

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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the current tax rate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis, I have AM1211 from you, Senator, AM1210, with notes that you wish to withdraw those.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: They're withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis would move to amend the committee amendments with AM1224. (Legislative Journal pages 1409-1414.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. This is on your desk, and it constitutes the form in which I'd like to debate the issue this morning. This is my priority bill, let me tell you the way of the...the structure that I'd like to offer to the body for its up or down vote. I know there are a number of opponents to the bill. I know there are a number of supporters of the bill. What I'd like is I'd like to offer to the Legislature the form of the bill that I support for your consideration. And the form has these elements, number one, a 30 cent tax increase, not a 66 cent tax increase. That tax increase goes...the new money goes this way--24 cents for prevention, 4 cents for new cancer research, 2 cents to the General Fund for the purpose, and this is limited, for the purposes of serving the hold-harmless of all the other ways in which we're using the cigarette tax. If, for example, the lower consumption elsewhere, which this bill will occasion, influences the amount of money that existing claimants for cigarette taxes are getting, the 2 cents to the General Fund will be used to hold-harmless those existing ones. Omaha is now using money, for example, for the Civic Center. This says, look, if the consumption goes down and they get less money, the money for this General Fund will pay theirs. So, 30 cents, 24 cents for prevention, 4 cents for new cancer research, 2 cents to hold-harmless. Lastly, the study...I'm sorry, the sunset, which was set at January 1, 2002, is moved to January 1, 2004. One of the reasons for that is you need a broader amount