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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 283

committee amendments to LB 283.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature. The bill originally had about \$10 million per year in it, and it had about a 50 percent or more increase in the taxes. When it came time to have the hearing and to set the actions of the committee, certainly in consultation with members of the lobby, we made that about a 25 percent increase. In fact, the liquor taxes haven't gone up since the mid-eighties. The amounts that I read to you, which is the 6-cent increase for beer, the 20-cent increase for wine, the 75-cent increase for spirits, are the committee amendments. I would ask for their adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments. Senator Maxwell, followed by Senator Brashear.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I have more general comments, not on the committee amendment or anything else specific to the bill. I think I saw Senator Landis refer to this as show and tell day today in the Legislature. I got a kick out of that. I think it's going to be one of the most revealing days in my three years here. In my three years in the Legislature, I've heard a lot of rhetoric about how we've got to reevaluate our whole fiscal system, our whole approach to taxing and spending. And it's been...what's the expression...big hat, no cattle. There's been no delivery on that. I can anticipate what we're going to hear today, similar to what we've heard in previous rounds of debate, the doom and gloom, there's no alternative, we've got to trudge down this same path we've gone down the last two years. I just want to remind you, before we pass some point of no return, there is an alternative. We can eliminate funding for state aid to schools in the second year of the budget. That gives us not only a budget that works on paper, but one year to figure out what we should do with K-12 financing. Now, don't worry, I'm not offering my amendment again, not today anyway. I wish I had known something before I ran my amendment that I learned after I ran the amendment. Somebody who was involved in the doings at the time told me, you know, your idea was not beyond the pale; that's exactly what we