

a method of generating some revenue so that they can have a good countywide or regionwide 911 service. We have some problems. Scotts Bluff County has set up a countywide 911 service, they are funding it presently with property tax dollars. For them, this would be a form of property tax relief, because they would be able to use this surcharge, if they so choose, instead of using property tax dollars to support their 911 services. The goal is eventually, hopefully that we will be able to have some kind of a statewide 911 service so that everyone in the state, when they dial 911, will be connected to the proper authorities and their emergency message will be relayed properly. The telephone company would be responsible for the collection of this surcharge, and then the monies would be reimbursed back to the governing body and they would be placed in a separate fund to be used specifically only for the 911 services and not for any other, they would not be put in the General Fund of the county, they would only be used for the services of 911 that they put in place. I think that there were a couple of committee amendments, or one committee amendment, I think, as it came out of the Judiciary Committee. That committee amendment is in the bill. There is also...in the bill there was a certain amount of discussion as to the liability provisions in the bill, and the original bill said that it was willful and wanton neglect on the part of the telephone companies before they could...before they would be liable. My bill only reads that if they have actions that are unreasonable they would still be liable for these actions. So mine is a lesser liability clause, there's no doubt about that. And there are some telephone companies that are objecting to that, they would just as soon have the willful and wanton. But I think that in my mind the idea of providing the basis for 911 services is much more important than trying to deal with this liability provision right up front. So, with that, I would just encourage the body to adopt the amendment. If there's questions, either I or Senator Withem can try and answer those. I think that I probably have...How much time do I have left, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BARRETT: I'm sorry, sir.

SENATOR BAACK: How much time do I have left?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Approximately one minute.

SENATOR BAACK: One minute? I talked nine minutes already?