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FLOOR DEBATE

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appreciate the work that he's done. Certainly, he's done it for the ten years that I've been in the Legislature; he's been working on this particular project. But I think that ultimately we're going to have to say, where do we want to put that \$8.5 million or \$13 million, whatever it is? Because we're locking that in. We're saying that's going to be an ongoing cost to the state. Are there other items that take precedence? That's up for each one of us to decide. It seems to me Senator Beutler is talking about this will be good government, and I don't think we have bad government right now. I think the clerks of the district courts are doing a good job, and the only issue is whether or not this would be beneficial in the idea of the ability of the court system to move people around, and that's up to you to think about. I'd like to return the balance of my time to Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, about 1 minute, 5.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, and thank Senator Landis and Senator Pederson. I do thank Senator Beutler for working on this issue, as I know he has spent a lot of time. But I really haven't heard, in all of this discussion, that there's been a real problem in the management area of the county clerks or the clerks of the district courts. And I think we've been discussing the money issue. I think what we would be seeing is actually a tax shift. I also have a hard time understanding where there is really going to be a large savings of money. If I could ask Senator Beutler a question, very quickly. If this position is not elected, it is my understanding that the judges will be appointing the district county clerks;...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler?

SENATOR STUHR: ...is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The local judges would, yes.

SENATOR STUHR: The local judges. Okay, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Stuhr.