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FLOOR DEBATE

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Appropriation Committee member, I think that means downsized from where they are. My best guess is this is how we would proceed. We're going to divide the question into three, and that will be the Revenue Committee amendments. From there, most of the amendments that exist are relevant to the sales tax section, which I would put first so that we can get to those pieces, but that Senator Beutler's motion is a priority motion and we'll go to the motion to take up at a later time, so that will be the indicator from the body as to whether or not we have overjudged the desire for a tax cut, underjudged it, or whatever, and we'll get a feeling for whether or not we have...we have an amount of tax cut that fits the desire for the body to do it at this time. That having been said, I think the motion is to...there will be a motion to...or a request to divide the question. I will start describing, however, the whole package and I'll start with what I think we would take up first if we do divide it, and that's the exemption of the sales tax on construction. We now, as you know, tax some construction labor. We do it for commercial and we do it for residential. There is some argument that the mechanism is difficult to interpret and that it falls hard on areas that have a desire to refurbish their housing stock. The committee amendment in Section 2 exempts construction services on dwellings designed for one or two families, beginning October 1, 2006, and at a later amendment we'll change that, hopefully, to July 1, and the reason you want to change the date is to make sure that we don't have people putting off their construction to wait for the date when it is not taxable, as opposed to doing it now when it could be done. The industry would like that moved July 1, and we certainly concur. It's in a later amendment. The construction labor performed on an owner-occupied condominium unit is also tax exempt; however, in that situation, because it's harder to administer, what you'll do is you'll pay the taxes and then you'll apply for a refund beginning October 1, 2006. Our desire here is to have the construction service provider be able to drive up, look at a facility and know whether they should apply the tax or not. If it's a single family house, they will know that it's not taxed. If it's a duplex, they'll know it's not taxed. If they drive up to Trenridge Apartments, with 400 units, it will be taxed. If they drive up to a condominium, it will be taxed and that owner occupier will later be able to get