

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB128

Chairperson: Senator Merv Riepe

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: March 22, 2017

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 128 sets requirements for eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

A person who has been convicted of a felony for possession of a controlled substance or a person with one or two felony convictions for the sale or distribution of a controlled substance shall not qualify for SNAP assistance, unless they:

(1) participate in or have completed a state-licensed or nationally accredited treatment program since the date of his most recent conviction. The determination of participation or completion of such treatment program will be certified by the treatment provider administering the program, or

(2) voluntarily submit to a drug test verified by a laboratory approved by the Dept. of Health and Human Services and tests negative prior to receiving benefits. The applicant must continue to agree to drug tests at random intervals thereafter, but no less than every six months. The approved laboratory will verify the drug test to the department.

The bill provides that persons who have been convicted of three or more felonies involving the sale or distribution of a controlled substance shall be ineligible for the program. This bill is meant to serve as incentive for those who want to remain eligible for the SNAP program to get treatment and remain free of controlled substances in the future.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene