

issue and it has really not served the kind of purpose that it was intended to serve from time to time and the department feels that they have a different version or scope, if you will, of what it ought to be. What we do in this bill is just eliminate it. Gives intent language which requires the department to update the assessor's test and requires that each county assessor take and pass the test before filing for election or reelection. The assessor's test is not a difficult test. It is one that is of minimum requirement, if you will, with regard to the understanding the broad issues of property and its taxation and assessment and valuation, so it is not something that would prevent anyone from filing for office. Fourthly, it creates a statewide sales data file for better comparable sales to determine actual value. What it does is it has the Department of Revenue set up a statewide sales data file and it has that data file available to the assessors to help them work out, determine value for specific pieces of property that may be for some reason unique to them as far as assessment or valuation goes. And what this would do is allow for those types of properties to be compiled in a file so that they would have a bank, data bank, if you will, for purposes of making comparisons although there clearly will be differences but at least they will have some rational basis on which to begin from when they have a unique piece of property, although the data filed does apply to all sales that would take place. This is mainly and specifically looking at the issue of unique types of properties that can vary from county to county, depending on assessment practices. It also requires mandatory reappraisal in counties should they not meet the standards set forth by the Department of Revenue. And that is an issue that many people were concerned about in terms of mandatory reappraisal. It is one that I think needs to be addressed. If a county is not able to meet the standards that the Department of Revenue sets, if they haven't been able to bring their assessment practices up to speed, if they have comparable sales that don't relate to the value or the assessment placed on properties, then they need to be looked at. And there is provisions in the bill that allow for time for that to take place for them to fix any problems that they have before a reappraisal would be required. And then, lastly, it raises the documentary stamp tax from \$1.50 to \$2.50 to pay for the mandatory reappraisal through the current mix of funds. So, in other words, that mandatory reappraisal would be one that oftentimes is brushed under the rug because of the cost. What we do is, through the increase in the documentary tax stamp, raise revenues to allow for...