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LB 734, 759

for it out of the grant program. Two accounting changes: one, the funds to be disbursed will be disbursed by the commission rather than the State Treasurer, which is the case now. See, the commission now does all the rest of the work except for this one disbursement procedure and that kind of creates a little difficulty of getting on the same page in the administration. Secondly, we currently require for monthly distributions. Well, the truth is that there are, like, semi-annual or annual grants here and monthly disbursements don't make much sense. We change it to say "periodically" rather than "monthly". We also say that money can't be languishing in there, you know, more than two years; that if there's money left over at the end of one year it needs to be spent in the next year, so you just can't stockpile money into this fund. I would ask for the advancement of 759, which was reported out of the committee unanimously and was supported by the State Bar Association and the commission that now administers this program. It has no fiscal impact. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on advancement of the bill? Senator Landis, you're recognized to close. Waive closing. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 759. Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 759.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 759 advances. LB 734.

CLERK: (LB) 734 by Senator Kiel. (Read title.) Introduced January 20, referred to Judiciary, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Kiel, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 734 changes who sets the level of compensation for personnel within the office of public defender. The bill simply gives that ability to the local public defender. The public defender still must work within the confines of the budget set by the county board. The only change with this is that the public defender can set the salaries of his personnel and then must then present the budget to the county board, which