

amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the Pappas amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The amendment is adopted. Do you have anything else on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Morehead would move to amend the bill. (Morehead amendment appears on page 573 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Morehead, please.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President, and colleagues, I'm sorry that I haven't had the opportunity to visit with you beforehand, but on your desk today you will find a copy of the amendment which I propose along with some statistics and I hope that during Final Reading you had an opportunity to address this. I did not even have the opportunity to talk to Senator Labeledz and I think this is something that she has been interested in also. The amendment to this bill that I propose says that any state employee who is mandatorily retired before the age of 65 will have the opportunity to participate in the group health insurance program which the state offers. If you will note on the chart, Nebraska is the only state that does not allow their long-time employees in some manner to participate in that group policy until they can qualify for the federal policy which is offered. Now states adjust it in various ways. Some states make the employee pay all of it, other states make the state pay all of it and sometimes there is a cost sharing. In this case our amendment proposes that the employee pick up both the employee and the state cost. Now you'll see that there is another factor in here, if you will. We have the Rule of 85. This says that the employee must have accumulated years of service and age to total 85 before they can continue or have this option available to them. You may not know, but in my particular district we have a large number of state employees for various reasons, and while this does not happen very often, occasionally a person must be retired for health reasons and they are out there with absolutely no