

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...the Withem. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Again, on the Withem amendment to the amendment, Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. This particular bill and its content has been of interest to me for quite some time. And about a year ago, over a year ago I went to Legislative Research and had talked to them about this particular issue because we had some local government entities that had some concerns about the type of charges that even local government could be extending and the kinds of information that they had and the kinds of agreements with public and the private sector that they were developing and how they addressed the open meetings law or the open records law and the lack, I guess, of guidance in statute. And it wasn't only in the state of Nebraska. We discovered that there wasn't a whole lot out there. It's a very new subject. As in many instances with technology, I feel that it's taking us and we're not taking them and this is another example. The bottom line is, though, is that the information is there. The information has been gathered with tax money, and it's there for people's use. The issue I think is what we get down to, though, is the distribution. What are the charges for the distribution? What does access mean? Access to one person is a very different thing, may be a very different issue than it is to someone else. So whatever was the impetus for starting this bill and for whatever reason Senator Bromm brought it, I'm very glad that he did bring it because I don't think we can start any too soon with the task force that's mentioned here in looking at where it is we need to go in the future. For me, this bill means two things. One, it means that we set up a task force as to how we're going to operate in the future. And in the meantime, we make sure that the kinds of information that's needed and the electronic distribution that's currently in place won't be affected for those people that cannot walk into an office in Lincoln, get a hard copy, and walk back out again. Those that the further away you get from Lincoln the more valuable the electronic access is when you consider what it would cost you, number one, to make a long distance telephone call if you wanted it as quickly as possible. If not, then you would turn around and you would mail a request, wait for it to be processed, wait for it to be mailed back. In those instances, that time is