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April 11, 2005 LB 739

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, AM1148.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. In making a final review of the bill, it was found that a few technical changes are in order to coordinate dates and sections. When the committee asked that abuse in the workplace be added as a good cause quit, it was not intended that those quits should be excused from an employer's experience account, and have...we've added language to page 27 and 55 to clarify that if an employee quits due to an abuse within the workplace, the employer's experience account will be charged. The language added to page 33 to clarify the differences between 2000 and 2006 when subsequent claims were filed. The amendment also inserts language on page 48 that mirrors our current system, so that the employer that has less than 16 consecutive calendar quarters can be rated based on the four calendar quarter periods for which contributions are payable. By inserting this lesser time period, the employers can be rated equitably with other employers. The new language that is added to page 50 clarifies that all calculations are done as of September 30 date each year. Additionally, this change provides definitions for the term "total wages," as used in this section, as all wages paid in covered employment. This paragraph also strikes the phrase "years indicated" as originally used in the bill because the immediate implementation of the array system, the phase-in, is obsolete. And with that, that I think explains the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Heard the opening on AM1148, offered by Senator Cunningham to LB 739. Open for discussion. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, Senator Cunningham, just let me ask you one general philosophic question, and you've been very straightforward about everything you've advocated with respect to this bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, would you yield?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes, I would.

SENATOR BEUTLER: These amendments are hard to read and this is