

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 287

FINAL READING

Introduced by Urban Affairs Committee: McKinney, 11, Chairperson;
Cavanaugh, J., 9; Clouse, 37; Quick, 35; Rountree, 3;
Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13.

Read first time January 15, 2025

Committee: Urban Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to political subdivisions; to amend section
2 31-752, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 14-102,
3 31-735, 71-1572, and 71-15,169, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2024; to provide powers to cities of the metropolitan
5 class to regulate housing authorities by ordinance; to change
6 provisions relating to the election of a board of trustees and
7 assessments for sanitary and improvement districts; to provide
8 duties for certain housing agencies relating to bed bugs under the
9 Nebraska Housing Agency Act; to require a report for certain housing
10 agencies; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; to
11 repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.
12 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 14-102, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2024, is amended to read:

3 14-102 In addition to the powers granted in section 14-101, cities
4 of the metropolitan class shall have power by ordinance:

5 (1) To levy any tax or special assessment authorized by law;

6 (2) To provide a corporate seal for the use of the city, and also
7 any official seal for the use of any officer, board, or agent of the
8 city, whose duties require an official seal to be used. Such corporate
9 seal shall be used in the execution of municipal bonds, warrants,
10 conveyances, and other instruments and proceedings as required by law;

11 (3) To provide all needful rules and regulations for the protection
12 and preservation of health within the city, including providing for the
13 enforcement of the use of water from public water supplies when the use
14 of water from other sources shall be deemed unsafe;

15 (4) To appropriate money and provide for the payment of debts and
16 expenses of the city;

17 (5) To adopt all such measures as may be deemed necessary for the
18 accommodation and protection of strangers and the traveling public in
19 person and property;

20 (6) To punish and prevent the discharge of firearms, fireworks, or
21 explosives of any description within the city, other than the discharge
22 of firearms at a shooting range pursuant to the Nebraska Shooting Range
23 Protection Act;

24 (7) To regulate the inspection and sale of meats, flour, poultry,
25 fish, milk, vegetables, and all other provisions or articles of food
26 exposed or offered for sale in the city;

27 (8) To require all elected or appointed officers to give bond and
28 security for the faithful performance of their duties, except that no
29 officer shall become bonded and secured upon the official bond of another
30 or upon any bond executed to the city;

31 (9) To require from any officer of the city at any time a report, in

1 detail, of the transactions of his or her office or any matter connected
2 with such office;

3 (10) To provide for the prevention of cruelty to children and
4 animals;

5 (11) To regulate, license, or prohibit the running at large of dogs
6 and other animals within the city as well as in areas within the
7 extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of the city; to guard against
8 injuries or annoyance from such dogs and other animals; and to authorize
9 the destruction of such dogs and other animals when running at large
10 contrary to the provisions of any ordinance. Any licensing provision
11 shall comply with subsection (2) of section 54-603 for service animals;

12 (12) To provide for keeping sidewalks clean and free from
13 obstructions and accumulations; to provide for the assessment and
14 collection of taxes on real estate and for the sale and conveyance
15 thereof; and to pay the expenses of keeping the sidewalk adjacent to such
16 real estate clean and free from obstructions and accumulations as
17 provided by law;

18 (13) To provide for the planting and protection of shade or
19 ornamental and useful trees upon streets or boulevards; to assess the
20 cost of such trees to the extent of benefits upon the abutting property
21 as a special assessment; to provide for the protection of birds and
22 animals and their nests; to provide for the trimming of trees located
23 upon streets and boulevards or when the branches of trees overhang
24 streets and boulevards when in the judgment of the mayor and city council
25 such trimming is made necessary to properly light such street or
26 boulevard or to furnish proper police protection; and to assess the cost
27 of such trimming upon the abutting property as a special assessment;

28 (14) To provide for, regulate, and require the numbering or
29 renumbering of houses along public streets or avenues; and to care for
30 and control and to name and rename streets, avenues, parks, and squares
31 within the city;

1 (15) To require weeds and worthless vegetation growing upon any lot
2 or piece of ground within the city or its extraterritorial zoning
3 jurisdiction to be cut and destroyed so as to abate any nuisance
4 occasioned by such vegetation; to prohibit and control the throwing,
5 depositing, or accumulation of litter on any lot or piece of ground
6 within the city or its extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction; to require
7 the removal of such litter so as to abate any nuisance occasioned
8 thereby. If the owner fails to cut and destroy weeds and worthless
9 vegetation or remove litter, or both, after notice as required by
10 ordinance, the city may assess the cost of such destruction or removal
11 upon the lots or lands as a special assessment. The required notice may
12 be by publication in the official newspaper of the city and may be
13 directed in general terms to the owners of lots and lands affected
14 without naming such owners;

