

Commission that we placed and was appointed by the Governor last year, LB 653, is currently in the process of reviewing the property tax assessment valuation practices across the state. We will have a report ready and filed by January of next year. We would like to have an opportunity to look at what recommendations come out of that commission and basically we feel that the current practice will allow a phase-in where we can then pick up and use the school district method in terms of valuation. I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. It worked well. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, the portion of the bill that Senator Hall is amending was considered to be a very important part of the bill by the sponsors of the bill. It involves the re...not the revaluation of property, but the adjustments to the valuation so that county boards will not be tempted to artificially lower valuations in order to get more state aid. It also is, frankly, one of the more expensive administrative provisions of the bill. The county officials have asked for, basically as I understand it, Senator Hall, one year so that they can prove to us that they don't need to get the Department of Revenue as intimately involved in their business as the original bill would do. So I think Senator Hall's amendment is appropriate. It should have been included, it was my original understanding it was going to be in the group that we packaged together this morning. I had some miscommunication as to Senator Hall's desires on that. We probably should have done this previously and I think it needs to be done now, so I would urge you to do so.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President and members, I only rise to also support this amendment. This particular issue of having the Department of Revenue involved in this situation has been one of the red herrings that has been veered across this bill by certain opponents of this bill. They try and lead people to believe this is a sinister plot only to once again further some unfair treatment by larger subdivisions and primarily a method to disenfranchise rural Nebraska. I think that is exactly as I pegged it, a red herring. We have been working with the county officials, the county assessors in developing an amendment as stated, this amendment simply postpones the enactment of this for one year. There are valid concerns why we need to do this,