

SENATOR HALL: Uh-huh.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and then 25 percent of that \$500,000 would go directly to the county to their indigent defense program, which they already have in place.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you. I rise in support of Senator Beutler's amendment, and I do so because, as I look through the bill, and I know we are dealing with the committee amendments, but they are a small portion of the green copy of the bill, which is what's before us presently, and maybe I should ask Senator Kristensen. Senator Kristensen, can you point me to a place in the bill, and maybe I've skipped over it and I apologize if I did, how do I...how do I go about requesting the services of these individuals?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That would be done as a matter of a county coming and requesting assistance from the commission. I mean, the commission is established and they are going to.. there will be a procedure for application made, that is one of the things that the commission will do is to determine an application process and try to determine some sort of a priority system, if you will, or an allocation of the limited resources.

SENATOR HALL: So the commission could, in effect, even though it is all state funds, the commission, through their ability to set up the application process, would be able to foreclose some counties from virtually ever being eligible, depending on what that priority process is...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I suppose...

SENATOR HALL: ...because we don't know what it is.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yeah, right. You know, obviously, the intent of the legislation, I think we've got it out here, is to provide a statewide service that is available for people to use, and could they...could that commission abuse that and somehow draft it so they can exclude a county? I suppose that abuse is possible but I...you know, again, that that is something (interruption)...

SENATOR HALL: For example, a county that already had a public defender system, and they might not...they have gone ahead, that