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Constitutional amendment would undo tobacco measure

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Sen. John Andrist, R-Crosby, testified this morning on his newly proposed Senate Concurrent Resolution 4038, which would use only the interest from the tobacco funds that were the subject of Measure 3, and allow the funds to go to various local public health programs, not just tobacco control.

If the House and Senate both approve SCR 4038 and the voters pass it, it would undo Measure 3, which voters approved by a 54 percent margin in November.

The Senate Judiciary Committee deadlocked on whether to recommend the full Senate endorse or reject SCR 4038 and it will go to the Senate floor without recommendation. The deadlock was by party line.

Supporters of Measure 3 didn't testify for or against SCR 4038 at today's hearing, but one of them said after the hearing that the interest Andrist wants to spread among public health units will not have the effect on tobacco prevention and cessation that Measure 3 would have if it is implemented because it will be a matter of thousands of dollars to different efforts, rather than multi-millions called for in Measure 3.