

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. The Chair recognizes Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Madam President, colleagues, I share Senator Hall's frustration with this...with this problem. Since I've been in the body, I've always been frustrated by the federal government telling us what we have to do in order to receive their money. They're very generous about giving us the money but then they also attach strings to it that, in some instances, I've never...I have not agreed with. And we're faced with this situation right now where they say you have to enact this piece of legislation on a dislocated worker or you lose \$10 million which is about the funding that we have for the Department of Labor. Senator Hall, I know, has never been afraid of a good fight and maybe this would be something that he would like to engage the state in. On the other hand, if he feels comfortable putting in these rules and regulations, I will be happy to talk to the Department of Labor between General File and Select to incorporate these rules and regulations into the statute. Reviewing the rules and regulations, I certainly don't see any problem with incorporating this language into our statute. It's not in a form right now that we could use it as an amendment and attach it to the bill at this time, but putting it into statutory language on Select File will be something I would be happy to look into. And, as long as the Department of Labor has no major concerns about this type of action, I would be more than happy to do it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. The Chair recognizes Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Madam Chairman and members, I would like to talk about this a little bit. I, too, get a little bit nervous when the Department of Labor, or any other department, starts messing with rules and regulations. I would certainly like to see what they have to offer before I would consent to this legislation. Sometimes we find that the cost of implementing another program far overrides what the benefits can be. And I'm also certainly happy to see something speed up to get a person back in the employment force, but at what cost. And I remember a couple years ago when we passed the workmen's compensation law to which business and labor both agreed on, and then the Department of Labor set a bunch of rules and regs out that just you couldn't work with. I mean, it was a hindrance to both business and labor until they were told to back down a little