

SENATOR HALL: The committee amendments to LB 334 are adopted. Before we proceed to the bill, I would like to announce that there are a number of guests of the Legislature. Senator Bromm has a guest, Orv Johnson from Wahoo, who is here with us. Senator McKenzie has a guest, Harold Rosenkotter from Grand Island, who is under the south balcony. Senator Doug Kristensen and Senator Cudaback have 50 guests from Kearney, who are in the north balcony. We have 25 adult fellows, 25 youth fellows who represent Leadership Kearney. Would you all please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you all for joining us today. Senator Abboud, to open on the bill.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, colleagues, the explanation of the committee amendments would pretty much suffice for the bill. There's no change between the two. I will, just kind of go into a little more detail for Senator Pirsch here maybe to help her understand the situation we're being faced with. The company that we're talking about here that would be involved in these negative reserve balances would have to have at least two years in which...two years as a company in order for the Department of Labor to evaluate them. So if a company was only in business for one year, they would be still using the 3.5 percent to determine their unemployment insurance. So maybe that will help to explain it. There has to be at least two years in that period, so that's two years more for experience to determine that. So I don't know if that helps, helps the explanation. If not, I will be happy to talk to you off the floor, talk to my committee counsel and we can...or the Department of Labor. It's kind of one of those topics that it doesn't affect a lot of companies and most companies don't have any problems with this but there's a few out there that are causing problems and we're just trying to make sure that the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is around for those employees that are out of work.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. On the motion to advance, Senator Elmer, for discussion.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Abboud, would you yield to a question, please.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Abboud, would you respond?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes.