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LB 283, 572, 759

that and it drops from 3.4 to 1.85. One point eight five is, in fact, the mathematical place you would be if we were going to do this on an ongoing forward basis to be exactly at hold harmless. We did 1.7 as a rough justice. We cut it in half. In fact, the cigarette tax was 34 cents and we added 30 cents, so it wasn't exactly right, but 1.85 is as close as you can get. Assuming that you've got an ongoing basis at this new higher cigarette tax with the 30 cents in it, this is the right number for wholesalers. It gives them the same amount of money that they've had for the same amount of labor, but it doesn't let them have a windfall and it takes into the General Fund that money. Currently, the rate is 1.7, but if the LB 759 is successful that will jump back up to 3.4. The truth of the matter is that on an ongoing forward basis the number should be 1.85. Now I had filed that amendment to LB 283. It was in the mix and I've talked with some of you about it. But I realize this is the cigarette tax issue and it's the right bill for it. I think it's germane. And what it does essentially is it does the right math, it gives the right amount of money to the cigarette wholesalers, it sort of sharpens up the thinking of the Revenue Committee last year when we did an appropriate thing by making sure there wasn't a windfall, and this is the right place to do it. I would ask for the adoption of AM2098. I'd be happy to explain it, but I'm sure if you ask the members of the Revenue Committee, they can explain to you how this happened. Senator Redfield was critical in that, in fact; Senator Janssen was here, Senator Hartnett, Senator Bourne. So I'm just trying to say this is the right policy on a going forward basis. And in the event LB 759 is successful, this should be the operative term. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I stand in support of the amendment. I remember last year when we did have the 30-cent tax, then we came in at special session and, through an amendment, tried to adjust it down, not knowing exactly what the figure was. I think this brings all that up to date and clarifies it. I would support the amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Landis, I