

methods?

SENATOR HALL: The issue clearly isn't spelled out in this, that it says depreciating costs using the same depreciation method...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Right.

SENATOR HALL: ...what's the cost basis. We could change the cost basis as far as it related to business equipment, as far as it related to ag machinery, as long as they were in the...used the same method and they were within reasonable class lives.

SENATOR ASHFORD: So what you're suggesting is the word "cost" has a variety of...

SENATOR HALL: It could. Now I understand what the intent of the amendment is, I just don't think...I think there is a loophole there for the Legislature to argue that...that at some point down the road we could determine that cost means something different for business equipment than it does, for example, for farm machinery.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Warner, may I ask you a question.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Senator Warner, do you think Senator Hall is right?

SENATOR WARNER: No. (Laughter.) Yeah.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Not generally right, but right on this particular thing.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator, I...you know, I do not see the opportunity with the words that are there to give different interpretations. Depreciated cost, to me, is self-evident. It's the cost price paid. I don't see where there's any possible discretion. The thing that could be discretion which the language specifically prohibits is that it requires all of it to have the same depreciation method. And that, to me, ensures equal treatment to all depreciable property of the same class life, because there are...it does permit different class lives which...which is self-evident in personal property on its