

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 23, 2003 LB 759

compromise. And being as they haven't been raised since, I think, 1991, it's time. It's time that we do raise those, especially in the difficult years that lie ahead us. We're probably be going to look at other items also. So for the time being, it's not a bad deal for those in the alcohol business. After all, those taxes, there again, are passed on to our constituents, those consumers of those products. So I don't think there's going to be any less of those products sold because of the few cents on the gallonage amounts of this bill. With that, thank you, and I hope you vote for this portion of the amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. This is moderate. This is a tax increase, though. I mean, it's not something that we do lightly. I don't like this part of the bill, but I think that it's part of what we have to do. We talk to the construction repair industry, and they say, why tax us? And we talk to the cigarette smokers from last year, why tax just us? This spreads it around. It hasn't been raised in quite a while. And I think it is a moderate increase. There was opposition, but it wasn't strident opposition. This is a tax, and it is an increase, but I think it's something that we have do to keep it so that we don't have to raise other rates too high, so we don't have to have the tax all in one sector. I think that this is agreeable, and I would urge your acceptance of this amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I heartily endorse Senator Brashear's proposal to increase the tax on alcoholic beverages. If anything, it's probably not enough. But this works. My calculations are, if you get 12 cans of beer out of a gallon of beer, the tax will be about two and a half cents a can on beer. Now, if we put a sales tax on pop, and you go to a machine that's selling a 12-ounce can of pop for 75 cents, your tax on that can of pop would be about four cents. So that means we're taxing pop more than we would be beer, if that would become the outcome of this bill. It looks to me like