

solved the problem?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, as I said...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: As I said in my opening, Senator Hall, that I don't think that this is the magic wand and does away with this. It's not a complete insurance policy and, obviously, to the scale that I suggest is that you're just going to be able to take care of what I think are some of the worst cases and it's not a panacea.

SENATOR HALL: You said that a couple times in terms of the worst cases and willingness to look at narrowing it. Can you elaborate on that?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator, I...

SENATOR HALL: Are we really talking about capital cases?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I'd be willing to narrow it down to, at this point, only capital cases or those that are likely to be capital. I mean it's tough to tell until you get the sentencing, obviously.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, one reason I'm glad this bill is before us because it's finally forcing the Legislature, not through any work of mine, to acknowledge the high cost of administering a capital punishment law. We're talking about doing away with the inconsistent and unequal funding of indigent programs, but nothing about doing away with inconsistent representation of the indigent individuals. This bill is being discussed in terms of property tax relief and I'm concerned about justice for those people who will face what has been called the supreme penalty. If these counties, as many of them have shown themselves to be, are too poor to charge somebody with an offense that would carry the sentence of death, then we have an unequal application of the most serious law in this state. The law requires tax assessments to be equal around the state. Taxing laws have to