

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 26, 1999 LB 271

SENATOR CROSBY: There are two.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you. I just want to go back and refocus the amendment and I don't know that we need to take a whole lot more time because the policy choice is very clear. It's whether if you feel that the bill needs to be worked on further, you have options. You can bracket this bill, vote not to advance it and somehow put up enough votes so that it doesn't pass this year and work on it next year, or you can delay the operative date so that it does not affect the year 2000 property taxes, would affect 2001 property taxes. And that's the impact of the Kristensen amendment. It would still require...next year, if you want to make changes, or changes this year, you're going to have to get 25 votes to add those changes on. And it...this does not kill the bill, it just moves it back a year of its operation. And I think you'll find a wide variety of people who are going to say, well, you know, this isn't as bad as we thought. I do think there's a number of stories that go around of some of the horrors here that may not be as bad as we think. But at the other point in time, there are people who are going to be assessed here who have no idea today they're going to be assessed. And come January 1 next year, they're going to go, oh, my goodness, I didn't know that was going to happen. So you have a couple of options. One is to say, well, let's do a dry run, let's send out the assessments this year to people but just put zero tax due on it and that way we'll notify everybody that next year you're on board. What that does is collect a lot of political opposition, I suppose, to those who are assessed, and then I think Senator Wickersham's speech comes into play. It's like here's why I'm different. You can't do this to me and you can't do that. The other problem with doing that is it's the cost of doing it. It'd be expensive for the counties, they wouldn't get any of the tax, they'd have to go through the assessment practice for a year and receive no money. As much as I'd like to do that to give notice to people saying, look, next year this going to happen to you, I don't know that you can do it. I don't think it's fair, probably, to the assessors and to the county officials who'd have to carry this process out. So what's the next best thing to do? The next best thing is, hopefully, that throughout this summer, and I'm sure there'll be interim studies and others, but entities who are out there and, quite frankly if they're not out there today