

how it was arrived at, how many homes we are talking about, I am really not comfortable spending that extra 6 to 8 million dollars. The bill, as Senator Labeledz has it designed now, and the bill as brought in by the Governor pushes us over if you take the state appropriations in the state budget, not counting the 75 million that Senator Vickers added, but if you take the basic budget bills and you add Senator Labeledz's and the Governor's proposal, you have pushed us over a seven percent increase. Now if we are going to do that, and I am not uncomfortable with that, but if we are going to do that, I would like the documentation on the home values to say that, in fact, all we are doing is keeping up with reevaluation. If we are adding a whole new class of people or a whole new group of people, by raising to 40,000, I would like to know that before I make that decision. Therefore, at this time I would be more comfortable going with a more conservative approach that Senator Newell suggests, looking at it in terms of 32,500...or 32,000 as the valuation. Then if Senator Labeledz can bring in the documentation to indicate that all we are doing is keeping up with the reevaluation, then we could raise that 32,000 up. But the bill as is forces us over the seven percent level that seemed to be the general agreement and I think that before we do that we better have some firm figures and some thorough analysis that, in fact, it is only because of the reevaluation that we are doing this and not just that we are adding a whole new group of people into the homestead exemption. So I support Senator Newell's amendment. I think it is the more cautious and prudent approach. We will have a chance to consider on Select File the opportunity to raise that 32,000 to a higher figure, but I think we should be very careful about making a jump of 15,000 from 25 to 40 thousand. I think that is a little high at this time given the lack of information from the Governor's office, Senator Labeledz, as to how many homes we are really talking about.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Fowler raised a number of questions, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I think I can help to answer several of those. As many of you know, I was very interested in this problem concerning the homestead exemptions over the interim period and became very concerned with property reevaluations across the state, what impact that had on homestead exemptions for our older citizens because of the \$25,000 limit. Well, I sent a survey to county assessors across the state and asked them a number of