time and energy involved in. And it's been very interesting to learn about the evolution of some of the different ideas that are out there with renewable energy, with batteries, how that interfaces with our public power system, legal and actual physical infrastructure, and a host of the related environmental concerns as well. But one thing that I, I-- has been surprising to me and has been a reoccurrent theme, and I think that goes to the heart of Senator Prokop's amendment, is there seems to be this misguided belief that Nebraska consumers are just that, consumers and ratepayers, and that's wrong. That's dead wrong. In Nebraska, in a public power system, the people are the owners. The people are the owners. They're not simply consumers and ratepayers. And the arrogance on display, the out-of-control CEO compensation in contrast to frontline workers, all of these issues stand in sharp contrast to the spirit and intent of public power. I understand we need experts, professionals to manage complex systems. But when you see CEO pay reach almost $1 million, and you see those same public power entities fight back against basic COLAs for retirees who are doing the hard work on the front lines-- and by the way, a very, very dangerous job, in many instances-- I, I, I think things have become out of balance. I think they've become out of balance. And seeing how public power has bent and twisted and acquiesced to demands by private industry to put cracks into our public power model with some of these bills that Senator DeKay and others have coming forward, it's disappointing, and it's got to stop. And there's got to be a reckoning to ensure that we have a stronger focus on the public-- the public as owners, not just consumers and ratepayers, owners. And their elected boards and representatives need to be front and center in a lot of these decisions. So when they're throwing around money on country clubs and things like that, if that's the case, I have no sympathy for it and they shouldn't be doing it. If the CEOs want to do that with their million-dollar salaries, they can do-- they, they can eas-- easily afford to do that themselves. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Conrad. Senator Sorrentino has some guests in the north balcony, fourth graders from Arbor View Elementary in

Elkhorn, Nebraska. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Raybould, you're recognized to speak.

RAYBOULD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I'm a little bit troubled by this amendment by Senator Prokop. I really support his in-- intention about managing and watching every penny that comes in on behalf of the owners for all the public power utilities. I appreciate that very much. But I-- I'd like to ask Senator Prokop a couple of questions, if I may.

KELLY: Senator Prokop, would you yield to some questions?

PROKOP: Yes.

RAYBOULD: Thank you, Senator Prokop. I, I really support your intent, but I, I don't want to handcuff the public power utilities for doing a lot of their work. I, I know we've mentioned some of them have vast territories to cover. And you know, I was fortunate enough to go visit Perkins County Canal-- sorry, bringing it up again-- but Perkins County Canal, with NPPD and, and other senators. And we were able to take an airplane, just because of the tight window of trying to meet all the NRD's, and to go look at the Colorado land and the, the Nebraska land. Would-- is that something that would be prohibited going forward, from this bill?

PROKOP: So thank you for the question, Senator Raybould. So yeah. So the use of, of aircraft for a purpose like that, would be, under this amendment. I did have a chance to have a conversation with Senator DeKay, and he had pointed something-- the aircraft provisions specifically, things like transporting parts or something like that, and I understand why that might be problematic, based on how it is, and maybe we can make some adjustments there. But yes, under that-- under the, the amendment as drafted, that would be something where aircraft would not be utilized for something like, like that.

RAYBOULD: OK. Thank you. And I do know that Lincoln Electric System, they are out at so many community functions. And one of the fun things that they do is they have an electric vehicle car show, so that people can see what an electric vehicle looks like. And they organize other community outreach events. And I wouldn't want that type of educational outreach to be diminished, so I am actually going to vote no on this amendment, knowing that Senator Prokop will be back next year, and he can maybe tighten up the language a little bit more?

PROKOP: Sure.

RAYBOULD: OK. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Raybould. Senator Hallstrom, you're recognized to speak.

