

we rush into an asset test on homestead exemptions please give us the opportunity to very carefully study the issue, to work out the parameters, to work out the application process, to work out the confidentiality and privacy rules, to protect our elderly citizens and our disabled citizens from incredible encroachments upon their privacy. For that, again, I stand in opposition to Senator Hefner's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Question.

PRESIDENT: I think...thank you for the motion. I think there are no other speakers. I will ask Senator Hefner to close.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I didn't think that this would involve this much debate. But I think the debate has been good. And what this is is a limitation on homestead exemptions. I hope that Senator Pappas is listening because I mentioned it several times in my opening that this would exempt the residence that you are in. So, Senator Pappas, this means that you would not value the home that you live in for this asset test. The county officials support this amendment. The League of Municipalities are supporting it. And what we would do is those people that had assets over \$75,000, excluding their residence, they would not be eligible for the homestead exemption money or credit. I believe that 95 to 99 percent of the people comply with a voluntary system. I don't think that we have to go into all this asset test because when we are...we assess ourselves on personal property we go ahead and sign this oath. When we pay our income tax we sign this oath. And I feel that most of the people will be honest when they sign this. And after we have this in effect we can take another look at it. On Senator Labeledz's partial ownership, I think Senator Ray Lundy explained that very good. If they own some other property they would only use that portion that they own to consider in their asset level. But I truly believe that we need this Homestead Exemption Act for those that need it, for the truly needy. If we don't put some limitations on this then we are going to have to drop the exemption amount down. Right at the present time is at 35,000. We'd have to drop it down perhaps to 30,000 or maybe even 25,000 because we are just not going to have the money to pick up all these expenses. Therefore, I would urge you to vote for this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The motion is the adoption of the Hefner amendment