

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1237**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Executive Board: Hansen, 16, Chairperson; Arch, 14;  
Ballard, 21; Bostar, 29; Clements, 2; Dorn, 30;  
Fredrickson, 20; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; McKinney, 11;  
Cavanaugh, J., 9.

Read first time January 21, 2026

Committee: Executive Board

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the State Capitol; to amend section  
2 28-1202.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and  
3 sections 28-101 and 81-1108.15, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025;  
4 to prohibit certain weapons and prohibited substances from being  
5 brought into the State Capitol as prescribed; to provide for the  
6 carrying of concealed handguns in the State Capitol as prescribed;  
7 to define terms; to provide a duty to the Nebraska State Patrol; to  
8 harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.  
9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           **Section 1.** Section 28-101, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is  
2 amended to read:

3           28-101 Sections 28-101 to 28-1357, 28-1601 to 28-1603, and 28-1701  
4 and section 2 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska  
5 Criminal Code.

6           **Sec. 2.** (1) For purposes of this section the definitions in section  
7 28-1201 and the following definitions apply:

8           (a) Prohibited substance means explosive, incendiary, or other  
9 combustible devices; hazardous materials; or paint or spray paint; and

10           (b) Weapon means any:

11           (i) Firearm; or

12           (ii) Knife with a blade over three and one-half inches in length and  
13 which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of  
14 producing death or serious bodily injury.

15           (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person  
16 shall not knowingly enter or attempt to enter the State Capitol while in  
17 possession of a weapon or prohibited substance.

18           (3) This section does not apply to:

19           (a) A person who has received prior approval from the Nebraska State  
20 Patrol;

21           (b) The possession of a weapon by a law enforcement officer, as  
22 defined in section 81-1401, who is acting in the course of his or her  
23 official duties;

24           (c) The carrying of a concealed handgun by a qualified law  
25 enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer pursuant  
26 to 18 U.S.C. 926B or 926C, respectively, as such sections existed on  
27 January 1, 2026; or

28           (d) The carrying of a concealed handgun by an individual holding a  
29 current and valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant to  
30 the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.

31           **Sec. 3.** Section 28-1202.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2024, is amended to read:

2 28-1202.01 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and  
3 section 28-1204.04, a person, other than a minor or a prohibited person,  
4 may carry a concealed handgun anywhere in Nebraska, with or without a  
5 permit under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.

6 (2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a person  
7 shall not carry a concealed handgun into or onto any place or premises  
8 where the person, persons, entity, or entities in control of the place or  
9 premises or employer in control of the place or premises has prohibited  
10 the carrying of concealed handguns into or onto the place or premises.

11 (3) Except as provided in subsections ~~subsection~~ (10) and (11) of  
12 this section, a person shall not carry a concealed handgun into or onto  
13 any: Police, sheriff, or Nebraska State Patrol station or office;  
14 detention facility, prison, or jail; courtroom or building which contains  
15 a courtroom; polling place during a bona fide election; meeting of the  
16 governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or  
17 other political subdivision; meeting of the Legislature or a committee of  
18 the Legislature; financial institution; professional or semiprofessional  
19 athletic event; building, grounds, vehicle, or sponsored activity or  
20 athletic event of any school; place of worship; hospital, emergency room,  
21 or trauma center; political rally or fundraiser; establishment having a  
22 license issued under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act that derives over  
23 one-half of its total income from the sale of alcoholic liquor; place  
24 where the possession or carrying of a firearm is prohibited by state or  
25 federal law; or any other place or premises where handguns are prohibited  
26 by state law.

27 (4)(a) A financial institution may authorize its security personnel  
28 to carry concealed handguns in the financial institution while on duty so  
29 long as each member of the security personnel, as authorized, is not  
30 otherwise prohibited by state law from possessing or carrying a concealed  
31 handgun and is in compliance with sections 28-1202.02 to 28-1202.04.

1 (b) A place of worship may authorize its security personnel to carry  
2 concealed handguns on its property if:

3 (i) Each member of the security personnel, as authorized, is not  
4 otherwise prohibited by state law from possessing or carrying a concealed  
5 handgun and is in compliance with sections 28-1202.02 to 28-1202.04;

6 (ii) Written notice is given to the congregation; and

7 (iii) For leased property, the carrying of concealed handguns on the  
8 property does not violate the terms of any real property lease agreement  
9 between the place of worship and the lessor.

10 (5) If a person, persons, entity, or entities in control of the  
11 place or premises or an employer in control of the place or premises  
12 prohibits the carrying of concealed handguns into or onto the place or  
13 premises and such place or premises are open to the public, a person does  
14 not violate this section unless the person, persons, entity, or entities  
15 in control of the place or premises or employer in control of the place  
16 or premises has posted conspicuous notice that carrying a concealed  
17 handgun is prohibited in or on the place or premises or has made a  
18 request, directly or through an authorized representative or management  
19 personnel, that the person remove the concealed handgun from the place or  
20 premises.

