

Warner amendment to Amendment 4201 (sic)...4281, excuse me, be agreed to? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Warner's amendment to his amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The amendment is adopted. Senator Kristensen on the Warner amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to support the amendment and for those of you who have been patient enough to follow through, 299 has been the one piece of this package that is most immediate and its purpose, obviously, is that between now and the time the levy limitations come into place what are we going to do? And the fear is that if you do not place some limitations between now and the time of the phasing in of the levy limitations that the various political subdivisions will be of the attitude let's spend while we can, salt away and try to ride the storm out, and you'll see a variety of attempts between now and the 1999 levies that come out in the years of people trying to find ways to buy additional equipments, exceed those levies before the limitations come in. A whole variety of things will occur. That will have the absolute opposite impact of what we want to do, and that's begin a process of forcing people, instead of finding ways to salt it away and to ride out the storm, that they'll be forced to begin to examine the structures and looking at it, and that's the reason 299 is so important. The amendment that's currently before us, obviously, is an accommodation, I believe, to the school districts. The major concessions prior to this time were the ability to use unused budget authority. This will give them a better working tool to be able to work with the expenditure limitations now. And remember that 299 goes to the other subdivisions on the restricted fund formula and that's a limitation on the revenue side. This is a limitation on expenditures as it applies to the school districts. And I think that a number of other accommodations have been made that's important. You're going to be hit by your school districts. There are those out there that are doing a variety of things in terms of information and if you're going to rely on your mail I don't think that you're going to get reliable input as to what these bills do, and the best places to begin to examine the handouts that are here, there are those