

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 140

Introduced by Hansen, M., 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine Nebraska's unemployment insurance system. The Department of Labor reported that weekly initial unemployment insurance claims reached a record high in March 2020 and continued to be substantive throughout 2020 and into 2021. Many constituents have shared their stories of the difficulty they experienced applying for unemployment benefits, contacting the Department of Labor, and receiving their full unemployment benefits in a timely manner. While the pandemic was unprecedented, it is important that Nebraskans are able to access the benefits they have earned during an emergency.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) An examination of unemployment claim rates during the COVID-19 pandemic and through 2021;
- (2) An examination of the average wait time to receive unemployment benefits starting in March 2020 and continuing each month up to the present;
- (3) The lived experiences of those who applied for unemployment benefits and experienced trouble with receiving such benefits in a timely manner;
- (4) The accessibility to and issues faced by Nebraska's unemployment benefits program during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (5) Any potential improvement or changes to Nebraska's unemployment insurance system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.