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FLOOR DEBATE

February 5, 2003 LB 245

with regard to wells it still needs to be left in place to establish a liability standard statutorily. And so with DHH, they actually ended up with...this is their draft primarily, what we ended up saying is simply updating some of the language in the old statute indicating, basically, that every pitfall has to be adequately covered or enclosed so as not to constitute a safety hazard, and that every well not in use, and we used more modern language, shall be decommissioned or properly placed in inactive status, in accordance with the law, so as not to constitute a safety hazard. And then it has a Class IV misdemeanor penalty, but that's not creating a new one. It's always been against the law to not properly protect abandoned wells, for example. So that's all the amendment does, is restore those two statutes and to update them so that they correspond to the modern law on well standards and on pitfalls. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Discussion? Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close. Senator Beutler waives closing. The question is the adoption of AM0227 to LB 245. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The amendment is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend, AM0241. (Legislative Journal page 426.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler, to open on his amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, this is a clarification amendment, which I think is all right with DHH also. Basically, there is a provision in the bill that indicates that notice of withholding is sent to an employer, and he has to start withholding in the same pay period...in the first pay period that occurs after the date of