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SENATOR BEUTLER: Under the commission's current rules with regard to the use of these funds...and again, correct me if I'm not remembering right, but don't they allocate it among the NRDs, basically?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes. There's a certain portion of them that are allocated on a per NRD basis, and a certain portion dedicated based on need. And so...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And would you anticipate, with these differing kinds of needs that you're describing in this bill, that the formula would change and that there would be less distributed equally, or in accordance with the old formula...

SENATOR SCHROCK: No.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...to NRDs, and more to certain areas based on need?

SENATOR SCHROCK: This bill does not change the formula and how the money is distributed. But it just allows one more practice for individual NRDs to use if they want to use Soil and Water Conservation Funds for a new practice.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But I assume, given the context of this bill and the timing and all, that a large number of these programs that we might want to fund here instead of what we're funding now would be focused on the Republican River area and the recent agreement with Kansas in that regard. Wouldn't that be a fair statement?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That would be a fair statement.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So unless we put in new funds, we're going to have to reallocate these existing funds to that area to meet these needs. Would that be a fair statement?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Certainly those NRDs in that basin will not be receiving any more money because of this bill. But it would give them a chance to use their money in a different way, should they choose to do so.