15 (16) To prohibit and regulate the running at large or the herding or
16 driving of domestic animals, such as hogs, cattle, horses, sheep, goats,
17 fowls, or animals of any kind or description within the corporate limits;
18 to provide for the impounding of all animals running at large, herded, or
19 driven contrary to such prohibition and regulations; and to provide for
20 the forfeiture and sale of animals impounded to pay the expense of taking
21 up, caring for, and selling such impounded animals, including the cost of
22 advertising and fees of officers;

23 (17) To regulate the transportation of articles through the streets
24 and to prevent injuries to the streets from overloaded vehicles;

25 (18) To prevent or regulate any amusement or practice having a
26 tendency to annoy persons passing in the streets or on the sidewalks; and
27 to regulate the use of vehicles propelled by steam, gas, electricity, or
28 other motive power, operated on the streets of the city;

29 (19) To regulate or prohibit the transportation and keeping of
30 gunpowder, oils, and other combustible and explosive articles;

31 (20) To regulate, license, or prohibit the sale of domestic animals

1 or of goods, wares, and merchandise at public auction on the streets,
2 alleys, highways, or any public ground within the city;

3 (21) To regulate and prevent the use of streets, sidewalks, and
4 public grounds for signs, posts, awnings, awning posts, scales, or other
5 like purposes; and to regulate and prohibit the exhibition or carrying or
6 conveying of banners, placards, advertisements, or the distribution or
7 posting of advertisements or handbills in the streets or public grounds
8 or upon the sidewalks;

9 (22) To provide for the punishment of persons disturbing the peace
10 by noise, intoxication, drunkenness, or fighting, or otherwise violating
11 the public peace by indecent or disorderly conduct or by lewd and
12 lascivious behavior;

13 (23) To provide for the punishment of vagrants, tramps, street
14 beggars, prostitutes, disturbers of the peace, pickpockets, gamblers,
15 burglars, thieves, persons who practice any game, trick, or device with
16 intent to swindle, and trespassers upon private property;

17 (24) To prohibit, restrain, and suppress houses of prostitution,
18 opium joints, gambling houses, prize fighting, dog fighting, cock
19 fighting, and other disorderly houses and practices, all games and
20 gambling, and all kinds of indecencies; to regulate and license or
21 prohibit the keeping and use of billiard tables, bowling alleys, shooting
22 galleries except as provided in the Nebraska Shooting Range Protection
23 Act, and other similar places of amusement; and to prohibit and suppress
24 all lotteries and gift enterprises of all kinds under whatsoever name
25 carried on, except that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to
26 apply to bingo, lotteries, lotteries by the sale of pickle cards, or
27 raffles conducted in accordance with the Nebraska Bingo Act, the Nebraska
28 Lottery and Raffle Act, the Nebraska Pickle Card Lottery Act, the
29 Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle Act, or the State Lottery Act;

30 (25) To make and enforce all police regulations for the good
31 government, general welfare, health, safety, and security of the city and

1 the citizens of the city in addition to the police powers expressly
2 granted by law; in the exercise of the police power, to pass all needful
3 and proper ordinances and impose fines, forfeitures, and penalties for
4 the violation of any ordinance; to provide for the recovery, collection,
5 and enforcement of such fines; and in default of payment to provide for
6 confinement in the city or county prison or other place of confinement as
7 may be provided by ordinance;

8 (26) To prevent immoderate driving on the street;

9 (27) To establish and maintain public libraries, art galleries, and
10 museums and to provide the necessary grounds or buildings for such
11 libraries, galleries, and museums; to purchase books, papers, maps,
12 manuscripts, works of art, and objects of natural or of scientific
13 curiosity and instruction for such libraries, galleries, and museums; to
14 receive donations and bequests of money or property for such libraries,
15 galleries, and museums in trust or otherwise; and to pass necessary
16 bylaws and regulations for the protection and government of such
17 libraries, art galleries, and museums;

