

February 26, 1996 LB 1248

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, Madam President, and members. I spoke on this bill. It went through my committee last week, I spoke on it, and I talked about the dangers and the bad policy of having an economic reason to administer justice in the state. I still believe that is bad policy. This week, and I've had a lot of time to think about this bill, and I would encourage advancement of this bill, but I would also say that I do also hope that on Select that we can come up with some amendments to narrow the scope on it because my argument still holds true, but it also goes the other way, that economic reasons, if a county did have this monies available to them or a scenario by which they could apply for monies, I don't think...I know of no instance where this has happened or any individual who would possibly do this, but along the terms of lead us not into temptation, you might, as a county attorney, often seek higher penalties in order to throw the county into some sort of situation whereby to get state aid, and I don't mean to impugn the integrity of any county official in the state, but with the changes in the property taxes that will be coming down as far as the caps and levies and the efficiencies that will be needed, the county officials will become quite ingenious on the pursuit of funds to supplant their budgets and I do think that a narrowing of the definitions would be helpful and good policy for the long term. We don't want economic decisions to dissuade the county officials from the pursuit of justice, nor do we want economic decisions to enhance the county attorney's fervor in the pursuit of an agenda. So I will support the bill in advancement, but I also hope that we can narrow the definition on Select. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Is there any further discussion on the advancement of LB 1248? Seeing none, Senator Vrtiska to close.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. First of all, I want to thank all those who have engaged in the debate on this bill. I think it's been very good. I think it's been helpful, and I want to reiterate that I will sit down and be willing to work with Senator Chambers, Senator Hilgert, Senator Beutler, Senator Wehrbein, and Senator Warner, or anybody else, Senator Hillman, and anybody else on this floor who has some feelings about this bill that would like to make it the best bill it possibly can be, and as Senator Hilgert indicated, not...not