

property tax should be stricken from the bill so that we're not misleading the public.

SPEAKER WITHEM: There are about three lights here that were on prior to the introduction of the Chambers amendment. I'll go through to see if they want to address the amendment. Senator Robak, Senator Hillman and Senator Kristensen, do you wish to address the...Senator Robak, do you wish to address this amendment? Senator Kristensen, do you wish to address this amendment? Senator Kristensen, you are recognized.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I...even though I said I'm going to speak to the amendment, Senator Chambers prompted part of the reason I want to speak here, and it relates to the revenue package, that this bill did not, at least from my perspective, did not come out of the Revenue Committee. It was sort of operating out there in another arena, and for my purposes don't consider it, Senator Chambers, part of this revenue package even though it follows closely on the heels of doing that. It does address some of the issues, though, that are very important to the revenue package, and that is what do you do about contributions towards counties and, if you've done some for the municipalities, what are you going to do for the counties? There's some things that obviously have been done. I don't see Senator Warner here, but there is the opportunity anyway to change the state aid formula to the counties, to make some adjustments for those counties that are going to be hit with the levy limits. There is the ability to change some of the distribution of this county sales tax portion. There is the opportunity to create an equalization fund much like we did for the cities. If you want to talk about...if for some reason this bill doesn't pass, and I don't know if this bill's...it appears, at least just from my observation, it's got enough votes to pass, but if for some reason it doesn't pass or it's vetoed and not overridden or whatever, those people need to be aware that there are other mechanisms out there to assist in the levy caps, other than LB 1059. And so, this is a policy choice that you've got to make in terms of, if you're in a larger populated area, obviously this is...this is dollars. If you're in a smaller populated area, at least from my point of view, it's an insurance policy. And the amount of dollars that are involved here, if you're going to take those off of the table and put them over on the state side, that's just going to be less state