

SENATOR LANDIS: In the last year, from one successful lawsuit that is now only a handful of months old there have been 77 lawsuits filed. Those lawsuits have been by major, major landholders in commercial interests. Not a huge number, lots of valuations. I don't see thousands and thousands of lawsuits by individual homeowners, small businesses. What I do see is hundreds of lawsuits but by the Mutuals of Omaha, the Burlington Northerns, the ones who can go to court and when they get their reductions, those will be in terms of millions of dollars of valuation.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis, excuse me, the time has expired but Senator Hall has waived off and yours is the next light. Would you like to continue on your time?

SENATOR LANDIS: I'll continue with the answer and then...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: We've got to work through this anyway and maybe I'll yield if Howard has got some more questions. You're probably not looking at thousands and thousands of lawsuits, but the county attorneys are now telling me they want to settle these lawsuits because it's such a laid-down hand when they go to court, they lose the case. Who can bring these lawsuits? The big guys can and they have a lot of property and when they drop their property, they can drop hundreds of thousands of dollars of valuation at a time. That will play havoc, I would suggest, with tax support for public institutions and the like. For that reason I see that as chaos, but it's a debatable issue. Since we're on my time, I guess I'll waive off, let Howard renew his light or perhaps we can renew this when we're back on the bill. I'd ask for the adoption of the committee amendments and I'll be happy to try to explain the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall, anything on the committee amendments?

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, I would just urge the adoption of the committee amendments as they have been amended by Senator Landis. The issue that he raised that was brought by the Department of Revenue and is questioned by Senator Haberman, I think clarifies the issue, allows for a better determination and, Senator Haberman, we've requested from the department the