

designed to divert some populations from incarceration into a highly intensive probation system. It allows for us to do this on a statewide basis and suggests that we look at criteria for probation on this kind of a level that be set up so that we can truly divert people and keep it fairly selective and keep the numbers of the ratios, probationers per staff person at a low level because of the intense nature of the probation. It also asks for us to track and record the kinds of cases and kinds of numbers of staff ratios that are in place on a semiannual basis and it will have a cost to it. However, the cost was appropriated as part of LB 1031 in the bill we passed early this morning that will set up the structure for computerization software and hardware and for some staffing. That has already been made a part of the main budget bill. This is adding language to try to show some specificity to what we are expecting out of this program. Senator Pirsch has agreed to this amendment. As a matter of fact, Senator Pirsch signed on to LB 1212 so that we had this kind of an arrangement set up, this being fairly friendly and be one that is a companion type of operation. I would be happy to respond to any questions any of you might have, but I'll leave that as my opening for now, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Hannibal motion, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. I'd just rise to support this amendment. It does fit in with our theory that we can do some alternatives to incarceration. I'm glad that Senator Hannibal did mention that the appropriation, which some have alluded to as being significant, has already been approved in the deficit appropriation bill and this would simply add that method of alternative to incarceration to 220.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask a question of Senator Hannibal, please?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hannibal, would you respond.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Hannibal, I was looking through the fiscal note as you were talking and I was expecting you to, and