HALLSTROM: Mr. President, members, I applaud Senator Prokop for the intent underlying AM2517 to LB1010. I don't necessarily view it as a hostile amendment. Obviously, the timing perhaps could be better. Perhaps we should have had a public hearing on the issue. Perhaps the issue will be back next year. But I think it's worthy of considering. I think we've had good discussion on the issue. We're not going to spend too much more time, probably, debating it, but I think it's always worthy to have good public dialogue on this. And I actually fall in line with Senator Brandt. I think this is a, a much broader issue. I, I think public power does a great job of providing low-cost service to Nebraskans, but it's always worthy of looking at other ways that we can-- other steps that we can take to protect ratepayers. But Senator Brandt noted some of the nonprofit entities that have naming rights to stadiums on a, on a more global basis on the federal level. We see nonprofit credit unions having exorbitant amounts of monies that they pay to have naming rights for stadiums. That's a much bigger issue, perhaps, than what Senator Prokop has placed be-- before us. But again, I think those are all things that public power certainly could and should and does, as a general matter, look at, in terms of trying to provide the most effective and low-cost product to Nebraska ratepayers. And this is just another element that if these things are not being done, it's kind of a two-edged sword. If these things are not being done by the public power districts, one might argue that what does it hurt to put it in statute? On the other hand, if they're not doing it, perhaps there was less need to, to codify it. But I do think we've had good discussion on this issue, and I look forward, if not today, at some point in the future, to have further debate and discussion on this. Thank you.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hallstrom. Senator Clouse, you're recognized to speak.

CLOUSE: Thank you, Mr. President. Just one more comment. There are a couple more comments, as we bring this topic to a close, I think. We always need to keep in mind that these are elected boards. And so we talk all the time about, well, you're accountable to your electorate. Well, so are those board members, and the board members are the ones that set the, the salaries. And another issue with public power is their salaries are all posted, their public record. You can look at the salary of any employee in NPPD, and I would suggest that-- try doing that with private enterprise and see where you get. With regard to country club memberships, I'm not aware of any of them. And if someone can prove to me that that's happened, I think that should be addressed. I do appreciate Senator Prokop bringing this, and I-- I've talked with him about this. And I think that next year, I think we'll probably see a bill to address these types of things. And again, I'm just taking it from the perspective of Nebraska Public Power District, but this does apply to all public power districts across the state. And I think they all are, are very responsible for the needs and taking care of the power systems within our state, whether it's a small rural power district or the big power districts: OPPD, NPPD, LES. So I do think they try-- they are responsible and responsive to the needs of, of our ratepayers. But we also see costs rise, we see all those things, and you know, we've talked ad nauseam about data centers and controlling all these things, and just trying to have a good feel of where we're at with the loads and what that does to our costs, and reliability, and all those types of things. So I do appreciate this coming up. And as I said, I did look at it, and a couple of those items on there caught my attention, but there's probably some things we can take a look at. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Clouse. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Prokop, you're recognized to close on AM2517.

PROKOP: Well, thank you, Mr. President. I would share my appreciation with my colleagues for the dialogue on, on this amendment. I think there are some good things that have come up and, and been discussed on this. And, you know, again, I kind of harken back to where I started on all of this is, you know, certainly not meant to be viewed as anti-public power. As, as I said, I think public power does a great job. We've got a proud history in our state with public power. This amendment is simply making sure that we're being mindful of every cent that's spent in the operations, and that we're focusing on making sure that they're not spent in any ways that, that would be a bit inappropriate in my mind. And I would say, you know, I, I, I, I looked at it, and when I drafted this, this is really kind of the belt and suspenders approach. Some of the things in here, you can find that are occurring, just by a simple Google search. And so, you know, I, I think maybe some, some additional work that we can do, and I appreciate some of the members' comments on this. But I would ask for your green vote on the amendment.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Prokop. Members, the question is the adoption of AM2517. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 7 ayes, 15 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: The amendment is not adopted. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Brandt, you're recognized to close on the committee amendment.

BRANDT: I would encourage everybody to vote green on AM2422 and LB1010. Thank you.

KELLY: Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2422. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Brandt, I have FA1016 with a note you'd withdraw.

KELLY: So ordered.

CLERK: In that case, Mr. President, there's nothing further on the bill.

KELLY: Senator Brandt, you're recognized to close, and waive closing. Senators, the question is the advancement of LB1010 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1010 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, LB820, introduced by the Retirement Systems Committee. It's a bill for an act relating to retirement; defines approved identification documents; changes provisions relating to participation in certain retirement systems by certain state agencies and political subdivisions; changes the title to executive director of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems; renames certain state transfers as state contributions; changes provisions relating to ex-officio members of the Nebraska

Investment Council, certain contributions by school districts, and the computation of certain tax withholdings relating to deferred compensation; eliminates obsolete provisions under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Fund; eliminates obsolete provisions; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 7 of this year and referred to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File, with committee amendments.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Ballard, you're recognized to open.

BALLARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. LB820 is a cleanup bill introduced in coordination with the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System. The bill amends various sections of statute governing, governing state, county, and school retirement plans administered by NPERS. There is a general 5 key changes contained in the bill. First, LB820 would consolidate statutory language regarding the approved identification documents for state retirement plan purposes. Under current law, only those individuals who are United States citizens or who are lawfully present and eligible to participate in state retirement systems. Currently, the list of eligible identification documents for state retirement plans' purpose is repeatedly listed out of each state statute governing the various retirement plans. LB820 would consolidate the list into a single statute and then cross-reference the list in statutes governing various retirement plans. Second, the bill will change the title of NPERS director and NPERS executive director. This change would-- was made at the request of NPERS. And generally, their, their research has found that agency heads in their sister agencies in other states hold the-- a title of executive director. Third, the bill clarifies language regarding the state contribution to the School Retirement Fund and the Omaha School Employee-- Employees Retirement Fund, or OSERS, plan. As a mem-- as members may recall, recall, last session, the Legislature addressed an issue with the Judges' Retirement Plan that had been identified by the Auditor of Public Accounts as part of the regular audit of NPERS. Statutory language governing the state contribution and Judges' Plan provided by contributions to occur by half of the administrative transfers by the State Treasurer, which led to duplicative appropriation requests when the amount of state contribution was included in NPERS' biennial budget request. LB820 seeks to address similar transfer language of the School Plan and the OSERS plan, making it clear that state contributions are referred to the contributions and not administrative transfers. Fourth, the bill includes language that would provide for tax treatment of contributions under the deferred compensation plan in the designated Roth IRA accounts under the I-- under the Internal Revenue Code. Recent changes at the federal level provide that certain highly compensated employees cannot make certain types of contributions to deferred compensation plans unless those contributions are made as Roth contributions, meaning that unlike traditional retirement contributions, they are taxable at the time the contribution is made. While the state does not, does not have the technical capability necessary to allow Roth contributions as part of the deferred compensation plan, the bill would provide for tax treatment of these contributions, should the, the ability to make Roth contributions become available in the near future. Finally, the bill eliminates a number of obsolete provisions related to the transfer of management for the Omaha School Employees Retirement Systems, or OSERS plan. Management of the OSERS Plan was transferred to the PERB Board, effective January 1, 2024, so much of the language regarding the interim governance of the plan during the time is now obsolete, and would repeal a number of the sections of the bill. With that, I would like to open on the committee amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Ballard. As the Clerk stated, there's a committee amendment. Senator Ballard, you're recognized to open.

BALLARD: Thank you, Mr. President. The committee amendment, AM2425, incorporates provisions of other retirement-related bills into LB820. First, the "amemorate"-- the amendment incorporates Senator Juarez' LB811-- LB1166, which modifies the timeline, timeline for annual adjustment to employees' contribution to the Nebras-- to the School's Retirement Fund. As members may recall, under LB645 last year, employee contribution rates under the school plan were adjusted annually each year, on July 1, based on the funding status of the plan. LB1166 would change the timeline, so beginning in 2027, employee contribution rates would be calculate-- calculated on July 1 each year, but applied the beginning of September 1 of that year. Employee contributions would continue to be set at 101% of employee contributions as provided under the current law and would similarly be calculated July 1, and applied the beginning of September 1. This change was designed to, to align the contribution rates changes with the school district budget year. Second, AM2425 includes LB1103, Senator Bostar's bill, which would make 2 changes to the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act. The bill increased the mandatory retirement age for State Troopers from 60 to 65. The bill authorizes members who joined the plan after July 1, 2016, to participate in the deferred retirement option plan, or DROP. Currently, only members who joined the plan prior to July 1, 20, 20-- 2016, may participate in the DROP pump program. Finally, AM2425 incorporates LB 1102, which is designated to address issues surrounding cost of living adjustments under the OSERS plan, as well as align the OSERS plan with the School Plan. LB1102 makes 3 changes to the OSERS plan. First, LB1102 would change the calculations and adjustment dates for COLA payments under the OSERS plan and align up both the plans-- with both plans a year with the School Plan. Second, LB1102 would align the annuity payment date of the OSERS plan with the payment date of the School Plan. Third, LB1102 would amend the definition of retirement date of the OSERS plan so that it mirrors the definition of retirement date in the School's Plan. None of the bills contained in LB820 or AM2425 had any opposition testimony, and all have then advanced with a 6-0 vote. I'd ask for your green, green light on AM2425 and LB820. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Ballard. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator, you're recognized to close and waive closing on the amendment. Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2425. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: AM2425 is adopted. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Ballard, you're recognized-- and waive closing. Members, the question is the advancement of LB820 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB820 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, LB758, introduced by Senator von Gillern. It's a bill for an act relating to transfers on death; changes provisions relating to nontestamentary transfers; provides a method for a beneficiary charitable organization to receive property or information as prescribed; creates a right of action, and repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 7 of this year and referred to the Judiciary Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File, with committee amendments.

