

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, Senator Crosby, but there still has to be that one event that...

SENATOR CROSBY: Oh, okay,...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...identifies when the problem happened.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...I thought maybe you would like to bring that out once more. I have mixed feelings...thank you. I just have some mixed concerns about this particular bill. I read the bill through again to be sure that I understood what Senator Will is trying to do, but the reason I didn't vote on the one before, and I may not vote on this one, is that along with that, with everything else, there are fiscal notes on both of these bills that will make it incumbent on the Workers' Compensation Court. It's bound to add to their caseload. I don't know that they would have to have another judge, but what they'll do is come into the Appropriations Committee and say, well, the Legislature passed this law last year and now we need a certain amount of money to get started on it or because our caseload has grown we need that money. So, for that reason, I'm trying to be a little conservative today. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Coordsen, you're next.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, to continue the dialogue, Senator Will mentioned in his, I believe, last presentation of the two types of broad areas in which injuries or illnesses are compensated for under the workers' compensation laws in Nebraska, and those are an occupational disease section and the work-related injury section. Historically, work-related injury has been where the cumulative trauma awards...and there have been many cumulative trauma awards, have been found. I would be remiss, I think, in my responsibilities if I did not indicate to you that I have a certain amount of concern in moving a definition that has always been under the trauma side of our statutes into the occupational disease statutes and what that effect might be on future claims by injured workers in Nebraska. The definition of an occupational disease is a disease which is due to causes and conditions characteristic and peculiar to the employment. It must be a hazard which is greater than that which occurs in employment generally. Some of the cases under this would be