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Neb Governor Looking for Efficiency

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts is kicking off a series of planning sessions within his administration to try to deliver services that people expect at a lower cost.

The review process in state agencies began on Monday, after this year's legislative session ended. Ricketts says he has directed his department heads to dig into their budgets.

Ricketts says he plans to continue his focus on lowering the growth of state spending and finding ways to lower property taxes. He also says state income taxes need to be reduced.

Lawmakers concluded their session Friday after adding \$64 million annually to the state's property tax credit fund, for a total of \$204 million each year to offset local property taxes. The two-year budget will grow spending by a lower-than-average 3.5 percent per year.

Associated Press