

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

April 8, 1998 LB 485, 512, 695

the difference between the people we're talking about in your amendment on 512 and the people that are being cared for with the Options I group home programs as contracted out by the Department of Social Services...and to be completely frank, I'd be a lot more comfortable voting to bring it back and to vote for the bill if we know those answers.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Lynch, I think probably Senator Wesely is more qualified to answer that question than I am. Perhaps one of the subsequent speakers would yield him some time and he could address that issue.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I am in support of Senator Will's amendment and of the bill. Juvenile crime is one of the highest growing problems that we have in the state, and it's a very high cost to the taxpayer. To address the problem, of course, we need more prosecutors, and if we have to have more prosecutors, we're going to have to have more defense attorneys, and unfortunately, with the youth that are involved in these types of crimes, more than likely a lot of them are going to have to be using the public defenders. The problem that we have is that the counties have no way to budget for these juvenile costs. For sharing the cost of this is an appropriate way for everyone to be part of the solution. Douglas and Sarpy Counties and Lancaster County are going to have the largest share of these costs, but all of the counties who have any juvenile cases at all have a good chance to be threatened. My...Senator Wesely passed out a chart showing the numbers that we're talking about, and if he would like to have the rest of my time when I'm finished, that would be fine. But my priority bill from last year, (LB) 485, Senator Cudaback's priority bill this year, (LB) 695, and Senator Will's priority this year, 512, all deal with approximately the same problem. The counties have had to pay the entire cost and there is no way for them to regulate those costs, so this amendment, and then this bill, will be a partial remedy to assist the counties and eventually the taxpayers. And Senator Wesely, if you would like the rest of my time to explain your chart to Senator Lynch's or whoever asked about it, satisfaction, you may have it.