

levy potential that they have. In other words, they can come in and say, here, county board, here is what we need. Here is our 3 1/2 cents that we need to do that. The Revenue Committee has decided not to deal with a wide variety of other institutions or groups that can do that like the County Ag Society, the Fair Board, the Agricultural Extension work, aviation fields, county museums, and those sorts of things. This is solely related to the county medical centers and facilities, and my amendment onto Senator Johnson's bill would exclude the levy for the county medical facilities to count against the 50-cent levy limitation. Now this is by definition an exclusion, something that would not be able to be counted or would not qualify to do that. Why do I bring that to you? Well, currently, there are two counties in this state who exceed their levy limitations. If we would place in some of the proposals that the Revenue Committee currently has, for example, if we were to remove all personal property, you are then up to 12 counties who would exceed the levy, because you reduce the amount of value in a county. As you reduce the value in a county, you still have those same expenditures but you run up against the levy limitation. In other words, the levy has got to be higher; with lower values, the levy has got to be higher to generate the same amount of money to operate. What will occur is that the county medical facilities can come in with their levy, their 3 1/2 cents. It doesn't have to be that high, but it can be up to that amount. You can then have a lot of counties over the levy limitation, and you can then force the problem of what to do. The county medical facilities place the county in tremendous jeopardy. The Revenue Committee did examine this, passed this measure. My amendment is the Revenue Committee amendments. I don't expand from that, other than I do put a severability clause into this amendment for Senator Johnson's purposes. The other variable that may be in here may be ag land valuations. If you put in ag land valuations and the personal property being exempted from the tax rolls, you then get over 15 counties in this state that will be over the levy limitations. And you have a tremendous burden and crisis at that point, because what do those counties do? Their services, sure, they can cut them, but their levies are still going to be higher, and the county doesn't have the ability to say, no, to the county hospital or the county medical facility. They have to take the levy that is brought to them. This is the problem, the solution here, from my point of view, is a limited solution. It is the solution that the Revenue Committee, with their committee amendments to my bill, have put out. Senator Johnson has been good enough, since his bill deals