

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB169**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday February 07, 2019  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Hunt  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 7 Senators Arch, Cavanaugh, Hansen, B., Howard, Murman, Walz, Williams  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Deena Keilany  
Kathy Nordby  
Ken Smith  
Shelley Mann

**Representing:**

Introducer for Senator Megan Hunt  
Health Center Association of Nebraska  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Food Bank for the Heartland

**Opponents:**

Matt Wallen

**Representing:**

Dept. of Health and Human Services

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 169 relates to eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It eliminates a lifetime ban on SNAP for certain drug felons and lessens the restrictions on eligibility for others.

LB 169 strikes the language in section (4)(b) that makes any person with three or more convictions for use or possession and persons convicted of distribution or the intent to sell or distribute a controlled substance ineligible for SNAP. (Sec. 1, Page 4, lines 29-31 and Page 5, lines 1-3.) Those persons would now become eligible for SNAP, subject to other provisions in subsection (4).

The remainder of subsection (4) is amended to allow persons with three or more felony convictions for use and possession to become eligible for SNAP if they are participating in or have completed a state-licensed or nationally accredited substance abuse treatment program since their conviction. (Page 5, line 3.)

**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 710 amends the eligibility requirements for SNAP. A reference to authorizing federal language is inserted in section 4(a) of Neb. Rev. Stat. 68-1017.02.

Section 4(b) is amended so that a person convicted of a felony involving a controlled substance is only eligible for SNAP benefits if he or she (1) has completed his or her sentence, including any term of parole, probation, or post-release supervision or (2) he or she is serving a term of parole, probation, or post-release for such felony.

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Sara Howard, Chairperson