

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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I'm asking you to put it in the form that I'd like to offer to the body, and then vote your conscience, one way or the other. But, if you would, I hope that you would consider allowing the bill to be put in the form that I, as the introducer, want it to be in when I come to you and ask you for these changes. Now, why would I ask you to raise cigarette taxes 30 cents? Something, by the way, that I've never done in 21 years of being in the Legislature. I've voted for some cigarette tax increases, I've not voted for others. They've been on the low end, some 2 cents, or 3 cents, or 5 cents. They've been tax increases for the purposes of raising revenue to spend for a specific program. This is not. This is raising the taxes for deterring a kind of behavior which is incredibly costly to our society, and incredibly costly to our families, incredibly costly to us as a people, and that is the addiction of 13, 14, 15, and 16-year-old children, children who are not exercising personal freedom, like adults do, but children who are susceptible to ideas such as, it's cool, Joe Camel smokes, so do I, or ideas as well thought out as, this will make my parents angry, so I'm going to do this to make my parents angry. Don't worry, they'll find another way to make their parents angry, I'm sure that's the case. Raising cigarette taxes influences consumption. If you've seen any data of the last 25 years, you'll see that that's the case. If you were downstairs at either the breakfast or the lunch, you'll see that that's the case. If you check the Tobacco Institute's numbers, you'll see that's the case--price goes up, consumption goes down, consumption goes down among the youth in particular. In the nineties, just as adults have been kicking the habit, youth have gone up, youth have gone up. Why? Well, because of the advertising programs of tobacco industry and, frankly, some kind of social allure to the whole thing.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: What I want to say is this, there are reasons to vote against the bill. You may consider border bleeding a good case. Truth of the matter is you have to ignore most of the data that's out there if you want to believe that border bleeding is a big case. You may also point to the fact that we are hurting adult personal freedom exercising smokers. And there is some truth to that. What is not true is that this will