

it work. And let me get into one other area and that is the question of the situation I think most people in here are concerned with and that's the question of one county having a huge hit on a defense like Senator Vrtiska's district had, and that I think is a legitimate concern. This bill I don't think is going to help you, because you can't use that for your existing budget. The money you get is going to be in additional money. But the second thing that we should look at is that this is not the only way to address that type of situation. I think Senator Bromm mentioned interlocal agreements that can be used to allow counties to pool resources to fund a public defender for a multicounty area and to allow that type of thing to be done on a voluntary basis. And that way counties can voluntarily insure against, by spreading that risk among several counties, insure against the type of scenario that Richardson County is now facing. Finally, I should point out, I don't how many people are aware of it but we do have, in statute now, a judicial district public defender mechanism. We can, right now, judges of the district courts in a given judicial district can request the appointment, can request from the Governor's office the appointment of a public defender for that judicial district when the caseload gets to the point where the judge believes it's warranted. And then that money, that is funded from the Governor's budget, from money appropriated for that purpose. We already have a system for public defense. We're going to put on another public defender system statewide. We're going to put another 250, 500,000, whatever we're going to do, and we're going to have another unfunded system that at least has a bureaucracy that's well funded but doesn't get anything down to the local areas. We already have in statutes, it's...

SENATOR CROSBY PRESIDING

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...Section 29-3909 and following sections, and I would suggest you pull out your statute books and take a look at it because we already have that. The question is, how much money are we appropriating for the purposes that are laid out there? We're not appropriating the money now. We can pass LB 646 and put a quarter million dollars into it this year, or \$500,000 into it, or if we're really serious about it, put \$11 million into it, but we're not going to do that. And so what we're going to have is another 8 or 10, 12, 14 sections in the books, maybe following this one or maybe even in the same