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Nebraska Legislature to Discuss Prisons and Taxes

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska lawmakers are setting the stage for new debates over prisons and tax incentives when they convene in January.

Lawmakers have spent the past several months studying the problems in both areas, with an expectation that they'll take action in next year's session.

The Department of Correctional Services is under scrutiny following news that prisons officials prematurely released hundreds of inmates because they failed to follow a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling.

A special committee is looking into management problems in the department. The committee chairman, Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha, says the work could also prompt legislation.

Others are looking for changes to Nebraska's tax incentives. Sen. John Harms of Scottsbluff, the committee leader in that effort, says he hopes to narrow down a list of ideas by November.

Associated Press