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FLOOR DEBATE

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person is arrested until he or she winds up in the penitentiary. These counties like to run up the number of days because they can make money, and these counties are not above doing that. They are political subdivisions, creatures of the state, and they carry out certain duties that the state entrusts them with doing. They like to be counties when they can exert and assert authority and power. When time comes to assume responsibilities, here they come running to the state saying, well, you told us to do this so you pay for it. It ain't gonna be that way. It will never be that way. It was not designed to be that way. We could put, as a state, greater burdens on the counties if we chose to and they would carry out those responsibilities if they had to raise property taxes. And we could put in the law that any county officials who were derelict in carrying out these duties would be guilty of malfeasance in office, which is a felony, which includes removal from office and prosecution. So if the state wanted to be heavy-handed with these counties, it could be. I don't think this thing has a chance, but I wanted...of override. I wanted to have my voice on the record because when Senator Stuthman, whom I have a lot of respect for, was presenting this to the body to have it added as an amendment to the budget bill, I was otherwise occupied. But I have to raise my voice at this time to point out that this kind of a deal never should have gotten into the statute, but it was because the counties were trying to find a way to get around the constitution and get some property tax relief by playing with the criminal justice system and encouraging counties to be unfair to people they arrested. So I'm glad the Governor vetoed it. I'm disappointed my colleagues, in my absence, not from the...I didn't miss that day but I was not on the floor at the time that discussion was going on, had agreed with Senator Stuthman. They...you all like him; I like him. You all respect him; I respect him. But I'm not going to go along with a perversion of the system. These counties are not entitled to anything in this regard and a bill should be brought in next time, and maybe I will, to take away all of this. Then we don't even have the discussion. The Governor was right this time. He was wrong before. So I'll support what he did this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers.