



Bill Number and Title	LB 512, Adopt the Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act
Bill Issue	Designating Utility Workers as Critical Workers
Introduced by/Hearing Date	Tom Brewer

LB 512

BACKGROUND

Often when Nebraska experiences an emergency, first responders and emergency personnel are given special permissions which allow them to conduct their work efficiently. Being able to access restricted areas, bypass weight stations, or being able to access emergency funds can be vital during an emergency.

Although restoration of power is often a top priority, utility workers are usually not included in the definition of “First Responders” and often require special exemptions by the governor before they are able to act in an emergency. LB 512 would establish the designation of “Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker”.

SUMMARY/WRITING BULLET POINTS

- LB 512 would provide for the protection of Critical Infrastructure Utility Workers during an emergency or civil unrest.
- LB 512 would provide priority access for Critical Infrastructure Utility Workers to personal protective equipment, medical screening, testing, preventative health services, medical treatment, and the administration of vaccines in the event of an emergency involving a severe threat to the public health.
- LB 512 would provide access to federal and state funds for Critical Infrastructure Utility Workers as emergency funds become available.
- LB 512 would require utilities to maintain a list of their Critical Infrastructure Utility Workers as defined under the Act.

POSITION:

THE NREA SUPPORTS
THE NPA SUPPORTS