

few more minutes on this? I...my closing won't take all that long. If you'd like a little more time, I'll be glad to give it to you.

SENATOR BROMM: I'd like to just take one or two minutes.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Withem, I'd give him three minutes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bromm, three minutes.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Kristensen, and I, you know, I...for me, this has been a worthwhile discussion. Maybe...maybe I'm the only, only one, but I appreciate the chance to try to understand more what the objectives are, what the intentions are. And, again, I want to still encourage counties to take the initiative to work with other counties in developing cooperative regional public defender systems because I think those are the most efficient and I think those could dovetail in with your bill very well and your commission could provide a resource and some additional help for that person, kind of a coordinating and, in some case, be the chief counsel in a case and especially when there's a conflict of interest. Your local public defender has a conflict. There are two defendants, codefendants on a murder case. Perhaps one of them could be represented by the state commission attorney and one could be represented by the public defender's office, and I appreciate that. But I do think and I think the body needs to recognize this is the "seed" of what will become, I think, a very large "tree" as the years come along and if that's the direction that we choose to go then I hope we do it with our eyes open and not thinking that this is going to forever be a half a million dollar commission or a six or seven hundred thousand dollar commission, because you can't...you just can't provide a lot of legal defense across the entire state for that. Senator Kristensen, I do appreciate you giving me three minutes of your closing and I'll yield the rest of the time back to you.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Bromm.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen, you now have about two and a half minutes left.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Very good. Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Bromm, I'm going to use a little bit of my closing,