

from the federal government. My concern here is that we do not make it overly restrictive. On other occasions we have, in our state laws, made the regulations more restrictive than the federal regulations and thus have worked a hardship on some segment of Nebraska's economy. I just would like to be assured that that's not happening in this case. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Dierks, did you wish to discuss this amendment?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I just wanted to ask Senator Beutler a question, please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR DIERKS: I feel somewhat the same way that Senator Lamb does, Senator Beutler, I'm not opposing this bill. I guess I have some questions about the hours and requirements. Number one, did you say that these requirements are actually requirements of federal law?

SENATOR BEUTLER: It is my understanding, Senator Dierks, at this point, that the hours that are stated here as requirements are the minimum hours that are acceptable to the federal government.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, then if we talk about 165 hours, does that mean 165 college credit hours or university credit hours?

SENATOR BEUTLER: It means 165 class hours and I think that's...I don't think that's an hour as such but I think it is the equivalent to an institutional hour of class, right.

SENATOR DIERKS: So that if you got 16 hours a semester, that would be 16 of those 165 hours?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: In other words...

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's my understanding and I will double check that for you, too.