

Start now >

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Myrbetriq® (mirabegron) is not for everyone. Do not use Myrbetriq if you have an allergy to mirabegron or any ingredients in Myrbetriq. Myrbetriq may cause your blood pressure to increase or

Full Prescribing Information



YELLOWHAMMER

- POLITICS
- FAITH AND CULTURE
- BUSINESS
- SPORTS
- YELLOWHAMMER TV
- ABOUT
- CONTACT US!

Alabama liberals revive call for tobacco tax hike

WRITTEN BY [JORDAN LAPORTA](#) ON MARCH 9, 2016 AT 3:17 PM CST



Tobacco Farmers (Photo: Flickr user: vagabondblogger)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Liberal activist group Alabama Arise is calling for a 75-cents-a-pack increase in the state cigarette tax to help fund the Alabama Medicaid Agency.



The Medicaid Agency has requested a \$100 million increase in its General Fund appropriation next year. However, the budget passed by the Alabama Senate would keep Medicaid's General Fund appropriation level at \$685 million. The budget is pending in the State House of Representatives.

Lawmakers say there is no way to meet Medicaid's request, which is more than one-third of the General Fund, without deep cuts to other agencies or [increasing taxes on](#)

[Alabamians for the second year in a row.](#)

Alabama Arise, echoing a recommendation by the Alabama Health Care Improvement Task Force, a panel appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley, says a 75-cent cigarette tax increase would bring in an estimated \$200 million to the General Fund the first year. Last

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

Subscribe

TRENDING ARTICLES



Obama administration asks judge to throw out Alabama's refugee resettlement lawsuit
March 9, 2016



WISH GRANTED: Alabama community stuns 'Make-A-Wish' boy, family with trip of a lifetime
March 9, 2016



Auburn economist: State and local governments should stay out of the Internet business
March 9, 2016



Nick Saban as David Bowie: the chalk drawing you never knew you needed
March 9, 2016

Get the Latest Alabama News

Never Miss the Stories That Matter Again

Sign up

No thanks

Arise claims the money from the new tax hike could be used to provide \$180 million to Medicaid, plus \$20 million to the Department of Mental Health for substance abuse services, according to Arise. The organization also believes that the increased cigarette tax would cause a decline in smoking that would reduce the revenue.

Last February, Yellowhammer News CEO Cliff Sims detailed why he believes cigarette and other [sin taxes do not present a viable long-term solution](#) to budget crises.

"Sin taxes, which are taxes levied on items considered undesirable or harmful, are a favorite tool of liberal politicians looking for a palatable way to prop up big government," Sims said. "They get the revenue they want while avoiding a tax hike on income, property or other areas that could elicit an immediate negative response from the majority of the voting public."

"Outside of the obvious fairness issue, those who think a hike on cigarette taxes could be a long-term cure for Alabama's budget woes should also consider the precipitous decline in cigarette sales over the years," he continued. "As a result of the tax hikes, laws banning smoking, aggressive anti-smoking ad campaigns and polling that indicates Americans no longer consider smoking 'normal behavior,' the U.S. Surgeon General published a 980-page report last year actually predicting an eventual end to smoking in the United States."

[Multiple studies show](#) that as the price of cigarettes, tobacco products, and tobacco replacements increased, sales have decreased—and revenue will decrease right along with it.

"The bottom line is that sin taxes are nothing more than a way for liberal politicians to prop up big government rather than implement real reforms," Sims concluded.



wayfair
UP TO 70% OFF Everything Home

Shop Now

SEARCH

To search type and hit enter

YELLOWHAMMER



ABOUT

Yellowhammer: We know Alabama. We know news.

LATEST TWEETS

Obama administration asks judge to throw out Alabama's refugee resettlement lawsuit <https://t.co/pG0z42qGpr> <https://t.co/twkVzvWGc2>

6 hours ago

WISH GRANTED: Alabama community students 'Make-A-Wish' boy, family with trip of a lifetime <https://t.co/s42Dq2H6O> <https://t.c>



CONTACT US BY MAIL:

Yellowhammer Multimedia
PO Box 1776
Birmingham, AL 35201

Get the Latest Alabama News

Never Miss the Stories That Matter Again

Sign up

No thanks

7 hours ago

POLITICS
FAITH AND CULTURE
BUSINESS
SPORTS
YELLOWHAMMER TV
ABOUT
CONTACT US!

© COPYRIGHT 2016 YELLOWHAMMER MULTIMEDIA
PRIVACY POLICY
WEBSITE BY INDIANAPOLIS WEB DESIGN

