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quite important to us. One is that you can be reimbursed for your costs if you send personnel or equipment to another state. You'll find those provisions in Article IX, for reimbursement. There is a provision that gives us tort protection. If our personnel are in another state, it states that the requesting state will bear the burden of any claims, and that those claims will be evaluated under the law in the state where the acts occur, that would be requesting state. You'll find those provisions in Article VI of the compact. It provides for supplementary agreements if people wish to undertake supplementary agreements in assistance, or in carrying out the compact. It provides for compensation of the personnel that are used or work in another state. You'll find those in Article VIII. It provides that the requesting state would pay for those items. You do not have to respond...a state would not have to respond to every request for assistance that comes in from another state. There's a process for contacting a state asking for assistance, a process for evaluating whether or not it is possible to render assistance. For those of you who are familiar with fire districts or other...whether they're rural or suburban, you'll probably recognize this as kind of a large mutual aid assistance compact, this time among the states as opposed to being between fire districts or other local entities. We thought, a couple of years ago when we restructured the Emergency Management Agency, that we had given adequate authority to the Governor to enter into this compact. There was a legal opinion that it was still, despite the authority that we'd given the Governor to enter into the compact, that it was necessary for the Legislature to ratify the compact, and that is all the legislation does, although it sets out all of the terms of the compact as a part of the ratification process. I'd be happy to try to respond to questions, if you have any.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Wickersham, if you could respond to a few questions, I'd like to get this in better scope also.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay.