

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 29, 2006 LB 489, 1237

amendment was agreed to by a leap of faith by the business community and the insurers. The compensation court is moving forward to make changes in the fee schedule that were negotiated when we were working on LB 1237 earlier, and those include additional discounts from the hospitals and a change in a way medical implantable devices over \$10,000 are paid. And if you want to look at that handout that I gave you, theoretically and in this particular case, the billed charge was \$100,581.08. The maximum fee was \$85,493.92. What was paid by the payer, because they determined it was usual and customary, was only \$34,371.59. Now theoretically, in this instance, that employee could have been charged the difference between \$85,000 and \$34,000. They could have been charged that difference. We think this has happened somewhat, not on a major scale, but we believe it will happen in the future and, quite frankly, I think it would be a crime if the employee were billed for these charges. Now I'm going to tell you this amendment, even though I said it was agreed upon, is creating major problems in the lobby. I don't think right now you're going to hear anybody lobbying you against this because, quite frankly, it's kind of hard for anybody to justify that the employee should be stuck with a bill like that, but I would tell you that there still are major problems with it and if we can come up with better language before Select File, we will try to do that. And with that, I will try to answer any questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator. Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Boy, it's been a long haul to this bill and to get things to this point. We've had a real challenge this year, and everyone has worked very, very hard on the issues in the committee. But I did want to make a couple of points that it's a good bill. It's good because it's going to keep the employee from paying a balance, and my employees do get bills from providers that say especially, and I'll put it on the record, Lincoln Radiology. They just don't get it. You know, these people, they ask for HIPAA forms when these people have...they don't even have to have that to bill. I mean, I have employees with problems that I try to resolve all the time. They do not need to be balance billed. That's what the work comp program is supposed to be