

property tax by 12 percent; last year they increased it 16 percent. Both of those figures do not include the increase in valuation. And I know, with the tax study coming up, the main reason I brought this is that I think that it's incumbent upon us to take a good look at what's outside of the lids for school districts because communities cannot...it may be three or four more years before we...if we do get a reduction or a lid on property tax. I think it's...I think we have to take a look at this, it's too high, communities cannot stand those increases. And I know some schools don't have that but most of them, if you check the increase in property tax, probably about the lowest ones are 7 or 8 percent, and I think that it's...I think this is something that we should take seriously. I think the Education Committee is going to have to take a good look at the things that we place outside of the lid for school districts. And with the...with all the talk we have about reducing property taxes. Now I say 6 percent. Well, I doubt very much if there will be many school districts that will...won't increase their property tax more than that. And I want you to know I have...I have amendments in front of me that would go from 6 percent to 7 percent to 8 percent to 9 percent. And I know that the people that are here present that we would not pass any of these. The reason I'm bringing it here is to focus in on the things that are outside of the lid for school districts, and we know that school districts is the subdivision that takes the most property tax. So, with that, I will withdraw the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Robinson. It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Robinson. AM2391, Senator. Pull that? Thank you. Senator McKenzie would move to amend. (AM2017 appears on page 2582 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator McKenzie, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President, and members, the amendment is before you, AM2017. And I offer this just to make some statements related to the concerns that we heard in the first round of debate about when we're asking schools to make tough decisions about their budgets, that often we see things happen similar to what happens when we attempt to cut an agency's budget, that a district will identify key programs, band uniforms, the art program, music, other areas, rather than