

going to tell you what it does. On page 3, in line 1, the word "insubstantial" is placed before "property tax", and the same thing in lines 8 and 9. So this is what line 1 would read: The Legislature finds that insubstantial property tax revenue is used to partially support these various programs. And the amount is insubstantial. Then, when we come down to line...well, we would say lines 7 through 9, to get the whole impact, the Legislature further finds that by eliminating reliance on insubstantial property tax revenue and county support for such programs, then these other things will occur. My amendment does not misstate anything. My amendment makes clear what it is we're doing. The public, I'm sure, has no idea of what amount of money is involved in the shift of this responsibility from the county to the state. The Legislature is raising so much dust and congratulating itself so much on its so-called property tax relief package that the public could get the impression that we are saying this bill will result in substantial property tax relief, and it will not. It will not. How much do you think everybody's property taxes will be reduced in the state if an amount of \$9 million is shifted to the state? Now that's \$9 million from among all of the counties. How much will their property tax be reduced as a result of that? This bill should not be sold on the basis of reducing property tax. That's what is designed to be presented to the public as the basis of the bill. If that were not the case, it would be...it would not be necessary to make any specific reference to property tax. But if that reference is going to be made, I think it ought to be accurate and honest. I don't think anybody can say that the amount of property tax revenue involved in this shift is substantial. It is insubstantial, and the only reason for not telling the truth is because the intent is to deceive. And a person can lie, not only by stating an untruth, but by deliberately failing to state that which is true. I think the way the bill stands now there is a deliberate intent to mislead the public. If there is no intent to mislead the public, we can state the truth. If anybody can stand on the floor and tell me that they think this bill is going to result in a substantial reduction in property tax, I'll say that person is not only deceived but may have imbibed from the same spiked punch that Lincoln's Bishop did. We know this is not a substantial property tax reduction, so all that my amendment does, and I hope you've got the amendment on your desk by now, is to insert the word "insubstantial" before the term "property tax", because that's what we're doing. Otherwise, all reference to