

amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beyer, please, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR BEYER: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I, too, rise in support of Senator Sieck's amendment. We all, I think, took a lot of flack at the time we increased it. But if I remember some of the arguments that were used, that it was one way that we could guarantee that the people on the highways, as they got old enough to get their licenses, were going to have at least some knowledge of the driving rules and the fact that they could basically handle a vehicle. I think if we do not...if we do away with the drivers funding and we do not pass this, we've got another hidden tax. I think we are passing too many hidden taxes that benefit the General Fund and not the public. So I think this is one that we should support Senator Sieck's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I appreciate the arguments of those who support the amendment. However, I cannot for the simple reason that the impact is about another \$3 million. If we are going to lose 3 million here, and 3 million in the cigarette tax, maybe 3 million somewhere else, then we will not have solved the problem that Nebraska has. So I would urge that, while there is merit in the argument, that the greater merit lies on the side of necessity which is to retain that current revenue in the state General Fund. So I would urge you to reject the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please, then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, the one thing that I would urge you all to remember, and I think Senator Warner just mentioned it, is that what you are doing if you adopt Senator Sieck's amendment is you are taking money out of the General Fund. The philosophy of whether or not we ought to have cash funds or fees go into the General Fund is another philosophy perhaps that this body should discuss at some point. But for this Special Session, and for the economic problems that we've got right now, regardless of how you feel about drivers education, the fact is I don't see