

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

May 21, 2003

LB 608

strongest argument he can, and sometimes repeating parts of it for emphasis. This amendment is not unreasonable. It will not hurt any company. Not one. It does not affect the rural aspect of this bill. We have been told repeatedly how good the wages are that people receive from the companies taking advantage of LB 775 in the urban areas. This represents a floor. It is declaring that in order to take the benefits, which are monumental, in my opinion, which are made available under LB 775 for these companies, the workers are going to be given consideration. There is nothing currently in the law that would prevent any of these companies from paying less than this amount. I'd like to ask Senator Landis a question, for clarification, before I make a statement that may not be correct.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Landis, is there anything that would prevent one of these companies from paying minimum wage if that's what the company chose to do?

SENATOR LANDIS: Nothing in Nebraska law would prevent that from happening.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And members of the Legislature, I'm not going to say they would do that, but I want that before us. There currently is no floor other than the minimum wage law. We have been told repeatedly on this floor by various people who have commented on this subject that the wages are going to be in excess of \$8.70 per hour. So nothing will be harmed. This may not be the opening shot in the battle that Senator Landis says will be waged next session on LB 775. But it can at least give an indication of the seriousness of our intentions. We advanced a bill that would place the question of abolishing term limits on the ballot, despite criticism from outside the Legislature, in order to show the resolve of the legislators. Doing what Senator Beutler is recommending may be analogized to that situation. This amendment takes nothing from those freebooters who are getting the money, the benefits, as companies, under LB 775. I hope that this amendment will be adopted. Then I will support Senator Bromm's underlying