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still high and that's the reason you had an initiative last year, high access rates. Those access rates were going to come down, those smaller companies, the other companies said, hold it, if you take away our access rates, how are we going to exist? We need universal service fund. Not unique to Nebraska, the federal government set up the Universal Service Fund. They've not correctly or adequately funded it. They are going to require the states, if we want to keep telephone service across this state, we're going to have to do the same thing with our Universal Service Fund. We put a sunset in two years ago for a reason, because we did not know if the federal government was going to live up to their obligations for a Universal Service Fund, and if we didn't need one, we weren't going to have one. We've had a task force that's done a very good job. They've developed a model for universal service. You've seen that order, it's come out. It received considerable discussion and you saw them modify that, and that's what Senator Bromm was talking about. They've modified that order to affect only intrastate telephones. So where does this...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...bill fit into this? Well, this bill has the removal of that sunset clause. That is problem number one. That is the goal of this bill. That should be the first priority. Second priority in this bill, I believe, is the ex parte communications. This is not a new concept in law. The Administrative Procedures Act already has ex parte in there, but there is an exception for elected officials. They have now moved from being an elected body, they are truly more of a regulatory body right now, the Public Service Commission, and they act in contested cases much like a court. Ex parte is extremely important so people don't lobby a case while it is pending, without the other side knowing it. You got to disclose those things, and I will try to go into ex parte later. The third priority is there has been orders made on access charges. Access charges, and that, again, is the fees that are collected and distributed to local companies. There is a question about whether they can do that...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.