

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. I will leave the house under call as Senator Abboud closes on his amendment because we will probably need another call if we don't, so I will leave us under call and members who are not here, please report to the Chamber and record your presence. Senator Abboud, you may close.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Senator Landis, did you want to take any of my time to close? Okay. I mentioned to Senator Landis that we didn't have any opposition on this particular amendment. I thought he could have my time, if he chose to, or any other member of the body. This is actually a pretty serious amendment and I was hoping for a little debate on it, but that's...I guess that's okay. Probably get 25 votes to adopt it on the amendment and we won't have to worry about it. When we're looking at workers' compensation rates, and really that's what we're going to be looking to. We've talked a lot about the Oregon plan and how there was a sufficient drop the last three years to label the Oregon plan as a successful program and, really, that's what we're going to be looking to. We're going to look to, after as is a part of the bill at this time, we are going to be doing a study in a few years and we're going to look back and say, well, this was a successful program because premiums dropped X percent, or Nebraska in their rank throughout the nation is no longer the forty-seventh or forty-third rank in premiums that our premiums dropped even further. There will be some sort of comparison there and we'll examine that; on the basis of the level of our premiums, we'll determine whether or not this was a success. Now what happens to...when we put this together, what do we look to? We look to the average, the state average on the premium rate. So if we have a few employers out there that aren't doing their job, that are choosing to disregard the safety committees' recommendations and placing those employees in serious or imminent danger, we're affecting their premium because their premiums are going to stay much higher than the employer that chooses to follow those recommendations of the safety committee. Now the amendment states that if an employer fails to adopt and implement recommendations of the safety committee, the safety committee being made up of the employer and the employee coming together and making a recommendation, then, and also this recommendation involves serious or imminent hazards, then they are no longer covered under the protections afforded that