

**THIRTY-FIRST DAY - FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

**LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL**

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION**

**THIRTY-FIRST DAY**

Legislative Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Monday, February 24, 2025

**PRAYER**

The prayer was offered by Father Ryan Lewis, St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, Omaha.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Senator Wordekemper.

**ROLL CALL**

Pursuant to adjournment, the Legislature met at 10:00 a.m., President Kelly presiding.

The roll was called and all members were present except Senators Bostar, Dover, Guereca, Hunt, and Spivey who were excused until they arrive.

**CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL**

The Journal for the thirtieth day was approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

Enrollment and Review

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 247.** Placed on Select File.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 396.** Placed on Select File.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 59.** Placed on Final Reading.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 139.** Placed on Final Reading.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 180.** Placed on Final Reading.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 231.** Placed on Final Reading.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 362.** Placed on Final Reading.

(Signed) Dunixi Guereca, Chairperson

## Natural Resources

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 562.** Placed on General File.

(Signed) Tom Brandt, Chairperson

**RESOLUTION(S)**

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 49.** Introduced by Arch, 14.

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2025, the NEBRASKAland Foundation will present the NEBRASKAland Award, recognizing Nebraskans who have distinguished themselves through innovative business careers or public service, through voluntary leadership with a statewide impact, or through philanthropic contributions significantly benefiting the citizens of the state, to Jerry and Bill Adams at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Jerry and Bill Adams grew up in Broken Bow, Nebraska, and were born with a love of agriculture, especially cattle, and developed their work ethic by milking cows, feeding calves, and farming; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, they returned home to help their father with his growing cattle-feeding and farming operation. Jerry and Bill grew the operation into Adams Land and Cattle with a finishing capacity of one hundred twenty-five thousand head of cattle, a backgrounding network of up to one hundred twenty-five thousand head of cattle in over eighty-five locations, and six thousand acres of farmland; and

WHEREAS, Adams Land and Cattle has been using data, technology, and innovation, since 1951, and more recently artificial intelligence, and has changed the dynamics of cattle feeding utilizing sustainable practices and partnerships with Climate Smart Beef and its software, Revoro; and

WHEREAS, Jerry volunteered and served on the boards of CattleFax Board, Beef Alliance, Kansas City Federal Reserve Agricultural Board, Bellevue University, and Custer Economic Development; formed the Nebraska Beef Producers; co-organized the Beef Alliance; co-founded Full Value Agriculture, a Nebraska Agriculture Sustainability Initiative through Aksarben; and is a Governor of Aksarben; and

WHEREAS, Bill has volunteered his time at Custer Economic Development, the Broken Bow City Council, and Broken Bow Golf Club, and is an engineering mentor both inside and outside Adams Land and Cattle; and

WHEREAS, Bill and Jerry's dedication to agriculture and voluntary leadership with statewide impact earns them well-deserved respect and recognition.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Jerry and Bill Adams as recipients of the distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for their service to the State of Nebraska.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Jerry and Bill Adams.

Laid over.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 50.** Introduced by Arch, 14.

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2025, the NEBRASKAland Foundation will present the NEBRASKAlander Award, recognizing Nebraskans who have distinguished themselves through innovative business careers or public service, through voluntary leadership with a statewide impact, or through philanthropic contributions significantly benefiting the citizens of the state, to Kenneth E. Stinson at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Ken Stinson is the Chairman Emeritus of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc., one of North America's largest and most respected construction and engineering organizations, dating back to 1884, the employee-owned organization operates a network of subsidiaries in the United States, Canada, and Mexico with 2024 revenues of sixteen billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Ken is a 1964 civil engineering graduate of the University of Notre Dame, served two and a half tours in Vietnam as an officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps serving as Company Commander in a Seabee Mobile Construction Battalion, and after his military service, he earned his master's in civil engineering from Stanford University in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Ken joined Kiewit in 1969 as a field engineer on a Bay Area Rapid Transit project, and was subsequently assigned to some of Kiewit's more notable projects. He then moved to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1982 to establish a new private client business development initiative to complement Kiewit's traditional public sector contracting and in subsequent years was later named President and CEO of Kiewit's construction and mining division in 1992 and in 1998, he was named Chairman, President, and CEO of the parent company and retired as CEO in 2005 and chairman in 2013; and

WHEREAS, while working for Kiewit, Ken began taking on leadership roles in a variety of community projects, including chairing the non-profit organization overseeing the transformation of the Aksarben race track to what is now the vibrant Aksarben Village; the planning and designing of the CHI Arena and Convention Center, Lasting Hope Mental Health Recovery Center, and in collaboration with Rhonda Hawks, Charles Schwab College World Series Baseball Stadium, RiverFront Park in partnership with fellow Civic Leader, Mogens Bay, and currently a new comprehensive mental health center for children and adolescents at Children's Nebraska in Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Ken is a trustee emeritus of the University of Notre Dame and civic leader emeritus for the U.S. Air Force Civic Leaders Program, and in the construction industry, he is a member of the National Academy of

Engineering, the National Academy of Construction, and is former chairman of the Construction Industry Round Table; and

WHEREAS, Ken's dedication to innovation in public service and voluntary leadership with a statewide impact earns him well-deserved respect and recognition.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Kenneth E. Stinson as a recipient of the distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for his service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Kenneth E. Stinson.

