

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

February 24, 2004 LB 1049

disqualified for the seven weeks who would now be qualified for more weeks. Well, the bottom line is, these people decided they didn't want to work or they misbehaved at work to where they were terminated. So the question is, why should they be entitled to not be penalized to some degree? Now I know Senator Chambers argues about one size fits all, we're penalizing everybody at the same rate. Well, basically, that's what they've been doing anyway. Most of those people have been disqualified for a maximum of seven weeks when they could have been perhaps, if they would use a formula, they could have been qualified for up to ten weeks. The second issue that I wanted to bring to your attention was that, of those that are discharged, 29 percent of them, 29 percent of them are people who are...that are...that are let go are let go for misbehaving or for actions that they caused themselves; 53 percent of those are disqualified, and 56 percent of those are assessed a seven-week penalty, 56 percent of them. These are people who have acted badly or have committed some kind of a...not necessarily a crime, but have...

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...caused themselves to be discharged, yet, 56 percent of them are only assessed a seven-week penalty for their behavior at work. So there's a lot of things that come into play in this particular piece of legislation, but I think the bottom line is what I said at the outset, and that is there's only so much money in this pot, and if we're going to use it up we're going to penalize everybody. And unless we want to raise those rates and refurnish that fund, it's going to get in trouble. And that's the bottom line. And I know people will say, well, that's not our problem; we can't...we're just going to have to put more money in there. Well, that's easy to do, but we're at a time when the economy is not that strong and it's kind of a bad time to be increasing those. But we're going to have to do it. That's what it boils down to. So I just wanted you to know kind of what the statistics are on this particular piece of legislation...