

does set up a prima facie section in there that if it's reconnected, there's a prima facie that the person in possession is the one who committed that offense. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions. Senator Bromm, I would yield you the rest of my time for the explanation of the committee amendments, if you want to go into a little bit of the background, since the committee amendment, basically, would be a majority of the bill. And I'd yield my time, Mr. Speaker, to Senator Bromm.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bromm, you have about seven and a half minutes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Kristensen did accurately describe the committee amendments, and to that extent really the bill itself. Just to explain to the body in a little bit more detail what has happened, at least in an instance that was made aware to me when we brought the bill was that a party was lawfully disconnected for nonpayment of their bill. The city sent an employee out to the site and disconnected it properly, and the next thing they knew the electricity was being used again at that site. They go back out and it's been somehow reconnected. Well, they were able to, of course, charge that person for using the electricity, but the time that was spent for a utility person to go out there two or three times to straighten this out was nonrecoverable really for the utility, and there's a safety factor involved. If people start reconnecting utilities depending on what the mechanical procedure is for disconnect and reconnect, there can be definitely a danger-safety factor, which everyone is also concerned about. So we wanted to just clarify the statute and add that it is a crime to reconnect a utility which has been lawfully, and I stress that, lawfully disconnected through the proper notice procedures and everything that are set forth in Chapter 70-1601 to 1615, just making that a Class III misdemeanor, which is consistent with what we had before for someone who, without the knowledge of the supplier, in any way bypassed the meter or something. That can also be a problem, and that was covered in prior law. With that, I don't know that I have anything more to add so what Senator Kristensen said, and I urge the body to adopt the committee amendments, which virtually becomes the crux of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Your light is on, do you still need more time?