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and they had several people working on it for several months at some considerable expense. That caused me to go back and look and see what we had in our law with regard to including protective procedures with regard to all of our data banks when those data banks come to constitute the official records. And I worked with DAS from some time and we came up with this amendment which says that, and I just want to read it to you because it basically explains what...what it does. DAS recommended this as a set of protective procedures that all should follow in dealing with data banks that become permanent records: "Any electronic record authorized by statute to constitute the permanent record shall be electronically reproduced onto a protected backup file within five working days of the creation of the permanent record. Adequate protective technology shall be used by the keeper of the records to protect the backup file from electrical surges and from unauthorized tampering. The backup file shall be kept in a separate location from the permanent record to minimize the risk of destruction of both copies. Prior to January 1," the year "2000, the information management services administrator of the Department of Administrative Services shall notify all affected state agencies and other entities and governmental subdivisions keeping electronic records as authorized by statute of the requirements of this section." So what it seeks to do is, for the first time, take those simplest, most basic kinds of computer protection strategies, ask DAS to be sure that everybody's informed of those strategies, and then ask them to do this...these things in terms of basic minimal backup kinds of requirements for documents. That's all the amendment does and I'd be glad to try to answer questions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. Senator Beutler, could I carry on a little conversation with you? Senator Beutler, isn't this...isn't there already a provision somewhere that says that this has to be done on any files that are kept electronically?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I could find no such provision and DAS was not aware of any such provision, nor was anyone else I