

determination of personnel and staff requirements sufficient to provide competent representation. Gets away from the reasonable caseload standards. It just says determination of personnel and staff requirements sufficient to provide competent representation. I think the proposal, as it's laid out, is one that...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...is a very large step toward working through this proposal. Now I know that there are those who, especially with the limited number of folks that are on the floor at present, don't like dealing with the bill in this manner, but that is a way, I guess, we're going to have to raise this issue. The other possibility is to, I guess do it a little differently, but I think this recommendation, as offered by Senator Lindsay, does lay the groundwork for the ability for both sides in this argument, I guess, to have...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...half a loaf and I would urge you to listen to the balance of the explanation and support the Lindsay amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, continuing on in the vein that Senator Hall mentioned or started, I think this amendment is very consistent with the intent and the thrust of LB 646 as originally drafted. The thrust there is county revenue assistance and that's what this does is it provides a mechanism for those budget breaking types of cases to be handled by attorneys provided at the state level. The only other thing or the primary other thrust of what this does is it encourages the locals to plan ahead a little bit either by having a public defender, requesting the judicial district public defender or engaging in interlocal agreement. It does not mandate any of those. Any county which chooses not to participate need not participate but it provides a financial incentive for them to do so. So there is no mandate here that comes down from the state. There is a win-win situation in that a county which does run into one of these cases that requires enormous attorney hours to be put into the case, has that resource available, has those attorneys on staff at the commission which could be used in