

amendment either, I'm going to skip to the bill for just a moment and ask if Senator Vrtiska would respond to a couple of questions. First of all, Senator Vrtiska, I certainly agree with your comment that if I were in your shoes I'd be attempting, you know, whatever means possible to try to help out an area that I represented, as you're trying to do. So I fully understand what you're trying to accomplish. Secondly, as you know, I'm also sympathetic to what your concerns are because Gage County, one of the areas that I represent, you know, had similar difficulties, a few years ago. And there are other counties that have also. But I know of that circumstance, so I'm obviously sympathetic to what's going on in Richardson County at the present time. Here are some of my concerns, I'll give you a couple concerns and then I'm going to eventually get to a question. First of all, I don't know how we would go about attempting to budget for this new fund, on what basis we would budget for it. And part of that concern is I think it would be difficult to estimate what might need to be accessed in any particular year. And I also, I guess, would have to think, based on that, that it would be very difficult for us to have enough dollars in this particular fund. And if we don't have enough dollars in this particular fund then it's my understanding, or if the Risk Manager decides not to fund the requests, that there's an appeal process that's before us that would allow the county or whoever to bring, in essence, that appeal to the full membership of the Legislature. Do I understand it correct so far?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator...Senator Maurstad, the way we tried to design this, and I'm not sure we have, and it's something we need to work at, but what we were trying to do was say that there would be no fund like there is in the Civil Defense Fund, that they put up a half million, whatever it is, a year. What we were trying to do was allow the option for a fiscally...a county, or city, or village that has a fiscal bind would appeal or apply to the Claims Board, same as we do now in a sense. Then those funds would be allocated by the Legislature in order to pay those off. So it isn't like you put the money up and then have everybody trying to get a piece of it.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, so I wanted to clarify then. So you're creating a fund that you really don't intend dollars to be put into?