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this point in time. Only with this information can the Legislature truly address the scope of the issue and, if it so chooses, fully appropriate for the expense involved. I would urge the adoption of this language. I thank you for your consideration.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. You've heard the opening on AM2877. Open for discussion. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I truly support Senator Brashear's amendment. I think this is a real tool and a real method as to what we can develop, a methodology of how we can reimburse counties for inmates. What has happened in the past is some of the counties that have had inmates early on in the year put in...submitted their bill to the state. They got reimbursed. Some of the smaller counties never went to the trouble of submitting a claim. Even if they had some at the beginning of the year, they felt it wasn't worth it. But I think with this, with this amendment, we can get some data as to what is the real expense of the state for housing these inmates. It doesn't make any difference as to what dollar amount is involved in it. Utilizing the \$35 a day that we have right now, that will give us a tool or a method of how they can be...how we can come up with a realistic figure. One other component of that, that I would like to see take place, is that it could be, if there is a methodology in place, I think it should be, if the total amount isn't funded per year, it should be funded on a quarterly basis, so that the third or fourth quarter...people that house inmates do not receive anything, as it is presently right now. Something needs to be established so that every quarter can get funded to every county, and I think the only way we're going to find this is with this study that we're going to have as far as having the county submit the application, the number of inmates that they have throughout the year, and within the two years we should be able to get a fairly close figure as to what is really owed to the counties. And I truly support this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Don Pederson.