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SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I appreciate you giving me the chance to speak.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Any time.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: AM0670 is offered by the Business and Labor Committee, and it does replace the original bill. The amendment and the bill advanced from the committee by a vote of 4 yes and 3 no votes. The amendment primarily changes four categories in the bill, and that's basically what I'm going to tell you, just the changes in the green copy of the bill. It strikes the references to the 17-year-olds as the trigger when the new wage applies; it strikes the automatic yearly increase in the minimum wage through September 30, 2011, that would have been adjusted pursuant to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the federal Department of Labor; and it also strikes the three-year adjustment after 2011. It provides some clean-up language to the original bill, such as adding the term "per hour" where it was appropriate, and it changes the date under Section 1, subsection (1)(d) and Section 2, subsection (2)(d) to correspond with the removal of the automatic yearly increase in the wage rate or the training rate. In Section 1 under this amendment the hourly rate remains the same as offered in the original bill. Now what I'm going to read to you--I know these dates are off, because this bill was put out of committee last year, and we have another amendment coming later to fix the dates, and Senator Beutler also has a different version of that amendment that changes the dates and also the wage rates a little bit, but in the committee amendment, employers would pay \$5.15 per hour to September 30 of 2005; \$5.52 an hour from October 1, '05, through September 30, '06; and \$5.89 per hour from October 1, 2006, through September 30, 2007; and \$6.26 per hour on and after October 1, 2007. Any person compensated by the way of gratuities shall be paid 50 percent of these wages. Section 2 of the bill provides a training wage for a new employee that is younger than 20 years of age and that is not a seasonal or a migrant worker. The current training wage in statute is \$4.25 per hour. The changes offered under this amendment to this wage are the same as the original bill, and the rates are \$4.25 per hour through September 30, '05; \$4.55 an hour through October 1...from October 1, '05, through