

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB428

Hearing Date: Monday March 18, 2019
Committee On: Business and Labor
Introducer: Friesen
One Liner: Change eligibility for benefits under the Employment Security Law for certain workers in the construction industry

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Crawford, Halloran, Hansen, B., Hansen, M., Lathrop, Slama
Nay:
Absent: 1 Senator Chambers
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Curt Friesen
Shari Sanne

Justin Grusing
Brad Wegner

Representing:

District 34 Senator
NebCO Inc.; Associated General Contractors -- NE Chapter
Associated General Contractors -- NE Chapter
National Utility Contractors Association of Nebraska

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

John Albin

Representing:

Nebraska Department of Labor

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The reason for the bill comes out of a rule change promulgated by the Department of Labor that changed the actively searing for work requirements. The rule change would place a hardship on highway construction employees who are prohibited by the Department of Transpiration from working during the winter months. LB 428 creates an exemption for employees in Highway, Street, and Bridge construction from the actively searching for work requirements for a period of not less than 120 days.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 758 becomes the bill. It makes the following changes to the underlying language of LB 428 beginning in section 2 of the amendment:

This language addresses the concerns raised by the Department of Labor about conformity with federal law and therefore eliminate the fiscal impact.

Also included in AM 758 are the provisions of LB 306 (Crawford) which was debated by the Legislature and failed to advance on Final Reading. These are included in sections 1 and 3 of the amendment. AM 758 changes LB 306 only by

removing a definition and references to "Domestic Partners."

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 306 creates a new category of good cause for voluntarily leaving employment under the Employment Security Law. It creates a good cause for leaving employment to care for a family member with a serious health condition and defines those terms. The bill also creates an exception for charges against the employer experience accounts in order that the new proposed exemption will not be charged against the employer's account

Testifiers on LB 306:

Proponents:

Sue Crawford Senator District 45
Terry Streetman Alzheimer's Association
Jina Ragland AARP

Opponents:

Ron Sedlacek Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Bob Hallstrom National Federation of Independent Business; Nebraska
Retail Federation

Neutral:

None

Matt Hansen, M., Chairperson