

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

March 22, 2005 LB 739

companies. And the hits that were taken were taken by lawyers, doctors, and voc rehab specialists, not workers getting checks. So I just want to say that there's a different historical record, or another point of view with respect to that allegation. Is that present in this situation? I'm not sure. I'll do my best to listen and make my own conclusions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: I will say this, that it seems to me that a balanced view that requires some sacrifice from all parties has some sense. Whether that proportion is reasonable or fair in this case, I'm not sure. And I'm open to that. In fact, I just voted for the last Chambers amendment. I want to try to find that balance. We have achieved that balance in the past. We can do it again. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Louden and Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I would like to acquaint you with another aspect of the bill that I think is interesting, and which...and in which, if you look at that aspect of the bill alone, I don't think the worker gets a fair shake. Now, I would grant that you need to look at the whole bill to make a decision about the bill. But let me point out this particular aspect of the bill to you. On page 10 of the bill, there is a provision that allows for an emergency increase in the amount of money that would be contributed by employers to the fund, in the event that the fund dropped below .4 reserve ratio. We are at that point now. And so the bill says that if the state's reserve ratio on September 30, 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009, any one of those four years, is less than .4 percent, then that emergency levy on the employer will kick in. And in return for that, there is a provision on the bottom of page 26 and the top of page 7 that says, if the state's reserve ratio on September 30, 2006, or any September 30 thereafter, is less than .4 percent, the maximum weekly benefit amount for the following calendar year shall not be increased over the then current amount. So when the fund drops that low,