

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB516

Hearing Date: Friday February 19, 2021
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: McKinney
One Liner: Change provisions relating to self-sufficiency contracts and work activity requirements under the Welfare Reform Act

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Arch, Cavanaugh, M., Day, Hansen, B., Murman, Walz, Williams
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents: Terrell McKinney Diane Amdor	Representing: Introducer Nebraska Appleseed
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents: Spike Eickholt Julie Erickson	Representing: ACLU of Nebraska Voices for Children
Opponents: Stephanie Beasley	Representing: Department of Health and Human Services
Neutral:	Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 516 would amend the Welfare Reform Act to allow applicants for the Aid to Dependent Children [ADC] program to satisfy the work activity requirement through remote or online coursework. [Sec. 1, page 2, lines 16-20.]

Under LB 516, DHHS would be required to utilize self-attestation to verify participation in such remote or online coursework. The department would be permitted to review or audit the information provided by the applicant to confirm the required participation if the information provided by the applicant in a self-attestation is questionable. [Sec. 1, page 2, lines 21-26.]

Explanation of amendments:

AM 577 strikes the requirement that DHHS utilize self-attestation to verify participation in remote or online coursework. AM 577 provides that DHHS shall verify participation as follows:

- [1] through an electronic tracking system, such as an applicant's electronic log-in and log-out records from the educational institution, to verify actual time spent completing remote or online coursework;
- [2] through attendance timesheets indicating the actual time an applicant spent completing remote or online coursework signed by the applicant and a representative of the educational institution; or
- [3] if the foregoing options are not feasible, through reports to an applicant's case manager. Under this option, the applicant must have weekly contact with their case manager and must report daily hours spent on the coursework, including information on attendance and progress in class. Additionally, the applicant must submit any midterm and final grades to the case manager. If the applicant fails to demonstrate satisfactory progress, the applicant is not allowed to use case manager documentation and must verify coursework hours through electronic tracking or attendance timesheets.

John Arch, Chairperson