

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...of the Risk Manager and the Legislature to allow that...whatever amount of money to be placed in the fund. And any county, regardless, would have to document the reason why they were entitled to whatever amount of money, and then it would be up to the Legislature to decide how much they wanted to, and the Risk Manager, how much they wanted to allocate to that particular situation.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Thank you. I guess it would be my intent that this would be a help to those counties that desperately needed it, that it would be the intent that the Legislature could help to the extent that they felt possible. It might be a subjective decision, in some cases, if we had several counties that were eligible, we might be able to spread that out. It's not necessarily an entitlement, from my viewpoint, is not intended for this to be. It is simply a way to help counties in some form, even though it only may be partial, or only a small part of what they would need,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...if the Legislature were to have that option.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Wehrbein, true to his word, did work very closely and very hard with me to try to overcome some of the objections that I had to the way that the bill expressed itself. I think through his amendments he has tightened it up and he has tried to meet every substantial objection that had been brought on the floor. So my questions now go to what the bill will actually say. Senator Vrtiska, if the Claims Board would agree that one of these claims should be paid, would that still have to come before the Legislature, as all others do which are above a certain amount?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: No, the amount that would be placed in the fund would be the amount that they would have to deal with. And, as Senator Wehrbein indicated, they could, in fact, spread that amount of money between more than one county and not