

taxes and we're going to spend this money. I just...I don't understand it, I don't like it and I urge you to vote red on this issue. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Warner, for the time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, you have about a minute of your time, if you wish to add to the closing. Very well. The motion is the adoption of the Appropriations Committee amendment in regard to Section 5 at the very top of your handout on page 1. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We're voting on the question that has been divided out of this total sheet on Agency 03, Legislative Council. Please record your vote on the motion to adopt the Appropriations Committee amendment. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of that portion of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The divided question portion, Section 5, is adopted as an amendment to the committee...the call of the house is raised. And we proceed next to the next divided question which is the homestead exemption portion of Agency 16 on page 4 of your handout, Department of Revenue, number 108, reimbursement to local governments. That question is taken up. Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I don't want to talk long on this, of course, but I want to bring it to your attention of something that has bothered me for several years and that is the funding of the homestead exemption. Whatever the homestead exemption portion we leave in the statutes, we should either say to the counties, we're going to do this and fund it or we're going to do away with it and I don't think it is right for us and we've been doing this for several years with various stages of homestead exemption and that is to say to the counties, you do this and exempt a certain amount and we'll pay you for this and then it comes time to pay it and we don't do it and we're doing it again. We actually owe this money and it should be paid to the counties. If we don't want to pay it, then we should change the situation so that we're saying to the counties, don't do this and we won't pay you, but what we're doing now is to say, you do this and we'll pay you, then when it comes time we don't pay it. Now I think that we ought to leave this in the amount, but I