

when we got to the amendment, but the issue is clearly one of do we go ahead and amend our statutes so that this takes effect for those employees, and that is who benefits from it, it is the employees who benefit from a raise of 3.35 to 3.80, a benefit of a whopping 45 cents an hour, because they happen to work for an employer who doesn't meet, because their payroll, or excuse me, their gross sales don't meet the federal requirement, or the number of employees they have are under the 10 that the federal government allows as the lowest number that has to apply to the federal standard. We ought to do this in conjunction with the federal change and that is in July 1 of 1990, was my reason for bringing the bill in this year. My reason for looking to place it on LB 313 is that it deals with a similar type of subject matter. It deals with employment and it deals with compensation for unemployment. But clearly the suspension of the rules, I think, is a very forthright way to deal with that. I would urge you to support it, and then we can talk about the issues in the bill. We dealt with a little other bill the other day that dealt with, I guess it was worker's comp, or is this the...the unemployment, and I remember putting things into that that dealt with drug testing and all kinds of other things that were at best loosely related to the topic in the bill. At that point in time, there were not arguments that it was necessarily not germane to the issue except maybe those that I raised, but...then all Senator Hefner would have had to do is stand up and say touche...but, in this case, I really think, and I know in talking to, listening to the folks in the committee, listening to the arguments just this afternoon on this issue, that this is something that, I think, folks feel needs to be done, but to say, let's go ahead and wait, and let's go ahead and study it doesn't do anything for the kids that are out there working this summer who are going to be able to be paid at a lesser wage because somebody happens to fall under the state minimum wage guidelines which currently mirror the federal guidelines, which currently mirror the federal guidelines, as they should, and they will change effective July 1. I think it makes good sense for this Legislature to take a stand and say, yeah, the minimum wage ought to be at the level that the federal government feels is appropriate across the country; we think that there is very little difference between those numbers of employers that we have a state minimum wage for and that the federal standards would apply to. So I would urge you to suspend the rules. Let's go ahead and adopt this amendment to Senator McFarland's bill because it is an appropriate measure to take. It does send the message that we feel the individuals in