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FLOOR DEBATE

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to property taxes. The other...one of the other issues in the green copy of the bill, and you will see changes to that both in the committee amendment and in the subsequent amendment that I will offer, this issue concerns the ongoing professional education, or training requirements, for the Property Tax Administrator and the members of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. The proposal that came to us would continue the continuing education requirement, but would have deleted a specific seminar or class time requirement, in other words, so many hours per year classes that dealt with specific subjects. It was that proposal that we were asked to eliminate. That request came to us from the Property Tax Administrator's Office. She believed that the requirements were too restrictive, and that, in fact, she was attending continuing education that was fairly expensive in terms of travel and tuition paid, and was largely repetitive for her, and was really not beneficial to her continuing professional development or the...or the carrying out of her duties. So she was asking for a modification. That modification is reflected in the green copy. Then, as I've said, the committee amendments will make a further change, and then the amendment I will offer, I hope, brings that issue to a final resolution. At least I think all persons have agreed to it. One of the more substantive issues in the green copy of the bill, and it appears in several sections, you would see this addressed in Sections 5, 6, and 7, those are greenbelt issues. We're adding a couple of definitions to the greenbelt sections, and then you'll see those definitions be used in the later provisions. The definitions that we're adding are of a lessee and also of a taxpayer...or changing...or I mean we're putting in owner. Now those are...those are important because you'll see later that we give the taxpayer, and that might be a lessee of the property, the right to appeal various determinations with regard to greenbelt. And, of course, that's where the person...that's the appropriate place for that ability to arise. You do want the person who might be paying the bill to have the ability to lodge the appeals that might be appropriate. The Section 7 of the bill adds another event that would cause a recapture of tax. The addition, in this instance, is a sale of the property to the state or one of its political subdivisions. That would disqualify the property for special valuation. Section 8 of the bill deals with a more complex situation, this