

but at some point you, obviously, are not going to continue to collect the revenue at the level that is proposed other than by increasing the tax rate on the cigarettes. So I think that the concept ought to be established now that as the revenue declines from the collection of cigarette tax per each one cent of tax that then you should understand that we're going to have to in...we ought to increase then that tax rate in order to cover it. Three cents is enough to cover it now and then as that rate declines we'll have to continue to increase the rate in order to maintain a stable source of revenue for this debt service. In the meantime, of course, the revenue to the state that goes to the General Fund will continue to decline. On these same sheets the General Fund contribution of the cigarette...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...tax for '91-'92 would be about 21 million projected on these sheets by the year 2001 and ought to...12 years it has dropped to 14 million. I don't believe that it is wise to pledge a source of revenue for debt service for local governments that is a declining source of revenue and it can only be adjusted by increasing rates but if that is the policy, then it ought to be understood and tied to the fact that you've got to increase the rate in order to maintain the yield and that can be accomplished initially by accepting Senator Wehrbein's motion to increase the cigarette tax by three cents.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Wehrbein, to close.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I guess, been discussing about whether it would be appropriate to withdraw this and just see what...how it develops. That might be relative to Senator Landis's discussion. I guess I'm inclined not to do that. I think as we go along we've got to realize