

agencies shall provide appropriate assistance to an employee who requests help to stop smoking. We are not mandating, we are not forcing that, but for those who choose to, it will also be made available, and that that employee may be made aware of cessation programs, educational materials, and other resources. I believe that especially important in light of the fact that this is going to be certainly an inconvenience to those people who smoke, and it is going to be a problem, and I recognize that fully, although not as fully as those people who do smoke. That, I think, is an important provision of the bill. Another aspect that we have done was out of concern for those parts of state agencies that currently have residencies or dormitories, we have amended or allowed those to be amended out of the bill. The Nebraska Veterans homes, which currently has a policy where they can only smoke in one single room that is separately ventilated, would be allowed to keep that separate ventilation in that room. Private residences, residential dormitories of the university and state colleges, and I am sure we are all aware the university has a total ban that includes 10 feet out from the doors of the university already. The Department of Public Institutions, Department of Correctional Services, because there was some concern about the prisons and, although all state employees are banned from smoking within the prisons now anyway, this would also allow for those separate areas where prisoners are currently allowed to smoke. And it also includes the cabins and buildings managed by the Game and Parks Commission so that in those buildings, and Game and Parks did testify in favor, in support of this legislation. So we have allowed for some exceptions, but also allowed that as those agencies who pretty much have all said their policy is to eliminate smoking altogether in those facilities, they can do it at their own discretion and in their own time to make it as comfortable for those people who continue to choose to smoke, or who use those facilities and smoke. So there was some accommodation that was allowed for in this bill that had not been there before. The provision that was added this year allows that in the event that an employee complains to a manager, and this is in Section 4 on line 24, for those who may be following the bill, that there would not be disciplinary action taken against that employee who would, in essence, have a problem and make that problem known to a manager, supervisor, or someone else who would have responsibility. I think that is an important aspect of the bill. As Senator Wesely said, the bill does, with those exceptions, ban smoking in state buildings and facilities. It does provide a penalty provision, so that if