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Nebraska Death Penalty

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A group that wants to keep Nebraska's death penalty off the books says it will focus on the practical problems of carrying out the punishment in the build-up to next year's statewide vote on capital punishment.

Senator Colby Coash of Lincoln and University of Nebraska law professor Eric Berger outlined several arguments Wednesday at an event sponsored by Nebraskans for Public Safety. Nebraska's last execution was in 1997, using the electric chair.

Governor Pete Ricketts has said the state will not try to obtain lethal injection drugs until voters decide in November whether to keep capital punishment, but his administration is looking at changes to the protocol.

Berger says changing the protocol would be difficult, expensive and a short-term fix.

Associated Press