

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

April 28, 2003      LB 210

SENATOR CUDABACK: Any objection? So ordered.

SPEAKER BROMM: That's correct.

CLERK: Senator Bromm would move to amend with AM1587, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, to open on your amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment goes in to do, I think, some clarification that came out of the General File discussion, and some questions and discussion with the workers' compensation administrator. Basically what the amendment does is it strikes the words "on a farm or ranch," which leaves in the definition of agricultural operations, under Initiative 300, as being the primary measurement of when this particular law applies. As we thought about the words "on a farm or ranch," I became concerned, and a number of people did, about whether or not we were dealing with a technicality where the injury might occur while you're in the employment of the farm or ranch employer, but maybe the injury didn't occur on the farm or ranch. And it...I think this...the intent is that when you're engaged in the employment, whatever that might be, if you're running an errand for the employer, if you're going to the next town to deliver something or pick something up, you're engaged in the work. And if there's an accident and you're under workers' compensation, it applies. The next portion of the cleanup, or clarification, is, it provides that the act shall apply to an employer 30 days after the employer meets the criteria. In other words, when you get the point that you have the number of employees that the act applies to, and as the act is worded right now, also the revenue test, then after 30 days you would have to have the coverage available. Now, 30 days is not a very long time. And it was suggested that this be ten days. But I have learned...I learn more all the time...about the difficulties, perhaps, of getting workers' compensation coverage right now. There is some real challenges in that area, not only the cost, but there have been some insurance carriers pull out of offering the coverage. And if you can't get anybody to carry the insurance, you're in a bind if you have only a few