

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would just like to make a short closing, Mr. Speaker. The arguments pro and con have basically been made but simply let me point out to you that the present law now says that it shall be no lower than 3% or higher than 7%. The Legislature over time has developed a range of percentages that represents in its opinion good policy, good public policy, and it made sense to give some flexibility because sometimes you are facing a situation where the revenues, the projected revenues, are soft on the high side or when they are soft on the low side. Now obviously if you want to give complete flexibility to the Board of Equalization you can do that but I think that would be abrogating the responsibility of the Legislature to do that as Senator Johnson seems to be suggesting. The range that the Legislature has set 3 to 7% as far as I know has worked well so the question you ask yourself is why are we changing the law? What is the recent evidence that has come to our minds that causes us to think it is not a wise policy? That recent evidence is that the Board of Equalization established a 3% reserve in November, that the projected reserve of unobligated balance that will be here at the end of this fiscal year is less than one-half of 1% and it will be that only because...only assuming that the individual income tax rate is raised to 17% and made retroactive. So the evidence is not, the irony of this whole situation is that the evidence is not that we need a lower reserve but in fact that a 3% reserve was too low, that what we really needed in these economic times was a higher reserve, and yet fantastically somehow the response is let's pass a law that says we can have a lower reserve, even when the higher percentage missed the mark so badly this year. It is almost Alice in Wonderland. I really do not see any logic whatsoever in what this bill proposes and I urge you again to indefinitely postpone it.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is to indefinitely postpone 757. This only takes a simple majority. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting no.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Senator Beutler, I am going to call the vote.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, how many people are excused?

SENATOR CLARK: I think we have four excused. Apking, Marvel, Wagner, and DeCamp are excused.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I know there are a couple of people out of the Chamber who would vote for the kill motion so I would ask for a Call of the House and a roll call vote.