

## Grand tour of a 6 percent world

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By Christopher Crain of Crain's Detroit Business

A look into Gov. Jennifer Granholm's 6 percent tax on services:

### Inside the mind of an entrepreneur ...

I want to start my own business. I've had an entrepreneurial spirit all my life. I've saved a nest egg for my new enterprise, and now it's time to get started.

**The idea:** *Urban Rickshaw Transportation* — This phenomenon is sweeping the major cities of the country: New York, San Francisco, Denver, LA and now Detroit!

It's perfect for the bar-hopping crowd, fans of the opera, symphony, Tigers, Lions and countless annual holiday and festival events. I can't lose! *(Note to self: "Transit and ground passenger transportation" is one of 50-plus services subject to the state's new 6 percent tax; so whatever I charge, customers will pay 6 percent more.)*

While the bar-hopping crowd is mostly nocturnal, I'll use the bicycle-powered rickshaws for a courier and messenger service during the day *(Got me again! Package delivery also requires a 6 percent tax.)*

Just peel off the rickshaw decal graphic *(6 percent for design creation)*, and away we ride!

**Startup:** I'll need 10 rickshaws to cover downtown Detroit, and 20 drivers. Also, a self-storage facility to house the rickshaws after the bars close *(6 percent, storage)* and a security system to protect my investment *(6 percent, security services)*.

I'll need to pay someone to clean the rickshaws at the end of the night *(6 percent, janitorial services)*; you wouldn't believe what goes on back there sometimes! I'll need to pay someone to run the office *(6 percent, office administration)* while I'm out canvassing for new business. Can't make a sales pitch without marketing collaterals, so I'll have to take a trip to Kinko's *(6 percent on copying fees)*.

**Payoff:** After I hit it big and Urban Rickshaw Transportation is all over Southeast Michigan, I'll need someone to tell me how to invest my profits *(6 percent on consulting fees)*! My wife deserves a vacation after pulling a rickshaw for so many months, so I'd better call the travel agent *(6 percent, travel services)*. Maybe we'll head Up North for some skiing *(Rats, should have taken up golf. Another 6 percent)*.

I'd better run this by my accountant. My budget is going to be pretty tight for a while, and I can't misjudge my costs ...

**One week later:** Anyone want to buy 10 spanking new rickshaws?