

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

March 3, 2003

LB 54

"relative," it's based on blood or marriage, but it also includes a stepparent and stepchild and an adoptive parent and his or her adopted child. So there are people who are not related by blood who could be considered a relative. Is a stepchild related by marriage? Would that be considered a relationship based on marriage?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, in my interpretation of this, yes, it would. It's a very broad, a very broad definition of "relative."

SENATOR CHAMBERS: For purposes of this amendment, if a person is gay, if the man is gay or the woman is a lesbian, if not related by blood, that person could be deprived of the right to take advantage of this legislation. Is that true?

SENATOR RAIKES: You condition that on their not being related by blood. I guess that would...that would assume that a gay person could not be involved in a heterosexual marriage. If they were then I think they would qualify under this too.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, maybe they don't want to marry somebody of the opposite sex and gay marriages are not recognized in this state under that constitutional amendment, so that entire area of being related by marriage would exclude them. Is that correct?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's true, if the conditions that you describe were in fact, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this bill is prepared to move from Select File unless something comes up to stop it at this point?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would like to ask Senator Erdman a question or two.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman, would you respond to a question?