

seven days a week to these individuals so that they can basically call up, use the system, as long as they have one of these machines. And there is a companion bill to this that we probably won't be looking at this year, but we will probably be addressing, hopefully next year, that allows for the Public Service Commission to distribute TDD devices to those individuals who are unable to afford them. Currently in Nebraska our best estimate is that approximately 7,500 individuals would use this system. Those would be individuals who were hearing impaired. We would also think that there's probably half again as many who would use that who have speech impairments and we guess approximately anywhere from 10 to 12 thousand people would be using this system immediately. Part of the problem with determining that is we don't know how many people there are out there that could use this system. It is often times, as my good colleagues, Senator Haberman, knows, folks who have hearing impairments can run the gamut. They can be individuals no different than you and I that just have a slight hearing problem, to those who are born with severe deficiencies in the areas of speech and hearing. It's amazing technology that is out there today that allows these individuals to function on a day-to-day basis no different than you and I and take advantage of something as simple as talking to friends and relatives who may not be anymore than two miles away, but yet they have no ability to talk to them. The whole issue of emergency services, providing these individuals the same kinds of access to fire, safety and other kinds of operations that are out there that we also take for granted, is something that we don't need to go into. You understand the ability that this will give those individuals. The relay system would work, it would be funded through an access charge. In other words, there would be a charge to every phone line in the state up to the first ten lines. So, in other words, if you owned a telemarketing company you would not be charged for all 150 lines that you happen to have, you'd only be charged for the first 10 lines. The Public Service Commission would be involved from day one, they would be involved with setting the rate. The rate could not exceed 10 cents per line per month. They would determine what the appropriate amount of revenue would be needed to operate the system, they would review it on an annual basis and it would be something that would fall under their preview as the Public Service Commission so I think we clearly don't have a problem in terms of the regulation issue. The only, I think, discussion that we had with regard to the telephone industry who again have been very supportive, who have championed this issue