

the mechanisms related to the public defender system and how that operates, including some of these financial bumps that we seem to run up against from time to time. Having said that, let me ask you about some questions and you'll see that most of them relate to the allocation of resources and how that might operate and I guess maybe one question to start out with. When this commission is created and when they sit down to decide whether or not this or that applicant should have some assistance in the form of services or funds, and maybe I should stop right there and ask you, is this on an application basis, somebody, a county attorney would come to the commission and say we need this kind of help or we need this kind of money? Is that...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...how it would work essentially?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And given this amendment, basically, it would be we need assistance.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, let's assume the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, it would be we need some assistance for the defense. This appears to be, and I'm sure that there will be requests for something other than capital cases, but the focus and where I wanted to lead this to was that those, if we're going to have limited resources, that's where I want to begin because I think that's the area of greatest exposure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But the bill doesn't limit it to capital cases?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: It does not.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Although it refers to those and, as we narrow this down, the issue to me is a policy choice of funding source, the other is the concept of do you give some assistance to local counties for public defense and for indigent defense. I think that's the other policy choice, but it would be on an application basis, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And as the counties come forward with