

Senator Ed Gaunch's (R-Kanawha) amendment raised the tax from a current one-cent per 16.9 ounces to five cents per 16.9 ounces. That increase will raise approximately \$75m per year in West Virginia. The West Virginia School of Medicine will continue to receive the revenue from the first penny of the tax, which equates to \$15m. The additional \$60m will go into the state's general revenue fund. Also included in the Gaunch amendment was increasing the Wholesale Liquor Tax from 28% to 32%, and increasing the Beer Barrel Tax from \$5.50 to \$8. The money raised from this amendment, if passed, would help offset social security tax credits.

In addition to the tax being amended into SB 335, there have been other Sugary Sweetened Beverage Tax bills introduced this legislative session. Senator Ron Stollings (D-Boone) introduced [SB 385](#) and Delegate Joe Ellington (R-Mercer) introduced [HB 3085](#). The two companion bills make the tax one cent per ounce on bottled soft drinks. Proceeds would be distributed as follows: \$20m to the WVU School of Medicine, \$5 to the Marshall University School of Medicine, and \$5 to the West Virginia Osteopathic School of Medicine. The remaining proceeds would be dedicated to the Bureau for Medical Services to help fund services for eligible recipients.

Delegate Linda Longstreh D - Marion was lead sponsor on a bi-partisan bill introduced this week taxing all sugary sweetened beverages one cent per ounce while keeping the funding for the WVU School of Medicine in place and the remaining proceeds going into the General Revenue Fund.

Delegate Sean Hornbuckle D - Cabell also introduced his own version of the pop tax. In his version, of the proceeds gathered, \$18m would go to the WVU School of Medicine, \$5m would go to the Marshall Med School and \$3m would be sent to the Osteopathic School. The remaining money which is estimated at \$55m would be used for annual teacher pay raises.

Since the inception in 1951, the WVU School of Medicine has received the revenue from the tax on all bottled non-alcoholic drinks and drinks derived from powers and syrups.