

highest bracket would increase from 6.92 to 7.92, and you can see, the first bracket, the first four brackets would be the same as they are under 1059 as they are. And you can see that the whole idea is to build some progressivity into the system. The rates would then go on the brackets from 2.37, increase to 3.62, to 5.62, to 6.92, and then instead of in the highest bracket remaining at 6.92 percent, as the 1059 in its present form would do, it would increase the bracket to 7.92, a fairly modest increase. The advantage of it is that the resulting 1 percent increase, if you look at the bar graph at the top, would produce and generate approximately 10 to 12 million dollars more in revenue for the state, and we have already been talking about a shortfall in funding this whole thing. We are talking about bills that have been passed and added, amendments to the budget bill that have increased spending. This would put 10 to 12 million dollars in the General Fund, and it would do so by requiring that the very wealthy, those over \$90,000, those married couples filing jointly with an income of \$90,000 plus, AGI of \$90,000 plus, would have to pay their proportionate share. They would be in a higher bracket than the 45 to 90 thousand dollar taxpayers who are married and filing jointly. They would have a different rate. There is a simplicity to the amendment. There is an advantage to the amendment. I think it is worthy of consideration. It would rectify some of the inequities that were in that system when we passed 773. It would make the upper bracket pay their proportionate share. It would have the benefit of generating 10 to 12 million dollars of additional income, and with the revenue shortfalls we are getting from the forecasting board and from the amount of spending and things that we have passed in the budget, from the concerns people have about whether we are going to be able to fund this property tax relief package, this would be a welcome addition, and I think a fair addition to it, and I would hope and urge that you would adopt this amendment.

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

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I don't know exactly where to start on this amendment. I will have a couple of questions in a minute. I was disappointed when Senator Schmit withdrew his amendment a little while ago. I had something really profound to say about lids, and before I even got a chance to talk, he took it away, but this bill is fast becoming a strange bill because we have talked, again, all day