

administrative fee from those cities which have implemented the local option sales tax. This amount is levied locally and should be retained locally. There's a handout on your desks that lists some of the unfunded mandates that my home city of Columbus is dealing with, and I realize that some of these are federal. One fact remains the same--the local subdivisions have no money to carry out the requirements of these mandates. In fact, one of my constituent communities have had a 779 percent increase in the cost of mandated water testing between 1985 and 1992. I can repeat that. That was a 779 percent increase in the cost of mandated water testing between 1985 and 1992. In reviewing the testimony on LB 613, unfunded mandates came through again and again. We have to stop telling local groups what they have to do without funding for the same. The sunset on the property taxes was due to expire July 1st, however, this bill today eliminates the sunset. My amendment is a simple attempt to bring some relief to local governing boards. After all, it is the people in these local cities that pay this sales tax so I believe it should go back to...it should be go back...most of it should go back to them. The fiscal note on this amendment estimates that the municipalities would see an increase of 1,147,000 dollars in fiscal year 1995-96 and more for the following year. That's a little bit something like community betterment I would think. I'd really also be interested in the true cost to the state to administer this collection. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd just be happy to answer any questions and I urge the body to adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Warner, you had filed a notice up here.

SENATOR WARNER: Yeah. Mr. President, I would raise the...I rise to raise the issue of germaneness of the proposed amendment which deals, as indicated, with the percentage that the state holds for the collection of the sales tax. The bill, of course, deals solely with the permitted increases in local governments' budgets, as well as...or property tax authorization of that budget and I do not believe the amendment would be germane to this particular bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Warner, thank you. With the advance notice up here I did have an opportunity to look at the contents of the amendment and of the contents of the committee amendment, which...which becom...upon adoption will become the bill. It is another one of those gray areas, quite frankly. It's one where