

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 1, 1999

LB 734

must approve it in the absence of unreasonableness. This simply allows the public defender to set the salaries of his personnel, or his or her personnel, the same as other elected county offices can, and I would urge the approval of the bill at this time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on advancement? Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for Senator Kiel, please.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Kiel, would you respond?

SENATOR KIEL: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Kiel, I did visit with the Chair of the Judiciary prior to this bill coming up and I was concerned about the somewhat conflict in where it says that the public defender will set the salaries and below it says that...with the approval of the county board. Is approval of the county board for the budget, or for the setting of the salary?

SENATOR KIEL: Approval of the county board is for the budget of the office. This is the same as...same power the county board has with every other county office. Simply allows the public defender to set the salaries as other county offices, but the county board must still approve the budget.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, well, just one other question. Who...who sets the salary for the public defender?

SENATOR KIEL: The county board now sets the salaries for...oh, excuse me, for the public defender?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR KIEL: Not personnel. County board does.

SENATOR VRTISKA: The county board sets the salary for the public defender the same as the rest of the county officials, is that correct?