

any class. The purpose of that is that we all know that it's difficult, it's not impossible by any means, but it is difficult to get 30 votes. It's a little bit easier to get 25. So in order to obtain an exemption, any special interest would really have to do their homework, would really have to show us a valid policy reason for exempting them from taxation. I should make it clear for the record, for the legislative history, this is not intended certainly to apply to those exemptions that are in place. Those have been passed. I realize that politically speaking this, we couldn't get this attached to the bill, or excuse me, to the amendment, nor could the amendment get passed if it were to apply retroactively. It applies to exemptions that are granted by this body prospectively. But I think it's important when we do, when we amend the Constitution, when we strip away rights that we can't take away from people that only they can take away from themselves, when we do that we should provide them with some minimum protection, something that they can look back on and say, well, at least I'll have that to protect my rights. So with that I would offer for your consideration whether we should enhance. I prefer to look at it not from increasing how many votes are required, I prefer to look at it as decreasing, just not as much. What we're doing is we've got a constitutional amendment right now that says we can't do it unless we submit that to a vote of the people and what we're doing is just, what my amendment would seek to do is just to reduce how far we're going with that. We're not going all the way from vote of the people all the way down to 25 votes, we're going vote of the people back to three-fifths majority of the body. So that's the way I prefer to look at it, that we're just not going to eliminate that right quite as much. So with that, I would urge the adoption of the amendment. Be happy to try to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. The speaking order is Senator Withem, Hall, Moore and Chambers. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, I, as a co-author of the amendment, rise in support. I think what... Senator Warner's remarks were excellent on behalf of his amendment and I hope he would think they would be applicable in this case also, that we have lived with this, the uniformity clause, applicable at least in theory to personal property for a tremendous number of years here in this state. We are amending the Constitution so that the Legislature will be able to grant exemptions, future exemptions in the area of personal property.