

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** At this point, I cannot. There is no determination made as to when 168 will be back before the body. Senator Kristensen.

**SENATOR KRISTENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and thank you, Senator Warner, for the opportunity to present the committee amendment and I think that it is much easier with this type of an issue to give you an overview and then try to tell you where the committee amendment fits into this whole procedure. And I'd like to take a few minutes to begin to lay out what issue we're dealing with and perhaps give the body some background as to what we're doing. Obviously, this amendment or this bill, LB 490, deals in the area of property tax. As you all know, property tax is based upon the value of property and that the amount of dollars that need to be used to fund the particular entity of government that relies on the property tax and the combination of that value and the dollars needed to operate the political subdivision is regulated by the levy and the levy is what really determines the amount of tax to be done. The whole basis of that process, obviously, is the value of the property and the value of the property, our Constitution requires that valuation be uniform and proportionate. Uniform and proportionate really is another word for that it's got to be equal and it's got to be fair across so that people don't pay a larger percentage of their valuation. Equalization is probably the most fundamental element of doing property taxation. It's the part that determines the fairness, in other words, if I have a piece of property in one area, is it fair and equal to another similarly situated piece of property, not only in my county in my area, but with that of a different class are the same methods used to determine the value and, thus, are they equalized, not only within the county called intracounty equalization, but between county to county called intercounty equalization. LB 490 attempts, and this is not the elimination of the State Board of Equalization, so if this discussion throughout the day centers on that, that's the constitutional amendment that we've already dealt with that you will be having an opportunity to finally vote on probably later in the next week or two. This deals with the approach and the ability to equalize property values within the county and those values are within classes. Those also will deal with appeals and the fundamental problem that I see and that I think that LB 490 tries to address is for the average taxpayer it is extremely difficult to appeal their valuation. It is extremely difficult to go off and determine equalization as an individual