

incapacitated who is not or may not be in charge of their own affairs, maybe a child, an adult child is taking care of the parent's affairs who is not aware of the fact that you have to file for the homestead exemption every year, thinking that once, as in days gone by, once you filed you don't have to do that again. And then suddenly find after the fact, it is too late and you have not filed so you are not eligible that year. And I have had examples where someone's income is not sufficient even to cover the tax, itself, if they don't receive their homestead exemption. And in one case, I had to tell the people I am really sorry, there is nothing we can do about it now. We just have to simply try again on the bill next year. This year the committee voted, and, in fact, what I had originally said in the bill was that it would be in cases of extreme hardship, and I believe their, and I would defer to Senator Hall here on this, but I believe that the committee's intent on this was that it is very difficult to determine what would be extreme hardship, and that may vary from county to county, and that the supervisors or commissioners in their own counties would be able to make a better determination of what they consider to be extreme hardship. And so they removed that part of the bill, so, basically, the way the bill reads now as amended by the committee is that the county commissioners would make that determination, they would have 20 days to make it in. It gives the county board of supervisors the authority to extend it, the deadline, for filing homestead exemption then through April, the 20th, and then you harmonize, the amendment extends the third Monday in April to May 1st the deadline for county assessors to send their approved applications to the Department of Revenue. That is absolutely all that is in the bill, and you know, I could give you many examples of how this has worked negatively on behalf of particularly elderly people, but rather than stand here and tell you all the stories that I have in my district, I am just going to ask that you support the amendment to 773 at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I support Senator Smith's amendment, and I thank her for bringing this amendment today because just over the past weekend I had two people ask me about this particular bill. And I didn't have anything to tell them because it had not been brought on the floor yet, and I understand it is a Speaker priority bill and that we just didn't get time to get to. And I