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part of their retirement from the military. Furthermore, by retaining these people we will retain their families. Their spouses will work in our communities, and their children will go to school...to our schools. They will spend money in our stores and pay taxes on their second jobs and the property they own. In the process of researching this bill to present to the committee, I became aware of a dire need in our state for these retirees. As we have heard during floor debate, Nebraska needs to attract industry. That is why...this is what is so unique about the current situation occurring in regards to our retired military. Nebraska has a developing industry in the defense field and currently we lack enough qualified men and women to fill these jobs. Normally, the state of Nebraska is trying to attract industry to employ the people in the state. This is a turnabout where we're trying to attract people to employ in a business. In a survey of available positions in the defense industry that was conducted by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, it was shown that there are between 125 jobs that they are unable to fill. This survey was compromised of only 9 of the 33 contractors in the metro area and did not include the contractors in the rest of the state. These numbers also do not include other support industries, such as IT companies, that contract with the military. Because this survey was limited to only nine contractors, the total number of jobs available is estimated to be much higher. The reason that the contractors are unable to fill these jobs is because of Nebraska's tax climate. Nebraska is one of only five states that offer the military no exemptions on their retirement. The repercussions of not offering an exemption are reflected in the exodus of military personnel from this state upon their retirement. They move to states that offer them a more favorable tax climate, and take with them their technological experience, their leadership abilities, their work ethic. In addition, they take with them their families who work in our communities, and their children who attend our schools and universities. This situation poses an immediate problem in our inability to fill needed defense jobs in creating an environment that will force corporate contractors to leave Nebraska. Furthermore, our inability to retain these crucial industries for Offutt could increase the potential for us to lose part of our new mission of Space Command. Already, the military has transferred troops back to