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Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Kristensen laid out very clearly what it is that we're looking at this morning when we talk about the Lifeline Program. I have looked at the existing statute which tells the Public Service Commission to establish this program. As I've evaluated it, I believe that they do have the authority, under the existing law, to maximize the benefits which would be available to the people included in the Lifeline Program. And I'll tell you why. When the Legislature empowers an agency to establish a program, and it's clear from the discussion on the floor of the Legislature, it would be clear from the federal legislation, if the program flows from that or is based on it, what is encompassed by that program. It wouldn't make sense to require the establishment of such a program without being included in that power the authority to do what is necessary to carry it out. We will put into the statute the term "motor vehicle," maybe somebody would put "truck." Well, when you put the word "truck," you don't have to say this is a vehicle with four wheels, a combustion engine, a transmis...I mean you don't have to lay out each part that goes to make up that vehicle, because the term itself includes all of those things. Without those things, the collective term does not apply. By authorizing or directing the Public Service Commission to establish this program, that statutory directive includes the directive that they maximize the benefits available under this program. So, if they're listening to me, or if somebody tells them what I said, and, on the chance that doesn't happen, I will do it myself, I expect them, even though we're going to have this study, to begin taking the steps to maximize these benefits. I want the telephone companies to be placed on notice that I'm not going to tolerate their pretending that they cannot administer this program, that they do not know who is covered. Thus far I have left the telephone companies alone. But since certain things are developing that make me question their good faith with reference to this program, if it's necessary, I'm going to take a crash course so that I will know as much about the telephone industry as anybody, anybody who has to fashion legislation or stop legislation. And, if these phone companies by their inappropriate conduct, if the Public Service Commission by dragging its feet, gets on the wrong side of me, they're not