

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 11, 1999 LB 514

don't...until we get some figures on this, we don't know. They also have to hire somebody to administer this. Now my guess is they are not going to hire a third party to do that. They are going to try to do that internally, but they are not going to go to all this work of getting ready to put those...those assessments...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...on, determine that, if they...if this fund is going to go away and the sunset comes into play. It's a lot of wasted time and money, and that's the reason that there is some time sensitive to LB 514, that we need to get this going and remove the sunset so the Public Service Commission can begin to come into play with implementing the Universal Service Fund. The other thing, Senator Beutler, that I would look at in terms of penetration, one of the goals, in fact, the top goal was quality service should be available at just, reasonable, and affordable rates for all regions of the state. That was the policy set forth by Universal Service. Most states have done that type of item. The federal government started out and they were going to pump lots of money in for high cost. In their law, the FCC item said states may establish the Universal Service Fund. What has happened is the feds have never really come up with a good rate. They haven't decided how much money they're going to put...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...into it, and they've made the states now have to do this for all practical purposes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to endorse the measure, 514, and ask for its advancement. A portion of the bill, four of the six elements of the bill were as the result of some negotiations that were held in my office between members of the local telephone industry and the long distance industry and with some informal input from the PSC as well. It arose out of some discussions that began even before