

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 26, 2004 LB 950

introduced on January 9, referred to Business and Labor, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Vrtiska, as Chairman of the Business and Labor Committee, you're recognized to open on the advancement of LB 950.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is another bill that was introduced by the committee at the request of the Department of Labor. It intends to reduce the number of wage audits that Nebraska employers are required to respond to when the Department of Law (sic) is researching possible overpayment of unemployment benefits. The information in the new hire reporting directory is being used to help identify unemployed claimants who fraudulently obtain unemployment benefits by continuing to file claims even after they've been...after they've returned to work. These employer wage audits are necessary when the state unemployment agency does not have record of the exact date that the worker began working for his or her employer. This makes it impossible for the Department of Labor to tell whether a worker has stopped filing claims as soon as he or she returned to work, or whether the worker continued to file for unemployment claims after they return to work. So by amending the New Hire Reporting Act to require employers to include the first...employee's first day of work on the new hire reporting form, wage audits can be reduced. New Hire Reporting Act requires the reporting of this information to the Health and Human Services System, which will then share the pertinent data with the Department of Labor. Current language in the act allows employers to use an employment's federal W-2 form to transmit the hire information. This is a cost-saving thing, because they won't have to do as many audits, because they'll have a record of when a person is at work. And I think it's something that we need to address, and I hope you would support the advancement of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. You've heard the opening on LB 950. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Vrtiska, there are no light...he waives the opportunity to