

merchants are willing to give up part of their collection allowance. And the latest figures I received on that, they tell me that it costs about 3.40...just about 3.5 percent to collect this collection amount. I believe that this amendment is fair and reasonable. I'm not positive that \$41 tax credit is the correct amount but I believe it's in that vicinity. If some of you think it should be a little more, we could raise it. If some of you think it should be a little less, we could drop it. But this amendment does provide the \$90 million to local government so that they do not have to add it onto property tax. Another thing we could do, you know, folks, we could spend a little less money in government but it seems like nobody talks about that, like with our state budget, we're increasing that. Local governments are increasing their budgets. I know we've tried to put some lids on but they just don't seem to work. If you have any questions, I would be pleased to try to answer them.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Speaking order, I have, Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBODD: Mr. President, I would like to give my time to Senator Hall.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I appreciate the time, Senator Abboud. Just to update you where we're at, since Senator Schellpeper agreed to withdraw his amendment, we currently have had the Schimek-Rasmussen amendment withdrawn. It's my understanding, from talking to the other introducers, Senator Wehrbein, who had three different amendments, Senator Moore, who had three different amendments, and Senator Dierks who had an amendment, that they would be willing to withdraw their amendments, take a look at what the replacement revenue would be to cover the utility sales tax that was replaced by the portion of the Lamb amendment and address those...their concerns, possibly run those same amendments on Select File. They reserved those rights, but would agree to withdraw so that we could get to discussion of the packages that exist currently and, hopefully, advance this bill today so we can move on to other things. My concern for wanting to advance this bill is that I think that if we continue to look at these various options, we could spend a couple more days on that. We are going to be coming up again to Select File and the budget where