

HB 2: Alcohol Taxes to Treat Substance Abuse

2008 Budget Session

Sponsor: Select Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

HB 2 would have increased taxes on alcohol sold in Wyoming, and would have transferred all alcohol taxes (including the proposed increase) into the substance abuse account that pays for substance abuse prevention, assessment and treatment programs in Wyoming. The bill would have increased taxes on malt beverages by four and a half cents per liter.

The new taxes would have generated about \$2.4.5 million per year in additional revenue. When coupled with current alcohol revenues, the increase to the substance abuse account would have been about \$14.5 million in 2009 and \$15.8 by 2011.

Supporters of HB 2 noted that the cost to provide substance abuse prevention and treatment programs throughout Wyoming is increasing, and it made sense for revenue generated by the sale of alcohol to be specifically earmarked to pay for those programs.

Opponents argued that alcohol taxes are high enough already, and that responsible drinkers shouldn't be subjected to higher taxes.

HB 2 was not brought up for the vote for introduction in the House, and so died without any recorded vote.