

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

March 27, 2006      LB 1222

keep in the absolute necessities in this bill. I've worked long and hard on this consolidation part of the amendment she has here. But I'm not going to vote for it. But I want to make sure it's clear in the record that the Public Service Commission, this 70-cent surcharge is flat-out not going to cover all the requests they have for reimbursement of costs. It's not going to do it. They came in a year ago and wanted \$1.50 per cell phone line per month. We came back this year with \$1 and ended up moving 70 cents out of committee. They're not going to have the funds to do this. So we have to give them discretion, as Senator Fischer did mention. They're going to have to use their best judgment, if we adopt the Fischer amendment, so that they simply are not going to fund all the requests they get from, say, counties that are serving a few thousand people are probably going to be refused reimbursement. Number one, the money is not there and the PSC should focus on those PSAPs, 911 call centers that are the most efficient and thereby send a message to these folks out there that are trying to maintain a 911 call center for 2,000-3,000 people. You had a handout come around on current consolidations. And what we're trying to do with 911 call centers is not unlike what we did with area health service areas. Remember those of us here two or three years ago required that in order to have state funding they serve 35,000 people? I can equate that somewhat with what you're doing here with 911 call centers. There simply is not a good rationale to say that we need all these PSAPs. There's 82 of them now in the state. Granted, they've gone down voluntarily, they've consolidated. I know the issue was brought up, well, it's happening anyway. But we have some people that have drug their feet along here and not done a lot of these things. And I have talked to various PSAP operators over the weekend and today, and they would like to have some of their bordering counties come to them and share some of the facilities they have in place, because there's no point in duplicating them. If you'll look at that current consolidations map, you'll see that Senator Fischer does in fact have a large area in the green and I think Senator McDonald also shares in that. There's eight counties: Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Valley, Greeley, and Sherman. They all have one PSAP service to all those areas out of Taylor. And their costs on that are tremendous in the savings compared to what each one of them