

February 27, 1996 LR 46

interest that many across the state have in maintaining elected offices. However, I am comfortable with, I think, changing the constitution at this point so that local governments could decide this, local counties could decide this. We need to move forward in this area with the pressure on property taxes across the state. I think voters need to recognize that this is one area that they can help themselves do this. We would probably be back here next year, in other words, '96 (sic), Senator Hillman. She's nodding her head yes, that that was when we would make the authorizing statute changes. And so I think under that basis I will move forward and pass, urge passage of this bill (sic) simply because it allows some options out there for people to do some things themselves in terms of possible property tax relief. I am aware of opposition. I've got opposition letters right in front of me. But I believe if the counties opt to do this, it could be, it would their decision. And there's ample time for this to be debated, both in the Legislature and locally, as to whether counties would want to go to this. And I think voters have to recognize, once again, if there's going to be some changes made in property taxes we're going to have to do some streamlining at all levels of government. This is a voluntary way that counties could do this, so I support it.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. Senator Hillman, I want to go on with your history just a little bit. The 1970 Constitutional Revision Commission also made a recommendation that the Legislature provide by law a form of county government in which county officers may be elected or appointed, but that it's optional with each county, and that they obtain the county's permission, much...it's similar language, not exact language to what you had. The Legislature at that time, I don't, and I'm still looking for that section of the commission's report, but I don't believe that they adopted it. But as we go about, I have a couple of questions and then some observations. And I...the first one, I guess, is what is the definition, in your language, of a county administrator form? Because that's a, that's not something that's defined in our constitution elsewhere, that's a new term of art with the constitution, and I think we need some discussion of what that word means or what that phrase

11601