

know, because Richardson County is, and I can see, you know, some problems with, you know, public defender with Richardson County. Why haven't we ever...why haven't they ever used this avenue for a bill that has passed back? Maybe Senator Kristensen or maybe Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you. Well, Senator Hartnett, one is that you've got to, obviously, have the district judges initiate that. But, two, there's never been any money appropriated. That's the same discussion...that...if you read that law and if you follow Senator Hall's logic, we should have been appropriating money for that.

SENATOR HARTNETT: But my question is then, why didn't, you know, why didn't Richardson County, through resolution, you know, their process require the...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Because I don't think they can do that. If there's not money there, I don't think they can force the state to do it.

SENATOR HARTNETT: But couldn't they start the process to appear before the Appropriations Committee?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, you've got some problems...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Well, neither one of us were in the Legislature and Senator Warner is not here, so he was here, you know. Why did they pass this? You know, and why hasn't it been used?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, it hasn't been used because there's no money in it.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I know that, but why haven't the counties, you know, taken the initiative to try to get money, you know, funded for it?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, I assume because the public defenders in the various counties don't want to do that.

SENATOR HARTNETT: And that would be something against your bill then, the public defenders...