

have the authority to do precisely what the water conservation districts are doing. We've given the Natural Resource Districts a mill levy and the power to tax and to assess those property owners that come under their domain. We're not cutting them off immediately, the water conservation districts. They are going to have an opportunity of several years to integrate with the Natural Resource Districts. We're going to eliminate one of those 1,081 special districts in this state. I think that is a noble and worthwhile endeavor. So, Mr. Chairman, I very strongly support Senator Lamb in his effort to reduce one of these taxing districts.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis, do you want to speak on the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I first wanted to speak to the Lamb amendment. In my opinion he really hasn't improved it any with the amendment to the amendment. I find Senator Lamb in rather a strange situation down there. I really feel that he's being used as a cat's paw to pull that hot chestnut out of the fire. As Senator Dworak just explained, the only justification for taxation is the benefits accrued. The track record of the water conservancy districts is good. It was good enough that when 1357 was drafted their efforts were recognized, and they were left in the bill, as Senator Kremer explained. Again, under 577, they still were not terminated because they have performed a fine service at a nominal cost. Being close to the actual users I think this move is premature at this time. I would oppose the Lamb amendment as amended.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch, did you wish to speak to the amendment on the amendment?

SENATOR KOCH: Not the amendment. I have a question of Senator Bereuter. I'll wait. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Do you want to close on your amendment to the amendment, Senator Lamb?

SENATOR LAMB: Just very briefly to spell out what it does. It extends the life of these districts until January 1, 1980, instead of the effective date of the act. I urge the adoption.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. We still have the Lamb amendment. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, a question of Senator Bereuter, if he would yield please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Bereuter, what is the intent and purpose of the watershed conservancy district? What is their objective?