

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

Section 3, subsection (4), what information the application shall contain. The emergency clause is also contained in the committee amendment. Senator Vrtiska has worked very diligently with the Governor and other interested parties to address what is a very difficult situation. It's my understanding that he has an amendment that basically replaces the committee amendment but achieves essentially the same purpose. I would urge the body to consider Senator Vrtiska's amendment and adopt it so it will become the committee amendment. I would then urge adoption of the committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Vrtiska would move to amend the committee amendments, Madam President. His amendment may be found on Journal page 868. (See AM3270.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Vrtiska, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. As you were informed, the amendment is printed on page 868 of the Journal. And so I'd, at this time, like to explain what this amendment, which would replace the committee amendment, and would do. Then, of course, I'm going to talk a little bit about the bill, why I brought the bill, and the philosophy behind it. The intent of LB 1248 is to provide state governments with added flexibility to help meet the needs of counties, cities, and villages which may find themselves in a state of financial crisis due to circumstances that are certainly beyond their control. And I remind you that I sent a summary of the amendments to your office through e-mail on yesterday, so all of you should have it, and, if, by chance, you don't have it or with you, there are copies laying on my desk and I'd be glad to have you pick one up or I'll have it sent to you, to your desk. Amendment 3270 represents a compromise between myself and the Governor's Office, and this is what the amendment would do. The amendment would allow a local government, which means counties and cities and villages, to apply for or file claims for assistance in the form of grants, or loans, or reimbursement of debt, which the Risk Manager and the State Claims Board, when they've experienced a catastrophic financial emergency. The funds would be used either as a reimbursement for indebtedness or for financial relief to permit the normal transaction of business and provisions of essential