

state average weekly wage. And there is a methodology for determining what that average weekly wage is. I can tell you that it's Nebraska based information, but minus federal employees. There is a provision that says the Governor, not later than November 15th, may conduct a public hearing, after having given notice, to decide whether or not to issue an order to suspend the effective income benefit change for that year. Understand that this is a suspension, it does not mean that it is not done, it means that it's put off for up to a year. After that time it would automatically be in effect. The Governor shall use factors such as economic conditions, wage levels, comp benefit levels, premium costs and the like to make their decision. And I will tell you that this is a substantial change in benefits. Over time, for the last five years, we've been averaging about a 1 to 1.5 percent increase in benefits. This will accomplish about a 25 to 30 percent increase in benefits from now until 1996. I would urge the adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Abboud, on the amendment as offered by Senator Landis.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. Would Senator Landis yield to a question?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Landis, would you respond.

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes, I will.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Landis, is this amendment, as it's being offered, is this the...this is the fourth section of the amendment that was offered originally on LB 757.

SENATOR LANDIS: I believe that's correct.

SENATOR ABOUD: With no alterations from the original...

SENATOR LANDIS: With no alterations.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...original bill?

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay, thank you. I will be supporting this section of the Landis amendment. Thank you.