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FLOOR DEBATE

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run, it can be made to appear that the business community is taking a small little hit, and Senator Beutler is not limiting his discussion to the item that happens to be the subject of an amendment that I might offer. But the amount of wages which will be subject to this tax is at \$7,000, then it will go to \$8,000, then to \$9,000, then stay there forever, which means that even if additional money should be coming in to keep the fund stabilized based on this incremental increase in the amount of wages that will be taxed, that incremental taxation is not going to occur. It's a one-sided, out-of-joint process that is being put in place so that it will become a system. Then, when you have another crisis, the approach will be to see how much can be done to harm the workers. Can you extend the period of disqualification? Can you take back some of those reasons that are in the bill now that would qualify as good cause for voluntarily leaving? Well, yeah, you can take some of those back because we can see that some of them are being abused so they'll be eliminated. If I'm not here, they will extend the period of disqualification. They will reduce the weekly benefits and they will put in formulas which, if you read them, will give you a headache and lose you before you get through reading it. And I'm going to read what is a part of this Section 5 and see how much sense it makes to you. For...starting on page 26, in line 17: For any benefit year beginning on or after January 1, 2001, an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be one-half his or her average weekly wage rounded down to the nearest even whole dollar amount, except that: (1) An individual's weekly benefit amount shall not exceed the lesser of one-half of the state average weekly wage as annually determined under Section 48-121.02 or the previous year's maximum weekly benefit amount plus \$10; (2) for benefit years beginning on or after January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2007, the maximum weekly benefit amount shall not exceed \$288 per week; (3)...and Senator Cunningham said he's willing to get rid of this...if the state's reserve ratio, whatever that is...and do you know what that is? Senator Beutler has been talking about it, but do you truly know what it is, brothers and sisters? If the state's reserve ratio on September 30, 2006, or any September 30 thereafter, is less than .4 percent, then the maximum weekly benefit amount for the following calendar year shall not be increased over the then