

strike the reference to townships in the constitution, would not...would not eliminate those, you could continue to have them by statute, but the constitutional restriction that we currently have would be removed. Then there is another section, bills have been introduced a number of times in recent years relative to the taxation of motor vehicles. Current statute provides that those funds, if they are collected, and we can by constitution tax motor vehicles differently than other property, but all the funds are to be distributed proportionately to all governmental subdivisions to have some source...some ability to assess property where the automobile is located. This would change this concept so that those funds would only be distributed to cities and counties and schools, and there is legislation pending that was advanced by the committee which will not be taken up this year, but it demonstrates how that concept could be used. And, finally, there is another provision relative to the constitution that affects publicly owned property. Currently, the constitution has absolute exemption for government property and the change would...that is an absolute exemption from property tax and it would be changed that that absolute exemption would only extend to property that is used for public purposes and then would permit the Legislature to classify and exempt from...some classes from taxation or to impose an in lieu of tax, of property taxes, in other cases, and that merge...that provision comes from a number of bills, actually, that we've had in recent years that has proposed some kind of in lieu of tax or tax authority on public properties that could be imposed by the Legislature if it chose to do so. Basically, we would be thinking though, primarily, of public property that is being used for, not for a public purpose, but rather leased or rented by a private entity in a profit-making venture in which currently no support the cost of local government services are being provided because of that property, but it would merely permit the Legislature to look at that issue. That's the provisions that are in the constitutional amendment. Again, this becomes a vehicle that I believe will be necessary in order to meet some of the changes that are envisioned in this whole concept of restructuring and encouraging cooperative efforts between local governments, all designed to become more cost effective in providing those public services and, hopefully, in fact reduce the cost as well.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Mr. Clerk, I understand there is an amendment to the committee amendments.