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FLOOR DEBATE

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times his or her weekly benefit amount the following commence...following the commencement of the original claim. And Sections 13 or 14, 13 is technical, 14 is a repealer. And I'm going to yield the next part of the time to Senator Combs.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Section 10 of the committee amendment continues. It amends 48-628 to increase the disqualification period, and this is the topic that we had a lot of discussion on last year on a bill that we had brought that addressed specifically this issue. An individual shall be disqualified for benefits for the week he or she left work voluntarily without good cause, is discharged for misconduct, or refuses suitable work, and for the following 13 weeks. As we mentioned last year, we are only one of a handful of states, I believe, of four that currently permit this. And in response to this part of the legislation, we have included and codified good cause quits in Section 7. This is a new section that takes the language establishing good cause quits from the original Section 11 and puts them in their own stand-alone section. It further defines eligibility of construction workers for good cause quits, and broadens the definition of abuse. This laundry list of good cause quits for voluntary reasons includes an individual who voluntarily leaves his or her employment shall be deemed to have left his or her employment for good cause if the commissioner or his or her deputy finds that: an individual has made all reasonable efforts to preserve the employment voluntarily but leaves his or her work for the necessary purpose of escaping abuse, and that means as in on the job or from the employer, or abuse as defined in Section 42-903, which is domestic abuse. So if they're being abused on the job, that is now being codified as a good cause quit. Two, an individual left his or her employment voluntarily due to a bona fide nonwork-connected illness or injury that prevented him or her from continuing the employment, or continuing the employment without undue risk of harm to the individual; an individual left his or her employment to accompany his or her spouse to the spouse's employment in a different city or new military duty station; four, an individual left his or her employment because his or her employer required the employee to relocate; five, an individual is a construction