

time is yielded to you.

SENATOR McKENZIE: Thank you, Senator Landis and Senator Vrtiska, wise, I don't know, but I remind you that I have a county with every community over \$3 in property tax levy so I am certainly not interested in passing the burden on to my local taxpayers for dealing with this. There are 25 other states, however, who require a greater local contribution than Nebraska does. We have had a very generous, very supportive program. And it's a bit of a double-edged sword because if we can't figure out a way to deliver services and to contain the cost, then we begin to eat away at 1059 money, and when we eat away at 1059 money we are doing the very same thing. We are forcing more reliance on property tax. So we have two competing interests using the same money and one that is growing at a rate faster than any other program, any other "titlement" in the state and that's what we're trying to look at, what can be done, how can we better...

SENATOR LANDIS: Time.

SENATOR McKENZIE: ...deliver services and bring the costs within reason.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Bromm is recognized, followed by Senator Dierks, Senator Maurstad, Senator Beutler, Hartnett, Robinson, Bernard-Stevens, Stuhr and Janssen. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Vrtiska raises a point that gave me some initial concerns when I looked at the bill, especially the green copy and so forth. The number one question is, how can we expect this to work or any efforts work if you have the continuing mandates of the state and federal government that exist? You're simply shifting the burden to the local taxpayer to pick up what is mandated upon them by federal government, state government and by the court system. Well first of all, part of the process of the bill and the amendments will require the state to take a hard look at all of the state requirements that exceed the federally required mandates and with an eye towards eliminating those excessive state requirements. So that in itself should be somewhat helpful in reducing the mandates to the extent that we legally can within the State of Nebraska. Now that isn't going to be a great significant help in terms of cost containment but it