KELLY: Senator von Gillern, you're recognized to open on the bill.

von GILLERN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nebraskans. I rise today to introduce LB758, which was voted out of the Judiciary Committee 8-0, in which Speaker Arch has designated a Speaker priority. The bill had zero opponents when it was heard in committee, and the upcoming committee amendment, AM2277, featured input from several different stakeholders, including the Nebraska Bar Association and Bankers Associations. LB758 is meant to streamline the process of nontestamentary charitable giving. During estate planning, many Nebraskans generously decide to leave investment funds to charitable organizations. When the holder of those assets passes away, the transfer of property should happen quickly and smoothly so that they can be put to the use intended by the deceased. However, some financial institutions, often brokerages, require charitable organizations or a member of their staff or boards of directors to create an account with the financial institution in order to receive what was left to the institution. In these cases, board members or staff are required to provide sensitive personal information, even though they are not personally receiving the property or funds. Furthermore, this process can take months, months that a non-profit could be benefiting from the contribution. One testifier in support of the bill informed the committee that the average length of time from the date of death to receiving the account funds for them was 12 months. LB758 closely follows legislation that passed recently in Iowa with no opposition. Under LB758, a charitable organization can present an affidavit to the holder of interest in the property or to any person with information about the property, for purpose of obtaining the interest in the property or information about that property. The affidavit must be accomp-- accompanied by documentation adequately demonstrating the legitimacy of the nonprofit and its claim to the property or funds requested. When that necessary documentation is provided, the party holding the property is legally required to provide information or turn over the property or funds to the organization within a specified window of time, or according to the amendment, notify the requesting charity of any reasonable delay. These timeframes are reflective of the changes made in the upcoming committee amendment, which was negotiated and agreed upon by all parties, including the bankers and the our association. LB758 prohibits institutions from requiring the charitable organization to open an account with or establish any other customer relationship. All of this is simply to ensure smooth and timely transfer of property without any necessary hassle. With that, I'll ask for your green vote on the advancement of LB758 and the upcoming committee amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator von Gillern. As the Clerk stated, there is a committee amendment from Judiciary. Senator Bosn, you're recognized to open.

