

state money it's still everybody's money. So that's what the proposal is all about.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on the Beutler amendment. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I rise in support of the Beutler amendment and I think what it does is recognize that some counties have already taken those steps to appropriate adequate dollars to create adequate public defender systems. I know you can look to Douglas and Lancaster Counties to find public defenders who, I think, do an excellent job and rather than getting to the point where we're creating other divisions that we're certainly not going to be able to fund to the point that they can do an adequate job, let's make sure we at least preserve those systems that are already working. What this would do is allow some of those areas or other areas that are already satisfied with the way they're providing services to allow them to supplement those budgets or to provide the same tax, limited property tax relief, depending on how many dollars we're going to appropriate, to their constituents or to their people in those counties as would be provided to other counties who opt to remain in. The bill, I think, again, there are provisions, I think, contrary to what Senator Kristensen would suggest, I think there are provisions where there's things that counties may want to opt out of. Some of that, for example, is the requirement of standards that are set by the commission. This commission will set the standards for public defense, and, as I mentioned, those standards can range from caseloads to requiring full-time public defenders to having...setting a specified number of attorneys to be hired for each, depending on the caseload net, those standards and guidelines that are applicable to each county are something that the commission would develop. And I think that's something that the counties ought to have the opportunity to opt in or out of. And we have to remember, just as I'm sure some of you might have a fear that this commission could very easily be dominated by urban sort of people as members of the commission, there's certainly a fear from those in some of the urban areas that it would be dominated by a rural area which might have standards that are more appropriate for those areas. I should, just as a...just, I guess, to mention again a problem with the bill as I keep going through it, the people who are named to the commission are appointed by an executive council that has representation of one woman out of the entire people on the