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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

'Strip club tax' sent to governor

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SPRINGFIELD -- Legislation enacting a "strip club tax" in Illinois was approved by the Illinois House Thursday and sent to Gov. Pat Quinn for his signature.

The bill ([HB 1645](#)) would place a \$3 per person surcharge on the gross receipts of clubs that have live nude dancing and serve alcohol.

The measure would raise an estimated \$2 million a year, said sponsor Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, that would go into the state's Sexual Assault Services and Prevention Fund. Supporters said the fund has endured budget cuts of about 27 percent over the last few years.

The House vote was 92-23 with three others voting "present." Among local lawmakers, Reps. Jason Barickman, R-Champaign; Adam Brown, R-Decatur; and Bill Mitchell, R-Forsyth, voted no. Reps. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, and Naomi Jakobsson, D-Urbana, voted yes. Rep. Chad Hays, R-Catlin, voted "present."

The legislation earlier passed the Senate, 53-0.

Barickman called the program "a very noble cause," but said he was opposed to the tax because it wasn't included in the regular state budget.

"You passed a budget last night that was \$50 million higher than it was the day before," Barickman said of House Democrats, "and so how could you not have found the \$2 million for this?"