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employees of the clerk of the district court's offices around the state. Under the bill as it is currently structured, that transition is designed to take place over a period of three years. The Nebraska Supreme Court has indicated that they can do that transition starting...starting this year and the next year and the following year, for three years, just fine, but they said that it would be an improvement if we simply retained a three-year transition but in the first year set up a transition team and then actually transfer the money to replace the county funds in the second and third year. So I have passed out...that's what the amendment does, basically, and I've passed out to you what it will look like with the new funding transition, and I should have marked on those columns where it says first year, that would be the year 2000-2001, to orient you to the time frame. You can see that then in the lower right hand corner, the long term costs to the state of this project ultimately will be about \$3.6 million. Wanted just to point out a couple of things to you that I thought might be of interest. I had forgotten one item that I've neglected to remind you of. I was reminded of it the other day. Some of you are concerned about how much property tax relief this will actually result in, and I wanted to make clear that we do have a provision in the law, in the lid law provisions pertaining to political subdivisions and, of course, including counties, that indicates that when transfer...when there is a transfer of the financial responsibility of providing a service, financed in whole or in part with restricted funds, and these would be restricted funds, when that is transferred to another governmental unit or the state, the amount of restricted funds associated with providing the services shall be subtracted from the last prior year's total of budgeted restricted funds. So in short, there has to be property tax savings assuming that we do this, and so I wanted to be sure that people were aware of at least an assurance of that much property tax relief. And also, of course, that \$3.6 million will do a little bit of something to substitute for the \$10 million of property tax relief that we took away in the refund. So you're putting some back with this bill. Anyway, wanted to ask you if you would approve of that change in the financing arrangement. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Don Pederson.