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February 6, 2001 LB 418

Business and Labor Committee. (Read title.) Introduced on January 9, referred to the Business Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this, Mr. President.

CLERK: Chairman of the Business and Labor Committee, Senator Connealy, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, LB 418 proposes to amend 48-652, the Employment Security Law. This section specifies the conditions for a "noncharge" of unemployment benefits against the experience accounts established for participating employers. For background, LB 40...I mean 48-652 provides three current circumstances under which unemployment benefits are charged...are not charged against an employer: when the claimant left work voluntarily without good cause; when the claimant was discharged for misconduct to his or her...on...; and also for when the claimant left work voluntarily with good cause to escape abuse. The new language of this bill would add a fourth "noncharge" condition that would...when the employee left work voluntarily due to a nonwork-connected illness or injury. LB 418 does not affect the eligibility or the level of unemployment benefits for available to employees. It is currently an attempt to spread out the unemployment cost of a employee leaving under these certain circumstances by not specifically charging a single employer's experience account. The concept of the bill was brought to the committee by the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, and last year it was introduced as LB 915, which was advanced unanimously from committee last year but failed because of time. I would move the advancement of this bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We're now debating the advancement of LB 418. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Senator Connealy, on my Chamber Viewer I'm able to find the Statement of Intent on this bill, but I find no committee statement. Maybe you can help me out. What was the vote of the committee and who testified in favor of it and in opposition to it?