

Legislature to begin the discussion regarding property taxes that will be subject of great discussion during the course of this session.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognizes Senator Warner to open on the resolution.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, the proposal this morning was a concept that evolved last fall in looking for a way that the Legislature may discuss the broad issue of property taxes and the accompanying things that go part...that is a part of that issue. As you know, the various committees did make their reports last week and the concept here was a nonbinding resolution. The reason for a resolution, obviously for the Legislature to discuss an issue, there needs to be something before us, and the resolution provides that methodology, at least, of discussing the broad issue. It's drafted in such a way that it sets out an issu...probably we will have handed out or are having handed out a copy of the resolution as it appears in the Journal, but one that perhaps is a little easier to read. There is one thing slightly different in which the goals that the Legislature might have for this coming session, as well as beyond, is in black type, heavy type, and then in those goals, under those there are a variety of issues that have been either discussed or have been introduced as legislation, and those then are spelled out that, consistent with that broad goal, would include a list of items that is included. I know that this is somewhat of an unusual process. Normally we would have whatever bill that affected this broad issue. The first bill that came up would probably range a discussion of the whole issue. However, we thought, the committee and the group thought it would be appropriate to use this vehicle to discuss that broad issue so that we could see what people were concerned about, what things they thought might be appropriate to be looking at during this session. The goals, and I will just touch on them quickly, the first goal would be one that it would be the goal of the Legislature to enact in part legislation this session that would restructure public services through a variety of ways, and financing of those services, but included would be cooperation and consolidation. There is legislation to do that. There's a category that we refer to as taxpayer accountability, which is actually a series of bills primarily which would, in some cases, change the process for setting budgets at the local governmental