

currently being applied to the utilities by the auditor or to all government political subdivisions by the auditor of public accounts. So I think that those are the principal provisions of the committee amendments and would invite your questions.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Hillman. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members. The requirement of the...for the public power districts and the...all across our state including our distribution systems like Norris Public Power, Twin Valley Public Power, McCook Public Power District or Southwest to participate and be a part of the Uniform Budgeting Act that applied to all the government subdivisions really isn't very practical, inasmuch as they do not raise revenue through taxation, all of the revenues from sale of power distribution and selling power at retail or generating power. And their goal and their stated mission is to provide electrical power to the citizens of Nebraska for the cheapest possible price which they have done very well, and at the same time be accountable to the public through having their records open to public inspection. So one portion of the budgeting bill that's in place for all the state agencies or all the state government or local subdivisions that levy taxes. In comparison these more or less enterprises that have no tax base but generate the revenues for sale of electricity are two different types of things. And the public power districts require more flexibility in expenditures of budgets than normally would be the case inasmuch as they have a great deal of infrastructure out there in power distribution systems that from time to time suffer natural disasters such as ice storms or tornadoes or things of that nature that require a large expenditure of money that was unanticipated. If they would remain under the Budget Act, that would mean that they would have to publish a hearing date for amending their budget and spend several weeks in paper work and process before they could get the money to go ahead and fix their lines which really isn't very practical. And I think that this is a simple way to take care of the things that we need to do to make the budgeting and the budgeting acts applicable but flexible enough for the public power districts to use and we do have some question about how these budgets are going to be prepared for public inspection and several of us are working on those and will be prepared to visit about the budgets and budget forms, I believe, on Select File. So at this time I'd like to ask the adoption of the committee