

CLERK: FA272, Mr. President, consists of what is found in the original amendment as Section 21. Has to do with the Governor's Roundtable, I believe, Senator. (FA272 appears on page 2467 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke, I'm sorry, I thought I had recognized you to open.

SENATOR BOHLKE: I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I think perhaps we might be getting to one division of the question that may move along a little faster than the others. But, certainly, it was a message from those people who have served on the roundtable. It's been a message of a number of people on the Legislature who wants...who wish to have people continue to meet and evaluate what's happening with welfare reform, to continue the roundtable, and that's what this does, is to reinstate the roundtable. And I know that this was something that Senator Wesely had looked forward to having put back in and especially in this amendment, and so I will give the balance of my time to Senator Wesely.

SENATOR LINDSAY PRESIDING

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Wesely, you have about four minutes.

SENATOR WESELY: Plus five.

SENATOR LINDSAY: That would be nine.

SENATOR WESELY: But I won't use them. Thank you. Mr. President and members, hopefully, this is noncontroversial. We did set up the roundtable with last year's bill but we sunsetted it July 1 this year. Our view is that they did not complete the work. Their view is they didn't complete the work. They want to continue the effort. It's an attempt to bring the business community, the businesses of the state together with the Social Services Department and state agencies, and we include in the roundtable most of the state agencies that have an impact on the welfare system, and we ask them to try and put a bridge between the two, the private and the public sector. The bottom line is that if you have a two-year cutoff and you don't have jobs, you're...it's not going to work, and we've got to work with the business community to accomplish that.