18 (28) To erect, designate, establish, maintain, and regulate
19 hospitals, houses of correction, jails, station houses, fire engine
20 houses, asphalt repair plants, and other necessary buildings; to erect,
21 designate, establish, maintain, and regulate plants for the removal,
22 disposal, or recycling of garbage and refuse or to make contracts for
23 garbage and refuse removal, disposal, or recycling, or all of the same;
24 and to charge equitable fees for such removal, disposal, or recycling, or
25 all of the same, except as provided by law. The fees collected pursuant
26 to this subdivision shall be credited to a single fund to be used
27 exclusively by the city for the removal, disposal, or recycling of
28 garbage and refuse, or all of the same, including any costs incurred for
29 collecting the fee. Before any contract for such removal, disposal, or
30 recycling is let, the city council shall make specifications for such
31 contract, bids shall be advertised for as now provided by law, and the

1 contract shall be let to the lowest and best bidder, who shall furnish
2 bond to the city conditioned upon his or her carrying out the terms of
3 the contract, the bond to be approved by the city council. Nothing in
4 this section, and no contract or regulation made by the city council,
5 shall be so construed as to prohibit any person, firm, or corporation
6 engaged in any business in which garbage or refuse accumulates as a
7 byproduct from selling, recycling, or otherwise disposing of his, her, or
8 its garbage or refuse or hauling such garbage or refuse through the
9 streets and alleys under such uniform and reasonable regulations as the
10 city council may by ordinance prescribe for the removal and hauling of
11 garbage or refuse;

12 (29) To erect and establish market houses and market places and to
13 provide for the erection of all other useful and necessary buildings for
14 the use of the city and for the protection and safety of all property
15 owned by the city. Such market houses, market places, and buildings may
16 be located on any street, alley, or public ground or on land purchased
17 for such purpose;

18 (30) To prohibit the establishment of additional cemeteries within
19 the limits of the city; to regulate the registration of births and
20 deaths; to direct the keeping and returning of bills of mortality; and to
21 impose penalties on physicians, sextons, and others for any default in
22 the premises;

23 (31) To provide for the inspection of steam boilers, electric light
24 appliances, pipefittings, and plumbings; to regulate their erection and
25 construction; to appoint inspectors; and to declare their powers and
26 duties, except as otherwise provided by law;

27 (32) To enact a fire code and regulate the erection of all buildings
28 and other structures within the corporate limits; to provide for the
29 removal of any buildings or structures or additions to buildings or
30 structures erected contrary to such code or regulations and to provide
31 for the removal of dangerous buildings; but no such code or regulation

1 shall be suspended or modified by resolution, nor shall exceptions be
2 made by ordinance or resolution in favor of any person, firm, or
3 corporation or concerning any particular lot or building; to direct that
4 when any building has been damaged by fire, decay, or otherwise, to the
5 extent of fifty percent of the value of a similar new building above the
6 foundation, shall be torn down or removed; to prescribe the manner of
7 ascertaining such damages and to assess the cost of removal of any
8 building erected or existing contrary to such code or regulations against
9 the lot or real estate upon which such building or structure is located
10 or shall be erected or to collect such costs from the owner of any such
11 building or structure; and to enforce the collection of such costs by
12 civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction;

13 (33) To regulate the construction, use, and maintenance of party
14 walls, to prescribe and regulate the thickness, strength, and manner of
15 constructing stone, brick, wood, or other buildings and the size and
16 shape of brick and other material placed in such buildings; to prescribe
17 and regulate the construction and arrangement of fire escapes and the
18 placing of iron and metallic shutters and doors in or on such fire
19 escapes; to provide for the inspection of elevators; to prescribe,
20 regulate, and provide for the inspection of all plumbing, pipefitting, or
21 sewer connections in all houses or buildings now or hereafter erected; to
22 regulate the size, number, and manner of construction of halls, doors,
23 stairways, seats, aisles, and passageways of theaters and buildings of a
24 public character, whether now built or hereafter to be built, so that
25 there may be convenient, safe, and speedy exit in case of fire; to
26 prevent the dangerous construction and condition of chimneys, fireplaces,
27 hearths, stoves, stovepipes, ovens, boilers, and heating appliances used
28 in or about any building and to cause such appliances to be removed or
29 placed in safe condition when they are considered dangerous; to prevent
30 the deposit of ashes in unsafe places and to cause such buildings and
31 enclosures as may be in a dangerous state to be put in a safe condition;

1 to prevent the disposing of and delivery or use in any building or other
2 structure of unsuitable building material within the city limits and
3 provide for the inspection of building materials; to provide for the
4 abatement of dense volumes of smoke; to regulate the construction of
5 areaways, stairways, and vaults and to regulate partition fences; and to
6 enforce proper heating and ventilation of buildings used for schools or
7 other buildings where large numbers of persons are liable to congregate;

