

in an opposite direction of that School Finance Review Commission. It certainly is not. As a matter of fact, the broad philosophical components of what Senator Moore is attempting to do are really identical to what the School Finance Review Commission is attempting to do. Now the specifics on how to do that were different in 611 as introduced from those that I sense the commission coming around to supporting, but with the committee amendment, with the Moore amendment to the committee amendment, and then the committee amendment in general, we are establishing a process, continuing down the road to ultimately changing the way in which we finance public education in this state. Nobody likes the way we finance education today. If we take a survey around the state, you would probably find an incredibly small minority of people of the state that think we have a good system. The problem has been in the past that any attempts to change that avowed a sizeable segment of people thinking that the effects of any given change are more negative to them than continuing with the current system, so we have tended to muddle along, but if we are going to change the way in which we tax property in this state, de-emphasize how we tax property, everybody concludes that you have to address the way we finance education. Stopgap proposals here in the Legislature that either enact homestead exemptions, rebates, both of which conceptually I support as stopgap proposals, or whether it be in mere increases in the current state aid to education formula, all those are very stopgap. Now when we were debating on the floor early in the session about a \$50 million set-aside for our property tax relief, Senator Warner distributed some information. It was 100 percent correct, and I think I said it was correct at that time. I have come to believe in it more firmly now, and that is that a mere transfer of a set of dollars into property tax relief is no lasting solution. We currently spend a billion dollars to educate young people in this state. Twenty-six percent of that comes from the state government. That leaves quite high property taxes. If we are to increase our state funding of education by \$50 million, just as an example to pull a number out of the air, which we did earlier in the session, that was the number we pulled out of the air, that is really just a one-year hold harmless. If you have a billion dollar budget and you increase it by 5 percent spending in a given year, that is \$50 million. An increase of \$50 million is only a one-year hold harmless. If we are going to bring about an ultimate solution to the property tax problem, you are going to have to get public education onto a tax source that has a growth factor to it. Property has little or no growth. School