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deals with what I just touched on.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On the Chambers amendment, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, notwithstanding the discussion between Senator Chambers and Senator Matzke, it may be useful to discuss why leased employees are part of the committee amendment. Leased employees are, as a portion of a company's participation in LB 775 was a bill that I introduced two years ago, then Senator Bohlke reintroduced last year. The idea behind the use of leased employees in a variety of circumstances is that the company that is actually the employer of the person can offer a greater level of benefits to the employee than they would otherwise receive, if they were employed by a very small firm. If any of you have ever tried to run a small business and have encountered difficulties having group health insurance, for example, and you've probably found out that you couldn't have a group plan unless you had, let's say, ten employees, and if you don't have a group plan that means in all likelihood that you will not be able to offer any kind of a significant health benefit to your employees, that problem is solved by companies that will lease to you a full-time employee. And the restrictions that are in the bill mean that the provisions would only apply to full-time employees. These are not temporary employees, these are not folks that come in for a day, or two days, or half a day, these are permanent, full-time individuals if you're going to qualify for benefits. The other area in which leasing companies serve a valid purpose and actually benefit workers is through retirement plans. If you're going to have a good, comprehensive retirement plan, you may find that difficult or impossible to maintain for one or two employees, if you're a small business. If, however, you can lease an employee from another company that has many employees and can maintain a comprehensive retirement plan, giving you a variety of options for participation, that may actually benefit the employees. The companies that traditionally do leasing offer a variety of benefit packages to be associated with the employees that they offer to other firms. It has become quite a flexible and useful business, not only for small businesses, but for the people who work for small businesses, because they oftentimes receive benefits in terms of