



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 877

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 7, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 877 clarifies that postsecondary education leading to an associates degree is a work activity for participants in the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program, and restores the ability to pursue an associate degree as a core work activity without a 12-month limitation.

The requirement of the ADC program require recipients to participate in work activities. Work activities are designed to provide education, training and skill building so that individuals can move toward their highest level of self-sufficiency in order to move beyond the need for long-term public assistance.

Under Nebraska law, an ADC recipient may pursue postsecondary education in fulfillment of his or her work activity requirements. Current rules and regulations allow a recipient to pursue a bachelor's degree for up to 60 months but only twelve months to pursue other types of postsecondary education as a core work activity, including associate degrees which are traditionally 24-month programs.

Since associate degree programs provide excellent education and training and can be a more realistic avenue to self-sufficiency for many recipients than a bachelor's degree, it is consistent and supportive policy to allow for the ability of ADC recipients to complete the required number of hours in an associate degree program.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator John Wightman