

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

services to continue in those counties, cities, or villages. It would define a catastrophic financial emergency as expenses which are abnormal expenses of government incurred as a result of legal mandates and requirements imposed on local government by the state or federal government, such as indigent defense or medical and general assistance, combined with expenses incurred in relation to a natural disaster such as a tornado, flood, or a fire, incurred within the five immediate preceding fiscal years, but which may be related to acts or incidents which acquired prior to the five immediate preceding fiscal years and which may be ongoing and would create an undue burden on local governments due to the lack of viable fiscal resources. It would require the local government applicants to provide specific documentation to the Risk Manager in filing for assistance. The Risk Manager would be able to request additional information on the applicant. The specific document required would include the following: a resolution formally declaring a financial state of emergency by the local government applicant; documentation of expenses related to the occurrence within the five immediately preceding fiscal years of the natural disaster; documentation of abnormal expenses incurred within the five immediate preceding fiscal years which were caused by legal mandates imposed by either state or...by the state or federal government;...

SENATOR CROSBY: (Gavel).

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...documentation that the local government has exhausted other viable sources of revenue. It would provide the State Claims Board with authority to approve a claim from the Local Government Catastrophic Financial Emergency Fund to the extent that money is available in the local fund...or in the fund. A local government could appeal a rejection or partial rejection of a claim by the Claims Board to the Legislature through the claims bill process. That appeal would need to be filed before December 31. It would require the Risk Manager report annually to the Legislature a list of all claims filed against the Local Government Catastrophic Financial Emergency Fund. And this bill also contains the E clause and it would take, therefore would take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature. Originally the bill approached this issue by amending the definition of disaster for the purpose of the Governor's Emergency Fund to allow the Governor to use those funds for these purposes. The committee amendment, which my