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LB 210

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Senator Beutler, your light is on next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, let me ask you about some of the language in the bill, if I could, so I can think about what you're trying to do here. Down, starting in line 23 of page 1, that is the latter part of the section that says this act shall not apply to, that is the workers' comp requirement, shall not apply to, and it goes on then to say service performed by a worker when performed on a farm or a ranch, "da-da-da," unless. It says, "Such service is performed on a farm or ranch for an employer who during any calendar year employs six or more unrelated, full-time employees," and let's just stop there for the moment. What is a full-time employee? That's not defined in the Workers' Compensation Act, and so I wanted to get a sense of what a full-time employee is to you.

SPEAKER BROMM: I think that a full-time employee is one who is required to work certainly more than 30 hours a week, week after week, and I guess I'm thinking about other definitions that are commonly referred to when it comes to benefit packages and who you must cover in a benefit package, and that...if you have a business and you have health insurance and...you must cover full-time employees if you fall within the requirements of being able to deduct your benefit premiums, and generally that is people who work more than 30 hours a week, and I think it's 20 weeks a year or more. I should check that. I did not realize when the bill was originally introduced or when the committee amendment was adopted that we had no definition of full-time employee in our workers' comp area anywhere, and I'd be interested, Senator Beutler, for clarification. Because, again, I don't want to create litigation; I want to avoid litigation. I'd be interested in getting that definition, if it's at all appropriate, into the statutes, and would be willing to work on that in the near future, before Select File if possible.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, but generally speaking, 30 or more hours a week is what you would be looking at.