

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 26, 2004 LB 625, 878

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Committee amendment is adopted. Further discussion on the bill? Seeing none, the Chair would recognize Senator Brown to close. She waives closing. The question is on the advancement of LB 625 to E & R Initial. All those in favor please vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 625.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Bill is advanced. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill, LB 878 by Senator Baker. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 7, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair would recognize Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. This is the hours of service bill that we...if you'll look at the green copy, the only thing it does is on line 6. Prefacing that change, it says, "The parts of the federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, 49 C.F.R., as modified in this section and any other parts referred to by such parts, in existence and effective as of January," new language, "4, 2004." We're simply updating the fact we're recognizing that the state does, in fact, adopt these rules as part of our program as far as commercial drivers' licenses and hours of service. Anyone who would like to go through this, I do have some handouts, if necessary, but it changes the hours that a driver may drive from the current 10 hours, after 8 hours off duty, to 11, after that driver has been off 10 hours, instead of the 8. It also changes the total number of hours. May not drive after 15 hours on duty. That does not...that includes sleeper time and, of course, fuel stops, meals and things. They may not drive after 15 hours now, and it changes that down to 14 hours after 10 hours off duty. It's a rather complicated system. The State Patrol, the Carrier Enforcement Division, has held seminars