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SENATOR REDFIELD: Certainly.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Redfield, as it stands right now, without your amendment, is it true that the Legislature can classify what portion of property would be exempt based on the income of an individual?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Yes. We can differentiate on the value of the house and the income level of the person or disability, but we can't differentiate between voter approved or nonvoter approved. We have to pay...focus on the whole levy.

SPEAKER BROMM: Okay. So the primary intent of the amendment is to allow us to differentiate where you have voter approved levies or voter approved, like, bond issues, as opposed to levies that are imposed by the governing body. Okay. It's...I certainly give you and give the Revenue Committee credit for the idea and the suggestion. I think the homestead exemption, as it stands right now, is somewhat confusing to many people. I've had, in the past, a number of constituents who have contacted me in an effort to understand the homestead exemption. I tend to think, for a couple of reasons, that the options we have now are pretty sufficient. The adjustments that we could make for income, for disability, for valuation give us some tools that, if we can't afford to put as much money into the homestead exemption as we have in the past, that we can make some adjustments. Now, many, many states, as Senator Raikes was alluding to, do provide some assistance for the basic building structure and I can tell you there's a great disparity in this state between facilities that are available to some school districts and those that are available to other school districts. And in many cases, I feel, I don't have a scientific study on this, but I feel that in many cases those districts that have a fair number of people that do qualify for homestead exemption are the same districts that don't have the "Cadillac" facilities. And so I'm not...we're in tough times now and I don't think we're going to increase that homestead exemption and we may, in fact, have to do something at some point if this continues to look at that, at what we're doing now, and perhaps even reduce it. But I'm not sure I want to go the route of laying the groundwork for the state participating even less to