



Golden

Its spring! Trees are in bud, day
baseball season has begun and the Governor's Office is
fighting with the Legislature over the definition of
"revenue enhancer."

It has long been accepted that a revenue enhancer is a
euphemism for a tax increase, one that chief executives
and legislators alike use to avoid uttering the politically
loaded term.

There are two methods for government to enhance
revenue: raise taxes or raise fees. There is no third way

Despite that, both sides engage in linguistic

Christie's enhancers will produce \$205 million in the coming fiscal year. One the administration desperately he state is essentially new or expanded spending is out of the question.

The governor holds the upper hand in budget negotiations. The exclusive authority revenues belongs to him, and he possesses line-item veto power over spending and language.

Moreover, Democrats concede the state is in dismal fiscal condition, exacerbated by sputtering economy and a job creation rate that has recouped little more than half of those lost in the recession.

Democrats would be hard-pressed to justify

Tax increases may be a political response, but sprinkling revenue enhancer sugar on it isn't the legitimate response. Open dialogue and discussion is.