

have not...either are not large enough or have not organized to have their own public defenders and it seems to me that if the state's going to assist these counties that they ought to at least make the obligation or make the effort to have their own public defenders rather than relying upon state money to fund their local systems. And so what this amendment says is that after June 30, 1990 (sic), it gives...it gives four years, no county shall receive assistance under this particular act that we're creating unless it has a full-time public defender, that is the county itself has a full-time public defender, or unless it has entered into an interlocal cooperation agreement with one or more other counties to provide a full-time public defender. So, in that case, all the counties have made an effort to have a professional person who does this kind of work and then there is at least some underlying professional basis upon...or upon which this particular act can build. I don't think a county ought to be able to be out there and ignore its obligations to have a public defender and then go calling upon state assistance, for state assistance in each instance where it...where it turns out that it does need assistance. I think that the public defender function is an ongoing obligation of all counties. They ought to all contribute to having a public defender. If it's impractical for one county or two counties, however many of them need to get together to do the job, that's what ought to happen. There ought to be professional people who can do the job right and we ought not to be funding systems that don't get the job done right and then rely upon state funding in order to get the job done right. So that's all this amendment does, is to require four years from now, it gives the counties four years to work out a system whereby they can each have a public defender or a part of a public defender. If it takes four counties or three counties to get together, they work out their arrangement for contributing to the public defender, to his salary and to the resources, and they go ahead and use that public defender and pay for it locally just like Omaha and Lincoln does, just like the counties that have elected public defenders do, so that everybody's on the same basis, is working under...on the same assumptions, those assumptions being that the local entities are essentially taking care of this function and that, to the extent that there's state assistance needed either because of extraordinary expenses or because the required expertise is not there, then all can be the recipients of this kind of aid on a more or less equal basis. But if you don't have a public defender in your county and you're just going out once in awhile and hiring somebody, of course, you're not going to develop a