By: Zaffirini   S.B. No. 1950

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to requiring a nonbinding referendum on the question of

3 whether the cigarette tax should be increased by $1 per pack and

4 whether that increase should be used for certain health and human

5 services programs.

6   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7   SECTION 1. (a) At the general election to be held November

8 4, 2003, the voters shall be permitted to vote in a nonbinding

9 referendum on the question of whether the cigarette tax should be

10 increased by $1 per pack and whether that increase should be used

11 for certain health and human services programs.

12   (b) The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or

13 against the proposition: "The cigarette tax should be increased by

14 $1 per pack and the increase should be used for certain health and

15 human services programs."

16   (c) The proposition shall be printed on the ballot beneath

17 the proposed constitutional amendments under the heading:

18 "Referendum Proposition."

19   (d) Notice of the election shall be given by inclusion of

20 the proposition in the proclamation by the governor ordering the

21 election on the proposed constitutional amendments to the state

22 constitution and in the notice of that election given by each county

23 judge.

24   (e) Returns of the votes cast on the proposition shall be

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1 prepared and canvassed in the same manner as the returns on the

2 proposed constitutional amendments.

3   (f) Immediately after the results of the election are

4 certified by the governor, the secretary of state shall transmit a

5 copy of the certification to the lieutenant governor and the

6 speaker of the house of representatives.

7   (g) It is the legislature's strong intention that, though

8 the legislature has rarely conducted a referendum on matters of

9 statewide importance, the will of the people should be considered

10 given the importance of this particular issue in our state.

11   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.