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counties. I guess the ones I'm familiar with are not going to have...apparently most of them are going to have an increase in salary and that, you know, I don't know how many are going to come down from where they're at. I don't know if you know. One of the things that bothers me, and I have to be very up-front with you about it, is we're sort of...we're sort of addressing this bill on faith. We don't really know until you do that salary schedule whether there's actually going to be a savings or not. In fact, there could be an increase. Would you accept that or not? You haven't got the study that tells you exactly what some of these salaries are and where they, in fact, might be with this bill in place and so, in some way, we have to accept what you have indicated as a possibility and yet it may not be.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I think there are probably two ways of looking at that, Senator. First of all, with regard to the current clerk of the district court cost across the various counties, we know exactly what those costs are and so we know what...what costs we're picking up. When I was trying to anticipate your question about long-term savings, I mean, I don't know what...what the Court Administrator's Office will say once they've looked at the entire breadth of the salary system, both the county courts and the district courts, and what their recommendations may be, and it may be that in the future the Appropriations Committee will be making a decision as to whether there will be savings or not because they will be approving or disapproving, and eventually the Legislature itself approving or disapproving, any proposed increases in the...in the salary scale.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, let me ask you another question that I...the other thing that bothered me. You indicated about the zeros in there, that you didn't know what...you couldn't really determine what their costs were because you have a zero in there. Aren't, in fact, some of those based on the fact that the clerk is paid as a clerk and assumes the duties of a clerk of the district court so there's really no added cost into those? Why is...what other reason would there be for that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, that would...that would be the reason. The only places that there are zeros are in the very