

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Johnson. We'll proceed to vote on the Johnson amendment. All those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote nay. Voting aye, Mr. Clerk. Following the disposition of this amendment we will go to Senator Smith's amendment, and that is the last one on the bill. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: The amendment is adopted. Senator Smith, on your amendment to LB 1258. (Smith amendment appears on page 1877 of the Journal.)

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment would remove Sections 9 and 10 from LB 1258, which provides for 90 percent reimbursement from the state rather than 100 percent, as it is currently. This amendment would retain the 100 percent reimbursement from the state. There are those who will say that this change would make the homestead exemption program similar to other state local programs that require cost sharing as an incentive for better local administration and enforcement. But Sections 9 and 10, requiring 10 percent cost sharing of the program, would in fact require the counties to absorb the cost of the remaining balance not funded by the state. Then this could only be construed to be paid in one way, and that is to be paid out of the pockets of other taxpayers. So this then becomes nothing more than just a property tax increase for other homeowners. And you and I both know what we've all been hearing from our districts about property taxes and property tax increases. Let's not renege on something that was put into legislation. At this point I'd like to see us maintain the 100 percent. And then, after we conduct the study, make what kinds of changes we think we should see at that time. I urge your support for this amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Johnson is the only light. Senator Johnson. Then if there are no further lights Senator Smith to close.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Smith's points are well taken. We all understand precisely what the 90-10 language of LB 1258 means. It does mean that this next year the Nebraska...the State of Nebraska shall be responsible for only 90 percent of the cost of the