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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 739

so-called, is not deemed voluntary. Because the listing as it stands and the way it is drafted in the committee amendment that is before us contains a discrete listing of reasons that constitute good cause, the effect is that any other reason outside of that list cannot be considered by the director or whomever he or she would designate to review a case of a person who feels that he or she had not been granted consideration that was due. Part of what is going to be offered here in the amendment that I mentioned before that has not been drafted yet, a change in the language to make it clear that the listing includes, but is not limited to, those items specifically set forth. There is an additional open-ended or catchall bit of language which would say, or as equity or good conscience would dictate. This means that the Legislature is acknowledging that the listing that currently is found in the law does not cover and anticipate every possible reason that could constitute good cause for leaving a job. Now the consequences of leaving a job voluntarily without good cause is that the person is disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation benefits for however number of weeks we will ultimately decide. What I've offered here that you see on the gadget is just a categorical statement to strike Section 7 from the bill. My intent in offering these types of motions, as I stated the other day, is to create a set of circumstances which will allow us to debate and give consideration to each of these major items in the bill. We need that debate whether we would agree with them or disagree with them, in order that we will understand what it is that we're doing. Much has been put into this committee amendment that will become the bill, and because that has happened, it is unwieldy and impractical to try to discuss the entire bill as an entity. It must be broken down into manageable sections which, in turn, can be analyzed and evaluated. When that amendment that I've alluded to earlier is brought here, I'm going to sign it, I'm going to offer it. That amendment is an outgrowth of some strenuous very good work done by the Speaker out in the lobby. And when I offer the amendment itself, I'm going to go into a bit more detail on how we arrived at the point we will be at when that amendment is presented. Brothers and sisters, things around here do not happen in a vacuum. When there is a contentious, serious issue that seems to be going nowhere, when it appears that there is no way out,