



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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The Cauthorn Report

JEFFERSON CITY, MO - Parents sending their children back to school this fall have a great opportunity to save money. The State of Missouri made the Sales Tax Holiday permanent and shoppers can take advantage of the tax break August 5 – 7.

During the three-day tax-free holiday, everyone who shops in the state of Missouri can forgo paying state sales tax, about 4.225%, on the following items:

- **Clothing priced less than \$100 per item**
This includes any article of wearing apparel and footwear. This does not include watches, jewelry, handbags, scarves, ties, headbands or belt buckles.
- **Personal computers priced at \$3,500 or less**
Includes laptops, desktops or tower computer systems consisting of a CPU, random access memory, a storage drive, a display monitor, and a keyboard. This also includes devices used in conjunction with a PC, including disk drives, memory modules, compact disk drives, daughter board, microphone, modem, mouse, etc.
- **School supplies less than \$50 per purchase**
Traditional school supplies include textbooks, notebooks, paper, writing instruments, crayons, art supplies, book bags, backpacks, calculators, etc. Remember, this is limited to \$50 per purchase, so parents may want to pay for each child's supplies once at a time!
- **Computer peripherals and software having a taxable value of \$350 or less**

By planning ahead, consumers can save substantial amounts of money when shopping for their child's back to school needs. New school clothes, supplies, and computers can make quite a dent in the family budget every year. This is a great opportunity to save a little bit of your hard earned money.

Some cities and counties have "opted out" of the holiday, meaning their local taxes may still apply. Nonetheless, every dollar counts and forgoing the four percent state sales tax on purchases can truly add up for Missouri shoppers.

Last year was the pilot program of the Sales Tax Holiday. During the 2005 legislative session we decided to make this great opportunity for Missouri families permanent. I urge you to take advantage of this great opportunity from August 5-7.

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri's 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6850.

You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.