21 (6) A person carrying a concealed handgun in a vehicle or on his or  
22 her person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area,  
23 which is open to the public, used by any location listed in subsection  
24 (2) or (3) of this section, does not violate this section if, prior to  
25 exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box, trunk,  
26 or other compartment of the vehicle, a storage box securely attached to  
27 the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, other than an autocycle,  
28 a hardened compartment securely attached to the motorcycle. This  
29 subsection does not apply to any parking area used by such location when  
30 the carrying of a concealed handgun into or onto such parking area is  
31 prohibited by federal law.

1 (7) An employer may prohibit employees or other persons from  
2 carrying concealed handguns in vehicles owned by the employer.

3 (8) A violation of this section is a Class III misdemeanor for a  
4 first offense and a Class I misdemeanor for any second or subsequent  
5 offense.

6 (9)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (9)(b) of this section, it  
7 is an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (3) of this  
8 section that the defendant was engaged in any lawful business, calling,  
9 or employment at the time the defendant was carrying a concealed handgun  
10 and the circumstances in which the defendant was placed at the time were  
11 such as to justify a prudent person in carrying a concealed handgun for  
12 the defense of his or her person, property, or family.

13 (b) The affirmative defense provided for in this subsection:

14 (i) Does not prevent a prosecution for a violation of section  
15 28-1204.04; and

16 (ii) Is not available if the defendant refuses to remove the  
17 concealed handgun from the place or premises after a person in control of  
18 the place or premises has made a request, directly or through an  
19 authorized representative or management personnel, that the defendant  
20 remove the concealed handgun from the place or premises.

21 (10) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to a  
22 qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement  
23 officer carrying a concealed handgun pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 926B or 926C,  
24 respectively, as such sections existed on January 1, 2023.

25 (11) Subsection (3) of this section does not apply in the State  
26 Capitol for an individual holding a current and valid permit to carry a  
27 concealed handgun issued pursuant to the Concealed Handgun Permit Act.

28 (12) ~~(11)~~ Action taken in compliance with section 28-1204.04 shall  
29 not be a violation of this section.

30 **Sec. 4.** Section 81-1108.15, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is  
31 amended to read:

1           81-1108.15 (1) Except as provided in the Nebraska State Capitol  
2 Preservation and Restoration Act, the division shall have the primary  
3 functions and responsibilities of statewide facilities planning,  
4 facilities construction, and facilities administration and shall adopt  
5 and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section.

6           (2) Facilities planning shall include the following responsibilities  
7 and duties:

8           (a) To maintain utilization records of all state-owned, state-  
9 occupied, and vacant facilities;

10          (b) To coordinate comprehensive capital facilities planning;

11          (c) To define and review program statements based on space  
12 utilization standards;

13          (d) To prepare or review planning and construction documents;

14          (e) To develop and maintain time-cost schedules for capital  
15 construction projects;

16          (f) To assist the Governor and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in the  
17 preparation of the capital construction budget recommendations;

18          (g) To maintain a complete inventory of all state-owned, state-  
19 occupied, and vacant sites and structures and to review the proposals for  
20 naming such sites and structures;

21          (h) To determine space needs of all state agencies and establish  
22 space-allocation standards;

23          (i) To cause a state comprehensive capital facilities plan to be  
24 developed; and

25          (j) To carry out the State Building Construction Alternatives Act.

26          (3) Facilities construction shall include the following powers and  
27 duties:

28          (a) To maintain close contact with and conduct inspections of each  
29 project so as to assure execution of time-cost schedules and efficient  
30 contract performance if such project's total design and construction cost  
31 is equal to or greater than the project cost set by subdivision (1)(a) of

1 section 81-1108.43 as adjusted by subsection (2) of section 81-1108.43;

2 (b) To perform final acceptance inspections and evaluations; and

3 (c) To coordinate all change or modification orders and progress  
4 payment orders.

