

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

March 10, 2004 LB 599

I'm going to make the point. Here is how the Legislature would give guidance and direction. After the word "amount" in line 7 would be language such as the following: not to exceed a certain dollar amount. If currently the threshold is \$80,000, the statute could say that there's a limit as to how much higher that amount could be, rather than leave it completely to the discretion of this board. I use that as an example because that particular segment is brief. But when you get into these other parts of the bill where you're talking about exemptions and you say, "Such exemption may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act," all that act does is tell how they go about their negotiating, but it does not place a limit on the language that is being put into this bill. So the exemption could be increased to such an extent that what exists in the statute is nullified entirely. If there is a public policy...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that the Legislature is expressing by way of a statute, and that is what a statute is, the expression officially and formally of the state's public policy, then the Legislature, after having done that, would give to another agency or entity the power to wipe out what the Legislature declared without giving any guideline, without stating any conditions, but just carte blanche grants that authority, what in effect they're doing is allowing that agency to repeal statutory language. And I think this language is far too broad, but at this point all I can do is try to make the point. I may offer an amendment so that I can continue the discussion. Was this my third time, Madam President?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That was your second time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, then I'll put my light on again. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You're welcome. Thank you. Senator Beutler, you're next in line to speak. Senator Beutler. Seeing no Senator Beutler, I will call upon Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, Senator Beutler is missing, so you are next in line to