

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 953, 1285

not trying to favor any one company over another. I think they recognize that. We're willing to work with any senators interested, between now and Select File, to look at appropriate changes. But I would ask for your support to advance the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. The question is the advancement of LB 1285 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 1285 is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 953. Call is raised.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB 953, it's a bill that was introduced by Senator Vrtiska. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 5 of this year, referred to the Business and Labor Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to open on LB 953.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. President, members of the body, LB 953 makes changes to our employment security statutes that were brought by the Department of Labor. The substantive provisions of the bill are an attempt to provide some relief for victims of domestic violence who sometimes find it necessary to take action in order to escape abuse. These actions, when they involve leaving their employment, can have a detrimental effect on their eligibility for unemployment benefits, and in many cases they have to serve either a seven to ten-weeks period of ineligibility to receive unemployment benefits. Under LB 953, when a worker, who has made a reasonable effort to preserve his or her employment, ends up voluntarily leaving for the necessary purpose of escaping domestic abuse, as defined under the Protection From Domestic Abuse Act, she or he will be deemed to have voluntarily left the employment for good cause and shall not be disqualified for benefits. Because the employer has no