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so...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...we left it the way it was.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right. Thank you. That's...that's adequate.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I wanted to say actually, to me, this makes more sense at this point than what we did in taking over the assessor's office, and I may bring others into this debate at this point, but I...starting July 1st, nine counties will be taken over by the state in the assessor's situation and it's going to cost us \$2.2 million a year, roughly, approximately, to operate those counties now. So, if you take that times ten, that's roughly eventually maybe \$20 million a year will be the state cost. Not saying that that's going to happen, but roughly we're adding about two counties per year. This is about a \$3.6 million issue, but I've tried to look at the assessor because I think, in my own mind and some of us, we're going to have to do something about the assessor. I don't...I can't see the state really affording to take it over forever, and it occurred to me just this morning as we started debate upon this that one answer may be to limit the amount of assessors' offices we'll take over some day, maybe limiting it by population, I'm not sure. But I, at this point, I do intend to introduce a bill next year to do something to leave that from being wide open down the road because it's my premise at this point is we continue to fund that in Appropriations Committee, and you'll see two new counties coming up that actually I don't think we can afford to take over the...all assessors in the state down the road. Maybe all of them won't want to eventually, but it's going to get increasingly expensive. So I was a little concerned about this. I don't believe that this is going to lead us down that path quite so much, partly because those administrative functions are going on in the county. As Senator Beutler mentioned a few minutes ago, the assessor's office a little bit different than clerk of the district court and their duties. But if you want a wide-open exposure to our budget, it certainly is more the assessors at this point, the assessor's office, I don't want to pick on any assessors, the assessor's