

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Kristensen, do you wish to speak to the Chambers amendment?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I do. No. Thank you. Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers alluded to and I want to make sure that people understand what the process was here that Lincoln came in and testified against this particular bill. That's truthful but not entirely accurate because what occurred was there are two competing bills for 911 services this year before the Transportation Committee. One was Senator Hillman's LB 1259. LB 1259 was a 50 cent increase. Senator Vrtiska's bill, LB 1044, was for a dollar and a half increase. The committee was uncomfortable with the dollar and a half, thinking that was too much of an increase, but they were comfortable with some parts of Senator Vrtiska's bill because it allowed for some procedures to have an election; it allowed for the city council or whoever, the political subdivision's governing body to meet and to have public hearings. We liked that part of Senator Vrtiska's bill, but we didn't like his money. We liked Senator Hillman's bill because of her money and her approach that everybody would be included. The committee did nothing with either one of the bills. The committee, in Exec Session, decided that this is an excellent concept and basically told Senator Vrtiska and Senator Hillman, see if you can work out your differences. The two of them met together and came to the committee with what was a well worked out compromise at that point in time that I think satisfied the committee. Senator Vrtiska must have won the coin toss because the amendment got put onto his bill; it just as easily could have been put onto Senator Hillman's bill because the contents would have been the same. At that point in time, you have to look at LB 1259's committee statement because the City of Lincoln came in extensively and presented the need for this enhanced services for this community. The committee was impressed with Lincoln's presentation, decided that they needed to do that and it was important to keep them in, thus, I think they participated in the hearing process. The City of Omaha did not come in, did not make any case at all for us, did not have a presence in either one of the bills to do the services. On the floor, the bill was presented then that everybody was included. Senator Chambers then effectively removed Douglas County and all political subdivisions in Douglas County from doing this service and that's how the bill advanced from General File to Select File. So what is really important here is that the City of Lincoln did come in, in LB 1259, which was a 911 bill. The committee didn't