

permits, on a limited basis, different tax rates in the cooperative efforts or the consolidations, recognizing that that is one of the obstacles always for any merger, consolidation or cooperative type program. And the different tax rates are limited to the...specifically limited and must be related to that merger, consolidation, or cooperative effort. Strikes from the constitution references to townships, although townships, as has been indicated a number of times, continue to exist by statute. Then the amendment that we just discussed that deals with motor vehicle taxes, so that the distribution of those funds could be different than that currently required by the constitutional amendment but would continue to be distributed to cities, counties, and schools. And then finally, the last portion of the amendment does provide the Legislature authority where the current constitution exempts any government-owned property, government-owned property from taxation, it would limit that complete, absolute exemption to the extent the property was used for public purposes. But it would permit the Legislature, in other instances where the property is not used exclusively for a public purpose or is rented, to either...well, they'll first classify for purpose of taxation and/or in lieu of taxes for those kinds of situations. With that, Mr. President, I'd ask that LR 292CA be advanced...committee amendments be adopted, back up.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Question is, shall the committee amendments be adopted to LR 292CA? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Committee amendments are adopted. Mr...Senator Warner, you would, at this point, be authorized to open on the bill itself, but the committee amendments have become the bill, so we are waiving off opening. Anything filed on the bill?

CLERK: Nothing on the resolution, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: We're considering the amendment to advance LR 292CA to E & R Initial. Senator Warner, you are recognized to close. Closing is waived. So the question before the body is, shall LR 292CA be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor