

that will be done. I mean, they don't have access to any other attorney, so that's the job that will be done, so the idea that Senator Kristensen puts forth that maybe they're not, you know, expert enough to handle these cases so we suddenly need to have some expert attorneys on these cases, we haven't had any for...for all the years here in Nebraska until this bill was introduced and we've managed to go through a number of these cases. So I don't know why we need to go ahead and set up a bureaucracy with three attorney jobs here and a bunch of staff...I don't know how much staffing positions it will eventually be, but it just looks like one of those areas to me that will be used to eat up funds...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...and always be asking for more funds, and that's not the purpose of this. This was supposed to set out to be an indigent defense fund and, to me, that's what my amendment does. It puts the money into a fund and it allows it to be appropriated by the Governor. It would be a very simple procedure, in my opinion, and this gives people an opportunity, like myself, who cannot vote for the bill but do want to help those counties, like Richardson County, that are having a problem, and understand that they're having a problem. I want to help those counties but I don't want to help set up a new bureaucracy in the process. So this gives those who feel like me an opportunity to vote for my amendment because I won't be voting for the bill itself. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Witek. You've heard the closing. The question before the body is, shall LB 464 be returned for consideration of the Witek amendment? All those in favor vote aye. Opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 2 ayes, 20 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to return the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The bill is not returned. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Members, please take your seats. We will proceed with the reading of LB 646. Mr. Clerk, proceed.