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

May 18, 2005 LB 478

SENATOR LANDIS: The...if you were out to do this as clearly as you could and try to get at it, you would use the security clearance of the employee as the distinguishing characteristic. But we can't do that, we're told. Taking it secondhand, that's true, and in fact that's a source that maybe we need to check on further. But if that's true that we can't make that the distinguishing characteristic, then we have to find another way of trying to generally describe, because you can't use the parameters that you're really aiming at by name. Remember that on a rational basis, all we have to do is have to have a rational reason. We're not up talking about strict scrutiny, we're not talking about a higher standard. All we have to do is have a basis for which there's a rational classification, a reasonableness and a reasonable purpose in mind, a reasonable state purpose. And I think a reasonable state purpose, economic development would normally meet that standard, I think. So I think we meet the reasonable standard test. And yes, what you posit is a situation which, if we could, would probably be the more accurate way of getting it, and it would let both, some federal and some civil. However, since what I think the net effect of this will be is to rationally target the kind of folks who are likely to have those skills and conditions that the employer itself wants, and then it's rational for us to want to encourage that employer to be here, my guess is that you've got a rational...you have a scheme that would meet a rational basis test. Does it have to include civil employees? The answer is And the reason is, you're not talking about an equal protection level like strict scrutiny where you have to get everybody inside the class and exclude those which are irrelevant. All you have to do is you have to bunch up for a reasonable purpose a...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...classification that you have a governmental purpose in achieving. And that's what I think we have here.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And that rational basis test, is that the test that's applied under the federal statute, apparently? Is there a federal statute that requires the equal treatment,