

same. We want to be equalized. They're not asking for exemptions. They're asking that their taxes be brought down in every case to those other individuals who have been given an equalization equal to zero. So it is not an issue, and we clearly need to not misinterpret the issue of equalization versus exemption, they are clearly different and we'll talk about that in LB 7 shortly. But LB 2 would have provided for a penalty provision in Section 1 that for failure to pay your taxes the green copy was a 50 percent penalty of the total tax amount. The committee amendment would change that penalty to 20 percent. Currently...the argument for that is currently that the 50 percent penalty, if you don't list the personal property that you own, and when you go through your list if you fail to list, for example, the hog shed that someone mentioned earlier today on the floor, that there is a 50 percent penalty for that. The bill, as presented, would now institute a 50 percent penalty for failure to pay your taxes, for fear that, I guess, that many individuals have threatened not to pay their taxes. The committee amendments reduce that to 20, and I am going to have an amendment to these committee amendments to wipe the penalty out altogether shortly. The second change was that no appeal of valuation or equalization case, in other words, any of the cases that are currently before the courts in any way, shape or form suspend duty by those individuals to pay their taxes. So, in other words, just because they happen to be in the court system, they're not free to do as they wish. They're not free to not pay their taxes. In other words, we just clarify that your tax is still due and owed. The third change that the issue of equalization or valuation, the cases that are before the courts does not constitute or is not considered an illegal tax. So that is spelled out in the bill. It was spelled out in the original bill and we leave that in as part of the committee amendments. Fourthly, clarify in the bill that those parties who are currently in a lawsuit declaring the tax illegal or unconstitutional, only those parties are entitled to a refund so that, in other words, if you have not filed suit against the tax commissioner, taxing authority, you aren't in the process of litigating that issue, that if you're not a party to those lawsuits that are currently in the system, then you are not eligible for a refund no matter what the courts would rule with regard to the tax being illegal, unconstitutional or whatever, mistaken. Fifthly, the bill as the committee amendments would have, it states that it is to be effective January 1 of 1989. It would make it retroactive to the beginning of the year. This is so that it does apply to the pending litigation, all except