

the employer's experience rating should be and ultimately sets what the employer's unemployment tax rate will be. It seems a bit unfair that a nonwork-connected illness or injury would impact this rating because these situations are beyond the control of an individual employer and is not reflective of the employer's workplace. Employers should not discriminate against prospective employees on the basis of their health when their condition has no impact on their ability to perform the job. I believe most employers do not engage in such practices, however, the current law could indirectly give incentive to employers to consider such matters when hiring someone. Charging an employer's unemployment benefits back to the employer's experience account when the employee's departure is the result of a nonwork-related illness or injury is not good policy. LB 1212 corrects that. I want to emphasize that LB 1212 would not affect either the eligibility or the level of unemployment compensation benefits an individual may receive. The effect of the bill, simply put, is to spread the cost of unemployment benefits for former employees who fall into this category among all employers. The bill was brought to Senator Vrtiska by the State Chamber, was not opposed in the committee hearing and advanced unanimously. I would ask that the bill be advanced to Select File and I'll try to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Dierks, there are no lights on. Would you have anything else to say in closing? Closing is waived. The question is, shall LB 1212 be advanced? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 1212.

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 1212 advances. Mr. Clerk, LB 1249.

CLERK: LB 1249, introduced by Senator Janssen. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17 of this year, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Fisher, I understand you're going to handle committee amendments. (AM3037 is found on page 721 of the Legislative Journal.)