

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

January 26, 2006 LB 529

the state for...you know, several counties did that. And their intent was to, you know, take them all over, in time. But things kind of fell apart financially, and the state couldn't do it. I think we need to examine, you know, what happened, why the state wanted to take them over, or was it a request of some counties to take them over, and you know, and why did it fall apart, why wasn't it continued. And I think the reason why it wasn't continued is because of the expense, didn't have the money. Will this happen again? Yes, probably will. I don't know whether we should just take, you know, the small counties over first and leave it till the large counties would be the last. Or should it be in the reverse, start with the large counties, see whether you can handle it financially? Maybe at that time you will realize that maybe that was not the right way to go. Or there's a possibility that is the right thing to do. But I think there's one thing that enters my mind, when the county assessor's office were taken over, and why some of the counties wanted the state to take over on that. I think that came because of the problems that counties had with the direction given by the state as far as valuations were concerned, and the protests on their valuations and their values. I think some of the counties felt that they really wouldn't have to go through with all that stuff, that the state would take over, they would mandate down the values of it, and they would be relieved of those duties. Well, that realistically didn't happen. The state still directs the valuations of the property, but the counties still do the work. So I think we need to take a long, hard look at, you know, what should we be doing. I think we...I think there is a lot of merit in combining offices because of technology now. The thing that also concerns me is, you know, part of this portion is going to be an increase in the fees. You know, is that the right way to go? Should the people that are least able to pay have to pay for it? Maybe yes, because they're the ones that are affected. I don't think we should make a hasty decision on this this morning, and I know we won't, because I think we've utilized about enough time this morning to carry this on into another date, and maybe another date. So I think...I'm very happy with the conversation and the discussion this morning, but I think we need to really take a look at where are we going with this. Thank you.