

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 24, 2003 LB 226
LR 37

body is (inaudible) of LR 37. All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of LR 37.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LR 37 was adopted. We now go to General File. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 226, by Senator Redfield. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 10 of this year, at that time referred to the Business and Labor Committee, advanced to General File. I do have amendments other than committee amendments pending to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Redfield, you're recognized to open on LB 226.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the body. Well, here we go again. I know that you have all been busy, that your phones have been ringing, that your fax machines have been busy and that your e-mails are piling up, but I'm here to introduce to you today LB 226. LB 226 does exactly what LB 29 did last year. Now I don't know how many of you remember LB 29, but I'm passing out a little history on LB 29, and this was a bill that allowed a mechanism whereby a nonunion employee could reimburse for actual legal costs and court costs a union attorney for those services. Now why would they do that? It would only be in a legal action. It would only be in a grievance because, in fact, the employee is making a choice, and that was the key element of LB 29--the employee had to make a choice. The word was clearly in there that the nonunion employee chooses. It was about deciding whether you wanted to file a grievance because it was to your advantage, or whether you wanted some legal action filed on your behalf because it was to your advantage. And because it was to your advantage and because you were obtaining these services, you ought to take responsibility for paying for those services. And LB 29 passed. If you look at the history there, you will see that it passed with 46 ayes, 0 nays, and 3 nonvoting, and it was signed by a probusiness Governor. We didn't have any problem with it. It