



Sales Tax Holiday Savings for Back-to-School Shoppers

Save Up to 9% on Back-to-School Purchases during the First Weekend in August

To make back-to-school shopping more affordable for Missouri families, the State Legislature approved a permanent three-day sales tax exemption for clothing, computers, and school supplies. House Bill 64, legislation that I carried in the Senate, allows Missouri parents, teachers, students and all other shoppers a tax break on purchases of clothing, computers, software, and other back-to-school supplies. Clothing and shoes priced at less than \$100 per item, school supplies up to \$50, computers and related hardware priced at \$3,500 or less, and computer software up to \$350 will all be exempt from the State's 4.225% sales tax. The legislation made the sales tax holiday permanent, establishing it annually on the first weekend in August. This year the holiday begins Friday August 5th at 12:01 A.M. and ends Sunday August 7th at midnight.

In addition to making the holiday permanent, the legislation made two other significant changes. Last year, the inaugural year, the sales tax holiday fell on the second weekend in August. We moved the holiday to the first week in August, making it more convenient for those who start school earlier than others. We also increased the value of computer equipment one can purchase from \$2,000 to \$3,500 and software from \$200 to \$350. I recently spoke to a family that has three children returning to school in August. They explained that in past years they spent around \$400 during the month of August- on new shoes, new outfits, backpacks, and school supplies- to prepare their children for the new school year. This family can save over \$35 if they purchase these items during the sales tax holiday. A common purchase for college students is a new computer; consumers purchasing a \$3,500 laptop computer during the holiday can save as much as \$315. I encourage anyone anticipating making back-to-school purchases or anyone planning to invest in a computer to take advantage of the savings available during the holiday.

The State of Missouri imposes a 4.225% sales tax on the purchase of goods and services. Counties, cities, and certain districts may also impose local sales taxes. The State waived its sales tax completely during the first week in August. Each county and city decides whether or not to waive their local taxes during the

sales tax holiday weekend. Of the six counties in the 27th Senate District, Perry, Madison, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, and Scott all waived their county sales taxes. Most every city waived their local city sales tax as well; this includes the cities of Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Perryville, Jackson, Marble Hill, Fredericktown, and Scott City. Depending on where you plan to shop, savings during the weekend could be as high as 9%.

The sales tax holiday gives Missouri families and teachers a much needed tax break at a critical time of the year while providing a shot in the arm for Missouri businesses. It is good for Missouri families, good for Missouri teachers, and good for Missouri government. I encourage everyone to mark their calendars and plan ahead to take advantage of the savings. For more information about the sales-tax holiday, visit the Department of Revenue's Web site at: www.dor.mo.gov/tax/business/sales/taxholiday/.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

Thank you for your time.

Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.