

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 507**

Final Reading

Introduced by Harms, 48; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; Council, 11.

Read first time January 18, 2011

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Welfare Reform Act; to amend section  
2 68-1708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide  
3 for satisfaction of work activity requirements through  
4 education; to restrict use of state funds; to provide for  
5 reports; to state intent; to harmonize provisions; to  
6 provide a termination date; and to repeal the original  
7 section.

8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 68-1708, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3           68-1708 Sections 68-1708 to 68-1734 and sections 2 to 6  
4 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Welfare Reform  
5 Act.

6           Sec. 2. For purposes of creating the self-sufficiency  
7 contract and meeting the applicant's work activity requirement, an  
8 applicant who is under twenty years of age and is married or a single  
9 head of household is deemed to have met the work activity requirement  
10 in a month if he or she:

11           (1) Maintains satisfactory attendance during such month  
12 at secondary school, a general education development program, or the  
13 equivalent; or

14           (2) Participates in education directly related to  
15 employment for an average of at least twenty hours per week during  
16 such month. Education directly related to employment includes, but is  
17 not limited to, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language,  
18 and a general education development program.

19           Sec. 3. (1) For purposes of this section, target work  
20 rate means fifty percent less the caseload reduction credit submitted  
21 by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to the United  
22 States Department of Health and Human Services for the fiscal year.

23           (2) For purposes of creating the self-sufficiency  
24 contract and meeting the applicant's work activity requirement, an  
25 applicant under twenty-four years of age shall be deemed to have met

1 the work activity requirement in a month if he or she is engaged in  
2 education directly related to employment for an average of at least  
3 twenty hours per week during such month. Education directly related  
4 to employment includes, but is not limited to, Adult Basic Education,  
5 English as a Second Language, and a general education development  
6 program.

7 (3) No state funds shall be used to carry out this  
8 section unless such state funds meet the definition of qualified  
9 state expenditures under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy  
10 Families program, 42 U.S.C. 609(a)(7)(B)(i).

11 (4) If Nebraska's work participation rate under the  
12 federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, 42 U.S.C.  
13 601 et seq., does not exceed the target work rate by ten percentage  
14 points in any month, the Department of Health and Human Services may  
15 suspend the requirements of subsection (2) of this section until the  
16 work participation rate exceeds the target work rate by ten  
17 percentage points for three consecutive months.

18 Sec. 4. The Department of Health and Human Services shall  
19 report annually to the Legislature on October 1 on the following:

20 (1) The number of persons on a quarterly basis  
21 participating in a self-sufficiency contract who are engaged in one  
22 of the following activities:

23 (a) An associate degree program;

24 (b) A vocational education program not leading to an  
25 associate degree;

1           (c) Postsecondary education other than a program  
2 described in subdivision (1)(a) or (b) of this section;

3           (d) Adult Basic Education;

4           (e) English as a Second Language; or

5           (f) A general education development program; and

6           (2) The number of persons participating in a self-  
7 sufficiency contract who obtain or maintain employment for six  
8 months, twelve months, eighteen months, and twenty-four months after  
9 such persons are no longer eligible for cash assistance due to  
10 obtaining employment.

11           Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
12 Department of Health and Human Services carry out the requirements of  
13 sections 2 to 4 of this act within the limits of its annual  
14 appropriation.

15           Sec. 6. Sections 2 to 5 of this act terminate on December  
16 31, 2016.

17           Sec. 7. Original section 68-1708, Reissue Revised  
18 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.