

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

March 27, 2000 LB 1285

customers to be inconvenienced.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Absolutely, I agree, and if that order had maybe that there was those 100 and then another 100 somewhere else, then you would have individual violations of that order. That could happen and I think that's what we were looking at when we did that. The other part is that I think there's a pledge and Senator Landis was helpful, Senator Bromm, I think we all agreed to look at a mechanism for next year to improve on the existing statutory language that we have whereby some of this money, instead of going to the school districts, could go back to customers if there were, for example, quality of service issues. I would certainly make the pledge to do that. I think there is a chance for a meaningful stay here that would fit within our existing framework of the law and not mess up the legal system too much.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator. Further debate on the Bromm amendment? Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Just briefly to say that I support the amendment. I think it's an appropriate balancing. Generally, it moves us to the model of using the APA for the PSC and the AM, while listening to C & W music. It moves us towards the Administrative Procedures Act as a general baseline and including in that the Public Service Commission. There are some variations there. But what we've done is we've taken the working model that we follow most, well, almost everywhere else and we've applied it to this situation which is why the stay is not automatic and which is why you would go to district court. So that produces greater synthesis, greater consistency with the way we do business across agencies of this nature. The \$2 million cap makes sense to me. I thought it was Arizona rather than New Mexico with the \$1.6 million fine. But, to me, it makes sense that Nebraska be just as well prepared and just as well justified with the statutory authority to protect our citizens as Arizona found necessary to protect its citizens with a \$1,600,000 fine against US West down there. The last piece is that I think Senator Kristensen has pointed the way for a future issue, that is the ability to refund, to tell a company to refund money back to its customers for failures of service or whatever. Fines, remember, are penalties. That means they go