

year to get the affiliation plans put together, a lot of school districts are saying they need that time, but when they do that, go directly into the common levy phase so we don't have this second, what we called phase two. That was causing a great deal of consternation and computation problems and crazy mill levy adjustments and all of that. So what we are doing, basically, is we are taking one more year to put affiliation into effect, but when it goes into effect, it goes directly to the common levy and we eliminate phase two of the process. We, also, had a final step in here that we called, used the term "blended levy" where you would take a Class I school district that affiliated with more than one school district. You'd figure a common levy for the portion of the district that affiliated with one high school district, another common levy, and then blend those two common levies to come up with a blended levy. That for a couple of reasons, it is complicated, number one, and, number two, Attorney General had given a little bit of an indication that if there is a problem constitutionally with this whole affiliation scheme that that might be it, that paying for services, being taxed for services that your residents don't get a benefit of might have been a problem. So we are suggesting that final phase, that blended levy be abolished. And the final thing is an amendment we put on in committee is to require that the affiliation plans or petitions must include all land owned by a resident landowner in an affiliation with one K through 12 district as follows: All land owned by a resident landowner which is contiguous to the resident of such landowner; and all noncontiguous land owned by a resident landowner unless the geographic center of the land is closer to a different school district. It is kind of complicated language. What that attempts to deal with is the problem of tax levy shopping, and we are concerned because there are some people in the state, probably would not shock you, that don't have students that attend schools when they are making affiliations, they want the plans to reflect the lower affiliation of their property with the lowest taxing district as opposed to the district that offers the better education program for students. And this is an attempt to keep that, to make sure that they affiliate all of their property one way and not break, affiliate their home with one school district, but make the rest of their property go to the cheapest district. With that, those are the committee amendments. If you have any questions, I would be happy to respond.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Mr. Clerk, do you