SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion on the bill. Senator Schellpeper, would you care to close?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank Senator Haberman for withdrawing that amendment because I could see it opening it up to a lot of different amendments, and I think I want to keep this bill real clean so with that, I would just move the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, and the question before the body is the advancement of LB 198 to E & R. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 198.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 198 is advanced. Proceeding to LB 209.

CLERK: LB 209, Mr. President, is a bill that was introduced by Senators Ashford, Schmit and Schellpeper. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to the Revenue Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Brad Ashford, please, on the bill.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This bill, LB 209, was introduced by Senator Schmit and Senator Schellpeper and myself to deal with the problem that started about a year and a half ago with a decision by the Department of Revenue to start charging sales tax on access costs or access charges, which are charges that are made by local telephone companies to long distance companies to complete a long distance call transaction. Basically, this access charge problem started with the breakup of AT&T in 1984. Since that time, several states have taken a look at access charges. Most states have opted not to collect a sales tax or any sort of tax on that access charge for various reasons, and a couple of states have had some litigation or are in the process of having litigation over it. Basically, an access charge, as I said, is...an access charge is the charge that a local company would charge to the long distance company. The charge makes up approximately 60 percent of the cost of the call and is, in essence, a