

further. But I think that this amendment, if you go to state funding, provides better equity for state coverage. It will also allow us a little better control over who uses those staff attorneys because you will not be sending cash out to the counties, you will be sending people out. And that will be controlled by us, by our appropriations process, and I really think that this provides a more long-range better solution. I know that there are other opportunities. What really will come up for debate should be the funding source, and what I'm saying is that this is a funding source that I suggest will be much easier, to begin with, to get this project started. If we want to then look at maybe charge-backs for the counties for them assuming some cost when they do have these, I'm willing to look at those as well. But this amendment really takes away the county participation part, makes it state-funded only, which would allow for the payment of indigent defense counsel for those cases that people are constitutionally required. It would be my hope, my intent, and will do everything I can do to try to get that to be narrowed and work with people to make it for the cases that are most necessary and generally those are capital cases, and Senator Chambers and I had just begun some discussion about identifying those sorts of things. With that, I certainly would ask for your approval of this amendment to the committee amendments. It also will take away any of the opt-out arguments and problems that other people had. I know I had one county in particular was concerned about their contribution. I had other counties that were concerned, they were going to send money to Omaha and Lincoln. Omaha was looking...they were concerned about sending money to the smaller counties. We do away with that fight through this amendment and I ask for its adoption.

SPEAKER WITHEM: You've heard the closing. The question is the adoption of the Kristensen amendment to the committee amendments. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Kristensen's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The Kristensen amendment is adopted. The next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Kristensen offers 1276, AM1276, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.