

fact, if you need some just for background and it's rather revealing. But we have an underlying concept is that it can be extremely, extremely expensive because capital cases in particular don't look for county lines. They occur in our largest counties, they occur in our smallest counties, and when they happen in our smallest counties, they place that county in severe jeopardy. Senator Vrtiska, I assume today, or I hope he will, he's got a very good story to tell about Richardson County that, quite frankly, is just plain out of money because of indigent defense and it can happen to other counties. Senator Schrock, he's got a county that is going to face the same thing. It has happened to my county, it has happened to a lot of smaller counties where you have a capital case that comes along and the need to pay for that defense can be overwhelming. And it just isn't for the trial, it turns out to be for the appeal through postconviction relief and so on, through the various court procedures and this body has become very familiar with what some of those procedures are in the last couple of years through seeing the newspaper and the current events of this state. LB 464 is designed to add some uniformity and consistency. I have an amendment up that we're going to take up as a first amendment and I want to set the stage for that amendment before I lose my closing time. The bill as drafted allows for the counties to participate in some manner. In other words, they're going to contribute some money and then the state would match that money and there would be two funds. One would be a Litigation Support Fund, in other words, that would be money that would be available for experts, for testing, that the defense may need. Those can be very expensive and oftentimes very necessary. The other would be to provide for a public advocate and the public advocate would be appointed by a commission. The commission would be appointed by the Governor and they would have standards of who this individual would be, but it would, basically, be to hire staff attorneys in some quantity depending on how much money was available and those individuals would go out and assist a Dawson County, a Harlan County or Richardson County, to assist them in the defense of those individuals. And, Senator Vrtiska, I think I'm going to leave to you as what some of those figures and costs are because you've got a very close handle. He's been working with those people and you need do nothing more than read the evening paper about every day this week and you'll find out what some of those costs really are. 646's amendment that I'm going to offer to you would take out the county participation and would allow for state funding, and through that state funding, it does two