

SPEAKER NICHOL: Back to the bill.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Abboud's bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, do you want to talk about your bill a little bit?

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, yeah, I will talk about the bill for a short time and then get on to other legislation. Like I said, I think it is a relatively simple bill. It is a bill that a lot of people I think would appreciate and those people being those from senators that are from Douglas County.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The call is raised.

SENATOR ABOUD: We have had a good discussion I know up in Douglas County about property taxes and the valuations going up, and I don't mean in any way to cast any criticism towards any of the local elected officials in Douglas County, and that was not my intent, and I hope that Senator Remmers or Senator Harris did not interpret my comments in such light. It is just that they were trying to comply with what the Nebraska Legislature told them to comply with. It isn't their fault that the valuations had to go up to an equal basis. It was our responsibility and we are the ones that have caused the situation. What I am trying to do is just allow the flexibility of local government to exist. This doesn't put any limitation on anybody. There is nothing in this bill except a clarification language to saying when the valuation goes up to 100 percent, the Legislature says that essentially we are not responsible for additional revenue that is generated. We are telling them to go up and then go back down. Now it gets us off the hook as far as us being responsible. I mean that is what government is all about. Government is about local responsibility. Government is about an individual, a citizen saying, well, my local county commissioner, I agree or I disagree with him, and I will keep him in office or keep him out of office, the same as with a state legislator. They vote on us because of what we do here on the floor of the Legislature and it just provides a clear line for the people back in the counties to know what we are doing. It is clarification language and that is it. Thank you, Mr. President.