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Chairman Smith and members of the Taxation Committee,

HB 2683 is created as a compromise from a property tax issue that we had in Barton County. After much research and many conversations with other county elected officials, the same issues that have occurred in Barton County happen across the State. HB 2683 has three major changes.

1. By October 1st, all budgets must be turned into the County Clerk by 5 pm. If a budget is not turned into the County Clerk by this time, then the County Clerk is instructed to use the prior year's budget for the budgetary process.
2. On November 1st, the property tax rate and collections must be turned into the Director of Property Valuation.
3. County Treasurers must mail property tax statements and tax forms to each taxpayer by December 1st.

By speeding up the process, this allows the County Clerks ample amount of time to prepare the budget, mil levy, etc., and enough time to turn in each counties tax roll to be submitted to the Director of Property Valuation. This also allows taxpayers two extra weeks to prepare for paying their property taxes.

Recently we all received our property assessments, and to some it was a complete sticker shock to see how our values have increased dramatically. While we do have the opportunity to appeal, this is just the beginning process of a long road ahead to receiving our tax statements in December. Many taxpayers know they need to budget for increased property taxes, but only having 5 days to prepare isn't fair.

I believe HB 2683 is a great compromise for speeding up the process and allowing in the end taxpayers additional time to budget for their property taxes. Thank you, committee, for hearing this bill today, and I will stand for any questions.

Tory Marie