BOSN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. AM2277 is the Judiciary Committee amendment to LB758, which amends Nebraska's probate transfer statute and creates a new affidavit-based procedure allowing certain charitable organizations to obtain nonprobate property or information without opening probate. The amendment retains the structure and purpose of LB758, but makes several targeted changes. The amendment refines the required contents of an affidavit related to the identification of the charitable organization and proof of its tax exempt status. It exempts distributions from a trust or a decedent's estate. Under the amendment, such distributions are not governed by the bill. Instead, they remain subject to the terms of the trust, will, or other applicable law. Fourth, this adds a release provision, discharging a person complying with an affidavit from liability, to the same extent as if they were dealing with a personal representative. Five, it creates a more structured enforcement trigger. Section 5, it creates a more structured enforcement trigger. The charitable organization may bring an action against the holder of an interest in property or the person with information about the property, if the holder or person: (1) doesn't pay, deliver, or transfer the interest in property within 45 days of receiving the affidavit; or (2) does not respond in writing to provide the information requested within 30 days of receiving the affidavit; and (3) does inform the requesting party within 30 days of receiving the affidavit of a reasonable delay or inability to comply. The amendment defines reasonable delay to include transfers subject to court order and situations where compliance would violate specified federal banking statutes or SEC self-regulatory rules. The introduced bill created a cause of action for failure to comply with an affidavit within 30 days, and also provided for court costs, attorney's fees, and a civil penalty. This also exempts insurance com-- entities from the bill. And finally, the amendment adds a new Section 3 and 4, which adds cross references to the sections governing motor vehicle title transfers. This makes it clear to county officials that they can accept the new affidavit method when transferring vehicle title. Colleagues, AM2277 is the product of negotiations between the stakeholders, and I believe that it represents a reasonable compromise to improve the way these property transfers occur. I ask for your support to AM2277 to LB758. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Bosn. Senator DeKay would like to recognize some guests under the north balcony. They are Julie and Brady Heimes from Wynot, Nebraska. Please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Bosn, you're recognized to close and waive closing. Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2277. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: AM2277 is adopted. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator von Gillern, you're recognized to close.

von GILLERN: Thank you, Mr. President. Just wanted to thank Senator Bosn and the members of the Judiciary Committee for their help in getting this thing right. And I ask for your green vote on LB758. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator von Gillern. The-- Senators, the question is the advancement of LB758 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB758 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk, items for the record.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. An announcement, the Business and Labor Committee will have an exec session at 11:30 in room 2022. Business and Labor, 2022, at 11:30. Additionally, your Committee on Judiciary, chaired by Senator Bosn, reports LB785, LB983 to General File, LB785 having E&-- committee amendments. Your Committee on Education, chaired by Senator Murman, reports LB599 to General File, and LB960 to General File, both having committee amendments. Mr. President, additionally, notice of committee hearing for the Agriculture Committee. Senator DeKay, I have-- that would introduce-- excuse me. Amendment, amendment to be printed from Senator DeKay, AM2503; Senator Quick, FA1053 to LB1219; and a notice of committee hearing from the Health and Human Services Committee. That's all I have at this time.

KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Please proceed to the next item on the agenda.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, Legislative Bill 1236, introduced by the Executive Board. It's a bill for an act relating to the Legislature; changes provisions relating to the publication, printing, and distribution of the Legislative Journal, the session laws, and the statutes of Nebraska; harmonizes provisions; repeals the original section. The bill was read for the first time on January 21 of this year and referred to the Executive Board. That committee placed the bill on General File, with committee amendments, Mr. President.

KELLY: Senator Hansen, you're recognized to open.

HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I rise to open on the Executive Board's LB1236, and I thank the Speaker for making this a priority bill. This legislation is a housekeeping measure designed to update and harmonize Nebraska statutes governing the compilation, publication, printing, and distribution of the Legislative Journal, session laws, and statutes of Nebraska. Currently, these responsibilities, responsibilities are spread across multiple entities, including the Secretary of State and the Supreme Court, which can lead to inefficiencies in workflow and oversight. LB1236 proposes to centralize these duties, primarily under the Clerk of the Legislature, who is best positioned to manage legislative documents, given their direct involvement in the legislative process. By consolidating these functions within the legislative branch, the bill aims to improve efficiency, reduce administrative burdens on other branches of government, and ensure timely access to legislative materials for public officials, libraries, and the public in general. Key changes include allowing publication in print, electronic, or both formats, shifting distribution responsibilities to the Clerk, and changing mandatory fixed numbers of copies to up to certain amounts provided upon request, which promotes flexibility and reduces unnecessary printing. The Executive Board held a hearing on LB1236 on February 11, 2026, hearing neutral testimony from the Revisor of Statutes Office and the Clerk, Clerk of the Legislature. After careful consideration, the committee advanced the bill to General File with amendments on a unanimous 9-0 vote. And with that, Mr. President, with your approval, I would like to open up on the committee amendment.

KELLY: As the Clerk stated, there is a committee amendment. Senator Hansen, you have 10 minutes.

