

this language, it is moved to the back end of the constitutional amendment. We create a new section, Section 13 of Article VIII, and make sure that this language modifies everything in the constitutional amendment. It is really nothing more than a technical amendment that folks from the Governor's Office feel is an appropriate way to deal with that. Senator Wickersham had concerns about it so we drafted the amendment. He is probably more the author than I. I just had agreed to, as I guess one who has been labeled as an opponent of the proposal but brought it out of committee said that we will try to put it in whatever form is most appropriate so that it is as technically correct as it can be. And that is what this amendment does. It shifts some language around so that it just modifies the entire sections of Article VIII of the Constitution that deals with the state's ability to raise the necessary revenue clause that currently is in there. With that, I apologize that it is not here. I did not think we would get to this amendment that soon. It will be coming shortly. If there is something else, Mr. Clerk, maybe it would be better if we waited. There is nothing else. I guess we will wait, and if Senator Wickersham would like the balance of the opening, he could probably mumble as well as I, or maybe better, but it is something that the administration feels is necessary in order to not leave any holes in the constitutional amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator Hall has begun the explanation. What we have are really three sentences of general application. If you look in the Enrollment and Review version of LR 1CA, you will see the sentences that are the problem. You can look on page 2, and it would be line 3, 4, and at line 5 through the period. The sentence is, "The necessary revenue of the state and its governmental subdivisions shall be raised by taxation in such manner as the Legislature may direct." And then on page 3, at lines 2, 3, and 4, you will see two additional sentences of general application. "Taxes other than property taxes may be authorized by law. Existing revenue laws shall continue in effect until changed by the Legislature." Those are, obviously, sentences of general application, but as they are phrased in that section, they do not become sentences of general application. They are limited to use in Section 1 by a preceding sentence. So the clean way to do it is to move those sentences of general application into their own separate section so that there is no concern as to whether or not they