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services, the availability of people willing to work in such areas for the amount of money and resources that are able to be expended. And correct me if I'm wrong, and I'll let Senator Thompson answer this if she would, that this would be one of the aspects that will be discussed in this study because I do think this is very important.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Thompson?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes. I think the goal of this group and the language in the bill is very broad and we can't take things off the plate of the State Patrol without someone else either doing it or not doing it any more.

SENATOR HILGERT: Right.

SENATOR THOMPSON: We have areas of the state that desperately need backup and assistance by the State Patrol because of those sparsity areas. Actually that issue was brought to me to put on the list by a sheriff in the western part of the state. So I see all that under the scope of this study.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you very much, Senator Thompson. I think it's important also for the legislative record to reflect that that is a concern and, hopefully, that concern will be directly translated when this committee does meet. But I do support, and would encourage the body to support, the advancement of LB 153. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. There are no further lights. Senator Thompson, did you wish to close on LB 153?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes. Mr. President and members of the body, in closing I would just like to reference the pink sheet with the information under it because sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. The...and I probably said a thousand words today already so I'll try to make this short. But this is a page from the Nebraska State Troopers' Magazine. last year, and I think it very graphically shows the number of officers and the decrease in the number of officers at the same time with the very expanded list of duties. And I go back to the quote on the