

a few just citizen-type questions. I hope this isn't being redundant with anything that they've discussed that's been way over my head. If I understand it, and I would like, if Senator Kristensen could respond to a couple questions I guess.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: If I under...and I'm going to hop all over the place, Senator Kristensen. I apologize for that but I want to make sure that some of things that I think are in my mind are the way it is.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Easter is coming so I suppose hopping all over is appropriate.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Counties aren't, they're not required to access either of the funds that are set up in this bill, is that correct?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: No, they are not required to do so.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I mean even if they opted in, they could still pick and choose the times that they would want to seek assistance from this commission.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That's true. I want to make sure that when you talked about opting in and out, if my amendment is adopted, those sorts of things would go away because there wouldn't be a county contribution and so there probably wouldn't be any need to opt in or opt out.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, so then, and I'm going to go ahead ask these questions in case your amendment doesn't...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Oh, that's fine, I understand.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...doesn't succeed and it deals a little bit with that opting in business, and the way that the committee amendment was structured, once you were in you were always in?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That's correct, unless you opted out before the end of this year.