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LB 608

sentence. And what that says is you take a defined amount of money. It says, pay received in a lump sum. That would be a certain amount. Whether it's \$2,500, or \$500, or \$10,000, you would take that defined amount and you would prorate that, complying with the other section of the statute on the base wage, to each week claimed on a week-by-week basis. Because each week is claimed, as I think we agree, each week is claimed a week at a time, because each employee has to qualify for unemployment compensation on each week. So I think that there is built in here the protection that I think both you and I want, because I don't want this manipulated either. But I think we have to...you have to read the entire language, and it says, "Vacation leave pay including that received in a lump sum or upon separation". That would be a defined, definite amount, and that amount is then prorated. It would have to comply with the law, because it wouldn't be vacation pay if it weren't the full base wage, and that would then be applied week-by-week to each week claimed. So I do not think that we encounter the problem that you have focused on. I think the law protects against that and I think the language is clear. Now you referred to this language as being drafted by lobbyists, it wasn't. This language I actually worked out with Legal Counsel for the Department of Labor, and they were very fair in their role. And, as a matter of fact, the Department of Labor has a statutory responsibility to protect the rights of unemployed people. And this was drafted by them after consultation with me. This was not the product of any lobbyist. In fact, I cannot personally take credit for all of this language, because...and I'd be happy to give you the names of the two legal counsel...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...in the Department of Labor that drafted this. They believe it's clear. They believe that it will adequately protect unemployed workers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Matzke. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Hartnett, on advancement of LB 608.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, if Senator Chambers would like some more time, so he can...so he