8 (34) To regulate levees, depots and depot grounds, and places for
9 storing freight and goods and to provide for and regulate the laying of
10 tracks and the passage of railways through the streets, alleys, and
11 public grounds of the city;

12 (35) To require the lighting of any railway within the city and to
13 fix and determine the number, size, and style of all fixtures and
14 apparatus necessary for such lighting and the points of location for such
15 lampposts. If any company owning or operating such railways shall fail to
16 comply with such requirements, the city council may cause such lighting
17 to be done and may assess the expense of such lighting against such
18 company. Such expense shall constitute a lien upon any real estate
19 belonging to such company and lying within such city and may be collected
20 in the same manner as taxes for general purposes;

21 (36) To provide for necessary publicity and to appropriate money for
22 the purpose of advertising the resources and advantages of the city;

23 (37) To erect, establish, and maintain offstreet parking areas on
24 publicly owned property located beneath any elevated segment of the
25 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways or portion thereof, or
26 public property title to which is in the city on May 12, 1971, or
27 property owned by the city and used in conjunction with and incidental to
28 city-operated facilities; and to regulate parking on such property by
29 time limitation devices or by lease;

30 (38) To acquire, by the exercise of the power of eminent domain or
31 otherwise, lease, purchase, construct, own, maintain, operate, or

1 contract for the operation of public passenger transportation systems,
2 excluding taxicabs, transportation network companies and railroad
3 systems, including all property and facilities required for such public
4 passenger transportation systems, within and without the limits of the
5 city; to redeem such property from prior encumbrance in order to protect
6 or preserve the interest of the city in such property; to exercise all
7 powers granted by the Constitution of Nebraska and laws of the State of
8 Nebraska or exercised by or pursuant to a home rule charter adopted
9 pursuant thereto, including, but not limited to, receiving and accepting
10 from the government of the United States or any agency thereof, from the
11 State of Nebraska or any subdivision thereof, and from any person or
12 corporation donations, devises, gifts, bequests, loans, or grants for or
13 in aid of the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of such public
14 passenger transportation systems; to administer, hold, use, and apply
15 such donations, devises, gifts, bequests, loans, or grants for the
16 purposes for which such donations, devises, gifts, bequests, loans, or
17 grants may have been made; to negotiate with employees and enter into
18 contracts of employment; to employ by contract or otherwise individuals
19 singularly or collectively; to enter into agreements authorized under the
20 Interlocal Cooperation Act or the Joint Public Agency Act; to contract
21 with an operating and management company for the purpose of operating,
22 servicing, and maintaining any public passenger transportation systems
23 the city shall acquire; and to exercise such other and further powers as
24 may be necessary, incident, or appropriate to the powers of the city; and
25 (39) In addition to powers conferred elsewhere in the laws of the
26 state, to implement and enforce an air pollution control program within
27 the corporate limits of the city under subdivision (23) of section
28 81-1504 or subsection (1) of section 81-1528, which program shall be
29 consistent with the federal Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et
30 seq. Such powers shall include without limitation those involving
31 injunctive relief, civil penalties, criminal fines, and burden of proof.

1 Nothing in this section shall preclude the control of air pollution by
2 resolution, ordinance, or regulation not in actual conflict with state
3 air pollution control regulations; and -

4 (40) To require any housing authority in a city of the metropolitan
5 class to comply with any city rental inspection and registration
6 ordinance, code enforcement, and inspection of residential rental
7 properties.

8 **Sec. 2.** Section 31-735, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
9 2024, is amended to read:

10 31-735 (1) On the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September
11 which is at least fifteen months after the judgment of the district court
12 creating a sanitary and improvement district and on the first Tuesday
13 after the second Monday in September each two years thereafter, the board
14 of trustees shall cause a special election to be held, at which election
15 a board of trustees shall be elected. The board of trustees shall have
16 five members except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. Each
17 member elected to the board of trustees shall be elected to a term of two
18 years and shall hold office until such member's successor is elected and
19 qualified. Any person desiring to file for the office of trustee may file
20 for such office with the election commissioner, or county clerk in
21 counties having no election commissioner, of the county in which the
22 greater proportion in area of the district is located not later than
23 fifty days before the election. If such person will serve on the board of
24 trustees as a designated representative of a limited partnership, general
25 partnership, limited liability company, public, private, or municipal
26 corporation, estate, or trust which owns real estate in the district, the
27 filing shall indicate that fact and shall include appropriate
28 documentation evidencing such fact. No filing fee shall be required. A
29 person filing for the office of trustee to be elected at the election
30 held four years after the first election of trustees and each election
31 thereafter shall designate whether such person is a candidate for

