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LB 608

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay, how did you come...to who...maybe Senator Bromm this question, the \$8.25 hour wage that you have in here? And as I read this, on page 5, it could go down from...could go down, it could go up. Is that the rural wage factor? Is that right, Senator Bromm, it could go down below the \$8...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...the \$8.25? How did you arrive at that number?

SPEAKER BROMM: Well, that was, as I recall, that was a number that was in LB 608 before and, in talking with Al Wenstrand, when we talked about the provisions of this amendment, he felt that that number would also be a good number for the rural tier.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Now just...and I think Senator Landis referred to the comments made by Senator McDonald, you know, could they reach this threshold of \$8.25 with health care? Is that part of it? As I just...as I read it, it's maybe...it could be either one or the other.

SPEAKER BROMM: The way it's drawn, it's...

SENATOR HARTNETT: And I just kind of...you know, looking at this.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...it's only wages, Senator Hartnett, and I asked the business community. Well, they asked if health benefits could be considered in that and I said, you know, give us a definition; that it's a good definition perhaps we could consider that. But I think that's been a problem, is coming up with an adequate definition. So it is just wages that that applies to at this point.

SENATOR HARTNETT: And one of the things that I thought, and I was one of the people that supported...one of the people left in this body that supported LB 775, I always thought the ingredients that was missing from LB 775, because it was our