

legislation.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Robak.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise to oppose the amendment offered by Senator Schimek and Senator Wesely, although I do applaud their efforts, because I do appreciate the fact that there are literally a third of the people in the state who don't own property and would feel the effects of a sales and income tax increase that we would put into place with 1059 but yet not receive any benefit from at least property taxes that stay at a static level instead of property taxes that continue to rise. But the flip side of that is that there will be people, for example, in my district who will feel the effects of a sales tax and an income tax increase, and their property taxes clearly won't go down, that money will be sent to other areas of the state where property taxes bear a greater burden of the cost of education, and I can support that. The problem I have with the amendment, if you've taken the time to look through it, and I apologize for not being able to look through it that thoroughly, but the mechanics of how it works, I think, are very burdensome. And I, again, I understand the short amount of time that both Senator Schimek and Wesely have had to work on this. I do applaud the efforts. I won't touch on the constitutional issue, because, Senator Wesely, I'm not sure I don't agree with you that the Attorney General's office is possibly not quite right with regard to their interpretation. But this provision, I think, deals with a number of different areas, and there is a number of different areas that it doesn't deal with. It talks about dealing with, for example, persons...included low income and dependent children and rent their homestead. But what about the individual, and I happen to be involved with subsidized housing, does it apply to somebody who is renting an apartment in a subsidized housing project? That individual, currently, only pays 30 percent of their income toward rent. In the project that I'm familiar with, we have individuals who pay as little as \$30 a month for their rent, now that still represents 30 percent of their income, but do those individuals then receive a proportion of the property tax relief, if they're available, based on their living in that, currently, what is already subsidized by the federal government, in other cases local housing authorities. Do they receive the benefit of this amendment? I don't know. There are some other things in here with regard to the appeal process, determinations