

here to be able to go down and do a lot of those smaller cases, but we do provide that in felonies...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: . . .they can help them in terms of giving them some advice, maybe some (interruption).

SENATOR ROBINSON: Who would make that decision on...would it be a mutual agreement then between the court or the county attorney and the commission?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: No, I think it would be a request. .the district judge appoints the attorney for the indigent person, the district judge would probably make the request of the commission, or the county would, you know, go to the judge and say, we'd sure like the commission to consider taking our case.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I'm just going to take a couple moments to recap why I'm not going to be voting to advance the bill. First is that I don't think this will result in any reduction in property taxes. I don't think there's been a case made that a reduction in property taxes will occur. I saw, as I recall, that this discussion of having indigent care, indigent...I guess indigent care for criminal defendants, taken over by the state, was a part of that package that was sent out to us as a way to reduce property taxes, and that dealt with the overall scheme of taking over all public defenders across the state. And I think, in that particular instance, yeah, you would have reduction in property taxes. But this particular type of piecemeal approach will not solve that particular problem, and I don't think we'll see any reduction in the \$500,000 that we put into this, we'll see a corresponding reduction in property taxes to the extent of 500,000. So I don't see a reduction in property taxes, because you're still going to have those public defenders out there in those counties. The second issue is quality of defense for these individuals. Now I don't know how the system is going to work. We're going to be setting up a brand new commission and I don't know what the quality is going to be as far as with the public defenders that we will get for the state system. And I assume