

and Labor Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 14th of this year for the first time. It was referred to the Business and Labor Committee. The bill was considered, Mr. President, on February 2nd. The committee amendments were adopted at that time. Upon a motion to advance, the bill had failed. I now have pending, Mr. President, an amendment from Senator Doyle.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE: Mr. President, members of the body, my amendment, the amendment that I am offering to LB 249 at this point simply does this. It puts...it eliminates the penalty for deficit account employers. What it does in effect it rolls back or it goes beyond the...it takes away the committee amendment and it says that all accounts shall have a standard rate at a 5.4 percent level rather than a higher rate for deficit account employers. Up until about six years ago the Nebraska Unemployment Insurance Fund was administered under law in such a way that did not differentiate between deficit and positive account employers. In 1977 or 1976 this body determined that there would...there should be perhaps a differential and it was set at 1 percent higher than the then standard rate of 2.7. In other words, the deficit account employers went to a 3.7 percent rate. Now who are those accounts that are under the maximum because of the deficit account? Basically, it is seasonal industries industries in which there is little or no control over the work activity, for example, right now during the winter...the construction industry, for example. Nebraska's unemployment rate at this time is right at about 7 percent. But in the construction industry depending on which locale you are concerned with, the unemployment rate is upwards of 15 percent and in the metropolitan area of Omaha at the present time it is up in the range of 40 percent. So what I am suggesting here with my amendment is that we return to the time when all accounts, positive or negative, were treated the same for the same purpose, for the purposes of determining an employer's contribution rate. It does nothing with that portion of the bill of LB 249 which is mandated by the federal government which says that all accounts shall be under a standard rate of 5.4 rather than 2.7 which is the case at the present time, and the bill does, in fact, become effective, the law would become effective only when the federal law requires it to become effective in 1985. So I urge that the body adopt my amendment which would have the effect of putting all accounts on the same basis, both positive and negative accounts. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.