

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Kristensen, to speak to the Avery amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose this amendment to the committee amendments for the following purposes. One, Senator Avery talks about budgets. Obviously, this bill has no impact on the state budget, I mean it just doesn't do that. This deals with local governments and so this bill will have no fiscal impact on our budgets and so when we use those terms we've got to be careful not to insinuate that the last few days that a bill like this is going to have some impact and if you cut on it you're going to be able to spend some other state dollars because that just isn't going to happen. This doesn't deal with those particular state dollars at all. The other, I guess I would rise to oppose the insinuation that this is a subsidy. Again, there's no state dollars or very limited state dollars other than for what few notices we do publish, things like referendums, petitions, ballots and those are all done on a separate contract and aren't subject to this particular rate. The only one that I know or the few that I know of are the candidate filings that would be affected by this and so in terms of subsidizing, that isn't particularly probably clear or accurate either that you're not sending state dollars to keep these people around. What you are doing is establishing a minimum rate or actually a maximum rate that can be charged to have legal notices and there are those and I think Senator Avery is absolutely correct that...and in fact I know Senator Robinson after discussing with him is going to have an interim study this year on the numbers of publications and the need for publication, but quite frankly until the system changes, and I think Senator Avery is right, there certainly may be some other technology that is out there to allow for notice to people and to do that more effectively and I think those are probably good goals and so that part I support Senator Avery in his vision and things that he wants to do with notice because that probably is the wave of the future, that's where you're going to go. At this point in time, however, you've got to live with the system we've got and try to make that system work. And obviously since 1989 the costs that are charged for the variety of legal notices haven't changed, or the amount that people are charged hasn't changed. The cost and the actual cost to the newspapers has dramatically increased. In just the last few years we've seen postal rates for second class postage, it's gone up over a third in the last four years,