5 (4) Facilities administration shall include the following powers and  
6 duties:

7 (a) To serve as state leasing administrator or agent for all  
8 facilities to be leased for use by the state and for all state-owned  
9 facilities to be rented to state agencies or other parties subject to  
10 section 81-1108.22. The division shall remit the proceeds from any  
11 rentals of state-owned facilities to the State Treasurer for credit to  
12 the State Building Revolving Fund and the State Building Renewal  
13 Assessment Fund;

14 (b) To provide all maintenance, repairs, custodial duties, security,  
15 and administration for all buildings and grounds owned or leased by the  
16 State of Nebraska except as provided in subsections (5) and (6) of this  
17 section;

18 (c) To be responsible for adequate parking and the designation of  
19 parking stalls or spaces, including access aisles, in offstreet parking  
20 facilities for the exclusive use of handicapped or disabled or  
21 temporarily handicapped or disabled persons pursuant to section 18-1737;

22 (d) To ensure that all state-owned, state-occupied, and vacant  
23 facilities are maintained or utilized to their maximum capacity or to  
24 dispose of such facilities through lease, sale, or demolition;

25 (e) To submit electronically a report regarding the amount of  
26 property leased by the state and the availability of state-owned property  
27 for the needs of state agencies, upon request by the Appropriations  
28 Committee of the Legislature, the Committee on Building Maintenance, or a  
29 member of the Legislature;

30 (f) To administer the State Emergency Capital Construction  
31 Contingency Fund;

1 (g) To submit status reports to the Governor and the Legislative  
2 Fiscal Analyst after each quarter of a construction project is completed  
3 detailing change orders and expenditures to date. The report submitted to  
4 the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall be submitted electronically. Such  
5 reports shall be required on all projects costing an amount equal to or  
6 greater than the amount set forth in subdivision (1)(a) of section  
7 81-1108.43 as adjusted by subsection (2) of section 81-1108.43 and on  
8 such other projects as may be designated by the division; and

9 (h) To submit a final report on each project to the Governor and the  
10 Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The report submitted to the Legislative  
11 Fiscal Analyst shall be submitted electronically. Such report shall  
12 include, but not be limited to, a comparison of final costs and  
13 appropriations made for the project, change orders, and modifications and  
14 whether the construction complied with the related approved program  
15 statement. Such reports shall be required on all projects costing an  
16 amount equal to or greater than the amount set forth in subdivision (1)  
17 (a) of section 81-1108.43 as adjusted by subsection (2) of section  
18 81-1108.43 and on such other projects as may be designated by the  
19 division.

20 (5) Subdivisions (4)(b), (c), and (d) of this section shall not  
21 apply to (a) state-owned facilities to be rented to state agencies or  
22 other parties by the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska state colleges,  
23 the Department of Transportation, and the Board of Educational Lands and  
24 Funds, (b) buildings and grounds owned or leased for use by the  
25 University of Nebraska, the Nebraska state colleges, and the Board of  
26 Educational Lands and Funds, (c) buildings and grounds owned, leased, or  
27 operated by the Department of Correctional Services, (d) facilities to be  
28 leased for nonoffice use by the Department of Transportation, (e)  
29 buildings or grounds owned or leased by the Game and Parks Commission if  
30 the application of such subdivisions to the buildings or grounds would  
31 result in ineligibility for or repayment of federal funding, (f)

1 buildings or grounds of the state park system, state recreation areas,  
2 state historical parks, state wildlife management areas, or state  
3 recreational trails, or (g) other buildings or grounds owned or leased by  
4 the State of Nebraska which are specifically exempted by the division  
5 because the application of such subdivisions would result in the  
6 ineligibility for federal funding or would result in hardship on an  
7 agency, board, or commission due to other exceptional or unusual  
8 circumstances, except that nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit the  
9 assessment of building rental depreciation charges to tenants of  
10 facilities owned by the state and under the direct control and  
11 maintenance of the division.

12 (6)(a) ~~(6)~~ Security for all buildings and grounds owned or leased by  
13 the State of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, except the buildings and  
14 grounds described in subsection (5) of this section, shall be the  
15 responsibility of the Nebraska State Patrol. The Nebraska State Patrol  
16 shall consult with the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Executive Board  
17 of the Legislative Council, and the State Capitol Administrator regarding  
18 security policy within the State Capitol and capitol grounds.

19 (b) Following consultation as provided for in subdivision (a) of  
20 this subsection, the Nebraska State Patrol shall, no later than January  
21 1, 2027, implement procedures to ensure the State Capitol is secure and  
22 provide for the detection of weapons and prohibited substances as defined  
23 in section 2 of this act to prevent such weapons and prohibited  
24 substances from being brought into the State Capitol in violation of  
25 section 2 of this act.

26 (7) Each member of the Legislature shall receive an electronic copy  
27 of the reports required by subdivisions (4)(g) and (h) of this section by  
28 making a request for them to the State Building Administrator. The  
29 information on such reports shall be submitted to the division by the  
30 agency responsible for the project.

31 **Sec. 5.** Original section 28-1202.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative

- 1 Supplement, 2024, and sections 28-101 and 81-1108.15, Revised Statutes
- 2 Supplement, 2025, are repealed.