

the little counties pay for it out of state funds. That's what that is and that's not fair nor is it a responsible thing for the small counties to do. The small counties should make an effort to cooperate together to perform the function in the way that...so that it's performed on a level that's comparable for all counties and it...it doesn't make sense at all to allow to happen what is, in fact, happening. I cannot vote for this bill this way. I understand that Douglas County is happy now because they're out of the system essentially, which was their problem with it, and Jack Mills is happy because they get all this free money so I guess the bill is going to pass and on we'll go, but I will be back with another bill next year because this is not an equitable way to run a system. It's a kind of local freeloading that is simply not responsible, from my perspective, from the point of view of the state to be giving money under these kinds of circumstances without requiring the requisite responsibility on the part of the counties and the requisite efforts to organize and to have their own public defender systems. So all the amendment does is to provide a four-year time frame and to request that the...and to require that the counties, they don't have to do it but if they want to get funds under this act then they need to enter into interlocal cooperation agreements to provide for full-time...full-time public defenders who are knowledgeable and experienced and have some expertise so that all the expertise doesn't have to be provided by the state. They have some base knowledge of expertise and experience. All it does it require them to have that kind of assistance at the...that kind of a system at the local level and then we can go from there and help everybody who is operating a basic underlying system that works. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: You've heard the closing. The question is, will the body agree to the amendment offered by Senator Beutler? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk. A record vote has been asked for.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See page 2125 of the Legislative Journal.) 10 ayes, 17 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The amendment is not agreed to. Mr. Clerk, anything else on the bill?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time, Mr. President.