

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 22, 2000 LB 717

democratic process. I value and appreciate that process, but let me tell you, folks, democracy gets messy. When you get people together and you get those opinions, you don't have agreement and consensus, and that's where we were with this. The committee amendment was a way to at least move the process along, to do education, and this is another opportunity for education. I'm hoping that local media and other media, who should be actively involved in LEPCs, are also talking about this issue across the state so that it raises the awareness, so that we can create good sound locally-generated evacuation plans, plans that deal with all types of hazardous material incidents in local counties, and that we have all of that local involvement at the county level to create those plans, and that that input helps to support the local emergency managers and those responders who, ultimately, will have to deal with the consequences of any spills. We live in a society that utilizes many hazardous materials, all different kinds. If we didn't use them as citizens, they wouldn't be here. Since we do use them, we all share in some of that responsibility and, one way or another, I think the consumer ultimately pays. This amendment would provide some of that minimum funding that would provide for some postage, some office supplies. It would provide some funding for educational public outreach materials, publication of required notices, some copying and printing expenses, and one of the big components is a conference and training schedule. And it wouldn't be a salary. It would, basically, be paying the expense of someone to come either here to Lincoln or perhaps a regional conference that are conducted to help people to understand about putting these plans together, these...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...evacuation emergency plans. It would include some data entry cost and that, again, is minimal. The plans required by federal and state law need to be annually revised because you get new reporting facilities in the area. You get additional transportation, perhaps different transportation routes. You have new senior care centers, perhaps schools have relocated. There are needs for reassessing these plans and so the upgrading of those plans is an ongoing process that the LEPCs will be doing. And there is also some audit expenses that are also included as a part of this model