

# Taxing Recreation?

## Movies, Concerts, Even Amusement Parks

Updated: Saturday, 18 Jul 2009, 7:01 PM EDT  
Published : Saturday, 18 Jul 2009, 7:01 PM EDT

- Marvin Beach

CHARLOTTE - Golf is one of the activities targeted for a seven percent tax increase proposed for the state budget.

Del Ratcliffe says it comes at a bad time as owners are already struggling to keep customers.

"Golf and a lot of other sports like that are purely discretionary spends, it's not something people have to do," Ratcliffe says.

He says with fewer people playing, the state will end up losing more money than they gain.

"We have a total economic impact in this state of 5.3 billion dollars and we employ almost 70,000 people," he says.

Governor Purdue says the tax would raise over 30 million dollars needed to fund public education, public services, and health. But golfers say it's not fair to pick on their favorite sport.

Players like Brian Moebis say the tax could keep them off the course.

"Golf is one avenue that allows people to de-stress from their everyday life and I don't feel a tax on that would be fair," Moebis says.

"Get your buddies together like David and Philippe here, look forward to coming out, but if I see a 7% increase I'm gonna think twice about that," says golfer Connor Gavigan.

"I think for the majority of people, yes it would make them want to play less, it's just an added cost for them to play at this point," adds golfer Danny Schisler.

Ratcliffe says there needs to be another way to find the money to balance the budget.

"We certainly don't want to lose out as far as our schools and fire protection, our police protection and the basic core services we have within government, but at some point we have to start living within our means," he says.

Copyright FOX Charlotte/ WCCB-TV

Advertisement

IT'S NOT ABOUT DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.  
IT'S ABOUT DEGREES OF COMFORT.

Up to **\$1,500** in Federal Tax Credits  
when you purchase a qualifying Trane product.\*

**TraneInfo.com**

\*Visit [www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits).  
See dealer for details.

**TRANE**  
It's Hard To Stop A Trane!