

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

involved with these kinds of cost, but I don't think anybody here could predict what might happen to a particular county or city or village in the future. I would hope that these funds will be narrow enough in definition that everybody couldn't come in and make application. And certainly we've got set out in the amendment that they have to document all of the expenses that were incurred, and they have to be declared a...they have to declare a state of emergency. As many of you know, Richardson County did declare, was declared a disaster county because of the floods it incurred down there, and they did get federal and state funds, although they were not nearly enough to cover all the costs that they'd incurred, but they did, in fact, were eligible for those funds. And what I'm trying to do now is set out a little different direction in trying to...because we do feel compassion, we help people who have floods that, that devastate their area, and we do provide assistance. This was just another way to...in another direction to help these counties that have had fiscal problems because of, of damages or costs incurred from other than floods. And so, to me, this compliments what the state has already decided is valuable for state and...or for county and cities to make available to them. So basically that's what we're trying to do. With that, thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Vrtiska, are you finished? Thank you. Senator Chambers, on the Vrtiska amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I'm glad that Senator Warner began to look at some of the specific language in this amendment. And when you look at it, they're trying to...it's kind of a circular way of defining things by hooking one thing to another thing and then kind of intermixing them. But I'm going to read this language describing catastrophic financial emergency. "Catastrophic financial emergency means expenses", so the emergency is not what we're talking about, we're talking about expenses. That's the first thing to remember. The emergency consists of expenses "which (i) are caused by abnormal expenses of government incurred as a result of legal mandates and requirements imposed on local government by the state or federal government". Senator Vrtiska, let me ask you some questions about that before we get into this other about the natural...about the disasters.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS PRESIDING