

part of this bill. I think this will provide property tax relief because it holds the local political subdivisions accountable. Section 43 and Section 44 I believe are the best part of this bill. I would think this would be of great benefit to the state. I think it's a great benefit to our people that we represent. It's to educate the electorate, and I think it will provide property tax relief.

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR HILGERT: The next time the valuations go up 10 percent, the local subdivisions will be forced to determine whether they want to increase the levy or not. The county clerk will provide, again will set that levy, and they will realize that their taxes are not going up, and if the political subdivision wants to raise them, they'll also know that too. I think that is a great benefit. I think it's the best part of this bill, and I encourage the passage of 1085.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Seeing no further lights, Senator Warner, you are recognized to close on the advancement of LB 1085.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, appreciate the discussion that we've had. At this point, I would like to describe the bill in two or three ways. First, what we are really talking about is the opportunity to restructure local government to be more cost-effective. Out of that, there is a presumption that there could be some reductions and savings in expenditures. This doesn't force local governments to do it. It does give them better tools than exist under existing laws and permitted under the constitution. It is not hammer that they must act. But as a tool, perhaps it's a plane, a plane in the sense that it will make a smoother operation to make changes as could be provided for within the statutes. And, finally, those who may feel this is meaningless, depending on what happens with LB 1114, but LB 1114 sets levy limits. The only way to get above those levy limits is to go...well, obviously, you can come back and have the Legislature change it, but otherwise you depend upon the voters, and at some point, the choice is going to be, as a voter, do I want to vote as an individual to find ways to make my structure of government more cost-effective, and support that, or do I want to vote to increase the levy at higher authorization than provided in the