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slamming you. Typically, the local exchange carrier provides the bill for the long distance carrier, but in some cases that doesn't always happen. But folks switch all the time, million and millions of times. You've all seen the advertisements giving the different pricing rates, the different things available if they would switch their, in this case, long distance carrier. What we are dealing with in the Telephone Consumer Slamming Prevention Act is the unauthorized switches, and this is where the term "slamming" comes from. This bill has been coinciding with the work that the FCC is doing, and they have adopted rules and regulations also to combat and deter slamming, and it's certainly an ongoing process. In fact, it was...they were changing and working on this while we were drafting the bill, there were changes made when we introduced the bill, and we have just recently had the last order that came out dated February 19. So this is an ongoing process that affects not only states but on the federal level also. The FCC has said on record that slamming is a continuing problem. In 1997, they received 20,500 slamming complaints, 61 percent increase over 1996, and that's same here in Nebraska. In July 1, 1996, through June 30, '97, the Public Service Commission received 65 slamming complaints; in 70... '97, July 1 through June 1 of '98, they received 148; and so far this year they've already had 92 slamming complaints. So, briefly, let me tell you what the intent of the bill does.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator, if you'd pause for a moment. Members, if you could please take your conversations off the floor out of respect for your colleagues who are trying to introduce bills. Thank you. Senator.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. The process that is first talked about is verifying that the switch is authorized, and this does follow closely the FCC rules. Then it allows notification, which basically tells the subscriber that they have been switched. The idea of the bill is to take the profit out of slamming. It does provide a 30-day absoletion if subscribers pay and if they don't. What it does do, most importantly, is it lets the PSC, the Public Service Commission, impose penalties and establish and administer a slamming complaint system, and this gives them actually the authority to reverse the switch. If they don't comply, there's a possibility