

instances, nine to be...nine that we found, having to do with publications, and notices, and hearings, and when these things have to be published and the latest time that they can be published before the meeting. Some of these say seven days, some of them say ten days. So what we have done is just, because more of them said seven, we changed them all to seven. The second part of that has to do with presenting information at hearings. There were two cases where information would be presented, one of them said "shall present it," one of them said "may present it." We have just, for consistency sake, stricken the "shall" and inserted the word "may." The third part of it has to do with the levying authority of an NRD. We have stricken "two and three-tenths" and put it back to where it was, "one and one-eighth." This has to do with if an NRD has authority over several areas they may charge this much for one authority area and another amount for another authority area. And if they only have authority over one of those areas, they, in effect, have been granted authority to increase taxes. The fourth part of that, on page 72, what we have done is stricken the criminal penalties. If someone, anyone, misses any of the requirements, with the current language they could be held to a criminal problem. So we have taken the criminal part of it out, left the rest of it the way it was. That, in a nutshell, is the amendment. Just for expediency sake, we have combined four of them into one. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, members of the Legislature, when we came this morning there were 15 amendments on the bill, 2 of those have been dealt with before, that Senator Hudkins had, we took. We thought that her suggestions were, at a very minimal, reasonable. And in an effort to facilitate the process and try to move it along, her amendments have been combined, her four have been combined into one and accepted, at least by me. I think they improve the bill and I hope that you will see fit to adopt them.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Hudkins, could I ask you a couple questions, please?