

in the bill that I have some questions about and, to be frank, I think this whole exercise we're going through is to give the impression that somehow we've got a hat and either the hat is magical or we're magic and we're going to reach in this hat and pull out a rabbit constituting the solution to the problem of property taxes. That solution is not before the Legislature. That rabbit is not going to be pulled out of the hat and, furthermore, I don't even think that a magical hat is on the table. These kind of bills give us the opportunity to discuss many esoteric notions and ideas, but when time comes to put it into practice it's going to be a virtual impossibility. One of the things you're asking is that politicians put themselves out of office, but before I go deeper into that I want us to go ahead and take Senator Beutler's amendment because I would like to go through the committee amendment as it's offered and, since we can only speak three times, I'm going to probably be forced to manufacture some amendments to be able to continue speaking because this is one of those that I'm not going to let slide through without understanding what is in it. Then, after I understand what's in it, I'll maybe see what the motivation behind it is and whether, if that goal is achieved, it's going to be in the best interests of the people. But one thing that is of concern to me is representation if consolidation occurs. I have battled too long and too hard as a member of this Legislature to try to ensure representation for those groups which traditionally have not been able to be elected to county boards or city councils or school boards when the election is at large, so that is something that I'm going to look at. While you're talking about cutting property taxes, I want to make sure you don't cut out representation.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are no further lights. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Will, members of the Legislature, again just briefly, if you're looking at the white copy that I handed out to you earlier, the only thing that we're doing now is subsection (1), so everything in (2), (3), and (4) is not currently before you in this modified amendment. And so what we're essentially doing is subsection (1), requiring an examination of consolidation possibilities, requiring it both with respect to consolidating whole counties but also with respect to consolidating particular offices within adjoining