

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

April 9, 1999

LB 608

number into the lump sum, you will come out, for each week, with an amount below the base salary, and the person would be entitled to cover...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...recover for every week during which he or she was unemployed.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Chairman, I would yield my time to either Senator Chambers or Senator Matzke, whoever needs more time for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you have all but 12 seconds of 5 minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I don't want to go back on what I had said about that being my last time, but I do want to try to wrap it up and be clear on what I'm saying. I'm going to give an example using easy figures for me to deal with. A person can recover unemployment compensation for 26 weeks. Let's say that the person's base pay is \$500 a week, as Senator Matzke laid out. Upon being separated from that job the person gets a check for \$2,500. The person remains unemployed for the full 26 weeks, no disqualification. Senator Matzke says, as he reads this language, the \$2,500 would be prorated, to use the term of the bill, only over the first five weeks, because that would allow that employee to be disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation for those five weeks. I would say this. When week number one comes up, if you follow Senator Matzke's argument, he is correct, the person receives nothing from unemployment. The second week, nothing. The third week, nothing. The fourth week, nothing. The fifth week, nothing. Then the \$2,500 is exhausted. By any way of arguing, that \$2,500 would disqualify the person for five weeks, I agree with that. Senator Matzke and I depart company when we get beyond the fifth week. From that point on Senator Matzke would agree that, barring any disqualification, that employee would receive unemployment benefits. Now comes the place where I disagree absolutely. The