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Nebraska Gov. Emphasizes Taxes and Jobs in State of the State Address

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts is calling on lawmakers to lower property taxes statewide while expanding tax breaks for farmers, ranchers and military retirees.

The new Republican governor unveiled his tax plan Thursday along with job and education initiatives in his first State of the State address since taking office on Jan. 8.

In a speech focused heavily on the economy, Ricketts recommended a slowdown in state government spending increases to pay for the tax reductions.

The governor unveiled initiatives designed to boost career-training options for young people and an increase in college tuition assistance for members of the Nebraska National Guard. He also used the speech to highlight his support for the Keystone XL oil pipeline and urged President Barack Obama to approve it.

Associated Press