



# NEWS

**AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM**

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## **A Second Attempt to Harm Detroit Businesses**

*-- Senate Majority Leader pushes for casino tax increase --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Michigan State Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-28) wants a higher casino tax as part of the budget for the fiscal year that begins October 1<sup>st</sup>.

This would be the senate's second consideration of the casino tax hike, as it rejected a House-approved casino tax increase earlier this month by a vote of 19-18. The House-approved bill would have doubled the casino tax rate from 18 percent to 36 percent.

**“You would think they would have gotten the message the first time,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“When will the taxation-spree end? The Michigan legislature has already succeeded in raiding taxpayers’ wallets with the recently-passed cigarette tax increase. Now Senator Sikkema and other big spenders in the legislature want to further burden Detroit businesses in an attempt to make up for their lack of fiscal leadership.”**

Detroit businesses and certain members of the legislature have already started speaking out against a possible tax increase, noting that it would cause casinos to fire thousands of employees and prevent businesses from expanding. If a bill similar to the House-approved legislation is passed, Detroit casinos will be the highest taxed in the country.

**“It is common knowledge that taxes hurt businesses,”** continued Norquist. **“An increase in Detroit’s casino tax will severely hurt Detroit businesses and threaten the jobs of Michigan taxpayers. If Senator Sikkema is truly concerned about the people of Michigan, he will not advocate an increase in the casino tax.”**

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jcollegio@atr.org](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).*