1 election by the resident owners of such district or a candidate for
2 election by all of the owners of real estate located in the district. If
3 a person filing for the office of trustee is a designated representative
4 of a limited partnership, a general partnership, a limited liability
5 company, a public, private, or municipal corporation, an estate, or a
6 trust which owns real estate in the district, the name of such entity
7 shall accompany the name of the candidate on the ballot in the following
8 form: (Name of candidate) to represent (name of entity) as a member of
9 the board. The name of each candidate shall appear on only one ballot.

10 The name of a person may be written in and voted for as a candidate
11 for the office of trustee, and such write-in candidate may be elected to
12 the office of trustee. A write-in candidate for the office of trustee who
13 will serve as a designated representative of a limited partnership, a
14 general partnership, a limited liability company, a public, private, or
15 municipal corporation, an estate, or a trust which owns real estate in
16 the district shall not be elected to the office of trustee unless (a)
17 each vote is accompanied by the name of the entity which the candidate
18 will represent and (b) within ten days after the date of the election the
19 candidate provides the election commissioner or county clerk with
20 appropriate documentation evidencing the candidate's representation of
21 the entity. Votes cast which do not carry such accompanying designation
22 shall not be counted.

23 A trustee shall be an owner of real estate located in the district
24 or shall be a person designated to serve as a representative on the board
25 of trustees if the real estate is owned by a limited partnership, a
26 general partnership, a limited liability company, a public, private, or
27 municipal corporation, an estate, or a trust. Notice of the date of the
28 election shall be mailed by the clerk of the district not later than
29 sixty-five days prior to the election to each person who is entitled to
30 vote at the election for trustees whose property ownership or lease
31 giving a right to vote is of record on the records of the register of

1 deeds as of a date designated by the election commissioner or county
2 clerk, which date shall be not more than eighty days prior to the
3 election.

4 (2)(a) For any sanitary and improvement district, a person whose
5 ownership or right to vote becomes of record or is received after the
6 date specified pursuant to subsection (1) of this section may vote when
7 such person establishes the right to vote to the satisfaction of the
8 election board. At the first election and at the election held two years
9 after the first election, any person may cast one vote for each trustee
10 for each acre of unplatted land or fraction thereof and one vote for each
11 platted lot which such person may own in the district.

12 (b) This subdivision applies to a district until the board of
13 trustees amends its articles of association pursuant to subdivision (2)
14 (d) of this section. At the elections ~~election~~ held four years and six
15 years after the first election of trustees, two members of the board of
16 trustees shall be elected by the legal property owners resident within
17 such sanitary and improvement district and three members shall be elected
18 by all of the owners of real estate located in the district pursuant to
19 this section. Every resident property owner may cast one vote for a
20 candidate for each office of trustee to be filled by election of resident
21 property owners only. Such resident property owners may also each cast
22 one vote for each acre of unplatted land or fraction thereof and for each
23 platted lot owned within the district for a candidate for each office of
24 trustee to be filled by election of all property owners. For each office
25 of trustee to be filled by election of all property owners of the
26 district, every legal property owner not resident within such sanitary
27 and improvement district may cast one vote for each acre of unplatted
28 land or fraction thereof and one vote for each platted lot which such
29 legal property owner owns in the district. At the election held eight ~~six~~
30 years after the first election of trustees and at each election
31 thereafter, three members of the board of trustees shall be elected by

1 the legal property owners resident within such sanitary and improvement
2 district and two members shall be elected by all of the owners of real
3 estate located in the district pursuant to this section. If there are not
4 any legal property owners resident within such district or if not less
5 than ninety percent of the area of the district is owned for other than
6 residential uses, the five members shall be elected by the legal property
7 owners of all property within such district as provided in this section.

