

Legislature. Just to bring people up to date, and I am sorry, Senator Beutler, if I violated the spirit of an opening with a review, but it helps to get me into the mode of thinking about the bill as well. Let me try to put this into perspective the best that I can, and let Senator Beutler make his pitch. The amendment, as I understand it, obviously, still deals with some opting out of the bill. The amendment that I have following this will clean up a lot of perhaps some of the confusion that may be out there. Originally, the bill started off as having a fund that would have been created for assistance to a county, that a county could have applied to get money, and that fund could have been used for expert witnesses, depositions, some tests, some specialized tests, or expensive things to do. When we decided to move to a state-funded system, that fund, obviously, became an impediment and also caused some problems financially with money because how were we going to put all of that in there. And we thought that the better resources, obviously, were spent with people, so right now if a county would opt out, and I guess I am going to talk and listen to Senator Beutler as he explains it, but if a county opts out, the way the bill is now, all they are going to be doing is they are not going to be getting any basic assistance of any kind for having attorneys come and represent them, for having them do some of those things on appeal. What we are going to try to do with the next amendment as well is to do away with any references to guidelines, and so this would become purely a, at this point, a funded system of sending attorneys out, that this commission would have its guidelines scaled back so it could not tinker with individual public defender's offices and that, obviously, was of some concern. So I would oppose the Beutler amendment, at this point in time, simply, one, is I don't think it fits in with the scheme of what we are trying to do at this point. The other problem I think is that we are going to be taking out some of the standards and guidelines as it deals with the indigent defense system, and if we can do that, Senator Beutler, I guess if my amendment is not successful, perhaps, then this may be something that might be very, very appropriate. But until that happens, I would oppose this particular amendment, would ask that the body take a look at the next one, and then, Senator Beutler, you and I did have a discussion last weekend. So we can continue on, over the weekend I have been working on, you and I had some discussion about county contributions. It is still state assistance for individuals but perhaps if a county access this, that they, at least, have some financial stake perhaps in dealing back, I've come to the