

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, Senator Hartnett, this would be a tighter lid than Senator Nelson's bill would be. It would be a tighter lid than to actually raise the statutory limit because what this would be saying is that the statutory limit is still there. For example, if it is 7 cents per 100, the statutory limit, what this says is that the budget, the budget that the political subdivision asks for, that if that levy won't...if the valuation drops to where it can no longer reach that budget level at 7 cents, then the county commissioners who set the levy would be able to raise that levy in order to raise that amount of dollars. But there is language in the existing bill that I don't change that says that the political subdivisions..that this doesn't give them the ability, it doesn't change anything as far as their raising their own budget. So for an example, if the budget was going to be raised from what it was last year, so just bring in more new dollars, the 7 cents would go back. So I would argue that this is a tighter lid than Senator Nelson's bill because it only allows them to stay at the status quo.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I see.

SENATOR VICKERS: It doesn't allow them to increase...

SENATOR HARTNETT: They couldn't raise their budget beyond...

SENATOR VICKERS: I thought some of the arguments yesterday was they were afraid that we were giving them...because we have to change...in order to not have to do it every year we come in with a bill that says well go from 7 cents to 12 cents.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Um huh.

SENATOR VICKERS: People are saying well they don't need to go 12 cents. Not all of them do, that is correct. So under this proposal it would only allow them to stay status quo. If the valuation drops 2 percent, or 10 percent then they could only raise their budget that much. They couldn't go the full levy limit that we would be giving them under Senator Nelson's bill. Now I'm not going to say this is going to replace Senator Nelson's bill. The tech schools still might want Senator Nelson's bill. I haven't talked to