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## Fans Protest 'Ticket Tax'

Fans protest a proposed ticket tax on all live events in Michigan.

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[Ticket Tax](#)

From the minors, to the majors; from college sports, to concerts -- all fans could be forced to dig deeper into their pockets.

"The legislature is thinking about a six percent sales tax on all professional sports," Tom Shields of "Fans Against the Ticket Tax" said. "So that means the Tigers, the Red Wings, Minor League Baseball, and also shows like Common Ground."

It's one idea of many suggested by the Governor to increase revenue, but the mere thought of a "ticket tax" has got fans fired up.

"It's a small group trying to fund a whole state, that's not a fair tax, it's a luxury tax," Bill Simonson of the "Huge Show" said Thursday.

"The Huge Show" broadcasted live from the Capitol in opposition, while the group "Fans Against the Ticket Tax" is also crying foul.

"If you paid \$5 for a Lugnuts game, that's only an extra 30 cents, but if you add it up over time... people will either buy less tickets or go to less events," Shields said.

Season tickets at Spartan Stadium actually increased this year, but the associate athletics director said you add on a tax and suddenly it's harder to fill those seats.

"When [fans] budgets are tighter, every expense is scrutinized more and more," Paul Schager, associate athletics director, said. "So obviously it's not something we would like to pass along to our season ticket holders."

Schager said every Michigan college and university would be affected negatively by this tax.

But the governor's office said Thursday to avoid devastating cuts to police, fire and college scholarships -- why not tax tickets?

Shields said because it's unfair to fans.

"Why pick them out to pay more and a larger share of the deficit?" he said. "If they have a budget problem they should deal with it another way."

The ticket tax could generate an estimated \$50 to 100-million a year.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop told us Thursday he would not support the tax.

A conference committee has already voted it down -- but supporters are trying to shoe-horn it into other budget bills.

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