

SENATOR HALL: ...standardized tests? Okay, that's...I just wanted to make sure that that was in the record for purposes of understanding what the intent of this. Again I rise to support the amendment. I believe that currently, I know it's at least done in Douglas County and I think that it makes good sense to have it uniform and done statewide for purposes of dealing with DWI problems, so I would urge adoption of the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen, you're next.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I think that you'll find that Senator Hall's statement was correct, they're already doing it in Douglas County. It is available all over the state, that can be done. It is done in discretion. My problem with this and I don't see Senator Bernard-Stevens is certainly the cost involved. The cost involved is for people who are indigent who cannot afford it are still going to have to be given the right to do this, and who is going to pay that and what are those costs going to be? And if you're talking about evaluations and/or some of the programs that Senator Bernard-Stevens is placing in there, that is extremely expensive and who is going to wind up paying it? The county will wind up paying it. It's going to go under property tax and I just don't think that's acceptable. The current system works. If someone has financial means for treatment, generally what is done is they are given the alternative. You can go to treatment or you can go to jail. You get your choice. I've had clients on both sides. One says I want to go to help, I want to get some treatment and they're going to go. You can't force them into treatment, you can't force them to go get help because they'll go spend their time, they aren't going to be given the assistance anyway. Only the people who want to accept that help are the ones that are truly going to benefit from it. And so you're just going to spend a little more money, in fact, probably a lot more money paying for those people who can't afford those things anyway to do it. The discretion part of the statute is currently in law, it has worked well for years and I see no reason at this point in time to make the change and just add more cost to it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I've spoken before so I'll make it very brief. First of all, Senator