

the provider charged was let's say a dollar, then that same charge under this legislation would be imposed for the balance of the state. Now I want to repeat to you, this is important, for those of you in the rural areas it is critically important, this provision would require that for at least the next five years this be the rule. Let me point out that deaveraging or averaging is not required in law now, and if you fail to act on this legislation or some substantive legislation, all these things that sound like routine things that are being handled will become monsters. So, for example, that phone call that costs one dollar between Omaha and Lincoln, there may be 10,000 phone calls made per day and it may cost only a small amount to provide that phone call between Omaha and Lincoln, but Senator Lamb may have a phone call between Valentine and Ainsworth, also 50 miles, although I don't know the distance, but in that category that would be approximately the same distance, under the rule of this bill, under the rule of this bill the amount that could be charged would have to be the same as that call between Omaha and Lincoln.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: The averaging would have to be required for at least then five years. There is no such provision in law now. It is a practice, it is a practice of the major provider, AT&T, to do this, but there is nothing that says they have to ultimately and we would write this in the law for the next five years. Over the next five years it is inevitable on an annual basis that we're going to be reviewing legislation, that we're going to be participating actively in the phased in deregulation and competition in the telecommunications industry and this is one of the major provisions which we will be watching. But if ever the rural areas had something to benefit from and gain, it is particularly this provision. With one minute there is no way I can begin to finish the methods of the bill, so I'll have to put my light on and wait to come up.

PRESIDENT: Light on, Senator. Senator Landis. The speaking order after Senator Landis is Senator Lamb, Schmit and DeCamp.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I do not read the amendments to LE 835 as establishing a state policy or that that policy be a well-thought-out one placed