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Meatpacking Industry Worker Rights Coordinator position and continue the program beyond the current sunset date of June 30, '04. Assuming that the bill would pass or the committee amendment version, the functions of the Meatpacking Industry Worker Rights Coordinator position would be consolidated with the existing non-English speaking program, workers' program, for the fiscal years of '03-04, and '04-05. This would achieve some General Fund expenditure reductions of about \$51,500. Presently, there's considerable amount of overlap between the constituencies benefited by these two programs and we believe that through this merger the General Fund budget reductions could be achieved while continuing to provide the necessary quality of service to the workers that we feel are benefited by these programs. I think Senator Connealy's approach is to rather than leave it up to an administrative consolidation, as the Governor's bill does, is to actually place this in statute. And I will let him share the introduction and explain his provisions and he has done a considerable amount of work on this. And so, if possible, Mr. President, I would yield the rest of the opening to Senator Connealy.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Senator Bromm. You've covered the beginning. I want to give you a little background. The Legislature in 2000 passed a bill, LB 1363, a bill that I introduced that created the Workers Rights Coordinator position and assigned duties. The bill was a response to public concerns about the treatment of some workers in our state's meatpacking plants. It was during that time that newspapers were publishing stories on meatpacking plants and the dangerous conditions that were in those plants. We looked at how the employees were being treated. What was even more disturbing was the implication that certain workers, namely, non-English speaking immigrant workers, were being treated in a harsh and inhumane fashion. So there was positive action taken by the Governor and by our state by the publication of the Nebraska Meatpacking Industry Workers Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights, which can be found in the bill and also in page 5 of the amendment, contains those basic workers rights that the