

SENATOR HALL: Okay. The...I just want to point out...point out, and I appreciate you did address that. But I want to point out that it is...it's an additional charge that we're putting in this new system that we're putting in place, and I understand it, I (inaudible)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...the rationale for it makes sense in light that it basically does take the...I guess the place of the trial court, if you will. My real question goes back to the two items that I raised in the original green copy of the bill when we were on General File. And they go back to the issue of the commission having the ability to remove the assessor. And in this amendment you allow for not only the assessor, but...or deputy assessor to be removed from office. Our...do we have deputy assessors that are elected officials?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: No.

SENATOR HALL: Is there a reason we're going beyond the elected official, well, I mean don't the deputies work at the pleasure of the assessor?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, well, no, not at the pleasure necessarily. But the reason I did that, Senator Hall, was that I wanted to make it as close to what the existing law is today. And so I...if you'll look on page 37 of the green copy you'll see the existing law that's there to remove assessors now, and they...they assess the term assessor, deputy assessor. Deputy assessor, as you know, also can act, if there's not an assessor, they can be the acting one. They also can be appointed to take care of certain ministerial duties, in other words the assessor says, look, you're in charge of this division and they're in charge of doing that particular operation. But the reason it's in there isn't to expand it, it's to make it as close to what existing law is today.

SENATOR HALL: But...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, just to point out, you're about 45 seconds into your next five minutes. I didn't interrupt you there when you were discussing.