

kinds of expenses they are expected to deal with in an orderly fashion. Some of these counties, a number of them, have one, two, three criminal...criminal actions a year in their counties, and then all of a sudden they get a big one, a capital offense or a heavy felony offense of some type. Their size is so small they are simply not equipped to deal with it, and that's why they are here today in front of us. It's not really Douglas and Lancaster County that is coming here today for this bill because they are large enough...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that they can spread these uneven expenses over time and not have cause for concern. Where this money is really going to go is to the smaller counties. That's where the money is going to go, and I have some concern about the perpetuation of any inefficient government structures out there by further state money to support those inefficient structures. I think if we are going to do something like this, the time for some trade-offs is starting to come. We need to look at the efficiency of some of the counties. Some of these counties have district courts that have only one or two or three or four cases a year, and yet the court facility sits there maintained, the building, the space, the administration, (interruption).

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment, but I want to take a little different approach than what others are discussing. To start with, it would seem to me that for a formula for distributing state aid, and that is what Senator Beutler's amendment is, to base a formula on a percent of an appropriation for a state-funded program is a new course, at least I am not aware that we've gone out on before. And I would be concerned if that would become a practice. Secondly, as we look at aid, and I am thinking ahead now to the next two, three, four years, when we are looking at aid for local governments, we are not going to find total equity distribution in the minds of people in each program. What we are going to have to look at is all of the programs and particularly all of the programs that might be enacted or are enacted as of now, that together there is a reasonable kind of equity that people can look at at the distribution. I rather suspect that tax capacity of local governments may well be a factor when we start looking at this