

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Warner amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend the Warner amendment. (See FA607 on page 1795 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler to open on his amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that would do simply this, this particular council that is created, which presumably is for everybody's benefit who's levying taxes within this particular area. It can be created within each county or with adjoining counties by resolutions of county board, and under the current amendment, by no other mechanism. So as I understand that, if the county, for some reason, is not particularly excited about talking to all these little rural fire districts and the school district and everybody else about the levy and discussing the whole thing, there's nothing that can be done about it. There simply won't be one of these things created. It seemed to me that there ought to be an alternative mechanism that you could bring and create this kind of council if enough of the other districts in the particular area were interested in creating it. In fact, they have perhaps more of an interest in it than the county does since the county controls the levy for most of those districts. And so what my amendment says is that if three or more of those kinds of taxing entities that are located within the county, three or more separate categories of taxing entities within the county, request that the council be created, then it can also be created by that mechanism. And I think that that further encourages the existence of these councils because...and I think in most all cases, either the county or those that are being governed by the county will want to create this council whereby they can discuss their problems. So that's all it does. It's an alternate mechanism for creating the council with the hope that each and every county will have such a council. So if you have three rural fire districts that want to create one of these councils, that wouldn't be allowed under the mechanism. But if you had a fire district and a school district and an airport authority who wanted to create the council, then by joint resolutions, they could do so. Everything else would be the same. Only an alternative mechanism for creating the council. Thank you.