

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

March 2, 1999

LB 514

bills I'm talking about, certainly they could put something distinctively marked, so it won't be confused for an advertisement, which would notify people who have telephones that they may be eligible for this assistance. So that is something I'm not going to try to do with the bill at this time. I'm not going to try to craft an amendment to do what Senator Bromm is talking about in terms of maximizing federal support that may be available. I bring to you this amendment that has been on file which the public, having an interest, would be aware of. The rest of it others may work on, but I do want this amendment for sure so that the person who needs the assistance is not going to have to pay a surcharge to give that assistance to others similarly situated as themselves. I want to avoid the circle which often happens when bureaucratic plans are actually implemented. I want...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to speak again to try to touch on some aspects of the program that I still think need to be addressed, but to let you know they are not addressed by the amendment that I'm offering.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bromm, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. One thing that...I'm sure Senator Chambers' objective is not to permanently stop the bill because, without the bill, the Universal Service Fund sunsets June 30th and the Lifeline Program ends, because the Lifeline Program is part of the Universal Service Fund Act. So I know that we all realize that it's critical that we make some accommodations and that we pass the bill. Now, I don't...I do think that there's perhaps another way to approach what Senator Chambers is doing, but I don't have...I don't have a problem with exempting the people that he's talking about from paying the universal service charge. And I think that's...that's an improvement to the affordability and the availability of telephone service for these people, so I'm going to vote for his amendment. It would be my hope that, if we get that if we get that resolved, that we can move the bill. It doesn't mean that I won't continue to