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contribute their part, but this bill that we have submitted, in terms of all these claims, cannot be paid. Do you think if that happened and it was determined that there was not enough to honor the full amount that the Legislature ought to pay none of them, have a race to the courthouse, or prorate whatever the Legislature grants to the counties on the basis of the total number of prisoners designated state prisoners?

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: I personally believe that pro rata is more equitable than a race to the courthouse.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So each one...those that get there first now may...let's say they get 75 percent of what they have, just for the sake of the discussion. If we would prorate, they might wind up getting 25 percent. But everybody might get something.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: That's exactly correct. And with this data then we ought to be able to manage, whatever the sum that's determined...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: ...by the Legislature, we ought to be able to manage it in such a way that it's available pro rata and proportionately throughout the entirety of the year. It actually sounds a little ridiculous in this day and age to say we just pay until we're out and then we don't pay anymore and we don't process anymore.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It might be better, though, in the interest of establishing some kind of credibility for the state to say, instead of paying till the money runs out, there will be no pay to anybody. That might be preferable to what is going on now, do you think?

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Well, with regard to intent language that I want to pass, I think I could stipulate that, Senator Chambers. That might be preferable. Anything might be.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I got to put my light on one more time, but that's all I'll say this time around. Thank you, Mr. President.