

after some discussion, this bond provision was added to...to, hopefully, provide...provide a little more protection. But my understanding of this bond is not that it is a performance bond, Senator Beutler. I think...I think the bond, and I need to reread this thing, but I think the bond would...would ensure that the State of Nebraska would collect their unemployment tax and their...and their...perhaps have a place to turn to if they don't comply with the work comp law. That's...that's my impression. Now, we do have a registration by nonresident contractors act which I wasn't really totally aware of and hadn't studied when we did consider this bill in committee, and that's Chapter 77-3101 and following sections. And I think we need to review that as we debate this bill and determine whether or not...how that dovetails in and fits together with the committee amendments and the bill, because I don't think the committee was aware or took a look at that act when considered the committee amendments. So I will be looking at that and hopefully can contribute something further on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Any other discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Abboud, would you like to close on the committee amendments?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes. The particular definition of how the bond is...the committee amendments establish that a bond be created. And this amendment was brought in my Senator Schimek, I think, as a result of the discussion that took place in the committee. My...I guess you can interpret the bond however you see fit. There's no specific language that states how this bond should be used. It can be used, I think, in a manner that Senator Bromm talked about, for unemployment, or workers' compensation as a way to...to try to get some money back if an out-of-state contractor fails to pay into the...pay into a fund, or if a worker is injured, this would take care of him. Also, it could be used for people to go after a performance bond. It's a bond that's out there, that's on file, that could be used as...if a judgment is placed against this out-of-state contractor. And, really, the idea behind it is ease of...of...once a judgment is gotten in the State of Nebraska against that person, then they would be much easier to enforce that particular judgment by means of attaching that bond and using that for the judgment. So, the bond can be a number of different things to whoever is filing an action against the out-of-state contractor. I urge the adoption of the committee amendment.