

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB397

Hearing Date: Monday February 24, 2025
Committee On: Business and Labor
Introducer: Moser
One Liner: Eliminate provisions relating to workplace safety committees and a workplace safety program and terminate a fund

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

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Kauth, Hansen, Ibach, McKeon, Raybould, Sorrentino
Nay:	1	Senator McKinney
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Mike Moser
Katie Thurber
Ryan McIntosh

Ansley Fellers

Opponents:

Guillermo Pena
Brandon Brown

Neutral:

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Nebraska Department of Labor
National Federation of Independent Business,
Nebraska for Worker's Compensation Equity and
Fairness
Nebraska Grocery Industry Associatoin

Representing:

Nebraska Democratic Party Latinx (NDP)
Nebraska Association of Public Employees (NAPE)

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 397 would amend Neb. Rev. Stat. § 44-3,158, 48-144.03, and 48-446. It would also repeal Neb. Rev. Stat. § 48-443, 48-444, and 48-445 outright.

The Bill amends the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act ("Act") to remove the requirement of employers subject to the Act to have a safety committee. Employers have been required to have a safety committee since 1994. The safety committees created and maintained written injury prevention programs for each employer. The safety committees are assisted and supported by the Workplace Safety Consultation Program Cash Fund ("Fund").



As the safety committees are no longer required, employers would no longer be required to have one to be considered in good faith and entitled to be covered by workers' compensation insurance pursuant to the Act. Additionally, the Fund would no longer have a purpose, and is being terminated. The remaining funds would then be transferred to the General Fund.

References to outdated notices requirements are removed. The exception to the thirty-day notice for cancellation or nonrenewal of other workers' compensation policies for the failure of an employer to maintain a safety committee is removed, as the requirement to have a safety committee is being terminated with the Bill.

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section 1: Amends § 44-3,158 to remove the requirement of employers to establish a safety committee to be considered in good faith and entitled to be covered by workers' compensation insurance.

Section 2: Amends § 48-144.03 to remove the outdated notice requirements of the cancellation of a workers' compensation insurance policy. The exception to the thirty-day notice for cancellation or nonrenewal of workers' compensation policies for the failure of an employer to maintain a safety committee is removed.

Section 3: Terminates the Workplace Safety Consultation Program Cash Fund under § 48-446 when the Act is effective and moves the remaining funds to the General Fund.

Section 4: Repeals the original sections being amended.

Section 5: Repeals outright § 48-443, 48-444, and 48-445, removing the requirement of employers subject to the Act to have a safety committee.

Kathleen Kauth, Chairperson

