

with the merits of...the object of the bill, because that obviously has merit. But before the bill would go out of Select File, if I was going to support it, there going to have to be some kind of provisions that allows, very clearly, the long-term cost that we're putting into this activity in competition with all the other responsibilities that state government has. And right now I don't see any kind of a limitation as to what it might be. Again, I'll probably vote to advance it on the assumption, because I think there are some good things, certainly looking at building codes and things that might be done that will reduce the cost, perhaps. But I could never vote for a Final Reading a bill which I have no idea what the eventual General Fund appropriation could go into. But if it's going to be meaningful, it's going to be big.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise at this point to oppose the bill. And I agree with the...most of what Senator Warner had stated. His conclusion, however, was he'll vote it on to Select and wait and see. I guess I'd like to at least put a token red on there if, at this point, and say, I could not vote for the bill in its present form and would not vote for the bill in its present form. And I guess from my point of view, if it...I assume it'll be advanced to Select File and when it is, in order to get my vote or others, I suspect, if it's important at all, that people be very serious on making some of the changes of the concerns that we have. Senator Wesely and Senator Schimek have some things in the bill that I think are very good. I like the portion that deals with codes. And I like some of the other aspects it. And I certainly like the sentiments of the bill. I've always been very supportive of these types of measures. However, there are two things that's beginning to bother me just a little bit as we talk about...about bills, and that is as we talk about the property tax what may or more not happen, we talk about less dollars that'll be out there for the state and the local level, regardless of, you know, how, how it develops at the federal level. Communities are going to have to make priorities. And some of the communities, if you look at some of the letters that we've received that...on the desk anyway, that have been handed out, some of the communities, I think, have said, yeah, it's a priority, we've done some things, but we don't have enough resources. In other words, other things are of more priority.