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the committee.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. The Chair has looked at that rule, Rule 6, Section 3 under headline (h). The Chair does determine that it is essentially, substantially the same bill, and it will require 30 votes in order to be adopted, Senator Loudon. I think, Senator Loudon, did you recognize that? Thank you. On with discussion of the Loudon amendment, AM2817, to the second portion of the divided committee amendments to LB 968. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, the property tax notions in this bill are what disturb me the most. It is interesting to me that Senator Landis points out that the levy drop from \$1.05 to \$1.00 is such a big item that we can't bear to face it at this point in time and we need to take it out. That was a \$59 million item. But what he does instead is adds another \$44 million to our present bill today. I mean, if we can't afford \$59 million, how do we afford \$104 million? What's actually happening with this bill is that property tax relief that I and others have fought for so hard for so many years is being dumped to the tune of \$40 million. This is not a property tax relief bill. This is going away from property tax relief. In current law today--and let's talk three years out, because that's where we land after all these things are done--three years out, you would have had \$59 million, more or less, in property tax relief. What property tax relief do you get under this bill, three years out? About \$20 million. So in fact, all of you who are interested in property tax relief are getting taken to the cleaners on this bill, because you're losing \$40 million of property tax relief that's already in law. It's already in law. We worked hard to put that in law just a few years ago. And we delayed it, but we never let go of it. And you know, property taxes are still the tax that we do the worst in, compared to other states. We used to be, like, number one or two, and we fought back through the eighties and through the nineties and we brought it down from over 50 percent of the total taxes that we paid, down to 37-38 percent of the total taxes that we pay. But we're still no more than, like, 14th or 15th. We're still one of the very high property taxes relative to other states. And so what do we do? We make that situation