

what the levy requirement would be to maintain the same appropriation as the previous year. Then, if the local government wished to increase the budget and to take advantage of higher valuation, it would take two actions, one of which would be to adopt their budget and then a second action after public hearing to also adopt the necessary levy to raise that amount. What will happen is that I believe that no longer will you see the headline after the adoption of a budget that the taxes did not go up 'cause the levy stayed the same and, of course, what's misleading about that is that it does not recognize that valuation could have substantially increased and, even though the levy stays the same, there is substantial...could be substantial or at least an increase in the level appropriation...the level of spending and also an increase in the amount of dollars that the individual would be paying. So this will make that much clearer and I think it will be very beneficial. The other provisions are all areas that current constitution permits enabling legislation, however, has been short in being able to have very many areas take advantage of it. This is the ability for merging of county offices within and between counties and counties themselves. There's a series of actions, requirement by the appropriate county boards to meet and make such proposals. It can also be done by petition in order to...with 10 percent of the voters requesting this to occur and, through that process, if greater cost efficiencies can be arrived at, that can be done locally and, again, with a vote of the people. Another provision of the bill, there are a series of statutory provisions currently, primarily affecting veteran service committees, county agricultural societies, county hospitals, and county extension services, which county boards are mandated by statute to levy a minimum certain amount of funds for which they have no flexibility. This provision will change those "shalls" to "may" so that county boards can, in order to stay under the maximum constitutional limit of 50 cents, which it currently is, but be able to adjust the budgets of these different entities, which would be a part of that 50 cents in order to arrive at priorities at the local area. And then, finally, there is a provision in the amendment which is also a part of existing law in which a county can turn over the responsibility of the assessment of property over to the state or, in this case, now the property tax administrator. The old law, however, required that the county and the state had to negotiate with the county paying for the service. This provision would allow the same negotiation to take place,