

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 1, 2000

LB 953

beyond his or her control he or she can no longer work there, so employment is going to be terminated. So what you have, if anything, is a "nonoffending" employer, a "nonoffending" employee. This pool of money paid in by all these employers is like an insurance pool where you spread risk among a large number of contributors so that no one is going to be busted, broke, made broke by large payouts. The amounts of money involved in making benefits available to one of these unfortunate persons will be negligible in terms of having any affect on the individual account of any employer. That's why there was no objection to the bill. There was no opposition. Now, if the employers, whose money creates this fund, don't see it as a raid on their fund, as something that's going to make them pay more money than they should or make them assume the cost of something for which they're not responsible and they should say, get your hands off this fund, these people are not entitled to anything, they would have been there, but they were not. As society matures, as society becomes more civilized there is a corresponding willingness to realize that things which society has not paid attention to for various reasons ought to be given very serious attention and you have to find the best means available to address that problem. The problem here is where an employee, who is satisfactorily performing duties in every respect, can no longer, without grave danger to his or her health and even life, can no longer work at this establishment. The employer may be sorry to see this person go, but may even advise the employee, it's best for you to get away from here because if you stay here something bad is going to happen to you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And now for Senator Beutler's concern. Something bad could happen to other employees at that location if an irate spouse came and did like what has happened at post office locations. Not only is that individual in danger, but other employees. So it's not insurance that makes help available only for that spouse who is being abused, but it's a type of insurance policy for other employees who might be harmed were that employee to continue working at that location.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are no