

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB553

Chairperson: Senator Joni Albrecht

Committee: Business and Labor

Date of Hearing: February 27, 2017

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 553 will require an individual employer, partner, limited liability company member, or self-employed person who is actually engaged in his/her business and does not elect to bring himself or herself under the Workers' Compensation Act, including an individual independent contractor, who does not insure him/herself for workers' compensation, to acknowledge to the Workers' Compensation Court that he/she is not electing to be covered under the Nebraska Workers Compensation Act. The individual would not be entitled to any benefits under a worker's compensation policy. The individual could elect to be covered under the Act at any time by submitting a request to the Workers' Compensation Court to remove their non-election of coverage, or purchasing a valid workers' compensation policy that includes her/him for coverage.

LB 553 will bring more clarity to the Workers' Compensation Insurance market. It will create a more certain legal status for these individual employers and independent contractors in relation to Workers Compensation benefits. In addition, it will allow them to decide whether or not to secure Workers' Compensation coverage in the future.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John Lowe