

think for the most part the ongoing expenses that we anticipate, we're not ready or prepared to take those over on the state level nor do I think we should lightly at all. I am fairly committed, at this point, to find a way for the counties to stay involved with funding this if this bill is going to be here. So I, at this point, I understand why Senator Kristensen is bringing the amendment, but I, at this point, am not willing to let go of the counties being involved in the match, and I'm going to vote against the amendment. That doesn't mean that we can't continue to talk about how to change that on the General File or on Select File or in between. I'd be perfectly willing to try to do that, but I think it would be making a mistake as we set a road map here on how to handle defense costs for indigents, particularly outstate if we say we're going to appropriate a small amount of money, total state money...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...and we're not really expecting the counties to participate at this point. I don't think that's in our best interest in need of the philosophy of the system of indigent defense fund costs, nor do I think that it serves us well as we try to deal with the major capital case that might show up in Seward County or Saunders County or Colfax County or any county. We need a buffer, we need a backstop, we need an insurance policy to help in those situations that are unforeseen that cause great stress for the county's budget simply because they're unfortunate enough to have a murder or a major case happen within the confines of their borders. That's where I think we have to start with this. On down the line a few years, we might get to the point of Senator Lindsay was alluding to...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...but I don't believe we can do that in one fell swoop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen, followed by Senators Maurstad, Cudaback, Vrtiska, Beutler, Abboud, Hall, Lindsay, Chambers and Hartnett. That was not a roll call, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: All voting aye. Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want to make sure that during this period, I know there's a number of speakers and I want to try to