

I think Senator Bernard-Stevens has brought a bill that will assist employers not only of large companies but of smaller businesses into a procedure on how to do it. The amendments that were added were also very much agreed upon by the committee. There were additional amendments that were a point of contention. The controversial amendments are not before us at this point in time. I think it's appropriate for this body to look at LB 1062. We have companies in Senator Scofield's...she isn't around here, maybe I can get away with saying someplace outside of Omaha and Lincoln, but we have some companies in central Nebraska who, because of productivity, have gone to random drug testing. These aren't major, major corporations but, quite frankly, they were suffering some loss of productivity and they have done random testing and they found major problems within their own company. They need direction. They need some clarification on due process procedures. I think that LB 1062 provides that for them. This is a bill which I think that we should look at seriously. I know Senator Bernard-Stevens' surprise that probably struck him yesterday when he realized his priority bill might take a metamorphosis and evolve into another bill but I do think he has a bill that is worthy of our consideration and discussion. I do think there is additional amendments which will be coming that we should look at a little closer. But, certainly, I would lend my support to LB 1062 as a member of the committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I think that this amendment is a good amendment. I think it adds to the amendment that I presented. And the reason that I presented my amendment to this bill, because I felt that we had to take at least a small step this year in trying to provide for a drug-free workplace in Nebraska. And I realize that maybe I didn't go into the testing procedures as far as I should have but, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I think that your bill addresses a lot of the problems that we have there. But, yes, employers do provide work for a lot of people and I do not think that when an employee is convicted of illegal drugs, the use of illegal drugs, that we should use unemployment compensation to pay them. But Senator Coordsen has provided another fund that we can use, so we're not denying those employees those benefits and I think this is a plus. So I'm going to work for...or I'm going to vote for Senator Hall's amendment which is...which is the bill,