

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

March 27, 2000 LB 1285

really, really bad act, we say I don't like this section of people, we're just not going to give them service, that would probably be one of the few things that would trigger that that I would think of. And there'd be bigger heads to roll than that. I think the committee probably, and I didn't sit and listen to that portion of the committee, but I...that I assume when fining authority came in that there's a better handle on the fining side now than there would ever be for enforcing those small misdemeanors. And it's a much more useful approach to do. And, to my knowledge, no one has ever done it, but that doesn't...that doesn't...just because it hasn't been done doesn't mean you should repeal them either. I do think this gives them a much better hammer at the Public Service Commission to use that. I would also like to rise I guess and I know Senator Wickersham had a couple drafting questions, but this bill is a huge step. There are not that many states that have direct fining authority, and so this is a bigger step than I think most of us realize at this point in time. Many have a procedure to give money back to the customers and we're going to work on that system through the interim. But this does, and I think the difference in stays here is a huge difference the committee has worked very hard on. That difference in change alone justifies the bill. Certainly the fining authority that comes along with that is one that's problematic, but the committee has done a good job and, along with some others, have reached some agreements here that I think is a bill that would be useful in trying to keep a competitive environment in this state and that's ultimately what we're after. Mr. President, I'd yield any time to Senator Bromm. If you need any additional time, I'd yield it to you; if not, I'd send it back to the Chair.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Bromm, right now all fines and penalties go to the school fund. Am I correct in making that statement?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Now with the new language, the fines that would be imposed by the Public Service Commission on the local