

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2006

LB 529

the cost that's associated with each one of those districts as it's taken in. So that this year, for example, we would take in the Hall and Buffalo County areas; that cost would be, over the course of an entire year, \$542,000. That's \$542,000 that's picked up by the state, and the counties out there would have that much more money to spend on other things or to give property tax relief, whichever they chose. Then in the two outlying years of this next budget cycle, in order not to pressure that, we took in two of the more modest districts, so that in 2008, you see the North Central district, the cost would be \$230,000. Now for those of you want to follow this and have lost track of where your districts are, I also sent around to you a map of the judicial districts that can identify for you where each of those districts is. Then in the third year, we took in a small district, the total cost of which is \$106,000. So you can see, the impact over this budget cycle and the next budget cycle is minimal, and then after that comes Douglas County, which is larger, and we go on down through the years. But it should give us plenty of time to plan for those transitions that come in the future, so no fees, spread out the costs. The third thing that we heard you say, and what we were hearing the counties say is we want to be sure no county is losing money on this. Well, common sense would tell you no county could be losing money on this, because the whole cost of funding a clerk of the district court's office can't be made up by reimbursement funds from the federal government or whoever. It just...our systems just don't (laugh) work that way. But actually, some of the counties were showing that they gained money on some of the statistics that come from the Auditor's Office and the justice system. And when we investigated that--and that's what's taken us a lot of time here--to find out exactly what was going on, we discovered that a few of the smaller counties were making...were actually making money, and they were doing that through their billings for IV-D child support reimbursement. But as it turns out, those billings were all wrong and based on an erroneous interpretation of DHH information, so that those counties were actually getting back more money than they should have gotten back. And now there is an investigation going on in those counties, and I've passed out to you a sheet of where that investigation is at the moment. At the moment it's anticipated that a series of counties that are