

number four is going to be available for Sarpy County now?

SENATOR WILL: That's a good question, Senator Klein.

SENATOR JONES: No.

SENATOR WILL: Yours was the last light, Senator Klein. Senator Warner, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just briefly, again, the amendments, the committee amendments, now as with some amendments, essentially clarifies procedures the constitution already permits within counties to consolidate offices or counties. The provisions are consistent with the restrictions that are currently in the constitution when this is to occur and putting the requirement for a vote. I also believe that, like the bill, will as designed encourage local governments to look at the possibility of more cost-effective government. Another more important aspect as well in the bill is the method of setting levies, which will require two actions on the part of a governing board for local government; one action of setting a levy, and this second action would be that of setting a levy in a fashion that the entity just cannot automatically take advantage of increased valuation as a basis to increase their expenditures by making no change in the levy. This will make it much clearer, I am sure, to citizens when there are hearings in the summer. In addition to a budget hearing, there would be a levy setting hearing, which should provide a much better opportunity for understanding at the time of the process when public input can be more meaningful. With that I would urge the body to adopt the committee amendment, as amended.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Warner. You've heard the closing on the committee amendments. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 1085. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR WILL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Warner, you're recognized to open on the bill.