



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 500

Hearing Date: February 26, 2007
Committee On: Business and Labor

Introducer(s): (White)

Title: Change provisions relating to disqualifications for unemployment benefits

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

6	Yes	Senators Cornett, Lathrop, McGill, Rogert, Wallman, White
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Chambers

Proponents:

Senator Tom White
Mark McColley

Representing:

Introducer
Omaha/Southwest Iowa Building Trends, and
Steamfitters, and Plumbers

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Ron Sedlacek

Representing:

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce

Summary of purpose and/or changes: LB 500 expands the definition of training as it pertains to an individual's eligibility for unemployment benefits.

Under 48-628 an individual participating in commissioner approved training is eligible for unemployment benefits even if the individual is not applying for other work and fails to accept other suitable work offers during this period. LB 500 further defines "training" to include apprenticeship training programs as defined in 302(c)(5) federal Labor-Management Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. 2842

LB 500 provides that benefits paid to an individual while the individual is engaged in apprenticeship training, will not be charged to an employer's account.

Section by Section Summary:

Section 1: amends section 48-628 on pages 4 &5 to insert “However, an employer’s account shall not be charged with benefits so paid. Such approved training includes, but is not limited to, apprenticeship programs established pursuant to section 302(c)(5) of the federal Labor-Management Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. 2842, as such section existed on January 1, 2007.”

Section 2: pg. 11 repeals original section 48-628.

Explanation of amendments, if any: The committee amendment rewrites the entire bill by making technical changes necessary to carry out the original intent of LB 500. The amendment would allow an employee to voluntarily leave work on a temporary basis to attend apprenticeship training for a mutually agreed upon period of time. During this period while the individual is not working, the individual would be eligible for unemployment benefits. Such benefits would not be charged to his or her employer’s experience account.

Section by Section Summary:

Section 1 would amend 48-602 to provide that an employee leaving work on a temporary basis to attend apprenticeship training would not constitute a “leave of absence”.

Section 2 would amend 48-627 to provide that an individual attending apprenticeship training does not have to register for work in order to be eligible for unemployment benefits. Such individual would be deemed available for work for purposes of qualifying for unemployment benefits.

Section 3 would amend 48-628 to provide that an individual in attendance of an apprenticeship training program would not be disqualified for unemployment benefits based on the individual’s failure to apply or refusal to accept suitable work during this period.

Section 4 would amend 48-628.01 to provide that an employee leaving work on a temporary basis to attend apprenticeship training would be good cause for voluntarily leaving employment and would therefore be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Section 5 would amend 48-652 to provide that benefits paid to an individual attending apprenticeship training would not be charged to the employer’s experience account.

Section 6 would provide the repealers.

Senator Abbie Cornett, Chairperson