

do think that people do miss their deadline for different situations, and we need to recognize this under the law. And I am glad that the county boards have the say-so over who gets the exemptions and I just think that we should ask the body to adopt the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I rise in support of the amendment. It is clearly, as Senator Smith pointed out, a bill that had had some priority and that the Speaker did designate it. The amendment, as Senator Smith just pointed out, is the amended version as it was sent from committee. The purpose for striking the specific language as it dealt with seriously incapacitating problem or illness was just that if the argument is that these individuals are eligible for the program, then we will leave the decision on whether to grant it up to the county board, county board of supervisors, whomever the governing body would be, to make that decision and not tie their hands to find some reason to fit into the definition of seriously incapacitated. So since the issue is before us in the amended version as it is sitting on General File, I would urge adoption of Senator Smith's amendment.

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

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, and I do appreciate Senator Smith introducing this bill again this year. I have one prime example of a good friend, long-time friend who is in her eighties, and when I first came to the Legislature, she came to me and said that she had been in the hospital, she has no children, her husband died several years ago, no relatives around to look after her mail. She absolutely missed the deadline and had to pay two or three times as much taxes that year as she would have. She is on limited income, so from that day, I was trying very hard to try to figure out some way to correct this thing. The point that I want to make, I don't want to repeat what everyone else says, but the assessor in each county knows who these people are. They know their problems and they understand when they come and say I missed the deadline that they are not doing anything out of the way. So for that reason I just think because of the relationships in each county that there is no problem with this, and I just urge you very quickly to vote for this so we can get on. Thank you.