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formal public hearing, so we decided to wait. This year we've introduced it. With the work of the committee, we have a solution to the problem that has arisen. As you know, we have a number of counties, I believe the number is nine, that are assessed by a state employee, or state assessor. The rest of the counties in the state of Nebraska have an elected official, elected county assessor that does that same function. The purpose of LB 443 is, essentially, if you've read the one-liner, is to require the same of both. If you're a state employee, you're required to do these things that the county assessor does, and vice versa. The purpose of LB 443 does just that. It gets to the point of the educational requirements. All assessors, as far as a county assessor, has to attend an annual course of training. Within that course of training, they have an opportunity for education, to learn about different laws and procedures that have changed over the course of the year. It gives them an opportunity to be able to upgrade or to be able to gain the credits that they need to continue their certification as an assessor. Right now in statute there is no same provision for state assessors. And over the last two years, there's been flexibility granted to the Property Tax Administrator's Office that hasn't been granted to the counties, as far as whether or not those individuals have to attend those annual courses of training. The proposal under LB 443, with the committee amendments that I believe Senator Landis will be introducing, addresses the concerns of the Property Tax Administrator, as well as the counties, and it's something that I think we can agree on. There's also another provision in the bill that I think is important. It's something that the counties support, as well as does the Property Tax Administrator. And it would allow for a system in place for which an individual who doesn't meet the requirements of education or other standards, for their certificate of assessment to either be suspended or revoked. Now, there's also a process in place when that situation happens that there is an appeal process to make sure that it was done properly and that the information was presented. Simple bill. The committee amendments do alleviate the concerns of the Property...the Department of Property and Assessment and Taxation. And I would encourage your support on LB 443.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. There are