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Neb. Lawmakers Override Veto of Gas Tax Increase

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska motorists will pay higher taxes at the gas pump to cover road and bridge repairs, despite Governor Pete Ricketts' objections.

Lawmakers voted 30-16 Thursday to override the Republican governor's veto of a 6-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase.

The proposal would raise Nebraska's total gas tax over four years to 31.6 cents per gallon. The tax would generate an additional \$25 million annually for the state and \$51 million for cities and counties once fully implemented.

Senator Jim Smith of Papillion, the bill's sponsor, says the gas tax is the most effective way to pay for construction work to help improve road safety and the economy.

Ricketts, a Republican, says the vote will hinder economic growth and create a new burden for Nebraskans.

Associated Press