

that did not want to allow the people of Omaha an opportunity to take that half percent off. This particular proposal and the bill would require the people of those communities, first class and over, not all the small ones, not all the thirteen that are involved that have sales tax now which are a lot of them are in western Nebraska and which a lot of them appreciate the sales tax and a lot of them have derived substantial property tax relief from them, but allows them the same opportunity. This bill will also do away with the duplication of having a Bellevue or a North Platte come back next year, have another public hearing, publish another bill, go through this perennial fight. This bill or amendment will simply say they all have two years to do it. If they don't do it in two years, we are done with them.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins. Senator Hartnett. Senator Paul Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes, I think what the amendment does is allow cities like my community, Bellevue, and the City Council has gone on record in favor of this amendment, to give them the option. Before it goes into effect, it has to have the vote of the people, it has to pass the City Council, the vote of the people, and there is a sunset. And right now there is a one cent sales tax that cities of first class can have. This simply allows them to increase it another half cent and I think that should be left up to the local people, the local option, rather than the Legislature making all these big decisions. I believe very strongly in local option rather than, you know, the Legislature saying this and that. It is simply up to finally has to be the vote of the people of the community. So I support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, my first inclination is to support Senator Pappas with his amendment because, obviously, I am opposed to LB 116 and anything I can do to make LB 116 more unpalatable to some of the folks in here the better I would be from my point of view. But, unfortunately, I have got to follow some logical philosophy that I espoused a little bit ago and that is that two wrongs don't make a right. And by giving this power to all the cities, in my opinion, would make a wrong even more wrong.