

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1170**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday February 05, 2024  
**Committee On:** Business and Labor  
**Introducer:** Riepe  
**One Liner:** Change provisions of the Employment Security Law relating to benefit amounts and periods of disqualification for benefits

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	4	Senators Halloran, Hansen, Ibach, Riepe
<b>Nay:</b>	3	Senators Blood, Hunt, McKinney
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Merv Riepe  
Ron Sedlacek

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Grocery Industry Association, National Federation of Independent Business

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 1170 changes provisions related to the Employment Security Law by reducing the maximum amount of unemployment benefits a person is eligible for from 26 weeks to 16 weeks. The bill also proportionally reduces the maximum benefits payable when a disqualification is assessed such as; voluntarily leaving work, involuntarily leaving work (misconduct), and rejecting suitable work.

The below changes to the following sections take effect on and after the operative date of this act.



Section 1: Amends 48-626 by removing obsolete language. Also adds language stating the total amount of unemployment benefits an individual can receive is 16 weeks and weekly benefit amounts could be proportionately reduced due to voluntary discharges or quits.

Section 2: Amends 48-628 by stating that individuals who apply for benefits beginning on and after the operative date of this act may be disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits if they fail to apply for suitable work, accept suitable work, or return to their employment.

Section 3: Amends 48-628.10 to include that if a person is discharged from a job for misconduct, connected with their work, a disqualification is assessed for the week of the discharge plus 9 weeks.

The bill has an operative date of January 1, 2025.

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Merv Riepe, Chairperson

