

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. Senator...Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Horgan would move to amend the committee amendments. (See AM1307 on page 1775 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. My amendment simply moves to put the bill, LB 720, back into the bill, LB 720, and the amendment has been handed out to you by the Pages. Under current Nebraska state law, if the Governor calls up members who are employees of the state and are members of the National Guard and they suffer a loss of income, as a result of that, the Governor has, at his option, the ability to make them whole again. So say you have a state employee, an average state employee makes an income of \$22,000, if he is called up by the National Guard for a disaster within the state and he suffers a loss of income, for the period of time that he serves, the Governor can reimburse and make that employee whole. What LB 720 does and the amendment that I am offering says that for any state employee who is called up to any service from a reservist status, be it the Navy Reserves, the Army Reserves, the Air Force Reserves, or the state reserves, that from the date August 2nd, the date of the Persian Gulf, and which would coincide with the committee amendments, that the state will then make that employee whole. For your information, the best determination that we have been able to make is that there are 61 employees who were affected by Desert Storm, and some of those employees are still in the Middle East. There are only really two categories of pay, the E-4 and the E-5 categories where employees would be affected. At the E-4 level, with an average state employee making \$22,500, his military pay is about \$1,800 less than what his state pay would be. At an E-5 level, it is about \$481 less. In all other categories, E-6, 7, E-8, E-9, they are going to make more money in the military than they make as state employees and there would be no fiscal impact to the State of Nebraska. And there is also a sunset provision in this law that an employee is only eligible for the benefit for one year. So it limits the state's liability. This seems to me to be an equitable and fair thing to do. If state employees are called up from a reservist status in the state reserves, they are compensated, but if they are called up to defend their country in the Middle East, they are not compensated under