

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

March 15, 1999 LB 608

not...this is not clear language. So, with that, I would yield my time to Senator Matzke.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Matzke, you have approximately three minutes.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Senator Bruning. I might mention Senator Bruning also introduced a bill that is similar to this and addresses the same problem, so he's knowledgeable on the issue and I think probably Senator Bruning has a good idea. I think we ought to vote down this amendment and then I'll continue to work with Senator Hilgert to see if we can come up with something. If the purpose of this is, as has been explained, I would...I would not object to the purpose, and my understanding is the Department of Labor already protects employees in this position so that this, first of all, is not necessary; secondly, is so confusing that it could be misinterpreted. There are terms in this. Nobody knows what a plant shutdown is. That's not defined in the statute. We looked into that this morning and we could find no definition of what a plant shutdown is. It doesn't necessarily mean a total shutdown forever. Sometimes there are shutdowns for vacation purposes. Sometimes there are shutdowns for maintenance purposes. Sometimes there are shutdowns for, you know, installment of new equipment, new facilities, that sort of thing. That is...is, again, an issue, or that's a term that is not properly defined in these. Pennsylvania didn't do a very good job, I guess. Let's blame Pennsylvania. I certainly don't blame Senator Hilgert for this language. It's...it comes from Pennsylvania and a lot of good things come from Pennsylvania, but I don't like their statutory language that confuses the dickens out of me. So I would ask you to reject the last five lines, this last division, and we will continue to work on this issue to see if we can clarify it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. For discussion on the committee amendments to LB 608, Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President and members, Senator Hilgert, is you would answer a question for me please. I've been trying to get it answered in these past moments and that's why I was late coming in, but what I've been told is that