

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB971

Hearing Date: Thursday February 02, 2012
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Harms
One Liner: Merge the Department of Labor into the Department of Economic Development

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Avery, Karpisek, Price, Seiler, Sullivan, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 2 Senators Janssen, Pahls

Proponents:

Senator John Harms
Senator Heath Mello
Catherine Lang

Steven Simpson
Ken Mass

Opponents:

Debora Cottier

Neutral:

Roger Jasnoch
Bruce Bohrer

Representing:

Introducer
Legislative District 5
Nebraska Departments of Economic Development and Labor
Elevator Constructors Local 28
Nebraska State AFL-CIO

Representing:

Nebraska Economic Developers Association

Representing:

Nebraska Travel Association
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce; & Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 971 merges the Department of Labor into the Department of Economic Development.

The bill has an emergency clause and an operative date of July 1, 2012.

On and after July 1, 2012, positions of employment in the Department of Labor are transferred to the Department of Economic Development. All items of property, real and personal, including office furniture, books and records of the Department of Labor become the property of the Department of Economic Development.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment requires the Director of Economic Development to consult with representatives from the workforce development and economic development sectors to develop a strategic plan for the department that identifies the main purpose of each program and benchmarks for improving performance on the key goals. The department will

report to the Governor and the Legislature on the progress of these key goals in September 2012, March 2013, and September 2013.

The committee amendment also transfers the responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the Boiler Inspection Act, the Conveyance Safety Act, and the Nebraska Amusement Ride Act from the Department of Economic Development to the State Fire Marshal on July 1, 2013.

Bill Avery, Chairperson