

enforcement and they expect to go to their county commissioners and air their complaints. However, the commissioners have no ability to interfere with the operation of an elected officials office. They cannot even require an elected official to attend a public meeting to hear public concerns. The only control county commissioners have over elected officials is in budget approval. But elected department heads can and have sued successfully to increase their budgets. In many counties it will be difficult to reduce budgets and bring parties together for a collaborative effort. How does this amendment to 292 affect the total property tax relief package that we're currently looking at? The property relief package addresses consolidations and mergers between counties and municipalities. The package also addresses combining and collaboration of services. Just think how beneficial an appointed county administrator would be in overseeing these operations. An appointed county administrator would be able to do the day-to-day work for the representatives of the various counties, if those counties decided to come together. The package that we're looking at today also limits spending. The county commissioners have no real authority over elected officials budgets if the elected official, as I said before, chose not to take the recommendations of the county. Elected officials do not have to come to the table to discuss any merger or consolidations of service if they don't wish to do so. Appointed officials would greatly assist in the management and control of budgets. A county administrator can be a key for what I call the three "E's, in delivering public services efficiently, effectively, and equitably. I would repeat, the county administrator form of government is permissive, it's cost-effective. And I've heard that word several times today. There is no cost associated with either state General Funds or local government budgets. To accomplish the goals of this body to reduce the reliance of local government on property tax there needs to be, I think, all the tools that we can possibly give local government to address the kinds of things they need to do. And it can be...this amendment can be very meaningful in giving the types of support and changes that local government needs to do. Again it is only...it's permissive, it is only done by a vote of the people in the county. And I would ask for your support of this amendment and would be happy to ask (sic) questions. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Hillman. You've heard the