

increasingly useful as we begin to switch from a property tax system to a sales and income tax system, if that's what people really want to do, you're going to need that flexibility to do it. And I would hope that we'd defeat the Bernard-Stevens amendment to do that. The other part, and I know our time is some limited here...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yours is limited to one minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you. I want to touch on a couple of other points as we begin to do this, that this constitutional amendment does. You will see and remember the first and most important part of this package is the allowance of mergers and consolidations to make it clear that we can do those sorts of things. And that you'll see in the very first part of the amendment. The second part, just for your review, allows for different tax rates as well as taxes on different classifications. As long as they're reasonable and as long as they're part of an agreement between local governments for the support of joint exercises, in other words, some consolidations and mergers of functions, or an agreement governing the actual merger of some of those local governments. So there's a protection in there as well. And just for your general review, we've talked about the Bernard-Stevens amendment, and at the end we're also talking about property who has been exempt, but only to the exempt...gets a tax exemption that it's used for public purposes. This has not been talked about as much. I want to punch on my light again and talk about that particular provision because it's another important one.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Senator Kristensen, I appreciate your remarks greatly. And again, the main reason I offered the amendment wasn't because I was going to push very hard for the amendment, it's that these are types of bills that when you go back and people ask the question, after everything's passed and becomes law, why did you do that? And they'll go back and look at the record, there is no record. You know, there's nothing on the record to show what the rationale was. On issues like these, I will be offering the amendment so at least we can get the rationale on the record so people can read it, and they may disagree with it, but at least