

lot more comfortable with the bill as you've amended, and I want to say that in the beginning. I just have one question. And I know it's on a two-year sunset, and that relieves me greatly, you know, if, in fact, it doesn't work the way we think, so we have a chance to go back and look at it. But part of the amendments I was looking at was the concept of a county's ability...if it exceeds the county's ability to pay, okay, where that would kick in. And I just want to ask how you...and I'm not trying to be picky but, how do we define that? An example would be if a county, after our...if the property tax thing passes and we're under a cap, or even without the cap, because they're on a 50 cent cap as it is anyway, if a county is at their 50 cents max, but the fee that they've...say all of a sudden we have a lot of retrials because of a mistake a district court judge made on malice, and so the county is having to retry a lot of things. They don't have any more monies to add to their budget, they don't have an ability to pay by getting more dollars, but they could have the ability to pay, for example, if they cut other programs and transferred the money. So in that regard, how do you interpret a county's ability to pay? If they've run out of all things to cut and cover that, or simply keeping the programs they have, but they have not the ability of gaining extra dollars because they're already at their cap. And if you could clarify that portion for me, I would appreciate that.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, there...as I'm sure you know, there are...there is the other section of the bill that says that you have to have some type of a natural disaster that would, in fact, accompany the situation that you described. Secondly, I think that when you...when you just...when you talk about the counties' ability to carry on their normal or how much can they reduce, I think you'll find, and I would certainly clarify this in the particular case that we're...seem to be talking about quite readily, they have...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: But actually, I'm not so concerned about Richardson County as the other counties.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I would say that any county that had not