Laid over.

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 51.** Introduced by Arch, 14.

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2025, the NEBRASKAland Foundation will present the NEBRASKAlander Award, recognizing Nebraskans who have distinguished themselves through innovative business careers or public service, through voluntary leadership with a statewide impact, or through philanthropic contributions significantly benefiting the citizens of the state, to Dave Heineman and Sally Ganem at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, former Governor Dave Heineman is Nebraska's longest serving Governor from January 2005 to January 2015, was elected to his first full term on November 7, 2006, and re-elected on November 2, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Dave worked with the Nebraska Legislature to pass two of the largest tax relief packages in Nebraska history, was a strong supporter of education, helped open Nebraska's first international trade office in Tokyo, Japan, and secured several trade agreements for Nebraska agriculture products; and

WHEREAS, Dave is currently the Chair of the Fremont Municipal Inland Port Authority and serves on the Advisory Board of the Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows, which provides political leaders from across the country with the knowledge they need to cultivate smart and effective education agendas; and

WHEREAS, Dave is a native Nebraskan, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, served five years in the United States Army, rose to the rank of captain, and graduated from the Army's Airborne and Ranger schools; and

WHEREAS, Former First Lady Sally Ganem was an elementary school teacher and principal for over thirty years in the Fremont and Gretna public schools; and

WHEREAS, Sally received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and received their Outstanding UNO Alumni Award in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Sally currently serves on the Fremont City Council, the Uniquely Yours Board of Directors, the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District as the treasurer, the Keene Memorial Library Board of Directors as the Fremont City Council liaison, Keep Fremont Beautiful board, and Ridge Cemetery Board and has been active in many local, state, and national organizations, including MADD, Serve Nebraska, United Way, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters; and

WHEREAS, former Governor Dave Heineman and former First Lady Sally Ganem's dedication to their community and their voluntary leadership with a statewide impact earns them well-deserved respect and recognition.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates Dave Heineman and Sally Ganem as recipients of the distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for their service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Dave Heineman and Sally Ganem.

Laid over.

### **RESOLUTION(S)**

Pursuant to Rule 4, Sec. 5(b), LRs 46 and 47 were adopted.

### **PRESIDENT SIGNED**

While the Legislature was in session and capable of transacting business, the President signed the following: LRs 46 and 47.

### **GENERAL FILE**

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 296A.** Title read. Considered.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 41 ayes, 1 nay, 3 present and not voting, and 4 excused and not voting.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 609A.** Title read. Considered.

Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with 40 ayes, 0 nays, 5 present and not voting, and 4 excused and not voting.

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 31.** Senator Conrad renewed [AM358](#), found and considered on page 563.

Senator von Gillern moved for a call of the house. The motion prevailed with 37 ayes, 0 nays, and 12 not voting.

The Conrad amendment lost with 16 ayes, 27 nays, 4 present and not voting, and 2 excused and not voting.

The Chair declared the call raised.

Senator Hallstrom offered [AM345](#), found on page 567.

Pending.

### COMMITTEE REPORT(S) Education

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 625.** Placed on General File with amendment.

#### [AM108](#)

1 1. On page 2, line 1, strike "Revenue" and insert "Administrative  
2 Services"; and strike beginning with "Tax" in line 6 through  
3 "Commissioner" in line 7 and insert "budget administrator of the budget  
4 division of the Department of Administrative Services".

(Signed) Dave Murman, Chairperson

### AMENDMENT(S) - Print in Journal

Senator McKinney filed the following amendment to [LB289](#):

#### [AM309](#)

1 1. Strike original section 3 and insert the following new section:  
2 Sec. 3. (1) Pursuant to petitions filed or a vote of the village  
3 board of trustees under subsection (2) of this section, the registered  
4 voters in any village may vote at any statewide general election as to  
5 whether the village board of trustees shall consist of three or five  
6 members. Upon the completion of the canvass by the county canvassing  
7 board, the proposition shall be decided and, if the number of members is:  
8 (a) Increased from three to five members, vacancies shall be deemed  
9 to exist and the procedures set forth in sections 32-568 and 32-569 shall  
10 be followed; or  
11 (b) Decreased from five to three members, the procedures set forth  
12 in section 17-202 shall be followed.  
13 (2)(a) A registered voter of a village may file a petition or  
14 petitions for the submission of the question regarding the number of  
15 members on the village board of trustees. The petition or petitions shall  
16 be signed by registered voters equal in number to at least five percent  
17 of the electors registered to vote in the village at the preceding  
18 statewide general election. The petitions shall conform with the  
19 requirements of section 32-628 and be procured from the village clerk  
20 with assistance from the election commissioner or county clerk. The  
21 petitions shall be filed with the election commissioner or county clerk  
22 not less than seventy days prior to the date of the general election. No  
23 signatures shall be added or removed from the petitions after they have  
24 been filed. Petitions shall be verified as provided in section 32-631.  
25 (b) A village board of trustees may, by majority vote of all  
26 members, adopt a resolution for the submission of the question regarding  
27 the number of members on the village board. The resolution shall be filed  
1 with the election commissioner or county clerk not less than seventy days  
2 prior to the date of the general election.  
3 (3) If the resolution is so filed or the petition or petitions are  
4 found to contain the required number of valid signatures, the election  
5 commissioner or county clerk shall cause the question to be submitted to

