

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 7, 2000

LB 414

comparison to some of the other proposals we have. Now I think there's some concepts here about appointments that we should look at in the future, but I don't think that we have a bill here that we have details on with a price tag of this magnitude that I think that we really should move forward with. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Bromm, on advancement of LB 414.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I think the debate here is necessary and I'm...there are really a lot of thoughts rolling around in my mind about this bill and I...and I...I am tending to support the bill. I want to say that right off the top of what I'm going to say here. But I don't know that we've stopped to talk and think enough about the fiscal obligation that the state is taking on here. I've been looking through the fiscal notes and the later fiscal note that many of us don't...don't have on our desk yet, but it's...the state cost, when this is fully implemented by about the fourth year, is somewhere in the \$3.5 to \$5 million dollar category. I think that's a little bit unknown yet, but probably \$3.5 million is probably a conservative estimate. There is a salary study that is budgeted for in the fiscal note the first year of \$26,250. My understanding is that salary study will be used to look at the salaries of the existing clerks and how they fit with, I suppose, the state salary schedules and how they fit with each other to try to bring some fairness or equity into the salary situation. So, until that salary study is done, we will not know...we will not know for sure what the state fiscal impact is. I will say this, that this is, if the counties are able to save this money and not levy it for something else, this is pure...as pure as you're going to get property tax relief. Now, there are some counties, by virtue of the way they're structured and the low level of activity they have in district court and the low salaries they're paying there, that aren't going to see property tax relief because the court fees they're bringing in are more than the salaries they're paying out, and those court fees are going to go to the state eventually. But I think we need to, if we do this bill, we need to make it very, very clear that this is part of a property tax effort. I'm not doing it because I think I'm going to get a better clerk. We have had,