

seat so we may begin, please. Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Chambers amendment to the Schmit amendment. Simple majority. Mr. Clerk. You want a roll call vote? Okay. Roll call vote on the adoption of the Chambers amendment to the Schmit amendment. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote read. See page 1282 of the Legislative Journal.) 16 ayes, 26 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. The call is raised. Do you have anything else on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, I do. Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend the Schmit amendment. (The Withem amendment appears on page 1283 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President and members of the body, the Withem amendment, as drafted, does make a significant change in the Schmit amendment. With the adoption of this amendment, I would probably be holding my nose maybe in supporting the Schmit amendment and feeling a little more comfortable advancing the bill in the current state. The Schmit amendment calls for an increase of 1 cent in sales tax. The money would go from...half of it go to fund the teachers' salary portion of the bill, half of it would go to fund the property tax relief section of the bill. What my amendment does, it's simple, it's not distributed, but I think anybody can understand it, it says we're only going to raise sales taxes one-half cent to fund this proposal. I think I can understand people saying that if they want to raise teachers' salaries by \$40 million this year and an additional 35 the next year, they think that is a significant enough change in policy, a significant amount of money that they want to see a funding mechanism go along with that. I can grant that. What I can't go along with though is to say that in this day and age with the sort of revenues that we have...and I'm sorry, just got some information I want to pass out here that I didn't get passed out, I didn't know this amendment was coming up this soon, but to say in this day and age with the budget in the shape that it is with the potentially \$300 million in our total reserves, \$273 million in our total reserves, that even if you use the more fiscally conservative numbers coming out of our fiscal office that there will still be a significant increase at