

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Gavel.) Senator Coordsen, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, all of the members should have AM2996 on their desk. This amendment repeals all of the language in the amendment that I introduced on General File. If you recall, the conversation at that time, my amendment was drafted rather hurriedly just prior to the commencement of the afternoon session and that I indicated at that time that we had to work out with the Federal Department of Labor and the State Department of Labor the right language and that I would be reintroducing on Select File the language that would make the intent of my amendment work in real life. So on AM2996 on page 2, on lines 19 and 20, and it has to do with the availability for work which is one of the qualifications in Nebraska and, in fact, nationally, in order to draw unemployment you must be able and available to work. We contacted the regional office of the Federal Department of Labor to make sure that we complied with the federal regulations in this area and added the words, "or attending a drug treatment program pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 48-628." What this language means is that a person while they are enrolled in a drug treatment program will, in fact, be considered by legal definition able and available for work. While they will not have to be actively seeking employment, they would have met by this change that particular section of federal compliance and the rest of state law. And then you move on to the meat of the body. We change, realign section numbers up above, but get down on page 4, line 19, and I will read this for the record at least. "If the individual's discharge is for misconduct as defined in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subdivision, he or she shall be only subject to a one week disqualification period if he or she enrolls in a drug treatment program approved by the commissioner within two weeks immediately following the week of the discharge for such misconduct, has completed such a drug program after discharge, or is making satisfactory progress toward the completion of such a program, except that any such individual who fails to satisfactorily complete the drug program shall be disqualified for the remainder of his or her eligibility. Such individual shall as a condition of eligibility execute releases sufficient to allow the commissioner to accurately monitor his or her progress in such program." This is about probably the fifth or sixth draft of this language before we got the t's crossed and the i's dotted and the commas in the right place in order to meet all of the