

and being able to say, well, you caught it before April 20th, so now we can see that you, indeed, qualify for the homestead exemption and we will grant it. Definitely, I don't think it should be used as a mechanism whereby a county just says, yeah, you have until April 20th to apply. I think that we do want to avoid that. I don't think it is something a county ought to publicize. For public consumption, April 1st is the deadline. This just allows the board a little latitude, and with that, I would urge your support for the Smith amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Hall, do you wish to speak again?

SENATOR HALL: Question.

SPEAKER BAACK: That won't be necessary. Yours is the last light on. Senator Smith, do you wish to close?

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just briefly in closing, I appreciate, Eric summarized it very well for you, Senator Wehrbein, exactly what the intent is. It is only in those cases and, you know, I want to lead back to what Senator Nelson was talking about when she talked about a young woman. These are not the people that I am concerned about. I am speaking about elderly people, particularly, that we know of that are still residing in their own homes, trying to still stay there, and maybe they shouldn't be there but they are still there. And this is not...I mean in a case where maybe a person can't get to the phone in time if the county clerk calls and says, or the assessor calls and says, hey, remember, you have got to file your homestead exemption again. Or a daughter who has charge, maybe she didn't know that this has to be done every year, and then finds out when she gets her father's mail, gathers it up, oh, my gosh, we missed the deadline for his extension or her extension. These are the kinds of cases, and it would be determined on a case by case basis of hardship by the county commissioners and supervisors who know their people in their districts, and that is why we want to give them the latitude to do this. There is no intent to say we are just pushing back the deadline for everyone. The deadline is April 1st. There would be the opportunity for them to give an exemption, or an exception, excuse me, within 20 days following that. So that is the total intent of the bill, and we have to remember that these people really are eligible for it. It is just simply that we have changed the rules on them in the last