

turned out with the passage of LB, and I assume Senator Landis will mention it, of LB 271, was it, David, on the ag land value, you will recall an intricate part of the determining value of farm land by counties is dependent upon the information source that is at least partially contained in those ag statistic report breakdown county by county, and if we abolish that, then that source of county by county breakdown of agricultural statistics will not be available, and that is why we did not pursue last year abolishing the state funding then. I will be glad to yield the balance of my time to Senator Landis whom I assume will address more detail in the ag land value question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the ag land valuation methodology requires countywide figures for production and for price, also yield mix as well, and what the cropping patterns are out there, and those statistics are necessary to make the mechanism work. With respect to Senator Vickers' amendment, I would at this point vote no, but there are two things that I would certainly agree that we could do less of, and if there is savings in there, I have got no problems. We simply need to use that information, we simply need to plug those figures in. We have to know that information but we don't have to buy in my estimation a glossy booklet, some kind of fancy report. All we need to do is have those figures do their work for us, and so if there are savings that Senator Vickers might be able to identify by the time of Select File with respect to how this information is once gathered, then published, and distributed free of charge, well, gosh that is something I would certainly envision being able to cut back on. Secondly, if there are statistics that are being gathered at cost which are not put to work like the ag statistics that I am talking about are put to work, why then I guess I would consider some kind of savings there too. But in the amendment that is currently drawn, I am not satisfied that we don't endanger the ag land valuation process. If I can be, well, I would certainly reopen the discussion on the matter and try to make as much savings as possible from every corner, and this would be a fair corner so long as we do not endanger the ag land valuation process. Let me point out by the way that those statistics have been very important in a statewide reduction of 12 percent of the assessed valuation of farmland this last year and that will