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SEP 02 2021	Nebraska Secretary of State				
SECRETARY OF STATE	tition Snoncon Swown Statement				
Fe	tition Sponsor Sworn Statement				
	Replacing the Department of Educaticy (Brief description of petition for identification purposes)				
Sponsor I	Name: Michael Connely				
Phone Nu	dress: 1302 Road L York Na 68467 Imber: 402-540-6968 Email: <u>Connely 2022 @ gmail</u> . Com				
Sponsor I	Name: Kelli BRADY				
Street Ad	Name: Kelli BRADY dress: 1301 BRYAN AVE Bellevue, Ne 68005				
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Sponsor I					
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	(Please attach copies of this page if there are more than four sponsors.)				
STATE OF NEBRASKA	) ) \$\$.				
COUNTY OF Lancasta	,				
•	that this is a complete list containing the names and street addresses of every person, association sponsoring the aforementioned petition.				
IN WITNESS WHEREO	F, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 2 day of <u>September</u> , <u>2021</u> . (Day) (Month) (Year)				
	Michael Lee Connelez- Signature of Sponsor				
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this day of day of					
by Michael	4 Connelly				
(Printed name of	sponsor appearlifts before Notary) GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska				
(SEAL)	BEN LARSEN Signature of Notary Public				

### **Replacing the Department of Education**

The Revisor of Statutes has rewritten the initiative and included it as Exhibit A. I accept the entire revision and add a date of implementation as recommended by the Revisor of Statutes.

Final Draft

## **Object Statement**

Replace the Nebraska Department of Education, School Board, and School Commissioner with its functions assumed by a newly formed Office of Education, which is accountable to both the governor and Unicameral, through a constitutional amendment.

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### EXHIBIT A

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENT

#### Article VII, sections 2 and 13, and Article XIII, section 1, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be amended and Article VII, sections 3 and 4, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be repealed as shown:

VII-2. The State Department of Education in its entirety, including the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and all elected or hired positions, and all programs contracted by the State Department of Education, including proxies, shall be replaced with the newly formed Office of Education. The Director of the Office of Education shall be appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Legislature. All functions, programs, and funds of the State Department of Education shall be reallocated to the Office of Education. The State Department of Education shall be comprised of a State Board of Education and a Commissioner of Education. The State Department of Education shall have general supervision and administration of the school system of the state and of such other activities as the Legislature may direct.

VII-13. The general government of the state colleges as now existing, and such other state colleges as may be established by law, shall be vested, under the direction of the Legislature, in a board of seven members to be styled as designated by the Legislature, six of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislature, two each for a term of two, four, and six years, and two each biennium thereafter for a term of six years, and the <u>Director</u> <u>of the Office</u> Commissioner of Education shall be a member ex officio. The duties and powers of the board shall be prescribed by law, and the members thereof shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties, but may be reimbursed their actual expenses incurred therein.

XIII-1. The state may, to meet casual deficits, or failures in the revenue, contract debts never to exceed in the aggregate one hundred thousand dollars, and no greater indebtedness shall be incurred except for the purpose of repelling invasion, suppressing insurrection, or defending the state in war, and provision shall be made for the payment of the interest annually, as it shall accrue, by a tax levied for the purpose, or from other sources of revenue, which law providing for the payment of such interest by such tax shall be irrepealable until such debt is paid; Provided, that if the Legislature determines by a three-fifths vote of the members elected thereto that (1) the need for construction of highways in this state requires such action, it may authorize the issuance of bonds for such construction, and for the payment of the interest and the retirement of such bonds it may pledge any tolls to be received from such highways or it may irrevocably pledge for the term of the bonds all or a part of any state revenue closely related to the use of such highways, such as motor vehicle fuel taxes or motor vehicle license fees and (2) the construction of water retention and impoundment structures for the purposes of water conservation and management will promote the general welfare of the state, it may authorize the issuance of revenue bonds for such construction, and for the payment of the interest and the retirement of such bonds it may pledge all or any part of any state revenue derived from the use of such structures; and provided further, that the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and the Office State Board of Education may issue revenue bonds to construct, purchase, or otherwise acquire, extend, add to, remodel, repair, furnish, and equip dormitories, residence halls, single or multiple dwelling units, or other facilities for the housing and boarding of students, single or married, and faculty or other employees, buildings and structures for athletic purposes, student unions or centers, and for the medical care and physical development and activities of students, and buildings or other facilities for parking, which bonds shall be payable solely out of revenue, fees, and other payments derived from the use of the buildings and facilities constructed or acquired, including buildings and facilities heretofore or hereafter constructed or acquired, and paid for out of the proceeds of other issues of revenue bonds, and the revenue, fees, and payments so pledged need not be appropriated by the Legislature, and any such revenue bonds heretofore issued by either of such boards are hereby authorized, ratified, and validated. Bonds for new construction shall be first approved as the Legislature shall provide.

# Article VII, sections 3 and 4, of the Constitution of Nebraska are repealed.

This proposed measure is to be implemented on January 1, 2023.

#### **INITIATIVE PETITION**

The object of this petition is to: (See reverse side for actual text of measure)

# Replace the Nebraska Department of Education, School Board, and School Commissioner with its functions assumed by a newly formed Office of Education, which is accountable to both the governor and Unicameral, through a constitutional amendment.

