

and get the study done, in the time period, we may not be able to come back and assess that quite as quickly as what Senator Beutler would be doing, but it still looks at it from a different perspective and a different way of going about it than Senator Beutler.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Bonlke, and I think I'll, at first glance when I read this the other day, I felt, well, that's probably a good idea, but after we have had a chance to sit and talk about it and look at it, I think that it's probably an extra report. I think it is stuff that we already have in other places, maybe not in the same form, but at this point in time, I would like to maintain the focus on the counties doing that. I would urge to vote no on this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wesely. Don't see Senator Wesely. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Senator Will, and members of the body. Senator Beutler, I think I like what you're doing here and I know there are some problems and, particularly, I have not particularly been a one for forced consolidation, but I do think it is logical, when we are talking about a property tax relief package, which the Committee on Revenue gave us, and the first piece is LB 1085, and the biggest user of property tax is the school district with about 50, well, 56, 60 percent of the property tax going for the schools. I hate to put a mandate on the schools, but I don't know of any other way that we can make sure that they do look at this. Senator Bohlke talked about the school, and that isn't mandatory, I don't believe, is it, Senator Bohlke, in LB 1050, but the schools look? It isn't mandatory. And they may get the word, Senator Wickersham, by seeing what is going on around them, but I kind of like the fact that they are included in this whole property tax relief self-examination, you might say, and certainly should be doing that, and I don't think it is too rigorous qualifications that we are imposing on them. So I think I am going to support your amendment, Senator Beutler, and encourage that schools and school districts also have this kind of self-examination that says, how can we do things better? Can we do things better by cooperation or consolidation? And we need to touch all bases.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Vrtiska.