

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB121**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 17, 2021  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Hunt  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	4	Senators Cavanaugh, M., Day, Walz, Williams
<b>Nay:</b>	3	Senators Arch, Hansen, B., Murman
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Megan Hunt  
Nyomi Troy Thompson  
Erin Feichtinger  
Derrick Martinez  
Eric Savaiano  
Spike Eickholt  
Tom Venzor  
Steve Cerveny

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Open Sky Policy  
Together  
Self  
Nebraska Appleseed  
ACLU of Nebraska  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
Omaha Police Department

**Opponents:**

Stephanie Beasley

**Representing:**

Department of Health and Human Services

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Submitted Written Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Ashley Volnek  
Eric Reiter  
Tiffany Joekel  
Jason Hayes  
Jasmine Harris  
Angela Amack  
Julie Erickson  
Megan Hamann

**Representing:**

CenterPointe  
Food Bank of Lincoln, Food Bank of the Heartland  
Women's Fund of Omaha  
Nebraska State Education Association  
RISE  
RISE  
Center for People in Need  
Lincoln Lancaster County Food Policy Council

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 121 relates to eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]. It would eliminate a lifetime ban on SNAP for drug felons if certain requirements are met.

LB 121 strikes the language in section [4][b] that makes any person with three or more convictions for use or possession and persons convicted of distribution or the intent to sell or distribute a controlled substance ineligible for SNAP. [Sec. 1, page 5, lines 5-17.] Those persons would now become eligible for SNAP, subject to other provisions in subsection [4].

The remainder of subsection [4] is amended to limit SNAP participation for drug felons. Under the new language inserted into section [4][b], a person convicted of a felony involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance would only qualify for SNAP if they have completed their sentence for the felony or are serving a term of parole, probation, or post-release supervision for such felony. [Sec. 1, page 4, line 31, page 5, lines 1-5.]

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John Arch, Chairperson