

We have had four people speaking on the amendment. I will leave it up to the body to make a determination as to whether they wish to vote to cease debate. I believe I did see five hands, so the question before the body is, shall debate now cease? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The question is, shall debate be ceased? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 11 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate does not cease. The agenda calls for us, at this point, moving to the special order of General File, 1996 committee priority bills. We will do so. The Dierks amendment will be pending when we return to LB 108. The first bill had the distinction of being listed on the agenda twice today, it has already advanced this morning, I understand, on regular consent calendar. Mr. Clerk, LB 1230.

CLERK: Mr. President, Legislative Bill 1230 is a bill introduced by Senator Vrtiska. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 16 of this year, at that time was referred to the Business and Labor Committee for hearing, the bill was advanced to General File. I have no committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: No committee amendments. Senator Vrtiska, to open on your bill. Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. First of all I would like to tell you what LB 1230 would do. LB 1230 would amend Section 48-144.03 to allow workers' compensation insurance companies to file certain reports of insurance coverage with the Nebraska Workmen's Compensation Court by electronic means. Currently, this section requires that such report be filed by certified mail. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, insurers must file a report with the compensation court when every workers' comp insurance policy is written, canceled, or renewed by the insured, insurer. This information is used in a variety of ways, one of which is to identify the responsible payer in the event of a workplace injury or illness. The court reviews this information whenever a petition is filed in order to identify the appropriate defendants. Insured employees, employers, attorneys, insurance agents, and others also frequently contact the court to identify the responsible insurer in connection with a particular claim. The proposed change in this bill would improve efficiency of the