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FLOOR DEBATE

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metropolitan Omaha, which was capped at 50 cents, and they are at 50 cents. Some of the counties now are at less than \$1; most of them are at \$1. This money is collected by the telecom, the telephone company. The rate is set, as I said, by the county commissioners. It's collected by the phone companies and submitted to the county treasurers in each county. That money can be used for telecommunications within that particular county, and it has been, although there are some counties that haven't pursued this as aggressively as others. That's the landline portion. A few years ago, Senator Engel had a bill, LB 985, which addressed the emerging technology of wireless--the cell phones. After some discussion, the bill was adopted. That provided for up to...or 50 cents, that was a universal 50 cents collected on cell phones, submitted by the wireless companies to the Public Service Commission, and then that money was used to disburse...or for reimbursed costs on public safety access points. We're going to be talking about PSAPs a lot. That's public safety access points, and that's the point where the 911 calls go into a central hub or the phone is answered and then, of course, the various agencies are dispatched to respond to the 911 issue. Technology is moving forward. This bill is dealing with wireless issues, for the most part. It's trying to catch up some of the counties. There are seven counties that were not up to what we considered a minimum threshold, meaning enhanced 911. We have handed out a map. Those colors...those counties in blue are basic 911, which means that they have a 911 calling system but they do not have the counties mapped or signed, and that is what we're directing part of this bill towards as far as the wire line, the landline part of this, is to get those seven counties. And I believe that nearly all of them are rapidly now pursuing this, knowing full well that they need to get up to a minimum standard. That is addressed in the bill. Is this the last you're going to hear of this? I'd suggest to the body that's going to be back next year, you'll probably come...be hearing again from Public Service Commission and wireless carriers. We have the issues of voice over Internet. We have an issue in the bill dealing with prepaid cell phones. There are companies selling prepaid cell phones. They're becoming ever more popular in the state. Parents are buying them for their children. And we have a provision in the bill that we really haven't solved. We've extended a deadline to try and get