

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I just briefly would rise to support the revised amendment. Seems to me the concept is right and one that can assist in bringing people together. Obviously, the whole concept in this process is one of encouraging people to locally explore and participate in the change that might make government more cost effective and this would seem to be would be consistent with that process and would be appropriate to adopt.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I, at this point in time, Senator Beutler, I don't have a great objection with the amendment that you propose. I do want to speak on 1085 before we get too far afield on some of the other issues and particularly the issue about what are we going to do with property taxes in general as we begin this debate. It's good for this Legislature to take these bills one by one and begin to examine individual portions of the bill to determine what they mean and how they fit in, but as you read through the bills, if you've not already done so for the first time, keep in vision the larger package here; that you've got a grouping of six bills that all relate to each other. And so, as we begin to examine 1085, some of these items may not make a lot of sense to you or you may say, well, why are we going to do it, but they do fit into an overall picture. It's going to be difficult in one five-minute speech to give you what that entire picture is and so, as we go through this process, I think you'll find members of the Revenue Committee, each with their own different point of view, try to explain or put together how the whole package fits together. (LB) 1085 is probably the easiest part of this to begin to deal with and it does some things that we probably should have done at some other periods of time. In particular, the portion that I like is those that allows counties the ability to turn over some of their responsibilities for assessment practices over to the state. This is not a mandate. This is not a mandate. What it is, is allowing counties, if they feel that because of the levy limitations that are being proposed or for just general ease of assessment practices, the property taxes become very, very difficult to do, it becomes very complicated to do and most of the point of controversy centers around valuation because that's the easiest part for people to understand. It's very hard for somebody to