

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, we get the bill out of the Revenue Committee and I think... I think what we're talking about today is the thing that's bothering most people as far as real estate are concerned, and I agree with what Senator Withem said that Lb 1059 is becoming stagnant, but I don't really think it makes any difference whether you pass Senator Withem's amendment or whether it goes back to Senator McKenzie, because I really... I really don't think we have much of a lid on schools because there are ways to get around the lid. Now you may... and you can probably... maybe you can justify all of them, but I talked to Department of Education and I asked them, now, what's exempt for the lid or what can you move over to property tax? And that's what we're talking about, property. The cities' and the counties' lids are on property tax. The schools' is on budget and there's a big difference, folks, and I'm not saying it's wrong but there is a big difference. For example, if... if you lose 150,000 dollars on state aid you can move that over to property tax. I had two school districts do that, one lost 254,000, their property taxes went up 15 percent last year. I had another one that... I think it was 170,000 dollars. Theirs went up 16 percent. In addition to that I was told that if your cash balance goes down, your cash balance goes down, say your cash balance was 750,000 and went down to 200... say it went down to 500,000, you could take that 250,000 dollar, raise it in property tax, raise it in property tax. And then there are federal programs. I was told that if your... the money that you receive from Chapter I goes down, money that we receive from Chapter I goes down you can move it over to property tax. So you're taking money out of the General Fund to support a federal program. Likewise, they mention Chapter II, which is not very much money, and they also said Title VI-B in special education programs below age five, if those go down you can make up the difference by property tax. I think impact aid was mentioned, the CIR ruling. Also, I was told that if the money you receive from county fines and licenses go down that can be moved over to property tax. The money that you receive from state apportionment, if that happens to go down you can raise that mon... you can receive what you got from the preceding year by moving that to property tax. And in lieu of school lands, also the insurance premium tax, if those go down you can go back to the level you had the year before but you move it over to property tax. Now do you see what I'm saying? When you... either way, it really doesn't make much difference 'cause the schools are going to get... they're going