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Cushingberry backs tax on hotels, auto rentals

August 1, 2007

By CHRIS CHRISTOFF FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU CHIEF

EAST LANSING — State Rep. George Cushingberry, chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, said today that he'd support a statewide excise tax on hotels and auto rentals to help pay for state parks and to promote state tourism.

Cushingberry, D-Detroit, said a 1% tax would raise \$15 million, with \$10 million earmarked for state parks and \$5 million for the state agency that promotes tourism. He said the hotel tax would be levied only on transient guests, not those who live in hotels for extended periods.

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He said he would propose the special tax as part of a 2007-08 budget deal, which he said may not be completed by the Legislature until close to the end of the fiscal year Sept. 30.

Cushingberry remarks came during a taping of Michigan Public Television's "Off the Record." He defended his plan to raise the state income tax from the current 3.9% to 4.6% as a "restoration" of the tax before it was cut by previous Gov. John Engler and a Republican-led Legislature during the 1990s.

Cushingberry also said he opposes a ticket tax on entertainment, such as sporting events and concerts, to help balance the state budget.

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rs1441

I am confused. When I said all State Parks should be closed until the State could afford them I was told that the parks pay for themselves and are selfsustaining. Why do we need a tax for the parks then?

Posted: Wed Aug 01, 2007 1:16 pm

ArtC

I think all of you are missing the point. With all of the new taxes for Michigan businesses---they will have to hire more employees to handle the taxing situation. Thus!!!Bejesus!!!Employment in Michigan goes up, we are rich again!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Posted: Wed Aug 01, 2007 12:06 pm

tigertown

What a surprise - a Detroit Democrat calling for HIGHER taxes. More of our hard earned money for the gov'ment to piss away on their own pet projects.

Posted: Wed Aug 01, 2007 11:58 am

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Nick-DeLeeuw

The sad part, Ookie, is that he chairs that committee and if he wants to advance that these giant tax hikes he has the power.

It's only a matter of time before the House Democrats come after your wallet.

--Nick
www.RightMichigan.com

Posted: Wed Aug 01, 2007 11:11 am

Ookie Vick

HB 4852, introduced by Representative Cushingberry, would add another \$1.35 to the current .29 cent 911 phone tax. This tax would be added to every phone you have, both cellular and landlines. This bill has been referred to the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives and let us hope that it remains there.



Posted: Wed Aug 01, 2007 10:45 am

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