

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1221

Hearing Date: Thursday February 05, 2026
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Ballard
One Liner: Provide definitions relating to community engagement and work requirements under the Medical Assistance Act

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Hardin, Ballard, Fredrickson, Hansen, Meyer, G., Quick, Riepe
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Beau Ballard
Jim Ulrich
Natalia Boelhower

Jina Ragland
Joey Adler Ruane

Opponents:

Drew Gonoshorowski

Neutral:

Sarah Maresh

Representing:

Opening Presenter
York General
Nebraska Hospital Association and Community Medical Center in Falls City
AARP Nebraska
Fresenius Medical Care

Representing:

DHHS

Representing:

Nebraska Appleseed

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB1221 amends the Medical Assistance Act. New section 2 defines key terms the Department of Health and Human Services shall use when determining whether a Medicaid recipient qualifies for a hardship exemption from community engagement or work requirements under the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act. An "extended period of time" means one or more overnight stays, two or more trips away from home, or any sustained absence that reasonably prevents someone from meeting their requirements. "Inpatient hospital services" means care provided to someone formally admitted to a hospital under a doctor's order, counted from the date of admission and including any related outpatient, observation, or follow-up care tied to that stay. "Outside of the individual's community" means travel outside the



person's county of residence. A "serious or complex medical condition" means any condition listed under federal Medicaid regulations at 42 C.F.R. 440.315, including any condition for which Medicaid coverage is medically necessary. Together these definitions establish clear, consistent standards for when a Medicaid recipient facing a health or travel hardship can be excused from work or community engagement requirements without losing their benefits.

Explanation of amendments:

AM1984 adds new language to specifically include end-stage renal disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis under the definition of a serious or complex medical condition.

Brian Hardin, Chairperson

