

What this amendment, basically, does, and there has been a lot of discussion on the side in the last few days about the bill, is that it includes a 4 percent lid, if you will, on all political subdivisions, not just the educational school boards and districts as we have been talking about in LB 1059. By having such a provision, there has been charges levied in some circles that there is the possibility that we may take care of the educational financing situation, put a lid on them at that point in time. There is that potential, and I do say potential, of other political subdivisions through the increases in their budgets that may come down over this course and over this transitional period that we are trying to work this thing in that, theoretically, they could eat up some of that property tax relief that we are all asking for, hoping for, and believe that we have planned for. And so, basically, this simply imposes that 4 percent lid on other subdivisions who also...and this is against their receipts, and there is a 4 percent locked-in provision with a 5 percent possibility, or an additional 1 percent by a two-thirds majority of the voting members of that board. And then, additionally, within the amendment, it also has a provision that the voters in any given situation that may be unique or may be the desire of that community, or may be a Lexington, as we have used Lexington as an example, the voters then may go to the polls, and with a simple majority set that budget level higher than the lid that is being imposed via this particular proposal. So, basically, again, I don't think it has been used yet this year, what is good for the goose is good for the gander, and I think it is a situation that if we are going to put these kinds of constraints on the educational community, that probably all of the political subdivisions should be treated literally the same way in terms of trying to hold down on any increases that we may have in our property tax burden, when, in fact, one of the main thrusts that we are hoping for within LB 1059 is to reduce that property tax burden. So, with that, I offer the amendment.

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

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Mr. President, and members, we are winding down to the end of our debate on LB 1059, hopefully, and the Conway amendment offers the body an option. I sincerely hope the members of the Legislature listen and look as to just what exactly this amendment is talking about. It is talking about placing a lid for two years, Senator Conway, there is a two-year