

assistance to counties in capital cases, in appeals and in major cases?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I think that's accurate.

SENATOR LINDSAY: And it...other functions of the commission, are they...are they important to the functioning of the commission or is that...is what we're looking at actually that assistance for the county?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, certainly that's the major thrust, but the other stuff is important because, ultimately, Senator Lindsay, if you're going to have a major resource for those counties to use, we don't have anybody that centrally keeps track of the defense system either, you know, statewide. For example, these numbers are hard to get by. What's it cost? An individual public defender's office can, obviously, do that for an individual county, but, to get a state view, that's what would be helpful for this Legislature is if they...and that's the reason you see some of those references in there to statistically date it, if just for nothing else that's a collection point because nobody else is doing that.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Okay.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: But that's a minor...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Let me ask you,...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...that's a minor function.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...on page 5 of AM1587, lines 2 and 3, there's a subsection that empowers the commission to plan improvements in the indigent defense systems and promote their implementation, which appears to me they're going to be reviewing the local indigent defense systems, that's all I can gather out of the plural there.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, I think...I think plan improvements, instead of saying they shall do improvements, you can plan until you're blue in the face. I think that that's more or less a grant that they ought to be looking at those, but, obviously, they don't have any power to do any of those things.

SENATOR LINDSAY: So it's...it's...