

Wyoming Liberty Index

62nd Wyoming Legislature ★ 2014 Budget Session

HB0130, Cigarette taxes.

Sponsors: Representative(s) Davison, Gay, Harvey, Jaggi, McKim and Piiparinen and Senator(s) Cooper and Dockstader

Comments

Increases the cigarette tax by \$.05. The first \$4 million of the increase go to fund anti-smoking propaganda; the remainder to Medicaid. While there might be some justice in using cigarette taxes to fund medicaid, the social engineering of the anti-smoking propaganda is so repulsive that it outweighs whatever minute justice there might be. Further, using cigarette taxes to fund medicaid simply points out one of the many follies of socialized medicine.

R+: It is estimated that this will raise about \$33 million per year. Ah, yes, a nanny-state tax. Michael Bloomberg would approve! This bill takes money out of the economy where it is most likely to be used efficiently and dumps it into government coffers where it may (but not always) be used to provide necessary services, but almost always inefficiently—that's zinger 1. It attempts to manipulate citizen behavior "for their own good" thru the imposition of "sin" taxes—that's zinger 2. It automatically dumps money into the Department of Health for comprehensive tobacco prevention, cessation and treatment programs which guarantees inefficiency—that's zinger 3. MEDICAID must be in financial trouble since this is a back door approach to partially funding it—that's zinger 4.

Weighted Rating: -2.00. Unweighted Rating: 1.00.

Categories

Free Market, Health Care Freedom, Individual Rights, Limited Government, Taxation, and Transparency

For more information on the categories:

<http://wyominglibertyindex.info/2014/methodology.html#thecategories>

Document Status

Final