

wouldn't have to worry about an attorney billing by the hour and increasing that fee to a large extent, or by judicial district requesting the formation of a judicial district public defender's office the same thing. There would be a judicial public defender, a judicial district public defender which could then assume the defense of that primary obligation for defense in that case. And then the third manner of doing it is under the interlocal, allowing interlocal agreements where a county, or excuse me, a group of counties which may not be large enough in and of themselves to fund a public defender's office, could contract with other counties, enter into an agreement to establish a public defender for a multicounty area which then has the...might get the caseload up high enough where it justifies and can actually result in savings to the counties. And then this, by having the supplemental, the commission as supplemental funds or supplemental services, it gives an incentive to the counties to ensure against this type of thing and when I say ensure against it, I'm referring to having an established public defense system. And then they know that, in the event that something like this has occurred, that they still have the ability to come back in later on and in this type of situation that Richardson County has encountered the state would be providing the attorney which I think reduces the cost because I think, as Senator Kristensen has mentioned, if you have a public defender's office, oftentimes that can be done effectively at a lower hourly rate than the court appointed counsel, a private attorney who is doing it pursuant to a court appointment at a lower rate than can be done. You also have the...rather than having a state level commission that has attorneys that go out now and then, the primary defense again would continue on these in the local areas, allowing the defense attorneys who develop the rapport that the judges with the other, with the prosecutors, that make trying a case much more efficient. So bottom line then is what this amendment does and it's being copied now, it should be coming around to you very shortly, but...and I do have, if anybody needs to see it ahead of time, I do have a couple of copies here at my desk. But, with that, I would urge the adoption of the amendment and, oh, which by the way, it also sets forth standards to a mechanism for the counties to apply for this aid, apply for these additional services from the commission. It provides that mechanism so that the major cases, those that are more likely to break the county or cause that budget buster, are taken care of. So it does set that forth. With that, I'd be happy to try to answer any questions regarding the amendment and I would urge