6 the voters of the village at such statewide general election and give  
 7 notice thereof in the general notice of such election. The form of the  
 8 ballot shall be respectively: For three members of the village board of  
 9 trustees or for five members of the village board; and the same shall be  
 10 printed upon the regular ballots cast for officers voted for at such  
 11 election and shall be counted and canvassed in the same manner.  
 12 (4) If a majority of votes cast at the election favor the  
 13 proposition for three members of the village board of trustees,  
 14 thereafter the village shall have three members, and if a majority of the  
 15 ballots cast at the election favor the proposition for five members of  
 16 the village board, thereafter the village shall have five members.

Senator M. Cavanaugh filed the following amendment to LB14:  
AM321

1 1. Insert the following new section:  
 2 Sec. 6. The department may grant a waiver of the requirement under  
 3 subdivision (3) of section 4 of this act to a qualified school if (1) the  
 4 school lacks facilities, equipment, or staff to offer a school breakfast  
 5 program and acquisition of such facilities, equipment, or staff would  
 6 cause extreme hardship to the school or (2) the number of participants in  
 7 the school breakfast program is so small that the program is not cost-  
 8 effective or would create substantial scheduling difficulties. The waiver  
 9 may be permanent or for a specified length of time as determined by the  
 10 department.  
 11 2. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.

### NOTICE OF COMMITTEE HEARING(S)

Education  
 Room 1525 1:30 PM

Monday, March 3, 2025

LB528  
 LB550  
 LB497  
 LB142  
 LB572

(Signed) Dave Murman, Chairperson

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
 Room 1507 1:30 PM

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

LB586  
 LB541

This hearing will operate under annotated committee guidelines.

Room 1507 1:30 PM

Thursday, March 6, 2025

LB414  
 LB696  
 LB434

(Signed) Rita Sanders, Chairperson

Business and Labor  
Room 1510 1:30 PM

Monday, March 10, 2025

LB361  
LB522  
LB400  
LB455  
LB456  
LB313  
LB617

Room 1510 1:30 PM

Monday, March 17, 2025

LB189  
LB370  
LB336  
LB534  
LB618

(Signed) Kathleen Kauth, Chairperson

#### **REFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Legislative Council Executive Board submits the following report:

Roskens, Lisa - Game and Parks Commission - Natural Resources

(Signed) Ben Hansen, Chairperson  
Executive Board

#### **RESOLUTION(S)**

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 52.** Introduced by Hughes, 24.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Academic Decathlon State Championship was held on February 15, 2025, at Bellevue University in Omaha, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Academic Decathlon is a series of online and in-person tests in economics, literature, math, language arts and social science, additionally, the students were required to present a speech, have a personal interview, and write an essay including the State Championship's special theme "Our Changing Climate"; and

WHEREAS, Seward High School competed in the Medium School Division and won the State Championship, beating six other schools; and

WHEREAS, the Seward High School Academic Decathlon team includes Nathan Shafer, Abigayil Wunderlich, Elizabeth Pracheil, Lukas Howe, Liam



Krahulik, David Shiner, Jack Schulz, Connor Sveeggen, Lincoln Stockwell, Dylan Hochstein, Kyla Novak, and Nathan Weber; and

WHEREAS, Seward High School received twenty-two medals total, including one for Jack Schulz for being the top team scorer; and

WHEREAS, such a team achievement is made possible through the support of teachers, administrators, parents, and the community; and

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

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the Seward High School Academic Decathlon team on earning the State Championship in the Medium School Division.

2. That copies of this resolution be sent to the Seward High School Academic Decathlon team and Coach Noelle Baker.

Laid over.

#### **UNANIMOUS CONSENT - Add Cointroducer(s)**

Unanimous consent to add Senator(s) as cointroducer(s). No objections. So ordered.

Senator Andersen name added to LB143.

Senator Hansen name added to LB512.

Senator McKinney name added to LR48.

#### **VISITOR(S)**

Visitors to the Chamber were Angela Dye, Washington; Tanya Christensen, Elkhorn; Tracy Zahn, Syracuse; Shari Anderson, Lincoln; members of Groundwork with the Nebraska Cooperative Council; Leadership Hastings; Robert Navarro, Atlanta, GA.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:54 a.m., on a motion by Senator Fredrickson, the Legislature adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

Brandon Metzler  
Clerk of the Legislature

