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LB 915

employer has a charging exposure up to \$5,590. Just one claim like this can increase employer's employment tax rate because of its impacts on experience rating. What this bill would do would spread the cost of that claim across the 40,000 other employees, which would make it so that that employer's experience rating would not be increased because of the situation that we were in and it was no fault of his, obviously. This bill came out of committee on a 7-0 vote. It has no opponents who appeared against it, and it would take care of a situation that we now have in the system that I thought that the...certainly would appear to me to need to be addressed. With that, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I would ask for the advancement of this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Debate on the advancement of LB 915, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this bill came out of the Business and Labor Committee. I'm a member of that committee. I was present when the committee voted to act on this bill. If you look at the committee report, my name appears first on the list of those supporting this bill. Senator Vrtiska said it was a good bill and it was, just as when I was 17 it was a very good year, but time passes and things change and circumstances alter cases. One who voted for a bill at one time may have second thoughts and not vote for it at another time. And people can do that for any reason or no reason. A bill which seems to be uncontroversial can develop into a controversial bill as a result of influences that have nothing to do with the bill itself. So what Senator Vrtiska is proposing in this bill is similar in principle to what we agreed to do on another bill yesterday. That involved a situation where a person left work to escape domestic abuse and such person would not lose any benefits for leaving under those circumstances. If that were the reason for a person leaving, the employer's experience account would not be charged for the benefits going to that individual. I spoke for that bill yesterday and supported its advancement. The concept here seems to be very similar whereby an individual is ill and leaves work. Well, under the current law, that person will receive benefits. Yesterday, we dealt with a bill which created a new basis for a person to receive benefits, period. In the circumstance