

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. This is the amendment, it did come down from Bill Drafter's, 50 copies are being prepared and they will be handed out. It is AM071. What it would do is what I had mentioned. It takes and strikes the language that deals with the necessary revenue of the state and its governmental subdivisions shall be raised by taxation, and it strikes it in other places in the constitutional amendment that it shows up within Article VIII, and what it does, this proposal, this amendment would create a new section of Article VIII. It would be Section 13, and it would read like this. It would read that, "The necessary revenue of the state and its governmental subdivisions shall be raised by taxation in such manner as the Legislature may direct. Taxes other than property taxes may be authorized by law. Existing revenue laws shall continue in effect until changed by the Legislature." It is three sentences that would, in essence, be taken as a whole to modify the entire Article VIII of the Constitution. So rather than place each of these, which had been done in the past, at least in the areas where it was felt necessary throughout the different sections of Article VIII, what is done here is we create a new Section 13. There are currently 12 sections, and the language would be in that place and would modify the entire provision of Article VIII. That is the intent and there would not be a need to repeat it a number of times and wonder if it was not repeated in the proper place that it was not applicable. So to solve that problem, ease the mind, it does not change the intent at all of what the original drafts had in place, or what the, frankly, the present Constitution has in place. All it does is make sure that no gaps are left and that it is clear what the intent of the...or the application would be in terms of any interpretation. I would urge adoption of the amendment. It is strictly just technical. It does contain no substantive change and I would relinquish the balance of the time to Senator Wickersham.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wickersham, do you wish the balance of Senator Hall's opening?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you. Just very briefly, again, the emphasis here is that the three sentences being moved, are obviously sentences of general application. The reason that they are being moved is to make clear that they are of general