

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 1646-47 of the Legislative Journal.) 26 ayes, 15 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment passes.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: For discussion of the bill as amended, Senator Wesely. The call is raised.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just, again, very briefly, I do plan to vote for this piece of legislation. I think it goes a long way in many areas to try and deal with the increase that we had on the income tax under 773. I think it should be looked at as a vehicle for improvement to the income tax system. I think a couple of things, it is inadequate relief, and that is why I am going to be proposing additional personal exemptions, and it is also not the fairest relief that we could provide because we have not adjusted the brackets to the degree that we should to provide more equitable and progressive income taxes. And, frankly, I think I am going to vote for this bill, in a large part, because it is a promise kept, similar to Commonwealth. A promise was made when 773 was passed, a promise was made when Governor Orr was elected that taxes would not go up, and I think we ought to keep those kind of promises. I didn't make those promises but, nevertheless, I feel bound by them in certain circumstances, and I see this similar to Commonwealth. We made a promise there and here we made a promise and let's try and keep it. Only that promise to be fulfilled needs to be at \$26 million, not \$18 million. Our own fiscal office indicated that, so in that regard, I will be back on Select File with further amendments and, hopefully, we can deal with this measure further at that time, but at this point, I will vote for the bill and hope that you will as well so that we can further deal with the need for income tax relief.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am troubled by this bill as you can well imagine. I perceive it as blatant tokenism. It is not a promise kept. It is a continuation of the deception of the people of our state that has existed here since 1987 when LB 773 was implemented. It purports to address a problem and provide tax relief when in reality only providing