

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB559

Hearing Date: Monday February 04, 2013
Committee On: Business and Labor
Introducer: Mello
One Liner: Adopt a short-time compensation program under the Employment Security Law

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Ashford, Chambers, Hansen, Harr, Lathrop, McGill, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:
Heath Mello
James Goddard
Ken Mass

Representing:
District 5
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska State AFL-CIO

Opponents:
Catherine Lang

Representing:
Nebraska Department of Labor

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 559 creates a voluntary program that, in lieu of temporary layoffs, allows employers to temporarily reduce the normal work hours for designated employees. Employees under a short-time plan are eligible for partial unemployment benefits to offset lost wages resulting from the reduction in work hours. An employer submits a plan to DOL, which must be approved within 30 days. The plan must: identify the employees that will be affected, provide notification to the affected employees, and maintain health and retirement benefits as though the employees' work hours had not been reduced. Employers must certify that work hour reductions are in lieu of layoffs, that they will not hire additional employees, and that the program will not be used to subsidize seasonal employment.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 1581 clarifies that if the state qualifies for federal funds to pay benefits, the benefits paid will not be charged to the employer's experience account.

Steve Lathrop, Chairperson