8 (c) Any public, private, or municipal corporation owning any land or
9 lot in the district may vote at an election the same as an individual. If
10 more than fifty percent of the homes in any sanitary and improvement
11 district are used as a second, seasonal, or recreational residence, the
12 owners of such property shall be considered legal property owners
13 resident within such district for purposes of electing trustees. For
14 purposes of voting for trustees, each condominium apartment under a
15 condominium property regime established prior to January 1, 1984, under
16 the Condominium Property Act or established after January 1, 1984, under
17 the Nebraska Condominium Act shall be deemed to be a platted lot and the
18 lessee or the owner of the lessee's interest, under any lease for an
19 initial term of not less than twenty years which requires the lessee to
20 pay taxes and special assessments levied on the leased property, shall be
21 deemed to be the owner of the property so leased and entitled to cast the
22 vote of such property. When ownership of a platted lot or unplatted land
23 is held jointly by two or more persons, whether as joint tenants, tenants
24 in common, limited partners, members of a limited liability company, or
25 any other form of joint ownership, only one person shall be entitled to
26 cast the vote of such property. The executor, administrator, guardian, or
27 trustee of any person or estate interested shall have the right to vote.
28 No corporation, estate, or irrevocable trust shall be deemed to be a
29 resident owner for purposes of voting for trustees. Should two or more
30 persons or officials claim the right to vote on the same tract, the
31 election board shall determine the party entitled to vote. Such board

1 shall select one of their number chairperson and one of their number
2 clerk. In case of a vacancy on such board, the remaining trustees shall
3 fill the vacancy on such board until the next election.

4 (d) For any sanitary and improvement district which has been in
5 existence for at least ten years, which has less than seventy property
6 owners entitled to vote for trustees, which has at least two resident
7 property owners, and in which less than ten percent of the area of the
8 district is owned for other than residential uses, the board of trustees
9 may amend its articles of association as provided in section 31-740.01 to
10 provide for a reduction in the number of trustees on the board from five
11 members to three members to be effective at the beginning of the term of
12 office for the board of trustees elected at the next election. At the
13 next election and at each election thereafter, two members of the board
14 of trustees shall be elected by the legal property owners resident within
15 such sanitary and improvement district and one member shall be elected by
16 all of the owners of real estate located in the district pursuant to this
17 section. Every resident property owner may cast one vote for a candidate
18 for each office of trustee to be filled by election of resident property
19 owners only. Such resident property owners may also each cast one vote
20 for each acre of unplatted land or fraction thereof and for each platted
21 lot owned within the district for a candidate for the office of trustee
22 to be filled by election of all property owners. For the office of
23 trustee to be filled by election of all property owners of the district,
24 every legal property owner not resident within such sanitary and
25 improvement district may cast one vote for each acre of unplatted land or
26 fraction thereof and one vote for each platted lot which such legal
27 property owner owns in the district.

28 (3) The election commissioner or county clerk shall hold any
29 election required by subsection (1) of this section by sealed mail ballot
30 by notifying the board of trustees on or before July 1 of a given year.
31 The election commissioner or county clerk shall, at least twenty days

1 prior to the election, mail a ballot and return envelope to each person
2 who is entitled to vote at the election and whose property ownership or
3 lease giving a right to vote is of record with the register of deeds as
4 of the date designated by the election commissioner or county clerk,
5 which date shall not be more than eighty days prior to the election. The
6 ballot and return envelope shall include: (a) The names and addresses of
7 the candidates; (b) room for write-in candidates; and (c) instructions on
8 how to vote and return the ballot. Such ballots shall be returned in the
9 return envelope to the election commissioner or county clerk no later
10 than 5 p.m. on the date set for the election. If the ballot is not
11 returned in the return envelope, such ballot shall not be counted. If
12 more than one ballot is included in the same return envelope, such
13 ballots shall not be counted and shall be reinserted into the return
14 envelope which shall be resealed and marked rejected.

15 **Sec. 3.** Section 31-752, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
16 amended to read:

17 31-752 (1) The board of trustees or the administrator shall not
18 assess real property that is (a) not assessable or (b) not included
19 within the corporate boundaries of the district for any of the
20 improvements that are constructed or installed outside of the corporate
21 boundaries of the district, except as provided in subsection (3) of this
22 section.

23 (2) The board of trustees or the administrator shall not assess real
24 property that has not been specially benefited by any public improvements
25 constructed or installed by the district that are located outside of the
26 corporate boundaries of the district.

