

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

April 28, 2005      LB 645

of Nebraska. PSC had issued an order that said they expected that particular company to collect the Universal Service Fund surcharge on voice over Internet, and this particular company said, no, you have no authority over that, and that is currently being litigated. So we don't have a clear direction on that, at this point and time, using Internet to provide basically a telephone service. That's, as I said, going through the courts. What we're doing here is trying to be proactive, and rather than litigate these issues...and Senator Beutler raises some good questions. There's nobody really knows what authority the public power districts in this case, or any other public entity, has to provide Internet service--high-speed Internet, broadband, call it what you want. That's unclear. So Senator Brashear is taking a proactive approach here and saying, let's stop this nonsense right now, get this thing under control, take a look at it, and although there's some certain issues here in Sections 2 and 3, we make the law here, we're going to change it. I would suggest to the body, once we get this task force put together and they provide some direction, some idea of where it is we want to go, where we need to go, then we'll come back and look at this. But in the meantime, until we get that report and direction from the task force, this is the way it's going to be in Sections 2 and 3. That gives us some stability at the time. And with that, I...I don't know whether Senator Brashear still wants the balance of my time or not. I think he answered that library question that had been floating around, and I agree with him 100 percent. So with that, I believe I will stop, and thank the body.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, about two, seventeen, if you care to use it.

SENATOR BAKER: Did...I don't think you want it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Members. To follow up a little bit on what Senator Brashear said about the libraries, I would like to tell you, quote some of the testimony in the committee, because one of the individuals who testified in support of the activity of the power districts in providing broadband over power line. And