

things. Some will call it property tax relief, there will be some of that; however, the greater thrust will be that you will have better suited people, people who do this on a full-time basis to add assistance in capital cases. If there's any particular issue or any particular representation that is so crucial that you have good experienced people who don't make mistakes, it's in capital cases, because their's are the area of appeal, ineffective assistance of counsel. The claim is that my lawyer didn't do a good job, thus, I'm going to the electric chair because of that incompetence and you know full well that that's an often used defense. What this group would do, or this group of staff attorneys through the amendment that I'm going to be preparing or have prepared, it's been printed, would be to allow for the state to pick up those costs. I'd suggest to you that that should be roughly a half a million dollars. Is that enough money? No, absolutely it is not. Is it enough to get started and is it enough to sort of take care of probably somewhere in the neighborhood of ten to a dozen capital cases a year that they could provide some assistance? I believe that it is, and to that extent, that's good public policy for the state to assume that. It provides people who are more competent, who do this on a regular basis, would make less mistakes which means less appeals, which means quicker justice but which means less expensive. The other thing that it would be is it would reduce the risk of a small county or the expensive part of that by having the state paid staff attorney who would not be paid on an hourly basis but would receive their salary who could come in and make that assistance. So to that extent, it does provide some property tax relief. Now if we were going to do this on a full statewide basis, obviously, the relief would be greater. We spend roughly \$10 million in this state on indigent defense. That includes misdemeanors and juvenile cases. So as you can see, the \$500,000 will not go a long way towards solving all those problems, but it will go towards those very crucial cases where we're at greatest of risk and those are the capital cases. The availability of funds, obviously, the state is going to have to establish this group. The commission would receive no pay. The commission would set up some standards of which counties would be allowed to use this representation. They would set up some guidelines and they would be able to, in some way, control the quality of those people doing the representation. You just don't want to pull Senator Lindsay in off the street and have him do capital representation. Obviously, with his diminished legal skills, he would be ill-equipped to handle those cases, so you don't want to do those. You want somebody who has done them