27 (3) In cases where (a) real property is not assessable or (b) real
28 property located outside the corporate boundaries of the district has
29 been specially benefited by the improvements constructed or installed by
30 the district outside of the corporate boundaries of the district cause to
31 be assessed for any of the improvements herein provided, property by law

1 ~~not assessable, or property not included within the district defined in~~
2 ~~the preliminary resolution, and shall not assess property not benefited;~~
3 ~~Provided, in cases when such exempt property has been specially benefited~~
4 ~~by the improvements, the owner of such property shall pay the district a~~
5 ~~sum equivalent to the amount the property has been specially benefited,~~
6 ~~which amount may be recovered by the district in an action against the~~
7 ~~property owner. If the parties do not agree as to the amount of the~~
8 ~~special benefits, the amount may be determined by the district court in~~
9 ~~an action brought by the district for such purpose.~~

10 (4) The board of trustees or the administrator may determine ~~find~~
11 ~~that any part or all of such public improvements made are of general~~
12 ~~benefit to the district, in which case the board or administrator shall~~
13 ~~have the power to except that the board or administrator shall levy~~
14 ~~special assessments on all lots, parcels, or pieces of real estate~~
15 ~~specially benefited to the extent that any such public improvements~~
16 ~~constructed or installed by the district confer of the special benefits~~
17 ~~to such real property. The cost of such improvements installed or~~
18 ~~constructed outside of the corporate boundaries of the district may shall~~
19 ~~be paid from the taxes assessments levied against all the real property~~
20 ~~within the corporate boundaries of in the district, in the manner~~
21 ~~provided by section 31-755, or may be paid from unappropriated money in~~
22 ~~its general fund, or may be paid from the collection of special~~
23 ~~assessments levied against all lots, parcels, or pieces of real property~~
24 ~~located outside of the corporate boundaries of the district to the extent~~
25 ~~of the special benefit conferred. The cost of the improvements shall draw~~
26 ~~interest and shall be payable in the same manner as special assessments~~
27 ~~levied against all real property located within the corporate boundaries~~
28 ~~of the district in accordance with section 31-753 at the rate of six~~
29 ~~percent per annum from the date of acceptance thereof by the board or~~
30 ~~administrator until warrants are issued in payment of the contract price.~~

31 **Sec. 4.** Section 71-1572, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2024, is amended to read:

2 71-1572 Sections 71-1572 to 71-15,170 and section 6 of this act
3 shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Housing Agency Act.

4 **Sec. 5.** Section 71-15,169, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
5 2024, is amended to read:

6 71-15,169 (1) For purposes of this section:

7 (a) Bed bug means a member of the Cimicidae family of parasitic
8 insects; and

9 (b) Pest control professional means a person licensed as a
10 commercial applicator under the Pesticide Act.

11 (2) A housing agency for a city of the metropolitan class shall have
12 the following responsibilities relating to bed bugs:

13 (a) Prior to renting a dwelling unit, the agency shall visually
14 inspect the unit for any evidence of the presence of bed bugs, which may
15 be indicated by observation of a living bed bug, bed bug carapace, eggs
16 or egg casings, or brownish or blood spotting on linens, mattresses, or
17 furniture;

18 (b) The agency shall not show, rent, or lease to a prospective
19 tenant any vacant dwelling unit that the agency knows or reasonably
20 suspects has a current bed bug infestation;

21 (c) Prior to renting a dwelling unit, the agency shall disclose to a
22 prospective tenant if an adjacent unit or units are currently infested
23 with or are being treated for bed bugs; and

24 (d) The agency shall be responsible for the costs of investigating
25 and remediating any bed bug infestation.

26 (3) A housing agency for a city of the metropolitan class shall
27 establish a complaint process. Any resident of an agency property may
28 file a complaint by any of the following means:

29 (a) A complaint form filled out online on the housing agency's
30 website;

31 (b) A telephone call made to a housing agency; or

1 (c) A complaint form filled out in person. Such complaint form shall
2 be made available at designated offices.

3 (4) ~~(2)~~ The complaint form, whether completed by the complainant
4 online, in-person, or by a housing agency employee answering a telephone
5 call complaint, shall include the following information:

6 (a) The name of the complainant;

7 (b) Contact information including the telephone number, email
8 address, and mailing address of the complainant;

9 (c) The nature of the complaint, including, but not limited to,
10 whether a maintenance issue, a discrimination claim, or a rent dispute;
11 and

12 (d) Relevant dates.

13 (5) ~~(3)~~ Notice of the right to file a complaint up until the time of
14 an eviction shall be included on both the online and printed complaint
15 form.

16 (6) ~~(4)~~ The complainant may provide any supporting documentation
17 with the complaint, including, but not limited to, photographs or digital
18 images, receipts, and correspondence.

19 (7) ~~(5)~~ Upon receipt of the complaint, the agency shall send an
20 acknowledgment to the complainant by email or regular first-class mail
21 within five business days. Each complaint shall be assigned a unique case
22 number for tracking purposes.

