

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

March 1, 2000

LB 1285

suppose, that somehow that company and that association aren't acting in the best interests of the state. That company, that association are entitled to represent the interests, their own interests,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...and the interests of the members of their association. They're neither worse nor better for it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Bromm, on the first part of the divided question to LB 1285.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor, and Senator Chambers kind of...kind of gave the speech that I was going to give when I put my light on and he focused on page three of the amendment and how the civil penalty is based upon the severity of the violation; commission may compromise, mitigate, determine the appropriateness in light of the gravity of the violation; good faith of the violator and so on and so forth. That...that...he said it, he said it right, and I'm not going to dwell on that but I want you to read those words and realize that those are important words that will apply to this situation. I am really somewhat astounded to hear some of my colleagues stand up and say, do we dare give a quasi-judicial body, I didn't say agency, I said quasi-judicial body who conducts hearings with court reporters, takes evidence, is subject to appeal on the record, the ability to fine multi-billion-dollar companies? But we've sat here for years and given this same "agency", quasi-judicial body, the ability to fine a cab company up to \$5,000 a day, never blinking an eye. Don't you worry about the cab company and \$5,000 a day? If this outfit can't be trusted, then I'm going to...I'm going to propose an amendment to strike this \$5,000 per day, because I don't want some poor one-horse cab company getting run out of business by the arbitrary, capricious and unfair decisions of such a overstepping group. This is a consumer bill. This is a constituent bill. Your constituents, your consumers in this state are going to be impacted tremendously by the manner in which telecommunications are offered in this state, by the fairness of the parties that offer telecommunications, and we have no way to deal with that to assure that our citizens and