

justifiably because that was not entered into under an arrangement dealing with...that had been an environment which had been established by the Legislature. What my amendment does is it provides a requirement that the Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Research Division shall provide staff support for the Task Force on Electronic Access to State Government Information. In addition, the task force may expend up to 50,000 dollars to secure technical assistance in developing its recommendations. Now I don't know, admittedly I have not talked with too many people about whether they want to see an additional 50,000 dollars expended. To me, it's money well spent to get out and hire some individuals with expertise in it as opposed to us stumbling around into each other. People who don't want to spend that 50,000 dollars, they're certainly free to ask for a division of the question and to, you know, vote that portion of the amendment down. With that, that's what the amendment does. I'd be interested in hearing what reactions people may have to it.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Were you finished?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, I am.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Kristensen on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I want to try to help this morning, as I understand there are various members who may be in some stage of looking at amendments over the weekend and I don't know where they're at right now, but I want to try to help frame what I think some of the issues are this morning that we're going to discuss. When it comes to public records, we have a variety of them. They range all the way from agricultural statistics that we have to the Department of Roads that puts out bidding procedures over the computer so that people don't have to come into their office and photocopy plans and bid specs, they can get those electronically. That saves us money. It saves us time because we, obviously, don't have to have someone hired that stays down there all the time, sends out all these requests and does all the various photocopying and answering all the questions. These things are put out once and people will access them not only in the state of Nebraska, but literally all over the country. We also have records, such as birth certificates,