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Senator Dan Clemens Presents the First Bill to Be Considered in Committee

JEFFERSON CITY— State Sen. Dan Clemens, R-Marshfield, today, Jan. 12, 2005, offered the first bill of the 93rd General Assembly to be heard in committee.

The committee on Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations began preliminary debate this afternoon on Senate Bill 130, which would amend workers' compensation law so that owner/operators of "for-hire" motor carriers (trucking/hauling firms, etc.) operating in certain circumstances and under certain licensures would not be considered employees.

Clemens's legislation also makes clear that no employee-employer relationship would exist between for-hire freight haulers and the truck/tractor leasing organizations that for-hire carriers use.

"It's important to clearly define under what conditions a person performing work for pay is considered an employee so that legitimate claims made in a genuine employee environment can be fairly handled," Clemens said.

Clemens' bill deals with just one of the many facets of workers' compensation law that many state lawmakers are seeking to change.

"Having this bill read first underscores the importance of the issues that the current workers' compensation laws raise," Clemens said. "Because of the topic's significance, this bill that I am sponsoring was deservedly pushed to the front of the committee's agenda."

Committee approval would send the bill to the floor of the Senate to be heard by the full body. For further information or a print-quality picture of Sen. Clemens, contact Gus Wagner at (573) 751-4008.

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