

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So eliminating the death penalty is a property tax measure and, based on that, I ought to submit a motion to pull my death penalty bill out of the Judiciary Committee. And if Senator Kristensen is going to allow Senator Wesley's bill, thinly disguised as a property tax relief measure, to latch onto the long coattails of property tax relief, why cannot my bill to abolish the death penalty do the same thing? And at least the issue is serious enough to warrant serious and, in my mind, lengthy discussion. But I'm serious about my amendment, that property tax revenue is insubstantial.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, there are no further lights on. Do you have a closing on your amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm going to ask for a call of the house while I close so we can get an idea of how many we have here.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question for the body is, shall the house go under call? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The house is under call. Members please return. Senator, do you wish to start closing now or wait until they return?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will begin to close now because anything that I say is worthy of being preserved for the ages, will be preserved in the transcripts so we won't lose anything. Members of the Legislature, let me tell you what this amendment does. There are two places in the intent language where the term, property tax, is used. My belief is that that term, unmodified, is designed to give the impression that this bill, if enacted, will shift programs from the county to the state, and thereby make a substantial reduction in the property taxes that have to be collected in a county. My view is that the highest estimate of what will be shifted to the state will not result in any substantial reduction in property tax. So the corollary is true. The property tax revenue used to pay for the counties' share of these programs is insubstantial. So what I want to do is modify that term "property tax" so that since it's going to be referenced in this bill it will not be a misleading