

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

April 13, 1999 LB 505

understand, through an educational process, that smoking is bad for them and they need to understand that. So where do we get the money? Well, it's been suggested we get it out of the...the settlement and it's my understanding that may be quite a ways down the road. And how many people are going to be addicted in the meantime? That brings me to the point that I guess I have to admit to, with all the discussion I've heard. It seems like we're down to the point where if we expect to do something about this issue we're going to have to accept the fact we're going to have to increase taxes on cigarettes, because that's where it's coming from. And so, with a lot of discussion, a lot of debate, and a lot of understanding, and certainly I was not very supportive of 66 cents because I do think it would make more...more beneficial to go across the border to get your cigarettes at that rate, but at the rate that Senator Landis has agreed to I think it's doable. I think it's a case where we do need to start this educational process. I am concerned about one thing that Senator Wickersham brought up and that is I would like to see some...some defining of how this money's going to be used. It's another issue I don't want to see just throwing money at it, more money at an issue that won't do any good. So I guess I'd be interested in how this money could be...some definition how this money would be used in an educational manner. And maybe Senator Landis can talk to that. And so, in order not to take up a lot more time, because I'm...many of the things I wanted to say have obviously already been said, I'd like to give the rest of my time to Senator Landis. Maybe he could explain a little bit more to me exactly what he's talking about in the way of education. With that, thank you, Madam Chair, and I give my time to Senator Landis.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Have about a minute and a half, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. Senator Vrtiska, there is a model for education. The model comes from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, as you know, the center that went after the legionnaires' disease, the center that is responsible for responding to outbreaks of contagious diseases. This is a highly prestigious organization. CDC put together what they called a comprehensive program...