

dealing with something that hasn't been tried before, that it's experimental, or that it hasn't worked. This is the fastest growing option today with county government, with 34 states using it. Way back in 1989 they had 34 states using it in 786 counties. So it's not something that hasn't been used or that we're experimenting with a brand new concept that's not been tried anywhere in this country, because it has. And it's been very, very successful. The only information we could find that looked at anybody overturning it was one, and they went back to it again. The constitutional amendment is broad enough, I believe, to allow some things in statute. Now to address Senator Kristensen's comments, I most certainly think that we should look at it, get some opinions and see how it fits in with the things that the Revenue Committee are going to do. I guess what I would like to see, though, is I would like to have this bill (sic) sitting on Select File when we do that. If the body chooses to bracket it, it doesn't mean I won't quit working on it, because I will. But I think it will be in a better position to have it on Select File, more than willing to work as far as scheduling goes in looking at following the Revenue Committee and so forth. Last but not least, I would just reiterate a little bit about this in saying that keep in mind that it is in the constitution even a local option. If people don't like what's in it they don't have to do it. And it would be...could be...it would be initiated on the county level by the board, and in my vision could also be initiated by petition. And there would be an escape clause to get back out of that again. Now if that's going to be legal under this, that's something we will have to look at. And there may be changes, there may be wording changes. And, Senator Chambers, you had mentioned bringing amendments to this particular one, I would like to...hopefully they would be constructive and things that you think would tighten it, as you said, and I have no problems with that. If you think it's too wide open, as long as we can give counties the flexibility to do a different and more meaningful, I think, form of government, if they would so choose to do. My preference is to oppose the bracket, let it sit and advance it on Select File and let it sit there until we need to address it again, along with the cooperation and collaboration...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...of the Revenue Committee and the issues that they have forthcoming in looking at restructuring county