

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

to improve the process, if that's possible, so at least the membership can determine whether or not it's applicable to provide a county with assistance in what truly could be determined an emergency. So thank you very much, Senator.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Vrtiska, your light is on next, followed by Senators Beutler, Chambers, and Will.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Just a comment to follow up with Senator Maurstad's remarks, and that is in regards to why...you know, about the possibility of this fund being set up. As I indicated to him, it would be based on an application, whether the funds would then go through the Legislature, somewhat like the claims does now. And, as I indicated, this is a little bit different in the way it's set out. I just wanted to reiterate that I was agreeable and had not thought about it until Senator Beutler brought it to me, but I was agreeable, because this is sort of a new territory we're going into, I was agreeable to put a sunset on so that we wouldn't.... If it appears that it could be abused or misused, then we would be able to, at that time, decide it would...actually the fund...the bill would cease to exist and we could revamp it. Now, I'm going to reassure the body that I'm willing to work with the members of this body to make a bill that they are comfortable with, and a bill that will, in some way, assist a particular situation at this time, and not open it up to, as has been indicated, perhaps a way for counties or cities or public entities to be less than frugal with their money and spend it unwisely and then come in and ask for help. Certainly, what I want to do, and before this bill reaches the final conclusion, is, I guess, plug all those loopholes that I've been hearing, to make the bill workable and still do the...provide the incentive or the dollars that I'm requesting in this particular piece of legislation. So again, I assure you that I'm willing to work with the members of this body in order to get this bill into shape where they can feel comfortable with it and certainly I can feel comfortable with it. With that, I thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Beutler.