

February 15, 1996 LB 676, 1050

issue. It's going to be on the front page of the paper and they're going to want to know where we stand and how this is going to impact on their property taxes. And maybe our obligation is to wait and take a look how this will impact our districts before we vote on it. And this may come to the point where we maybe should wait until next year to deal with this issue, maybe when property taxes, the entire situation has been resolved. I recall in the Urban Affairs Committee, we had a bill that talked about consolidating police and law enforcement services and the League of Municipalities came in and opposed it and said, well, we don't want to do this, our little school, our little law enforcement, police departments are doing a good job. And the question that was raised in the committee was, well, what happens if one of these constitutional amendments, the one that deals with eliminating property taxes occurs? How is that going to impact law enforcement in a city or a county? Well, obviously it's going to have a major impact. They will not have the luxury of deciding whether or not there should be mergers because there will be mergers. Most probably the state will come in and make some major changes dealing with how law enforcement, how schools, how cities handle their budgets. We won't have any options. We'll have to take the most efficient approach in dealing with our state tax dollars. So maybe this isn't the year to be dealing with 1050. Maybe we should wait. Maybe we should wait until at least we know what we're voting on. That's the first thing. And then we should also look, after we find out how much this is...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR ABBOUD: ...how much this is impacting our district, we should wait until next year to see how these constitutional amendments fare with the voters and how they...and if they are adopted this will be a rather minuscule dot in the property tax debate for this decade. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Kristensen. Senator Cudaback. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. My understanding of the topic under discussion here is LB 676, that is in your bill books. There was also a committee amendment to 676. But the provisions of 676 dealt with two particular issues in reorganization efforts, and I would say to you who are