

need property tax relief. They're still feeling the effects of the farm prices that we had a few years back. It also helps the small farmers, and to those big farmers and to those big corporations we have a cap. So I certainly think that this is a fair way to go. I want to commend these senators that have gotten together and compromised this out. Do we have the money for this year? I think we do have the money for this year, and we may have the money for next year. But I don't think that we want to be in too big a hurry increasing our sales tax rate just to take care of this particular bill. I don't think that we need a sales tax increase at this particular time. So I would urge you to support this amendment to the committee amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senators McFarland, Elmer and Withem.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I just have a question, and I think Senator Chizek can answer it as soon as I explain, quickly, why I'm asking the question. It seems to fit in with this amendment. I have had several calls from elderly people, and I had a visit with one particular woman whose 88 years old and saw her in the grocery store. They are concerned because the mechanism in this homestead exemption for the elderly has a deadline when the form must be in, and the local assessor, as I understand it, has absolutely no recourse if they miss that deadline. My good friend whom I met in the grocery store was literally in tears because she missed the deadline, she had been in the hospital, she didn't really have any...she has no children, her husband is dead and she doesn't have anyone who goes through her mail to help do things like this. By the time she realized that the deadline was past, there was nothing the Lancaster County Assessor could do to help her. I think that is too bad that the Legislature put that mechanism in because it does hurt people, especially elderly people when they get to the point where they cannot cope with everything in a hurry. So my question is this, I simply want it in the record so I can explain to these people who call me, this bill does not change that in any way. Right, Senator Chizek?

SENATOR CHIZEK: This bill does not change that, but perhaps your question...

SENATOR CROSEY: I read through...

SENATOR CHIZEK: ...might be more directed at Senator Hall