

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2005 LB 261

that in ten years it's probably been done across the state, 93 counties, maybe ten times, maybe once a year. Some place in this state there'll be some kind of adjustment ordered. And by the way, TERC doesn't always uphold this either, because you can bring the case in a TERC action later to undo what this LB board did. If that's the case, it seems to me that we can just streamline the process and this year, given the fact that both the assessors and the commissioners, at least a majority, are on the same side, I think the argument that it's commissioners versus assessors is no longer true. And if it's no longer true and two-thirds of the counties say, we don't need it, that's good enough for me. Do we have to maintain throughout the entire state a set of mechanisms that less than, or about a third, of the county commissioners would say, you know, we could keep these around; and two-thirds of them say, we'd be willing to part with these things, we don't need them, we don't want them, and in fact we don't have a history of them being used particularly well or significantly, and we have an alternative way of getting to the same result, namely, TERC. So in all of that, you got to pick between. Do you want to go with the minority that like to continue because they are active, or the majority who are generally indifferent to the existence of this board? Given where we are right now, and the crush of time, energy and obligation on local officers, if they're willing to part with this obligation, I'm willing to part with it as well. For that reason, I wound up supporting Senator Stuhr. But there are two points of view here and, by the way, there is at least one area of the state who quite actively makes use of this. I will tell you, however, that that group does not have heavy county commissioner participation, that the commissioners have devolved their responsibility to designees, for the most part, who are doing the work. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Further discussion on advancement of LB 261, Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. What I get from the people in our area, the county officials, they're still using that board. When I have attended those meetings, it's usually a member of the county commissioners and probably the county assessor. It can vary