

this idea. The amendment, if I'm correct, Senator Will, is a five-year window before the requirements would have to be met. Is that right?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Yes, Senator Hall, as drafted the amendment would say that only after January 1, 1997, would this section apply. So it would be five years for any assessor, or anyone who wanted to be an assessor out there to comply.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you. And, Senator Will, is it...the way the amendment is drafted, is that the assessor themselves or could someone on staff, as long as there was a professional appraiser who met the criteria spelled out in this amendment, would they be eligible to meet the requirements of this proposal? Isn't that right?

SENATOR WILL: I believe that's so, Senator Hall. I think that's the way the amendment reads as currently drafted.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, what this does is says that there is 22 counties out there right now who currently comply with this provision. There is about 60 odd other counties that do not. We give them five years to take a look at this issue, know that they have the opportunity as the current sitting county assessor to gain those skills, that knowledge, and meet the requirements that this amendment would place on them. I think for us to say that we are going to require that of someone who is out there in the private sector, as Senator Beutler does, which I commend, but yet not endorse it for our own purposes at the assessment level within the counties, where the probably biggest job for anybody who functions in this capacity, would I think be ludicrous at best. We need to apply the same standards to ourselves at the county level with regard to assessment practices as long as someone within that office, it doesn't necessarily have to be the assessor himself or herself, it just needs to be someone who basically does the work who meets these standards. I think that what we're going to do is improve the quality of assessment practices across the board from county to county within the state. I would urge adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wehrbein.