



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Sales Tax Holiday

JEFFERSON CITY – It's hard to believe, but the back-to-school shopping season is quickly approaching. Although there are few holidays in the month of August, families preparing for the school year will get a break this year thanks to Missouri's sales tax holiday.

The tax holiday, now an annual event in Missouri, will take place the first weekend of August and offer needed savings for families with school-aged children.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 4, and ending at midnight Sunday, Aug. 6, back-to-school supplies such as clothes, backpacks and computers, will be exempted from the state sales tax, which is currently 4.225 percent. Local governments have the option to participate by rescinding local sales taxes, which vary among cities and counties.

The sales tax exemption applies to the following purchases:

- Clothing – any article having a taxable value of \$100 or less
- School supplies – not to exceed \$50 per purchase
- Computer software – taxable value of \$350 or less
- Personal computers – not to exceed \$3,500
- Computer peripheral devices – not to exceed \$3,500

Past tax holidays have proven successful for participating communities. According to the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, any sales tax revenue losses were made up by retail sales of non-exempt merchandise, restaurant and gasoline taxes, and the additional revenue created by people crossing the state border to take advantage of the tax exemption.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.