

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Eret, please.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. Chairman and members, I voted against the amendment. I guess I just wanted to explain why. I am not critical of those that sponsored the bill but Senator Vard Johnson explained that it would be the intent of this bill that all political subdivisions should lower their levies if there was an increase in valuation, and I guess all of this defies my understanding or what I thought was my understanding of the way our county taxing systems work. I did not know that the political subdivision set the levies. I thought that the county boards set the levies based on the budgets that were submitted to them from the subdivisions and I thought that by just using mathematics that they automatically adjusted the levies down when the valuations went up and then adjusted according to budgets. So with that understanding I have of the way our county boards operate, I guess I will continue to oppose the passage of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Harris, then Senator Abboud.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I guess I have a basic feeling that if a bill is not going to accomplish anything that it should not be put on the books and set down as a standard, if it is not a standard. I don't know how to explain myself any better than that. It is admittedly a bill that does not do anything and I really don't think it takes us off the hook because we end up with a blame laid on us because we changed the way property is valued that causes somebody's property valuation to go down or go up. Maybe there is a stressful area where the property values actually go down, it is not just a change in the way they value it, it has actually gone down. They can put that blame wherever they want. It is up to the people to decide that. I don't think that we are going to get out of anything or we are going to get ourselves looking any better as a result of this particular piece of legislation and I understand what Senator Abboud and the others who have addressed this issue are trying to accomplish but I just don't think it should go on the books if it doesn't accomplish anything even though it doesn't cost any money. That is one of the nice things about this bill. You can say something, throw it out there, and say it doesn't cost any