

had some good points when he talked about dealing with property tax relief. In the past, the Legislature had not provided to what some people felt had not provided significant amounts of property tax relief to our local home owners. But, unfortunately for Senator Moore, and other supporters of this bill is that they have been incredibly successful this year in providing property tax relief. Senator Moore has provided us with legislation that provided with a substantial homestead exemption, \$98 million, along with Senator Hall, Senator Lamb and a number of others. I was a co-sponsor under the bill too. So there were a number of people that were involved. But, more importantly, it has shown that the Legislature has been responsive on this property tax issue by providing this large an amount and in addition we're providing an increase of state aid of at least \$9 million this year. So success has made this bill less needed, less significant. And, with that, it seems that it's at least worth discussing. I don't want my...when I go back to my district I don't want to feel the...field a great deal of telephone calls from constituents asking me about this local option. I am very nervous about providing some of our tax base that the state relies upon to a local subdivision and that is particularly my concern. The cities have a certain amount of our tax base with sales tax and, as a result, in addition to the sales tax and local user fees and minor fees that are involved in running day to day operations of the city, their property tax base is about half of their budget so they have been able to substantially reduce it. But what has been the cost to the state? It's given us less parameters in establishing our own revenue and that is my concern. My concern is that in this particular proposal there are no specific numbers and if we don't have specifics, it's difficult to say, let's pass intent language. If this bill provided exclusively that half of our income tax base would be given to local school districts, well, the body would obviously be upset, but, unfortunately, it does not provide specifics and that's why the bracket motion has been put up for consideration of this particular measure. I'm not saying that it is not a worthy measure and worth consideration but because of our success this year in providing property tax relief is it needed this soon?

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please, followed by Senator Hall and Senator Withem.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, as often happens sometimes on Final Reading, these people are actually reading