SENATOR CUDABACK: Open for discussion.   Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback.   Along with what Senator Wehrbein has been discussing, I would like to know if Senator Byars or Senator Jensen, either one, would know or have any idea how much these tests would cost.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you respond to a question, Senator Byars?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, thank you, Senator Cudaback.   Senator Vrtiska, I have absolutely no idea what a lab test would run in this situation.   I'm sure it fluctuates depending on the type of test, but I really don't know.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, the reason I ask is because I realize that there are a variety of tests and they run in a wide range of cost, depending on the amount of time and the amount of material it takes to provide these tests.   And just out of curiosity, when you're talking about local governments and local fire departments, and et cetera, picking up the cost, it would be interesting to find out if anybody knows with any certainty how much these tests might be.   Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Senator Vrtiska, I don't know the exact dollar amount, but there was absolutely no question on the part of both paid and volunteer firefighters, EMS and EMTs, whether they be paid or volunteer.   Everybody came in, in favor of this piece of legislation.   They feel the exposure that public safety officials have at this time, it's worth spending the dollars, and they were very clear in the fact that dollars were not one of the problems.   Exposing one of their officials, being paid or volunteer, to another disease was very important to them.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Byars.   I understand that and certainly, having participated in both those organizations over the years, I understand the concern and they certainly have a right to be concerned.   Because, by and large, chose people are doing this as a voluntary service and it would be a shame if they had to pay for it themselves.   And I'm not here to oppose