

county has gone ahead and taxed their citizens, raised the money, felt that it was necessary and important to provide this service, and they would be excluded. They would not have the ability to make use of these services, why would we want...why would that type of a county want their portion of state funds to flow to other counties which have, basically, through the adoption of this proposal and incentive not to establish that public defender system?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, I think it comes down to a matter of scale, Senator Hall, and, of course, those larger counties that have already got a public defender system established did so because it did save them money, but they also have conflicts to use this. That is the reason the system ought to be established not to have some possible abuse, but as a resource to those people because those public defender systems are spending a large amount of money that could go to them, or I guess the county is spending a large amount of money that could go to them on conflict cases.

SENATOR HALL: Do you envision those conflict cases as being those with the...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...highest priority, that the commission will establish as the first level for purposes of designating those funds?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Oh, Senator Hall, I mean, how can I answer that? I don't know what their highest priority will be. I assume...

SENATOR HALL: And that's my point exactly. Thank you, Senator Kristensen. That is my point exactly, we don't know what those priorities are going to do...be, and, in fact, we don't know what the application process is going to even entail, as I read the green copy of the bill. The proposal that Senator Beutler offers, at a minimum, says that the counties get back those monies that they have, through their population, sent to the state that are allocated toward this program, and I believe that the amendment is one that should be adopted to the Standing Committee amendments. I would urge the adoption. Thank you, Mr. President.