

They are going to play by a different set of rules and that is an issue that I think very much needs discussion with regard to this bill. This is not something that I think goes by with a...with two lights and then a call for the question. This would allow for a different set of rules. When we had LB 661 a couple years ago that Senator Barrett along with Senator Warner authored and came to the Business and Labor Committee, that allowed for the State Employees Bargaining Act. Okay? And that arbitration issue was addressed in that bill. This is something that through the passage of 371 we allow for this group of individuals in their contracts to be treated differently than anyone else as the statutes of the state would provide. And I think that that is something that merits discussion and I would ask Senator Ashford in his response to this why the need for a different set of rules as opposed to the uniform arbitration procedures that we currently have in statute. Why have this binding type of language in LB 371 with regard to these contract situations in the case of beer wholesalers? I guess if there is a good reason we can fully expect to see these types of amendments crop up again and I thought the reason we got away from that when we passed that act was that there was a situation where we didn't have control, we didn't have oversight with regard to what was going on. There was different rules based on whatever the game was and, in this case, the language that we have in Section 20 of LB 371 takes us a step back instead of allowing us to continue as we had and as it was laid out in the Uniform Arbitration Act. So without striking this, you need to fully know that you are setting up a situation where the beer wholesalers and their contracts will be dealt differently than every other section of statute as it exists when we're talking about the Uniform Arbitration Act, and with that, Mr. President, I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Ashford, the Chair has an announcement of interest to all members of this Legislature. Today is Senator Schimek's birthday and Pages will soon be handing out treats in honor of Senator Schimek's birthday. Happy Birthday. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm trying to understand exactly what Senator Hall is getting at and I will try to answer his specific question and leave it at that. Section 20 is, in my opinion, the best...one of the better parts of the bill. I think it...what it does is establishes that the public policy included in LB 371 cannot be abrogated by contract and this type of