

CLERK: Well, we also have 1373, do you remember that?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I do, Mr. Clerk.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator, why don't you come up here and let's all three of us look at the amendments and make sure that we know what we're speaking of.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kristensen would offer AM1474, I believe. (See page 1505 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: AM1474, Senator Kristensen, to open.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I spoke of the amendment 1474 in the opening and I was remiss in not thanking Senator Warner for the opportunity to open on this bill a little bit because it helps lay out the concept and then we can begin to discuss the amendments and it will flow a little easier. AM1474 strikes the original Section 14 which is the provisions and allows for this support fund. It also strikes out the matching fund between the counties and the state and replaces in there the state funding provisions. Now what I suggest to you and what I intend to do with the A bill, providing this amendment gets attached, this is a policy choice that the Legislature needs to make. The policy is this, do you have the counties contribute on some basis or do you have the state pick up this fund? If you're going to have the state do it, you need some way to limit it and some way to control that mechanism. I suggest to you the easiest way to do that is with a direct appropriation and that you will hire staff attorneys with that direct appropriation and it is much easier to manage the resources. If you only have four staff attorneys, they can only go so far and that is the extent of the state obligation is their time and efforts. If you just merely put money into a pot, there's never going to be enough money. The reimbursements could go to one county entirely and, thus, there would be some feeling of inequity or some feeling that it was an inadequate amount of funding. The other hand, the other option that we have is, if you have county contributions, you'll have a smaller county that may be not be able to afford any contribution. If you do it on a per capita basis, they may have to come up with \$1,000 to pay in. There's several counties right at their limit right now that that \$1,000, and so the...I mean, that, for example, for Senator Vrtiska that may be pocket