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Strip club tax bill awaits Governor Quinn's signature

Lee Klawans

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Strip clubs that sell alcoholic beverages would fall under a proposed new tax bill the Illinois House sent to Governor Pat Quinn today.

Lawmakers overwhelmingly passed the strip club tax 92-23. The money raised by the tax would go to support Illinois rape crisis centers.

Strip clubs have two options to pay under the proposed measure. They would pay based on how much money they take in or by charging a \$3 admission fee. Strip club businesses making \$2 million or more per year would pay a \$25,000 tax, \$500,000 to \$2 million would pay \$15,000, and those making less than \$500,000 a year would pay a \$5,000 tax.

The bill was sponsored by Senate Representative Sara Feigenholtz, a Chicago Democrat. She said, "Funding for rape crisis counseling centers has been cut significantly in recent Illinois budgets. In addition, violent crime is higher in areas near clubs that serve alcohol."

"I feel as though we have found a creative way to help these victims," Feigenholtz said.

Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon praised all involved in negotiations with the strip club industry and voting and support from both Democrats and Republicans in the Illinois House and Senate.

"This is an example of how the process should work. All parties worked together for the good of our state," Simon said.