23 (8)(a) ~~(6)~~ The agency shall conduct a thorough investigation of the
24 complaint, including, but not limited to, interviewing relevant parties,
25 inspecting property and relevant documents, and reviewing applicable laws
26 and regulations.

27 (b) Throughout the investigation, the agency shall provide the
28 complainant with regular updates on the status of the complaint by email,
29 telephone, or regular first-class mail.

30 (c) The agency shall provide tenants with reasonable notice in
31 advance of entering a dwelling unit for purposes of investigating

1 complaints, including for inspection, bed bug remediation, or monitoring
2 in connection with a bed bug complaint.

3 (9)(a) For any complaint involving an actual or suspected bed bug
4 infestation:

5 (i) The agency shall perform an inspection or obtain investigatory
6 services from a pest control professional within ten days after receiving
7 the complaint. The inspection or investigatory services shall include any
8 unit directly adjacent to, above, or below the dwelling unit or common
9 area from which the original complaint came; and

10 (ii) Upon a determination of a bed bug infestation, the agency
11 shall:

12 (A) Provide all tenants of units affected by the complaint with
13 notice of the agency's or pest control professional's determination in
14 connection with such unit within ten days after such determination is
15 made;

16 (B) Obtain and provide remedial services from a pest control
17 professional within twenty-one days after receipt of the complaint; and

18 (C) Maintain a written record of the complaint and any control
19 measures provided, including any report of chemicals applied and other
20 remedies provided by the pest control professional. Such records shall be
21 maintained for two years.

22 (b) For all other complaints:

23 (i) ~~(7)~~ The agency ~~housing authority~~ shall resolve the complaint
24 within fourteen days after receipt of the complaint. If additional time
25 is required, the complainant shall be notified and provided with an
26 updated timeline; and ~~. Throughout the investigation, the agency shall~~
27 ~~provide the complainant with regular updates on the status of the~~
28 ~~complaint by email, telephone, or regular first-class mail.~~

29 (ii) ~~(8)~~ The agency shall notify the complainant of the resolution
30 of the complaint in writing within five business days after such
31 resolution. The notice shall include (A) ~~(a)~~ a summary of the

1 investigation findings, (B) ~~{b}~~ the action taken to address the
2 complaint, (C) ~~{c}~~ any remedies or compensation provided, (D) ~~{d}~~
3 information on how to file a complaint with the political subdivision
4 responsible for code enforcement, if applicable, and (E) ~~{e}~~ information
5 about the city's complaint process if the complainant is not satisfied
6 with the resolution of the complaint.

7 (10) ~~{9}~~ The agency shall invite the complainant to provide feedback
8 on the complainant's experience with the complaint process, including
9 suggestions for improvement.

10 (11) ~~{10}~~ The agency shall monitor complaint trends, analyze root
11 causes, and report on complaint resolution statistics regularly to
12 identify areas for improvement. The agency shall submit a report to the
13 commissioners at every board meeting detailing (a) the number of
14 complaints filed, (b) the nature of such complaints, (c) the status of
15 completed and pending inspections, and (d) the number of unfilled
16 inspector positions within the housing agency. The report shall also be
17 made available to the public on the agency's website and at the agency's
18 office.

19 (12) ~~{11}~~ The agency shall inform persons applying for housing about
20 the complaint process during the resident application process and inform
21 residents about the complaint process (a) annually, (b) at the time a
22 complaint is filed, and (c) by posting on the agency's website and on any
23 public boards in any common housing spaces.

24 **Sec. 6.** A housing agency for a city of the metropolitan class shall
25 submit a report every six months to such city of the metropolitan class
26 and to the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature. The report shall
27 include:

28 (1) Information regarding any pest control management activities
29 undertaken during the six-month period covered by the report;

30 (2) The number of eviction filings during the six-month period
31 covered by the report;

1 (3) The number and nature of complaints or grievances filed during
2 the six-month period covered by the report and their resolutions;

3 (4) Current vacancy rates; and

4 (5) Any relevant updates from meetings of the agency's board of
5 commissioners.

6 **Sec. 7.** Sections 1, 4, 5, 6, and 9 of this act become operative
7 three calendar months after the adjournment of this legislative session.
8 The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

9 **Sec. 8.** Original section 31-752, Reissue Revised Statutes of
10 Nebraska, and section 31-735, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
11 2024, are repealed.

12 **Sec. 9.** Original sections 14-102, 71-1572, and 71-15,169, Revised
13 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, are repealed.

14 **Sec. 10.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
15 passed and approved according to law.