

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB567**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday February 01, 2021  
**Committee On:** Business and Labor  
**Introducer:** Business and Labor  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to the maximum annual amount of benefits under the Employment Security Law

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

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 6 Senators Blood, Gragert, Halloran, Hansen, B., Hansen, M., Lathrop  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:** 1 Senator Hunt

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**Oral Testimony:**

<b>Proponents:</b> Senator Ben Hansen John Albin	<b>Representing:</b> Introducer NE Department of Labor
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<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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<b>Neutral:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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**Submitted Written Testimony:**

<b>Proponents:</b> Kristen Hassebrook Bob Hallstrom	<b>Representing:</b> Nebraska Chamber National Federation of Independent Business
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<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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<b>Neutral:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB567 will require the Department of Labor to only look at an applicant's most recent separation from employment when determining maximum unemployment benefits and reductions.

Currently, the Department of Labor is required to look at all employers within the base period when determining an applicant's maximum unemployment benefits and reductions. A base period is the first four of the last 5 completed calendar quarters.

LB567 would remove the base period requirement and instead only require the Department to look at the individual's last employer. LB567 would make permanent Executive Order 20-26 signed 06/02/2020 in response to the COVID19 Pandemic with the intent to streamline the application process for unemployment benefits.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM301 will require the Department of Labor to give an eligible individual the larger amount of benefits between State unemployment benefits and Federal unemployment benefits.

Sec 1 . . . if an individual is eligible for an equal or greater weekly benefit amount under a federal unemployment program than the weekly benefit amount which the individual is eligible for under the Employment Security Law, the commissioner shall suspend the payment of state unemployment benefits to such individual while such individual is receiving the federal unemployment benefit.

Such suspension shall terminate upon the individual's exhaustion of benefits available under the federal unemployment program. An individual shall not be eligible to receive the federal weekly benefit and the state unemployment weekly benefit during the same week. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any federal unemployment benefit which is paid in addition to the state.

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Ben Hansen, Chairperson