

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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May 9, 2005

LB 312

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I very much agree with Senator Synowiecki in the basic thrust of his remarks, and I do want to talk about the structure, the wage credit structure, on page 64 and 65. And, Senator Landis, if you're around...

SENATOR CUDABACK: I do not see Senator Landis, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You can turn on Senator Raikes' mike, and he can answer from back there.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, are you available for a question?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Landis, while you're going to your mike, I'm talking...I would like to discuss a little bit the wage credit provision on page 64. And first of all, I want to be sure I understand it. The lowest minimal credit is 3 percent times the average wage of new employees, times the number of new employees. And am I correct in that the 60 percent figure on the next page is the...60 percent of the Nebraska average weekly wage for the year of application is the minimum standard that you would have to meet?

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And then the credit increases from 3 to 4 percent, if you...if your wage level is 75 percent of the Nebraska average annual wage. And then the next level up, at 5 percent, you get to 100 percent of the average wage. Can you elaborate a little bit on why we start at 60 percent, and why 75 percent? My general inclination is to say, hey, let's make this available to those that are paying the average weekly wage or more, rather than using this to attract some industry that takes our average Nebraska wage downward. How do you react to that?

SENATOR LANDIS: Two reasons. First, if you did that, we could assure that, in fact, the use of the bill in rural areas would dry up. It would become a heavily urban bill. Maybe that's an