To the Honorable Robert Evnen, Secretary of State for the State of Nebraska:

We, the undersigned residents of the State of Nebraska and the county of \_\_\_\_\_\_, respectfully demand that the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska shall be referred to the registered voters of the state for their approval or rejection at the general election to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition on the date opposite my name; I am a registered voter of the State of Nebraska and county of \_\_\_\_\_\_

and am qualified to sign this petition or I will be so registered and qualified on or before the date on which this petition is required to be filed with the Secretary of State; and my printed name, date of birth, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or post office address are correctly written after my signature.

WARNING TO PETITION SIGNERS-- VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF LAW MAY RESULT IN THE FILING OF CRIMINAL CHARGES: Any person who signs any name other than his or her own to any petition or who is not qualified to sign the petition shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor. Any person who falsely swears to a circulator's affidavit on a petition, who accepts money or other things of value for signing a petition, or who offers money or other things of value in exchange for a signature upon any petition shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.

	DATE	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	ADDRESS (Street Number & Name)	CITY OR VILLAGE	ZIP CODE
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Not more than twenty signatures on one sheet shall be counted. Nebraska Revised Statute §32-1409

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

)

) ss

\_\_\_\_\_\_, (name of circulator) being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he or she is the circulator of this petition containing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ signatures, that he or she is at least eighteen years of age, that each person whose name appears on the petition personally signed the petition in the presence of the affiant, that the date to the left of each signature is the correct date on which the signature was affixed to the petition and that the date was personally affixed by the person signing such petition, that the affiant believes that each signer has written his or her

name, street and number or voting precinct, and city, village, or post office address correctly, that the affiant believes that each signer was qualified to sign the petition, and that the affiant stated to each signer the object of the petition as printed on the petition before he or she affixed his or her signature to the petition.

			Circulator
			Address
			City, State, Zip
Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, this day of	f, 20 at	, Nebraska.	
(Seal)			Notary Public

## **Proposed Statutory Language:**

(underscored language indicates added language, strike through indicates language being removed)

# Article VII, sections 2 and 13, and Article XIII, section 1, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be amended and Article VII, sections 3 and 4, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall be repealed as shown:

VII-2. The State Department of Education in its entirety, including the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and all elected or hired positions, and all programs contracted by the State Department of Education, including proxies, shall be replaced with the newly formed Office of Education. The Director of the Office of Education shall be appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Legislature. All functions, programs, and funds of the State Department of Education shall be reallocated to the Office of Education. The State Department of Education shall be comprised of a State Board of Education and a Commissioner of Education. The State Department of Education shall have general supervision and administration of the school system of the state and of such other activities as the Legislature may direct.

VII-13. The general government of the state colleges as now existing, and such other state colleges as may be established by law, shall be vested, under the direction of the Legislature, in a board of seven members to be styled as designated by the Legislature, six of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislature, two each for a term of two, four, and six years, and two each biennium thereafter for a term of six years, and the <u>Director of the Office Commissioner</u> of Education shall be a member ex officio. The duties and powers of the board shall be prescribed by law, and the members thereof shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties, but may be reimbursed their actual expenses incurred therein.

XIII-1. The state may, to meet casual deficits, or failures in the revenue, contract debts never to exceed in the aggregate one hundred thousand dollars, and no greater indebtedness shall be incurred except for the purpose of repelling invasion, suppressing insurrection, or defending the state in war, and provision shall be made for the payment of the interest annually, as it shall accrue, by a tax levied for the purpose, or from other sources of revenue, which law providing for the payment of such interest by such tax shall be irrepealable until such debt is paid; Provided, that if the Legislature determines by a three-fifths vote of the members elected thereto that (1) the need for construction of highways in this state requires such action, it may authorize the issuance of bonds for such construction, and for the payment of the interest and the retirement of such bonds it may pledge any tolls to be received from such highways or it may irrevocably pledge for the term of the bonds all or a part of any state revenue closely related to the use of such highways, such as motor vehicle fuel taxes or motor vehicle license fees and (2) the construction of water retention and impoundment structures for the purposes of water conservation and management will promote the general welfare of the state, it may authorize the issuance of revenue bonds for such construction, and for the payment of the interest and the retirement of such bonds it may pledge all or any part of any state revenue derived from the use of such structures; and provided further, that the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and the Office State Board of Education may issue revenue bonds to construct, purchase, or otherwise acquire, extend, add to, remodel, repair, furnish, and equip dormitories, residence halls, single or multiple dwelling units, or other facilities for the housing and boarding of students, single or married, and faculty or other employees, buildings and structures for athletic purposes, student unions or centers, and for the medical care and physical development and activities of students, and buildings or other facilities for parking, which bonds shall be payable solely out of revenue, fees, and other payments derived from the use of the buildings and facilities constructed or acquired, including buildings and facilities heretofore or hereafter constructed or acquired, and paid for out of the proceeds of other issues of revenue bonds, and the revenue, fees, and payments so pledged need not be appropriated by the Legislature, and any such revenue bonds heretofore issued by either of such boards are hereby authorized, ratified, and validated. Bonds for new construction shall be first approved as the Legislature shall provide.

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