



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
Committee Statement  
LB 171**

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**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2007  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services

**Introducer(s):** (Kopplin)

**Title:** Require Department of Health and Human Services to apply for food stamp options and waivers

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senator(s): Johnson, Erdman, Hansen, Howard, Gay, Stuthman, Pankonin
	No	
	Present, not voting	
	Absent	

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**Proponents:**

Senator Kopplin  
Scott Young  
Jennifer Hernandez

Susan Hale  
Jim Cunningham  
Susan Smith

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Food Bank of Lincoln  
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law and the Public Interest  
Center for People in Need  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 171 is a reintroduction of LB 586 (2005) and relates to food stamps. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services (department) to “apply for and utilize any and all options and waivers available to the residents of Nebraska under the federal food stamp program and its corresponding rules and regulations, including and in addition to a labor surplus area

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waiver, in order to ensure that Nebraska administers a comprehensive food stamp program and serves the basic subsistence needs of its residents.”

The bill directs the department to apply for the particular waiver or option that is “projected to result in the largest number of persons becoming eligible for benefits under the program, the largest amount of federal funds coming to the state pursuant to the program, or both.”

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendment (AM 522) replaces the bill as introduced. It modifies provisions of the original bill and adds them to section 68-1017.02.

The amendment is narrower than the original bill. It requires the department, within limits established by the Legislature, to apply for and utilize any and all appropriate food stamp options to the maximum extent possible, in order to maximize the number of Nebraska residents being served under the program.

The department is also directed to maximize federal funding under the program and to minimize the use of General Funds.

The amendment requires the department to report annually to the Health and Human Services Committee by December 1 on its efforts to implement the bill. The report must provide the necessary information to enable the committee to conduct a meaningful evaluation of the department’s efforts.

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**Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson**