SENATE BILL NO. 1154

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR GIBBONS.

Read 1st time February 13, 2002, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

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AN ACT

To amend chapter 144, RSMo, by adding thereto six new sections relating to sales and use tax assessment and collection procedures of the department of revenue.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 144, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto six new sections, to be known as sections 144.1000, 144.1003, 144.1006, 144.1009, 144.1012 and 144.1015, to read as follows:

144.1000. Sections 144.1000 to 144.1015 shall be known as and referred to as the "Simplified Sales and Use Tax Administration Act".

144.1003. As used in sections 144.1000 to 144.1015, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Agreement", the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement;

(2) "Certified automated system", software certified jointly by the states that are signatories to the agreement to calculate the tax imposed by each jurisdiction on a transaction, determine the amount of tax to remit to the appropriate state and maintain a record of the transaction;

(3) "Certified service provider", an agent certified jointly by the states that are signatories to the agreement to perform all of the seller's sales tax functions;

(4) "Person", an individual, trust, estate, fiduciary, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, corporation or any other legal entity;

(5) "Sales tax", any sales tax levied pursuant to this chapter,

section 32.085, RSMo, or any other sales tax authorized by statute and levied by this state or its political subdivisions;

(6) "Seller", any person making sales, leases or rentals of personal property or services;

(7) "State", any state of the United States and the District of Columbia;

(8) "Use tax", the use tax levied pursuant to this chapter.

144.1006. For the purposes of reviewing and, if necessary, amending the agreement embodying the simplification recommendations contained in section 144.1015, the state may enter into multistate discussions. For purposes of such discussions, the state shall be represented by five delegates, one of whom shall be appointed by the governor, one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives, one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate. The delegates need not be members of the general assembly and at least one of the delegates appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate shall be from the private sector and represent the interests of Missouri businesses. The delegates shall recommend to the committees responsible for reviewing tax issues in the senate and the house of representatives each year any amendment of state statutes required to be substantially in compliance with the agreement. Such delegates shall make a written report by the fifteenth day of January each year regarding the status of the multistate discussions and upon final adoption of the terms of the sales and use tax agreement by the multistate body.

144.1009. No provision of the agreement authorized by sections 144.1000 to 144.1015 in whole or in part invalidates or amends any provision of the law of this state. Implementation of any condition of this agreement in this state, whether adopted before, at, or after membership of this state in the agreement, must be by action of the general assembly. Such report shall be delivered to the governor, the secretary of state, the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives and shall simultaneously be made publicly available by the secretary of state to any person

requesting a copy.

144.1012. Unless four of the five delegates agree, the delegates shall not enter into or vote for any streamlined sales and use tax agreement that:

(1) Requires adoption of a definition of any term that would cause any item or transaction that is now excluded or exempted from sales or use tax to become subject to sales or use tax;

(2) Requires the state of Missouri to fully exempt or fully apply sales taxes to the sale of food or any other item;

(3) Restricts the ability of local governments under statutes in effect on August 28, 2002, to enact one or more local taxes on one or more items without application of the tax to all sales within the taxing jurisdiction, however, restriction of any such taxes allowed by statutes effective after August 28, 2002, may be supported;

(4) Provides for adoption of any uniform rate structure that would result in a tax increase for any Missouri taxpayer;

(5) Affects the sourcing of sales tax transactions; or

(6) Prohibits limitations or thresholds on the application of sales and use tax rates or prohibits any current sales or use tax exemption in the state of Missouri, including exemptions that are based on the value of the transaction or item.

144.1015. In addition to the requirements of section 144.1012, the delegates should consider the following features when deciding whether or not to enter into any streamlined sales and use tax agreement:

(1) The agreement should address the limitation of the number of state rates over time;

(2) The agreement should establish uniform standards for administration of exempt sales and the form used for filing sales and use tax returns and remittances;

(3) The agreement should require the state to provide a central, electronic registration system that allows a seller to register to collect and remit sales and use taxes for all signatory states;

(4) The agreement should provide that registration with the central registration system and the collection of sales and use taxes in the signatory states will not be used as a factor in determining whether the seller has nexus with a state for any tax;

(5) The agreement should provide for reduction of the burdens of

complying with local sales and use taxes through the following so long as they do not conflict with the provisions of section 144.1012:

(a) Restricting variances between the state and local tax bases;

(b) Requiring states to administer any sales and use taxes levied by local jurisdictions within the state so that sellers collecting and remitting these taxes will not have to register or file returns with, remit funds to, or be subject to independent audits from local taxing jurisdictions;

(c) Restricting the frequency of changes in the local sales and use tax rates and setting effective dates for the application of local jurisdictional boundary changes to local sales and use taxes; and

(d) Providing notice of changes in local sales and use tax rates and of changes in the boundaries of local taxing jurisdictions;

(6) The agreement should outline any monetary allowances that are to be provided by the states to sellers or certified service providers. The agreement must allow for a joint public and private sector study of the compliance cost on sellers and certified service providers to collect sales and use taxes for state and local governments under various levels of complexity to be completed by July 1, 2003;

(7) The agreement should require each state to certify compliance with the terms of the agreement prior to joining and to maintain compliance, under the laws of the member state, with all provisions of the agreement while a member, only if the agreement and any amendment thereto complies with the provisions of section 144.1012;

(8) The agreement should require each state to adopt a uniform policy for certified service providers that protects the privacy of consumers and maintains the confidentiality of tax information; and

(9) The agreement should provide for the appointment of an advisory council of private sector representatives and an advisory council of nonmember state representatives to consult with in the administration of the agreement.

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