

# LB943 Bill Overview

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## Bill History

Introduced by: Sen. Jeremy Nordquist

Heard by: Business and Labor Committee

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## Summary

LB943 would gradually raise the minimum wage rate in Nebraska from its current level of \$7.25 per hour to \$9.00 per hour in 2017.

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## Talking Points

### For

- About 90 percent of the households served by the Center for People in Need had at least one adult employed full-time. The people surveyed are not poor because they don't have jobs or don't want to work; they are poor because the jobs they have pay too little.
- According to the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Survey, a family with one or two working adults and children would not be able to meet all of their basic needs without assistance working full time on \$7.25 per hour.
- The median income in Nebraska has fallen by 28 percent since 2000. Over that time, the costs of goods and services has increased by 33 percent.

### Against

- Of all minimum wage workers, only 4.7 percent match the description of an adult head of household working on minimum wage full time and trying to raise a family.
  - A minimum wage increase will limit the amount of work available. If the cost of a job increases while the value of the position remains stagnant, that job will no longer exist.
  - Minimum wage jobs operate as a pathway into the workforce; 55 percent of Americans begin their careers earning within a dollar of the minimum wage. Those jobs are just a starting point of those workers earning minimum wages, as two-thirds will make more than minimum within the first year.
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## Further Research

**Nebraska Legislature:** <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

**Unicameral Update:** <http://update.legislature.ne.gov/>

**Business and Labor Committee:** <http://news.legislature.ne.gov/bui/>

**Committee Statement:** <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/CS/LB943.pdf>

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