

was introduced on January 19 of last year, was referred to the Business and Labor Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Business and Labor Committee amendments pending.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Abboud, for the committee amendments.

**SENATOR ABOUD:** Yes, Mr. President and colleagues, the committee amendment is more of a technical amendment in nature. It would include any bargaining agreement with the employer regarding place of payment and direct deposit. Senator Bohlke will go into more detail about the particular proposal when we adopt the committee amendment, but this particular amendment is strictly technical in nature and I would urge its adoption. Thank you.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Discussion on the Business and Labor Committee amendments to LB 525. There is no discussion. Senator Abboud. Senator Abboud waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Bohlke, is this your bill and would you like to open on this bill?

**SENATOR BOHLKE:** Mr. President, the answer is yes on both questions. Members of the Legislature, I understand that there are people who have been lobbying against this bill and I would like to thank them. We often don't do that, but in this case I think what they do is just clearly crystallized who would be for and who would be against this bill. Those who do not like it are large companies and some members of the banking community. What this bill simply says is that an employee's wages could be directly deposited into a bank if the individual employee agrees to this in writing. But an employer would not be able to require employees to receive their paychecks through direct deposit. That's it very simply and what happened was that I think last week on the floor of the Legislature we had other debate and when we looked at who are the very common citizens of this state who can come to their State Legislature and say, to us this is not fair and this is a point of equity. That is the