

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll be quite brief. LB 84, as it stands with the one-year sunset, really doesn't change realities, we all know that we'll be talking about 84 at the beginning of the next session, because people will want it to stay. I agree with Senator Bernard-Stevens, whether we had a one-year, a two-year, or no sunset at all, I think we need to be consistent. We all think that beginning in...that the beginning of the 92nd Legislature, with LB 611, LB 89, LB 84, LB 809, that we'll be able to address this in a more permanent manner. And we need to be ready to broaden our tax base at the state level to support those. But I'll support LB 84. I urge its advancement because, in reality, we all know we'll talk about it next year, if it has a sunset or not. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, followed by Senators Hall, Chambers, Chizek and Withem.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, this is \$94 million that is going to go back to the taxpayer. Quite frankly, I'm happy to see it go back in the form of property tax relief, but if the body chose to give it back in the form of an income tax rebate or sales tax rebate, I would be supporting that as well. I view this as a rebate back to the taxpayer. We're giving the money back this year instead of putting it into the General Fund appropriation, we're putting it in, we're giving it back to the taxpayers so that it will not become a part of our continuation budget, and I think that is the crucial crux of LB 84. It is significant in addition because we're providing property tax relief to the homeowners, the individuals that I have been receiving calls and letters from over their property tax bills. I think that we have an opportunity, this year, to either spend this additional \$94 million or give it back to the taxpayers, and I would choose to give it back to the taxpayers this year. Now, in addition, I think we have to look to the other proposal that is before the body, LB 89. It has some good characteristics, but I think that the best course of action would be to advance LB 84, and then I also plan to advance LB 809 and take a look at the two proposals on Final Reading. I think that each of them have some good points. I think the one-year appropriation is the wisest approach considering in past years we've had a great deal of revenue, and then the next year it would slack off. So I think the wisest approach is the one-year, we'll see if we have the money next year to fund this property tax relief for an additional year, it's my hope that it