

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 458

Introduced by Harms, 48.

Read first time January 20, 2009

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to public assistance; to amend section 68-1721,
2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2008; to provide
3 for vocational training as prescribed; and to repeal the
4 original section.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 68-1721, Revised Statutes Cumulative
2 Supplement, 2008, is amended to read:

3 68-1721 (1) Under the self-sufficiency contract developed
4 under section 68-1719, the principal wage earner and other
5 nonexempt members of the applicant family shall be required to
6 participate in one or more of the following approved activities,
7 including, but not limited to, education, job skills training, work
8 experience, job search, or employment.

9 (2) Education shall consist of the general education
10 development program, high school, Adult Basic Education, English
11 as a Second Language, postsecondary education, or other education
12 programs approved in the contract.

13 (3) Job skills training shall include vocational
14 training in technical job skills and equivalent knowledge.
15 Activities shall consist of formalized, technical job skills
16 training, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, or training in the
17 operation of a microbusiness enterprise. The types of training,
18 apprenticeships, or training positions may include, but need not be
19 limited to, the ability to provide services such as home repairs,
20 automobile repairs, respite care, foster care, personal care, and
21 child care. Job skills training shall be prioritized and approved
22 for occupations that facilitate economic self-sufficiency.

23 (4) The purpose of work experience shall be to improve
24 the employability of applicants by providing work experience and
25 training to assist them to move promptly into regular public or

1 private employment. Work experience shall mean unpaid work in a
2 public, private, for-profit, or nonprofit business or organization.
3 Work experience placements shall take into account the individual's
4 prior training, skills, and experience. A placement shall not
5 exceed six months.

6 (5) Job search shall assist adult members of recipient
7 families in finding their own jobs. The emphasis shall be placed on
8 teaching the individual to take responsibility for his or her own
9 job development and placement.

10 (6) Employment shall consist of work for pay. The
11 employment may be full-time or part-time but shall be adequate
12 to help the recipient family reach economic self-sufficiency.

13 (7) For purposes of creating the self-sufficiency
14 contract and meeting the applicant's work activity requirement, an
15 applicant shall be allowed to engage in vocational training that
16 leads to an associate degree, a diploma, or a certificate for a
17 minimum of twenty hours per week for up to thirty-six months. This
18 subsection terminates on September 30, 2012.

19 Sec. 2. Original section 68-1721, Revised Statutes
20 Cumulative Supplement, 2008, is repealed.