

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
NINETY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 418**

Introduced by Speaker Bromm, 23; at the request of the Governor

Read first time January 15, 2003

Committee: Business and Labor

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to labor; to amend section 81-404, Revised  
2 Statutes Supplement, 2002; to eliminate a termination  
3 date relating to the Meatpacking Industry Worker Rights  
4 Coordinator; and to repeal the original section.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 81-404, Revised Statutes Supplement,  
2 2002, is amended to read:

3           81-404. (1) The position of Meatpacking Industry Worker  
4 Rights Coordinator is established within the Department of Labor.  
5 The coordinator shall be appointed by the Governor.

6           (2) The duties of the coordinator shall be to inspect and  
7 review the practices and procedures of meatpacking operations in  
8 the State of Nebraska as they relate to the provisions of the  
9 Governor's Nebraska Meatpacking Industry Workers Bill of Rights,  
10 which rights are outlined as follows:

11           (a) The right to organize;

12           (b) The right to a safe workplace;

13           (c) The right to adequate facilities and the opportunity  
14 to use them;

15           (d) The right to complete information;

16           (e) The right to understand the information provided;

17           (f) The right to existing state and federal benefits and  
18 rights;

19           (g) The right to be free from discrimination;

20           (h) The right to continuing training including  
21 supervisor's training;

22           (i) The right to compensation for work performed; and

23           (j) The right to seek state help.

24           (3) The coordinator and his or her designated  
25 representatives shall have access to all meatpacking operations in  
26 the State of Nebraska at any time meatpacking products are being  
27 processed and industry workers are on the job.

28           (4) Necessary office space, furniture, equipment, and

1 supplies as well as necessary assistance for the coordinator shall  
2 be provided by the department.

3 (5) Preference shall be given to applicants for the  
4 coordinator position who are fluent in the Spanish language.

5 (6) The coordinator shall annually, on or before December  
6 1, submit a report to the members of the Legislature and the  
7 Governor regarding any recommended actions the coordinator deems  
8 necessary or appropriate to provide for the fair treatment of  
9 workers in the meatpacking industry.

10 (7) For purposes of this section:

11 (a) Meatpacking operations means a business in which  
12 slaughtering, butchering, meat canning, meat packing, meat  
13 manufacturing, poultry canning, poultry packing, poultry  
14 manufacturing, pet feed manufacturing, processing of meatpacking  
15 products, or rendering is carried on; and

16 (b) Meatpacking products include livestock products and  
17 poultry products as such terms are defined in section 54-1902.

18 ~~(8) This section terminates on June 30, 2004.~~

19 Sec. 2. Original section 81-404, Revised Statutes  
20 Supplement, 2002, is repealed.