

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Back to the discussion on the Vrtiska amendment. Senator Maurstad, followed by Senators Vrtiska and Chambers.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Vrtiska, one more question relative to the \$200,000 that's being allocated and the discussion that you had with, I believe, Senator Chambers earlier, there wouldn't be anything that would prohibit a county from requesting 500,000, for example, even though there aren't resources available? And then the whole chain of events would begin where that ultimately could then find its way to the floor of the Legislature to determine whether or not the Legislature wanted to appropriate the extra funds to meet that particular claim. Is that a correct assumption?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Maurstad, the scenario you've described, in fact, you're correct. The only difference in this and also addressing Senator Wehrbein, the only difference in this is the disaster or the catastrophic situation has to develop before there's an ability for that particular county to declare an emergency and then come in and ask for those funds in whatever amount. So I guess what I'm saying is it's necessary for the event to take place, and all the things be in place before they would be able to declare that disaster and then come in and ask for those funds. I suppose they could ask for any amount they wanted to, but it's still going to be up to the Legislature, in their determination, the amount that they want to expend to cover those costs.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay. So I think we're saying the same thing in that someone could, even though we only put 200,000 in the A bill, a county could ask for whatever amount, and it could then be brought before the Legislature to determine whether or not whatever their need was is justified for the extra dollars or not.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay. Then along that line, I might have asked this earlier, are you aware of any other county or city or village that is out there now that would also have a legitimate