HANSEN: Thank you. AM2143 strikes the original sections and inserts new language to fully implement the updates. It authorizes the Clerk of, of the Legislature to distribute the session laws, journal, and statutes in print or electronic formats or both. It requires the Clerk to compile and publish the session laws and Journal after each regular session, including laws from any intervening special sessions and a certified copy of the Nebraska Constitution. Members of the Legislature will receive one copy each, with a second available upon request. The Revisor of Statutes will oversee printing of the statutes in consolidation-- consultation with the policy set by the Executive Board, and the Clerk will handle distribution to the judges, county officers, state agencies, libraries, and others as outlined in that policy, using the most expeditious and economic means. The amendment also allows any person to request printed copies for a fee covering costs, and transfers administration of the Nebraska Statutes Distribution Cash Fund to the Legislature. Additionally, it harmonizes related statutes by updating references and removing outdated provisions involving the Secretary of State and the Supreme Court. Regarding the fiscal impact, the note suggests some possible savings beginning in fiscal year 2026, but it assumes that everyone will-- currently receiving printed materials will request them under their new system. So in essence, colleagues, this has the ability to save the Legislature up to $300,000 a year, if more people go to a digital format versus a printed format. LB1236 is a straightforward update that modernizes our processes, enhances efficiency, and saves taxpayer dollars, without compromising access to important legislative documents. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senat-- and you-- Senator Hansen waives closing. Senators, the question is the adoption of AM2143. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendment, Mr. President.

KELLY: AM2143 is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hansen, I have AM1983 with a note you'd withdraw.

KELLY: So ordered.

CLERK: In that case. Mr. President, I have nothing further on the bill.

KELLY: Senator Hansen, you're recognized to close on the bill.

HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, colleagues, appreciate your vote on the, on the bill here. Again, we're just trying to modernize some of our systems here, when it comes to printing materials versus digitizing materials, which has the ability to save the taxpayer quite a bit of money. So thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Members, the question is the advancement of LB1236 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB1236 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, LB787, introduced by Senator Sanders. It's a bill for an act relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs; changes the membership of the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs; changes when a report is required; eliminates provisions related to a lease agreement for a veterans home and provisions regarding utility services; repeals the original section; outright repeals Section 80-328 and 80-330. The bill was read for the first time on January 7 of this year and referred to the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File.

KELLY: Senator Sanders, you're recognized to open.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I introduce LB787 at the request of the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill has 3 main things. First, it updates the statute that defines the membership of the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs. This commission is composed of state officials, Nebraska residents from each congressional district, and a number of nonvoting, ex-officio members. This bill would update the military commanders on the list of ex-officio members. We currently have the commanders of U.S. Stratcom, the 55th Wing, and the 55th [SIC] Weather Wing on that list. LB787 would add the commanders of the 95th Wing and the 90th Missile Wing. It would also add the Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the Department of Defense Service Secretary for Nebraska, and the commander of any future wing or military headquarters positioned or established in Nebraska. These additional members do not have any decision-making authority in our state commission, but they have critical resources or information on defense activities that have a tremendous economic impact on Nebraska. Having these leaders at the table when the commission meets will facilitate cooperation between Nebraska and our federal partners, and allow the voting members of the commission to make better informed decisions. Next, LB787 would eliminate any annual report require-- requirements for the commission and allow them to issue reports when they deem it is appropriate or when requested by the Governor. The current annual report requirement is a summary of military assets of Nebraska and their economic impact on the state. This information does not currently change frequently enough to warrant an annual report. Three, finally, LB787 would repeal 2 sections of obsolete, obsolete statute relating to a lease agreement for a veterans home 30 years ago in Douglas County. I believe this bill is a simple cleanup for the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, and I am grateful for Director John Hilgert for bringing these items to our attention. There was no opposition to the bill at our committee hearing, and the Government Committee advanced the bill 8-0-- on an 8-0 vote. The bill has no fiscal impact. Colleagues, I would ask you to vote green on LB787. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close. Senator Sanders-- and waives closing. Senators, the question is the advancement of LB787 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

