

March 25, 1996

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LR 206

during this two-year period in which we delay the effective date, there is a variety of...at least two different concepts I know that are in place, one of which is that we will have something similar to the LR 206 approach in which a variety of committees will be looking at the issue over the next two years to make adjustments as it becomes apparent that that might be...might be appropriate. I know there is...I think there is going to be efforts that will be looking at the various requirements that are mandates that we have on local government. I saw where the State Board of Education was willing to participate in looking at those kinds of things in that two-year period that could be...could provide some relief, if that's the right word, from some of those aspects. There is a whole lot of things, it appears to me, that's going to be going on over the next two years that, hopefully, will end with government being restructured with public confidence being lifted. I frequently comment that I believe that much of the comments that we hear of perceptions about government, but, as you well know, perceptions are more difficult to deal with than facts, but you can't sometimes correct the fact with...or correct the perception with fact, where an error you can. I think we need this period to engage people across the state with exactly what they are getting for their tax dollars, what they need to know that there is going to be, through this process, the potential for greater consolidation, cooperative efforts, merger efforts. Their other option is going to be to support a higher property tax levy or to support a merger or consolidation to the extent that that can be done, and I think that is going to be a positive without a mandate of saying how it is going to be done. I visualize a lot of those things occurring that I hope will be, in the long term is going to be beneficial to resolving it. I think it would be an error at this point to suggest that we are going to spell out in a dollar amount replacement revenue. Obviously, one will never enact, I don't think, replacement dollar for dollar, although that concept is one of them that are out there because then no efficiency would occur. But it is hard to say how much, if any, until we've gone through the process of building public confidence. I hope that if those things that can be cost effective have been accomplished, again, the safety net always remains the ability for a local government entity to vote a higher limit, if nothing else happens.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you. Senator Warner. Senator Robinson.