

March 19, 1990

LB 315

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I have a second amendment then, don't I? Is that not correct, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes, sir, you do.

SENATOR WESELY: I think I'd like to substitute the second one for the first one. I think that's a proper drafting of the first amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: If there are no objections.

CLERK: Senator, so I understand, you want to withdraw the first one, is that right?

SENATOR WESELY: I believe so. What's the second one?

CLERK: The second one is on page 1222.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, let's go with that second one, it's the better...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Proceed.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, this amendment was brought up on General File on this legislation. As you recall, LB 315 started off as an unemployment compensation benefit increase, got a little amendment here and there along the way and became a drug bill for dealing with drugs in the workplace. The amendment by Senator Hefner, subsequently amended by Senator Coordsen, dealt with the concept that unemployment compensation benefits would be denied an individual who was fired from a job, lost their job as a result of having a drug problem. However, it was provided for, on the amendment that was adopted on General File, that if that employee then went into a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, they could still maintain benefits under the legislation. The problem I raised on this legislation at that time was the problem with financing the program. I think it was worthy and beneficial to try to indicate the desire of this Legislature in this state to have employees with drug problems go to drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, try to deal with their problem, hopefully solve their problem and get back into the work force. I think that's a laudable goal, but to achieve that goal