

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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some 30 or 40 years ago. This is a vitally important aspect of our economy. In a free economy, employers hire and, unfortunately, there are layoffs and people are fired. That distresses me a great deal and I have always been a long supporter of the Unemployment Compensation Fund. Last year, Senator Hilgert worked on this diligently and it was improved and put on a firm and steady course so that it will be adjusted over time so that the unemployment compensation rate will be realistic and of benefit to employees who are laid off and their families. What we don't want to happen in this state is to have the unemployment compensation system denigrated or damaged or made ridiculous, and, unfortunately, due to the Supreme Court case and the interpretation of that case, we face a situation where employers may feel they can no longer support the unemployment compensation system because of an unintended consequence. And so I brought this bill to address the problem and it, quite simply, says that if you are being paid full vacation pay, not a reduced rate, we covered that so that nobody can manipulate the law, you're being paid your full vacation, you cannot claim unemployment compensation. Now I have learned in my conversations with people in the Labor Department and people representing employers that there's thousands of different cases and scenarios. This is a bill on principle to protect the unemployment compensation system against those who might try to take advantage of it. It sets forth just a very simple proposition. We want to protect the fund. We want to protect the system and if there are...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...problems out there I will...I've already pledged to visit...to work with Senator Beutler and Senator Hilgert to examine these problems to see if we can improve it, but at this juncture I would request that this bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. The question before us is the advancement of LB 608 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 3 nays on the advancement of 608.