KELLY: LB787 is advanced to E&R Initial. Speaker Arch, you're recognized for an announcement.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to give you a little bit of a end of the week and, and a preview of the next couple of weeks, as far as bill scheduling. First of all, thank you very much for today, getting through the agenda very expeditiously, and appreciate the debate and the thought that was-- that went into today. But before I leave, I do want to talk to you a bit about the next couple of weeks. So we obviously were in the middle of addressing the budget. And next week, we will take up the budget bills on Select File, but I don't expect that to occur until probably midweek. The bills need to be reviewed by both the Revisor's Office and the Fiscal Office before the next stage of debate. And additionally, the Appropriations Committee that is meeting right now, to finalize-- need-- they need to finalize a Select File amendment, and I do not expect that to be ready until Wednesday or Thursday. So we'll need to advance both of the budget bills off of Select File before we leave next week, in order to have the bills ready to be read on Final Reading by Day 50, as required by our rules. Before we begin our second stage of debate on the budget, we will take up some of our other priority bills, and I'm in the process of identifying those bills that we-- that will be scheduled first. Also, bills which have a positive impact on the General Fund will continue to be scheduled. Some of those have advanced to Select File, and I hope to schedule the Select File debate of those bills in the next 2 weeks, as the other budget bills also move through. I do plan to schedule our first small consent calendar on Tuesday, and a reminder that the deadline to have a bill considered for this first consent calendar, a request letter needs to be hand-delivered to my office by 4 p.m. today. We have a number of bills on Select File. I hope to address as many of those as we can during the next 2 weeks. I can guarantee, however, and this-- here comes the bad news. I can, I can guarantee we're not going to have time to debate all the priority bills designated this year. My goal is to schedule as many of those bills as time permits. How members utilize the floor time in front of us, it will impact how many of the priority bills we will be able to consider. What I'm, what I'm watching right now, is I'm watching amendments being added to bills that have-- that are ready to be scheduled. And attaching bills via amendment onto one of the scheduled priority bills needs to be carefully considered if the amend-- if the amendment is controversial. Available floor time is limited. Discussions that can be held off the floor to work out differences prior to floor debate will allow us to accomplish more this session. Here's the number. We have, we have 14 days of General File and Select File for those bills remaining. Now, we're going to start evenings next week, on, on Wednesday. And when you add the hours of those days, there are on-- it's an-- only an 8 1/2 hour day. That's one bill, if it goes 8 hours, and we only have 14 days left for all General and all Select. So that's the challenge, that's the challenge that we have in front of us. The other days remaining in the session include Final Reading, a layover day, and a day of Final Reading. Our priority must continue to be passing a balanced budget, which will entail passing both of the budget bills. We have a little bit of time in this next couple of weeks because we only have 2 budget bills. Most of the time, in our, in our first session of the, of the biennium, we'll have 5 budget bills, so we only have 2, plus our, plus our claims bill, so all the-- all those bills and, and of course, the revenue bills, that could impact the General Fund. So as I mentioned, a reminder, we begin late nights next Wednesday. And obviously, this is when we start sprinting to the finish and we get pretty tired. So we have a four-day weekend here, and encourage you all to rest up and, and get ready for next week. What is happening right now, because we're ending a little bit early today, there was-- there is a bill that is, that is going to be, that is going to be filed here shortly. And I'd like to see that filed so that I can have some consideration of scheduling for next week. So I'm going to, I'm going to put the, the Legislature at ease, right now, while we wait for that bill to come up. And I understand it's on its way, so it'll just be a few minutes before we have a formal adjournment. Thank you, Mr. President.

KELLY: Thank you, Speaker Arch.

[AT EASE]

KELLY: Mr. Clerk, for items.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Your Committee on Education, chaired by Senator Murman, reports LB1216 to General File, with committee amendments. Additionally, notice that the Government Committee will have an executive session Thursday, March 12, at 2:00 in room 2022. Today, at 2:00, room 2022, Government Committee, executive session. Mr. President, Senator Conrad, name add to LB1205. And-- and an amendment to be printed from Senator Clements and Senator-- finally, a priority motion, Senator Hunt would move to adjourn the body until Tuesday, March 17, at 9:00 a.m.

KELLY: Senators, the question is the motion to adjourn. All those in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say nay. The Legislature is adjourned.