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LB 312

SENATOR CONNEALY: It's \$8.89. But we haven't got it refigured. That was a few months back. So you have to look at the current Nebraska average wage. And it's getting close to...60 percent would be close to \$9 an hour.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is the requirement in the Nebraska Advantage Act...is it on average \$9 an hour? Or every employee who's counted has to be paid at least \$9 an hour?

SENATOR CONNEALY: It...the second. The average is...that I refer to, is the...how you set that \$9 an hour.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR CONNEALY: The average employee's wages in the state of Nebraska, that would be...would set that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And that \$9 an hour applies to all the different tiers of the Advantage Act?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Yes, it does, that are used for job credits; not investment credits, but job credits.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Not investment credit, but for the job credits. Okay. And what is the theory that it should not apply to the investment credit?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Well, we're trying to...with the job credits, we're trying to build jobs and build the higher wages within that. So that's where we applied those requirements.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But if you applied it to the investment portion, wouldn't that result in higher-paying jobs also?

SENATOR CONNEALY: It would be a different application. We didn't do that. There are investment-only sections of this bill also that don't apply to jobs. So it was a decision by the committee, and by...as we worked through it, that job rates ought to be applied to job credits. We're also going to use