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government has changed the way that they operate, it is...there is less money that is available for the direct construction of public housing and more money that is available, well, I mean, the money that is available is available for public-private kinds of partnership arrangements and for...it's a different way than just the construction and this updates our legislation which is...was put in place during the Depression, has not been updated since the 1940s. The Urban Affairs Committee has spent three years working on this model legislation and so that we could get into a position where our public housing authorities are better positioned to be able to continue to provide services. And as I said in my opening, 60 percent of the housing is for elderly low-income individuals, many of whom are disabled.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'll ask you in a minute, Senator Hartnett, but I want to make...is this...is the general intent of this bill then to bring more of a public-private mix of funding into public housing? And I see in there that the counties need to adopt a housing authority by resolution across the state, so it's an encouragement to those that don't have housing authorities to do so, and then bring to bear public-private funds and leadership so that there can be more. But what's concerned me is Senator Beutler's take on this which I tend to agree. How does that relate to what Senator Beutler is saying? And I guess I'll ask Senator Hartnett here first just to get another perspective, Senator Brown.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Wehrbein, I...I think what is happening is that federal funds are drying up and rather than, you know, housing authorities have existed in this state for a long time, rather than going to local political subdivisions for taxing authority, it simply allows a little mix in...there's, you know, mixed income, mixed housing, you know, in this bill. So it's simply responding to what is happening at the federal level. And counties are not required. If they do get into the housing building, they have to do it by resolution. They are not required to get into the business, Senator Wehrbein. So I think what it is, it's something was passed at the federal level, a new model, and this is simply kind of responding to