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LB 245, 484, 739

bill was overshadowed by the work that the committee needed to do this year on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. That work has now been successful with the passage of LB 739 this season. LB 245 is a small bill that would have a big impact on our low-income, elderly people. It's not a high-profile bill like LB 739, but it is important for a very small segment of our population. LB 245 was adopted last year as an amendment to Senator Cunningham's LB 1049. I brought the idea forward as a separate bill this session. Anyone who receives social security benefits is not eligible for full unemployment compensation. A retiree on a railroad pension fund is eligible. A retiree on military service pension and a teacher retirement person is eligible for full unemployment compensation. Only social security retirees have their benefits deducted from any unemployment insurance they may receive. This isn't about a huge number of recipients. First of all, anyone on social security must be able to work in order to hold a job that pays into unemployment insurance. Secondly, it is usually elderly people that are trying to supplement their social security benefits. So the pool of people that would potentially be affected is a small one, made up of elderly, low-/moderate-income social security recipients. The Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Division, estimates between 1,200 and 1,300 people are in that pool. The cost to the state's Unemployment Insurance Fund is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$60,000. We all know that the Unemployment Insurance Fund was the subject of serious concern and discussion this year. Any proposal that would increase the amount of benefits being paid is going to be carefully considered, as it should be. The crisis of the Unemployment Fund was not created by older, low-income/moderate-income workers. They did not cause the problem. That should not be used as an excuse to deny full benefits to this small group of workers. AM1748's impact on the fund would be minimal, but its impact in the lives of senior citizens would be significant. A company that employs a senior citizen who draws social security does not have a reduction in the unemployment insurance premium for that person. The company pays a full premium, as it would with any other employee who is not a social security recipient. This reduction strikes me as a penalty for being over a certain age, and for trying to supplement one's income. Seniors who need to