

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2001 LB 827

the chain and get a response from the Legislature that they want. There are puppets in here. There are puppeteers outside. You cannot blame the puppet for saying what the ventriloquist puts in the puppet's mouth because the puppet is not even speaking. The puppet's mouth is being manipulated by the ventriloquist, by the puppeteer, and the words are being spoken by the puppeteer. So this is a bill that is very instructive for many reasons. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On with discussion, Senator Bromm, followed by Senator Chambers. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you very much. I've heard a couple of very good speeches, but they're both totally off the mark. And I have a lot of respect for both of the speakers, but I need to explain a couple of things. First of all, with respect to Senator Landis' points that this...that this money that might go into the Enhancement Fund would wind up going back into the hands of fat cats or people who are...are making exorbitant profits. That isn't the way the bill is structured. And that might been...have been the way the bill would have read that was incorporated into the committee amendment, but there were changes made, and changes made with that in mind. If you will notice, if you'll notice how the Enhancement Fund works, and I would draw attention to line 10 on page 4 of the committee amendments, the assistance that is given to the county or the city that makes the application for this money, first of all, it's a county or a city that makes application. And that would be pursuant to an agreement that they are proposing to enter into with a service provider. It might be an agreement between the city of Wahoo and a service provider. The service provider doesn't...isn't limited to a telephone company. That's the way the bill came in. That's the way the bill came in to our committee that was incorporated into this amendment. We opened it up to include any eligible service provider of telecommunications, including it could be a cable company, it could be an ISP provider, it could be any of those entities. It doesn't have to be a telephone company. Secondly, on subsection (3) of that page we give the commission the ability to establish the guidelines and to establish priorities for