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LB 187, 321, 425, 530, 531

Service Commission's orders must be...follow the Administrative Procedures Act, which means now that the appeals would have to go to the district court, not to the Court of Appeals. As it was, they could choose which court they wanted to make their appeal to, and it changed...it changed the difference on whether an automatic stay was granted to the PSC order. So that's LB 531. Included in LB 531 we have a bill that was introduced by Senator Wehrbein, LB 321, and I need to repeat there was no opposition testimony to either of these bills, or all three of them actually. LB 321 was Senator Wehrbein's bill and I'll let him, if he wishes later, to speak to that, but it increases the fees charged by the Public Service Commission. All money generated by this increased fees will be credit to the General Fund. The fiscal note states it'd be about \$89,000 in Fiscal '03-04, and \$165,000, approximately, in '04-05. The intent of this bill is simply to get the fees up to closer to where they cover the administrative costs of the actual processing and filings. Right now, there's \$50 fees on a lot of these proceedings. It doesn't even cover the cost of printing the notices. So it increases them up to a maximum of \$500. The Public Service Commission would not have to increase them that high, but it does give them that leeway. That's Senator Wehrbein's bill, LB 321. Senator Engel had a bill also that we included in here, a very simple little bill that was LB 425, and it provides fining authority to the Public Service Commission for the enhanced wireless 911 services. You will recall Senator Engel had that bill a couple years ago. They began collecting this fee and what happened is a company, a new carrier, moved into the Nebraska market and began collecting a surcharge from its subscribers but failed to submit the money they collected to the PSC. They just...I don't know whether it was an oversight or what happened, but it was a new carrier. Did not remit the fees to the PSC. They eventually got it straightened out. But this requires them and allows an assessment penalty of up to \$10,000 per day on these providers, which is already in the statutes. That's...\$10,000 fee is there now. It simply applies it to the enhanced 911 providers. And the last part of this amendment was LB 530. That was a bill dealing with the Telecommunications Relay Act. It simply sets the relay surcharge on a fiscal year from July to June 30, rather than a calendar year. This is strictly a bookkeeping clean-up