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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR WICKERSHAM:    Mr. President, members of the body, the committee amendments, as I've indicated, bring other issues to the bill. And in some cases modify issues that were in the green copy of the bill. One of the provisions that is modified in the committee amendment, and then again, as I will note, modified by the subsequent amendment that I will offer, is the training requirement for the Property Tax Administrator. I think I'll pass over that issue and wait until we get to the amendment to the amendment. One...one of the new sections, one of the new provisions in the committee amendment is dealt with in Section 1; that is a provision that was in LB 884, if you wanted to go back and see what the committee proceedings were on LB 884. This is a very simple issue. It has to do with TIF, that is Tax Increment Financing. Under the current law, as you recall, the additional tax on TIF property goes to discharge of the cost of the additional municipal infrastructure. But, if the tax, the TIF tax is delinquent, and this is kind of...of an odd thing once we found out about it, but if the TIF tax is delinquent, the issue became where does the delinquent fee and the interest on the delinquent taxes go? What we discovered, to our astonishment, that that went to the TIFed property. So they actually paid themselves the penalty. Now, because, if you remember, the persons paying the TIF tax actually gets the benefit of that because otherwise they would have to pay for the infrastructure development. So we're...we're changing that so they don't get any more than the proportionate share, and some of the TIF penalty and interest goes out to the other political subdivisions that are levying on the base property. It was an odd...odd business. Section 5 of the committee amendments is also a bill that was in LB 884, and this will, again, be amended by the subsequent amendment that I intend to offer. The issue in this instance is the collection of sales tax on the purchase of a mobile home. Mobile home purchases are subject to sales tax, like motor vehicles. However, in the case of a mobile home, you'll actually be able to obtain a certificate of title to the mobile home before you have paid, or even in spite of the fact that you have failed to pay your sales tax. Now that is not true with motor vehicles. When you register a motor vehicle you have to pay. Now, you can get a certificate of title, but you have to, eventually, pay the sales tax on a motor vehicle