

compliance necessities. It will allow an individual who would otherwise be disqualified to continue to receive their unemployment benefits if they sign up for a drug treatment program and then, as the calendar progresses, they have to maintain a satisfactory participation until they complete the program. I know that Senator Ashford has some questions as to the language of this that he may discuss with an amendment to this amendment, but it is my understanding of this amendment that if a person signs up or enrolls in a program, if those programs happen to be full and they continue to abide by the regulation...regulatory reporting, that they would continue to maintain eligibility for their unemployment. It changes the language from my previous amendment in that the Commissioner of Labor will approve the drug treatment programs. They...generally the drug treatment programs are approved by the Department of Health, but this approval gives the commissioner the flexibility to approve either programs approved by the Department of Health or perhaps a program that might be approved by the Federal Department of Labor or some other entity. Another major change in that instead of taking the money out of the Contingency Fund, this money that goes to pay the unemployment will come out of the pool of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund so that it will not be charged to any employer's account, but rather would come out of the same pool of money that would ordinarily be used to pay those benefits acquiring to people who have had their disqualification period under current and continuing law for disqualification for other uses. So, with that, I would move for the adoption of this amendment and would be willing to answer any questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: An amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Ashford would move to amend the Coordsen amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. This is an effort...this amendment is an attempt to address the problem that I raised in my question of Senator Wesely and the problem that has been raised by Senator Coordsen and it's an attempt to kind of split the difference between the two sides here. And basically what my amendment does, if you look at AM...at Senator Coordsen's amendment, if you look at page 4,