

Legislature, real briefly, to open, obviously the committee amendments addressed, I think, 95 percent of the bill and certainly I will spend as much time as we want to spend answering questions, and there really have been some good questions, even though I took a couple of exceptions to a few of our senior members. But I do think that equalization is so important. People have tended to lose track that it doesn't matter about the level of valuation and your levy if it is not fairly and equally done across the state. And this is an attempt to make it easier for taxpayers to do that. And the fundamental reason I have for doing it is this. If you take individual taxpayers, they are the best judge of what their property is worth and whether they are fairly being dealt with. If you build the system of equalization and valuation from the ground up, you will have a better sense of valuation across the state, instead of having someone at the top down looking merely at averages, like the State Board of Equalization. The system will have more integrity. It will be much better. Madam President, I really think that we've discussed the bill a lot. I would rather move to more questions and I assume that we do have an amendment that I'd like to address, if I could, to put the bill in a little better shape.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Kristensen would move to amend with AM1294 (See pages 1403-04 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Kristensen to open on his amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, I promise that I will be as short as I can because I do know that there are other issues you want to get to yet today. What this does is stagger the terms of the commissioners. There are three of them. One will serve for two years, one will serve for four, and another for a six-year, and then they will rotate, expiring every two years. I think that adds a better mix. We also, I want to make sure that the members of the TERC, and this is particularly because of Senator Vrtiska's questions and Senator Robinson's questions about what are these people and what sort of understandings are they going to do. This amendment, basically, says we are going to have them also understand mass appraisals, and complex industrial property, because they are going to be doing some more