

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 507**

Introduced by Harms, 48.

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 change  
3 provisions relating to education; to harmonize  
4 provisions; to provide a termination date; and to repeal  
5 the original section.  
6 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 4  
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 creating the self-sufficiency  
20 contract and meeting the applicant's work activity requirement, an  
21 applicant under twenty-four years of age shall be deemed to have met  
22 the work activity requirement in a month if he or she is engaged in  
23 education directly related to employment for an average of at least  
24 twenty hours a week during such month. Education directly related to  
25 employment includes, but is not limited to, Adult Basic Education,

1 English as a Second Language, and a general education development  
2 program.

3 (2) If Nebraska's federally reported work participation  
4 rate under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families  
5 program, 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., reaches fifty-five percent, the  
6 Department of Health and Human Services may set a reasonable limit  
7 for the number of applicants that may engage in education directly  
8 related to employment under subsection (1) of this section to ensure  
9 that Nebraska remains in compliance with the federal work  
10 participation rate requirements. If the department sets a limit  
11 pursuant to this section, such limit shall be reviewed and adjusted  
12 annually to allow maximum participation in education directly related  
13 to employment.

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

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

19 (a) An associate degree program;

20 (b) A vocational education program not leading to an  
21 associate degree;

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

24 (d) Adult Basic Education;

25 (e) English as a Second Language; or

1                   (f) A general education development program; and  
2                   (2) The number of persons participating in a self-  
3 sufficiency contract who obtain or maintain employment for six  
4 months, twelve months, eighteen months, and twenty-four months after  
5 such persons are no longer eligible for cash assistance due to  
6 obtaining employment.

7                   Sec. 5. This act terminates December 31, 2015.

8                   Sec. 6. Original section 68-1708, Reissue Revised  
9 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.