

Nebraska Looking at Death Penalty Protocol

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska officials say they will try to change the state's death penalty protocol in an effort to get around the logistical problems that have prevented them from obtaining the necessary lethal injection drugs.

The proposal announced Monday would allow the state corrections director to choose which drugs are used in an execution. Condemned inmates would have to be told which drugs were chosen at least 60 days before the Nebraska attorney general's office requests an execution warrant from the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Nebraska hasn't executed an inmate since 1997, when it used the electric chair. The state has never used its current three-drug protocol consisting of sodium thiopental, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride.

Nebraska voters reinstated the death penalty earlier this month, overturning the Legislature's decision to abolish the punishment.

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