

a physician or procuring the type of medical treatment needed. I would like to ask Senator Landis a question, now that his amendment has been adopted. Senator Landis, that amendment which was adopted, and we don't have to give the dollar amounts, at some point would escalate to a level where those who are to receive the benefit would receive 100 percent of what?

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay. Let me try to lay this out for all of my colleagues. Under workers' comp, if you're injured and you are to receive a portion of your wage, you get two-thirds of your weekly wage, unless your weekly wage is high enough that it is above the maximum allowed by law. So, traditionally, what we do is we raise that maximum to allow more and more workers to receive two-thirds of their wage. And the figure that you referred to is this, currently we're at about 270 bucks a week, that's the max. If you make more than that amount, you don't make two-thirds of your wage, you make two-thirds of 270 bucks. If you make 1,000 bucks a week, you make two-thirds, or 270 bucks, 'cause that's the statutory maximum. We have two stairsteps of specific dollar amounts, then we move to not a maximum like 270, or 310, or 350, we move to a max...the maximum being 100 percent of the average weekly wage of the state. Currently that would be, I think, two...380. By the time this law takes effect that's probably going to be closer to 400 bucks. If you make more than 400 bucks a week, your maximum will be two-thirds of 400 bucks. And that's the way the formula works. I hope I've been clear enough.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You have.

SENATOR LANDIS: It's not easy, but that's the way it works.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You've been very clear. And I wanted that so everybody knows what it is we're talking about. The lower paid workers will never have to worry about what we're talking about, because that rarefied air they can only hear about, but they will never experience being there.

SENATOR LANDIS: I think that was not in an interrogatory form. But the ans...the ans...I think this is a recapitulation of your question before. If you make less than the statutory maximum, whether it's today's 270, or whether it's the 400 bucks contemplated by this, if you make less than that amount,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Um-hmm.