

again, I'll try to explain what the relationship this will have to what we'll be doing on the other bills so that everyone at least, hopefully, understands a little better, as I know you probably do, but maybe I'll talk myself into, so where I totally understand better what's going on, as they're all related.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Will, followed by Senators Elmer, Kristen:sen, Bernard-Stevens, and Warner.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I think it's important to realize that what we do now in our constitution, with respect to motor vehicles, is we are allowed to classify motor vehicles for purposes of valuation. Motor vehicles are separate from the uniformity clause, the Legislature, in essence, can value motor vehicles as we see fit. And as a result, we have a scheme that goes by something called the Blue Book, whereby a motor vehicle is, not arbitrarily, but somewhat arbitrarily decreased in valuation from year to year, and as such the tax revenue tends to be very high at the front end, and decreases in a rather steep fashion. And so we've already, on the valuation end, exempted motor vehicles from the way that property normally is assessed. What LR 292 would do is take out the portion that says that the receipts from the property taxes that are levied against motor vehicles are to be distributed, according to the constitution, are to be distributed in the same manner as property tax receipts are, that is to the same subdivisions from which the motor vehicles come. The fact is we have discussed in the Revenue Committee and on the floor of the Legislature, over the last few years, several different methods of valuing motor vehicles which are constitutional because of the exemption that we have; but at the same time when we do those different valuation schemes, we are still caught by the constitutional provision which LR 292 would delete, which is the distribution scheme. I think simply by doing what LR 292 proposes to do, by deleting that portion of the constitution that constricts us as far as the funds are distributed, it gives us more flexibility, both in the valuation of the motor vehicles, if we should choose to do a different method of valuation than we do now, and in the distribution of those funds. And I think this is critical to some of the elements of the property tax, or the "property tax solutions" that we're talking about now. I think...I, in fact, the popular name for what we've talked about as far as changing the