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LB 1330

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. And I want to begin my comments by thanking Senator Brown for making this a priority bill. This is probably...I'm not quite sure it's the shortest and simplest bill...well, it isn't quite the shortest and simplest. I actually annually introduce a bill that might be shorter and simple, but this is one of the shortest and simplest bills that anybody could introduce in any legislative session. It affects only one section and it changes only three thing...changes only one thing in that section and that's a date. Changes the date from February 1 of 2000 to January 1 of 2001. Now, you have to ask yourself why, why would this be a priority bill in the session and why would Senator Chambers have filed...how many amendments have you filed, Ernie, 19? Twenty-two, okay, lost track. Why would Senator Chambers have filed 22 amendments to this simple bill? Well, because the date that's changed is a sunset date, the sunset date that we're changing is February 1, 2000, to January 1, 2001. The next clue to why this will generate that much discussion is because the sunset date is for an act that we passed a couple of years ago. It was an economic development incentive act. It is the Quality Jobs Act, sometimes referred to as the Micron act, at least that's the way it was debated on the floor of the Legislature at the time. Some of you may be wondering why I am the one that introduced the bill to advance the sunset, because I have most of the time adamantly opposed these kinds of bills and, in fact, some of you would remember that I was a vigorous opponent of the bill when it passed originally. I am willing to ask you to extend the sunset date so that we can have a full analysis of the act. We have additional tools available to us now that we did not have available to us when we passed the original act. We have experience with the act. We would, I think, by the devotion of a summer's work, be able to come back to you with proposals for modification, because I do believe the act would require modification, and perhaps then again suggest that we have the act renewed on some basis. But in order to undertake that discussion it is necessary to extend the life of the act. I don't think it's appropriate to sunset the act while we're undertaking that discussion of its effectiveness and whether or not it should be modified in some respects by a future Legislature. I would have thought...you may be thinking, well, why isn't he bringing the proposals to us now to advise us what