

Column from Sen. Matt Bartle for  
Week of Aug. 1, 2005

### **Summer Sales Tax Holiday**

August is not known for its holidays although some might be surprised to know that August is "National Catfish Month," "National Golf Month" and that "National Ice Cream Sandwich Day" and "Blame Someone Else Day" also fall within this month. In case none of these events is enough to cause you to take off work and head to the lake, there's another holiday that you might enjoy celebrating a bit more.

Last year the legislature established a "back-to-school" sales tax holiday. During this 3-day weekend, shoppers can get the kids ready to go back to class and still find a little extra money left in their pockets thanks to a temporary repeal of the state's 4.225% sales tax on qualifying items. Local sales taxes are also suspended in some places, making for a significant overall tax savings.

The original sales tax holiday was only authorized for one year so this past session the legislature came back and permanently reauthorized it. By law it is set to begin on the first Friday of each August and ends the following Sunday.

It's hard to believe the summer is already coming to an end but soon enough the kids will be going back to school and they will be asking for a long list of clothes, school supplies and other items to get ready for this event. During the sales tax holiday shoppers can get this tax break on clothes, computers, and other common school supplies.

So while we don't normally think of August as a time to celebrate much of anything (unless you observe "National Watermelon Day" at your house), perhaps the sales tax holiday will begin to change this perception. Happy shopping and enjoy the last few days of summer with the kids around the house.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at [matt\\_bartle@senate.mo.gov](mailto:matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov) or by phone at (888) 711-9278.

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