

the proposal says that we're going to appropriate a half million dollars but I don't see the reduction in property taxes in the amendment that will offset the half million dollars that we are going to spend in this area. And I would argue that really what we're doing, because of all these standards that we're spelling out or requirements...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...that we mandate on the commission and on the chief counsel, that we are basically just adding to the cost of indigent defense to the tune of a half million dollars. The reduction at the local level, through property tax lid or proposal that would keep the costs down by that same amount, is not in the proposal as I see it. Maybe I missed it, maybe Senator Kristensen could touch on that, but I don't see where starting out we are going to save one dime through property tax relief with the adoption of this proposal. I'm going to support it because I think it's better than the original bill. But I clearly want to make the point that there is a lot of work that needs to be done on this proposal before it's in final form of any type. And I think that the costs will be borne by the state to a greater, greater extent with not...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...any guarantee that there's going to be property tax relief.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam Chairman and members of the body, I passed out a letter or an article from the Lincoln Journal-Star of April 8, 1995, and maybe Senator Vrtiska, maybe you could answer a question and so forth. We already have a law in 19...maybe Senator Kristensen, too, says allows judicial districts to appoint public defenders and send the bill to the Governor. Neither Richardson County judicial district, which includes eight other southeast Nebraska counties, nor any judicial districts had ever asked for a public defender, according to Trent Nowak, aid to the Governor. District (sic) William Reese said that probably because the district determined it wouldn't...wouldn't cost less than its current system. I guess we heard this bill in the Revenue Committee. I didn't know that there was such a law that existed before why, you