

the twelve bills that was offered to the Revenue Committee that dealt with exceptions to the lid or I think to put it, instead of perforating the lid with about twenty exceptions, we offered a supermajority would be able to raise the lid to nine percent and we would still have a lid. Frankly, I do not support the total repeal of the lid at this time and would urge the members of the body to adopt this amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Burrows, did you wish to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I feel that it would be a serious mistake to repeal the lid outright at this stage. I think it would somewhat...I think it is too early following the passage of the lid legislation to repeal it without really breaking a trust with the voters, when we set up a lid really in some aspects to beat a constitutional referendum. This is one of the arguments that was coming before the Legislature. So I think a reasonable compromise is in order. Inflation has moved upwards and a nine percent with a supermajority vote I think is reasonable with the other exceptions that are involved presently in the lid law to make it somewhat comparable to what the lid bill was when it was originally passed. Inflation, seven percent was somewhat in tune with inflation at that time, and whether it be a seven to nine or seven to ten percent with a supermajority, I think these are questions the body could decide as this progresses but I think a repeal will probably bring a Governor's veto. If not that, I think the public may well come forward with a constitutional amendment that might be reasonable or it might be very unreasonable. Some of the problems with some of the other constitutional amendments that have been passed are the fact that they tie the hands of the Legislature in making any reforms or easing off the problems that come about by that constitutional amendment. It is extremely hard to remove a constitutional amendment and I think it is realism to think it is very probable that a constitutional amendment will be tried if we repeal, outright repeal the lid, and it would be successful. Our letters have been largely in support with large letter drives by educators for the repeal of this but that is not a reasonable assumption that the public, in general, is ready to repeal the lid. I think it is too quick. I think it is breaching our commitment to the citizens when we passed the lid in just a few years ago with a seven percent lid. So I would urge you to modify the lid slightly, take off some of the pressure off of the subdivisions where it is working in an unreasonable fashion to them but still retain the principles of the lid with a moderation that allows for some of this inflation. So I urge you to adopt this amendment and then pass this lid relief bill