

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB203**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday January 23, 2017  
**Committee On:** Business and Labor  
**Introducer:** Kuehn  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to maximum annual unemployment benefits and disqualification for benefits

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

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	6	Senators Albrecht, Chambers, Crawford, Halloran, Howard, Lowe
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>	1	Senator Hansen

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

John Kuehn  
John Albin  
Bob Evnen  
Bob Hallstrom

Ron Sedlacek  
Kathy Siefken

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Labor  
Self  
NFIB State Director, National Federation of Independent Business  
Self  
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Sec. 1. reiterates current law of what unemployment benefits an eligible individual is entitled to during a benefit year. Section 1 restates the law beginning for benefit years on or after October 1, 2018. Under current law and in Section 1, for any benefit year beginning on or after October 1, 2018, an individual is entitled to benefits of twenty-six times his or her weekly benefit amount or one-third of his or her wages as employed per calendar quarter, whichever is less. However, when an individual is separated from employment under which the individual could have been determined disqualified (due to leaving work voluntarily without good cause or due to discharge for misconduct), the amount of benefits the individual is entitled to will be reduced as follows:

If the claimant was disqualified for benefits due to leaving work voluntarily without good cause, the total benefit amount is reduced by (i) two times the weekly benefit amount if the individual left work voluntarily to accept previously secured, full-time, insured work, which the individual does accept or (ii) thirteen times the weekly benefit amount if the individual left work voluntarily without good cause for any reason other than previously described.

If the claimant is separated from employment due to discharge for misconduct, the weekly benefit amount is reduced by fourteen times the weekly benefit amount.

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This is current law, and is restated in Section 1.

Sec. 2. creates a new policy consideration. Instead of the thirteen week waiting period for voluntary quits without good cause required under current law, it establishes that for any benefit year beginning on or after October 1, 2018, an individual is disqualified for benefits for the week in which the individual left work voluntarily without good cause and for all subsequent weeks until that individual has earned wages of at least four times his/her weekly benefit amount and has separated from the most recent subsequent employment under nondisqualifying conditions.

A temporary employee of a temp firm is defined as leaving work voluntarily without good cause if that employee does not contact the firm for reassignment following completion of an assignment when advised to do so. This is a restatement of current law, as well.

Sec. 3. repealer.

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Joni Albrecht, Chairperson