

(Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 11 of last year. At that time, it was referred to the Revenue Committee. It was advanced to General File. I have no committee amendments, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Jones, to open on your bill.

SENATOR JONES: Madam President and members of the body, LB 345 would change the way the in lieu of tax payments are calculated for wildlife management land owned by the Game and Parks Commission. Right now, the taxes are paid on such land that is fixed at the amount paid for the private land owner in the year prior to the acquisition. This bill would value the land at the use it had immediately before acquisition by the commission, excluding any buildings on land either before or after the acquisition. Finally, if the commission decides to protest the valuation, their protest would be treated the same in the matter as any other protest...or any other landowner. What I mean by the excluding of any improvements...a lot of times they'll get a piece of ground and property with old buildings on it and stuff like that, and this would exclude them from being on the property tax, and this would also let them to take them buildings out of there and clean the place up. Under current law, the in lieu of tax payments are equal to the property tax paid by the prior owner, and it don't change. And this would require Game and Parks to pay the in lieu of tax at the same rate as adjoining ground of the same like value. Any land acquired after January 1, 1997, Game and Parks pay the taxes the same today as they did when they acquired it. My bill would let the taxes go up and down the same as private land does. It came out of committee with no opposition. Game and Parks is supporting the bill, and Larry's around here, somebody might want to talk to him a little bit about it and ask any questions. I had a couple handouts that I'd like to have you look at. They should be on your desk now. And it shows all the tax that's due in '96 in front of you, and what they pay. And then the A bill will show you how much more they would have to pay if this bill was advanced. So, I'd...all of you should have a letter from Game and Parks, too, in front of you, supporting it, from Rex Amack, and that was just wrote to me just a few days ago. So, if there's any questions on it, well, I'd be happy to answer them. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Discussion? Mr. Clerk.