

February 21, 1991 LB 404

the effect of the constitutional amendment of November that this is not an improper way to do it and I would submit that we reject this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. We'll now go to Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I support the amendment. In fact, I support it so much that I added my name to the amendment. I think what this amendment deals with is that it ties the whole idea of valuation of property into one complete ball. Now, senators have talked about how we passed a constitutional amendment, the public approved it on changing valuation of ag land to a separate classification. And I guess if that is what this bill dealt with I might be supportive of it. Unfortunately, what this bill deals with is a one-year measure. It is a stopgap measure. It says, we haven't decided yet how we're going to come about in determining the proper way to value ag land, so we're just going to leave the value as it is. Well, I, for one, believe that the valuation of ag land and the determination of that has a big impact on the residential homeowner. In houses throughout the state, individuals, valuation of their homes will go up or their taxes will go up on those homes with the passage of a bill that will deal with valuation of ag land. And I really don't see what's all so terrible about this particular amendment if it provides for a one-year, I guess, cap at the 1990 valuation level. You still have the flexibility at the local level because that local county board can make a determination as to the levy of that property and if the financing is necessary to raise for local government, they have the flexibility to raise that up. But it also says that the valuation of homes should be tied in with the question of valuation of ag land. Let's face it, that's where most of the property taxes to support our schools, our counties, our cities come from and by tying those two together I think it will be a much more equitable system, and for that reason I'm supporting this amendment and I would urge the body to bring the bill back, add it to LB 404, and move it on to advancement. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. We'll now go to Senator Lamb.