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first have a telephone, obviously, but if they're receiving Medicaid, food stamps, SSI, federal housing assistance, or low-income home energy assistance, they would be entitled to this Lifeline assistance, which means that if this amendment is adopted it's been calculated that maybe five dollars and something will be available to help them each month with their phone bill. What the Public Service Commission, Senator Bromm, and others have talked about is leveraging with state funds a greater amount of money that the federal government will offer by way of matching--two dollars from the state, a dollar for...from the government, federal government, on top of everything else--which would make a total amount available to each individual covered of about ten dollars and fifty cents. But the reason I would like this amendment adopted, and then we can look at anything else, is to prevent the people who currently are qualified for this assistance from paying any surcharges in the first instance. We should not always have a situation similar to that of the so-called food tax credit where poor people have to pay the tax on every food purchase, then at the end of the year you apply for a rebate. Rather than have people pay an additional amount by way of a phone bill charge and then, through some of these complicated calculations, determine that they are entitled to some kind of assistance is the long way around, in my opinion. I will be the first one to acknowledge that the situation is a complicated one. Although the total amount that might be available is \$10.50, there are a lot of steps that have to be gone through, hoops jumped through to arrive at that amount. And I'm not going to try during this opening to cover all of those aspects of this program. What I would like to do, if I can obtain it, is to get Senator Kristensen and Senator Bromm to participate in the discussion, because Senator Kristensen and I had worked on the Lifeline Program when the first bill came through the Legislature trying to implement some FCC requirements. I had offered an amendment that would bring into being the Lifeline Program. It amounts to a subsidy for those people who, without it, would not be able to afford telephone service. There's some kind of Universal Fund, and the term "universal" means all-inclusive. The goal is to have that fund available to subsidize people who otherwise could not afford a telephone. "Deacon" Jones and some of my rural colleagues, who often are not sensitive to problems of urban people, should not see this as something benefiting only urban