

April 27, 1995

LB 490

SENATOR HALL: But isn't it...isn't it the county assessor who's responsible...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, the county assessor is obviously...

SENATOR HALL: ...for his or her office?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...ultimately the voters, I think that's probably correct. Do I envision this...I mean I can't tell you the history of how often, if they've ever removed a deputy assessor. I don't even know that there's ever even been an assessor who had their certificate removed under the current law.

SENATOR HALL: Well they're not real tough to get. We sent somebody down to take the test once and it wasn't real difficult but...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Did Senator Will pass that test or...

SENATOR HALL: No, it wasn't Senator Will, it was Mr. Erickson at that time. Senator Will was on...off to other things. But it was another employee of mine, you're right. The concern is, I guess, Doug, if it's the...if...would the county assessor have the ability to basically tell the deputy assessor, no, it's your fault, you're the one that's going to have your certificate removed, not me. And I guess if you're telling me that that's not a problem right now because it's never been done, but it's a concern I raise if the deputy serves at the pleasure of county assessor, he tells the (inaudible)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...the problems lies with this deputy assessor, I'll remove the deputy assessor, therefore the problem goes away. I mean is there the ability for the blame to be passed down the road by the assessor who, in effect, can then circumvent the will of the commission?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: But follow this scenario, an order is given for the assessor to do something, the assessor says, no, I'm not going to do it. You take his certificate. Well, before there's anybody ever replaced, who's in charge? It's the...the only one else that can operate is the deputy assessor with a certificate. And the deputy assessor says, no way, I'm not going to do it.