

provide the service and at the same time relieve the local taxpayer of the funding responsibility from property taxes for that service. Senator Abboud said that the homestead exemption in his point of view was the most important form of property tax relief, the most direct form and the most viable form. Senator Abboud is absolutely correct. It is the most appropriate form of property tax relief. It is the most direct form and it is...but it doesn't turn out to be the most viable form. If it was viable, we would have funded it. But it wasn't viable enough for us to fund. So it turns out to be a somewhat more moribund form of property tax relief in this body. Senator Lundy wanted me to point out, which I will do, that under the general homestead exemption relief does go to homeowners but relief does not go to home occupants, meaning renters. Renters now occupy about one-third of our state's population. So there is always an imperfection in any homestead law because homestead laws are targeted to homeowners and not to renters. The truth of the matter is we can discuss the homestead exemption for a long period of time but it appears that we are not able financially to fund it and accordingly the time has probably come...the time has come. I shouldn't say probably, the time has come for us simply to take this law which is unfunded off of our books so we don't confuse further citizens, further assessors and so that we start the...wipe the slate clean for next session. And with that I would ask that LB 6E be advanced.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, the motion is the advancement of LB 6 to E & R Initial. 25 votes required. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record vote has been requested. Please vote. Have you all had an opportunity to vote? I am about to record. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Read the record vote as found on page 50 of the Legislative Journal.) 31 ayes, 9 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance LB 6.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The bill advances. Do you have further matters to read in, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have notice of hearing, a notice by Senator Warner that members of the Appropriations Committee will be meeting beginning one-half hour after adjournment today in Room 1003 to answer questions regarding proposed budget reductions. That is Appropriations one-half hour