

March 31, 2003

H 814. INCREASE ALCOHOL EXCISE TAXES. *TO RESTORE THE PREVIOUS RATE OF EXCISE TAX ON LIQUOR; TO ALLOW FOR SALES OF HIGHER-ALCOHOL CONTENT MALT BEVERAGES; TO RAISE BEER AND WINE TAXES; AND TO DIRECT A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THESE TAX INCREASES TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT.* Provides for excise tax of 5.7 cents per 12 ounces on sale of high content malt beverages and increases tax on other malt beverages from 53.177cents to 5 cents. Increases excise tax on liquor sold in ABC stores from 25 to 28%. Raises maximum alcohol content in malt beverages from 6 to 7% and defines high-alcohol content as malt beverage containing more than 6 but not more than 7% alcohol. Adds new GS 105-113.80A to place an additional surtax of 5.7 cents per twelve oz. on sale of high content malt beverages, 5 cents on other malt beverages, 21 cents per liter on sales of unfortified wine, and 24 cents per liter on fortified wine. Surtax is not subject to distribution to the Dep't of Agriculture or local governments. Appropriates \$12,000,000 for 2003-2004 and \$12,000,000 for 2004-2005 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services for substance abuse services. Appropriation effective July 1, 2003; remainder of bill effective Nov. 1, 2003.

Intro. by Luebke, Bordsen, Insko.

Ref. to Finance	GS 18B, 105, APPROP
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