

programs, and I hope that you will keep an open mind about that, and not commit too soon to the alcohol lobby who, there is just a few representatives out behind the glass who are interested in this issue, and they've probably been talking to you, but I'd ask you to kind of keep your powder dry on this issue because I think, in fact, an alcohol tax increase is not unjustified and would be a worthy cause next session, and I'd give the rest of the time to Senator Hall.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. Thank you, Senator Wesely. The proposal that is in LB 741 is a modest tax increase. Frankly, I told the liquor lobby that they should embrace it with two hands, two arms, and on a cold night, I guess, but they ought to take the proposal that is in 741 and run with it because it will be back next year. It will come back probably anywhere from two to four times the increase that is currently in the bill because we will need that money to fund some of the programming in both mental health and substance abuse areas. I understand the industry, my family is in the business. I have friends in the business, some of them very close here today, and I would believe, I think, that the alcohol tax, if you are going to levy it, is one that ought to be earmarked for these kinds of programs. So I would just encourage folks to remember that next year when the increase comes in again, and would concur with Senator Wesely's comments that at this point in time we should lay the bill over and not address it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Is the motion still up there or is it?

SENATOR WESELY: We ask that the motion be withdrawn and that the bill be laid over.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Motion is withdrawn. A request by the introducer to pass over the bill. Any objections? Hearing none, so ordered. Next bill, Mr. Clerk, LB 872E.

CLERK: (Read LB 872 on Final Reading.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 872 pass with the emergency clause attached? Have you all voted?