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FLOOR DEBATE

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court fees will increase by a level of \$5; three of the dollars within the increase will go to the Commission on Public Advocacy operations cash fund. I'm trying to determine what is the logical connection between what your bill intends to do and its nexus with the activities of the Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I think it's fundamentally this. I wanted to be sure, and I am sure, that no county is going to lose money because of this transition. Every county will have some savings in some amount. To be sure that that's true, I also wanted to provide what I think is needed relief to the counties in terms of their indigent defense fund. I mean, that is...that...if that money is not there, as you well know, the counties have to pay for indigent defense. And so the nexus is my desire to be sure that the counties suffer no harm, and that in fact they're benefited by this. But as Senator Flood has pointed out, there's somehow this totally illogical reversal of positions here. The counties have come to us time and time again about state aid and relief and they need to have more money to spend. And now they have a bunch more money to spend, and they're complaining. You know, I don't know how you can have it both ways.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Well, I understand your position. My concern, Senator Beutler, is, we currently have the Supreme Court employee education fund, which is funded with a \$1 fee on all court cases, as you know. And I have become aware of the demonstrated deficiency that currently exists within that fund. And then your bill seeks to envelope a lot more employees under the Supreme Court umbrella in terms of their employment status. I think we'll have a huge...we have a current deficiency now within the Supreme Court employee education fund. I think if we move with LB 529 and we don't pay particular attention to that education fund, and I think there can be some viable arguments made that an increase and enhancement in that fund will be needed as a result of LB 529. I was just...I would be interested to hear, Senator Beutler, your position or your response to the possibility of an offset off the public advocacy operations. While I support your intent and what you're doing, I support the Commission on Public Advocacy, I do think, though,