

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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School Shopping Made Easier with Sales Tax Holiday

JEFFERSON CITY — It's hard to believe, but it's almost time for another school year to begin and time for parents and children to go school shopping. For the fifth year in a row, the state of Missouri — and many cities and counties across the state — are providing sales tax relief for those families getting ready for school during Missouri's annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday.

Each year, the sales tax waiver is held the first Friday through Sunday in August. This year's sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 7 and runs through midnight on Aug. 9. Certain school-related items such as clothing, school supplies, computers and other items purchased during this time are exempt from the 4.22 percent state sales tax — with some counties and cities also waiving sales taxes by choosing to participate in the holiday.

Parents and students who take advantage of this tax break will likely find that many of the items they need to be prepared for the school year qualify for the tax exemption.

The tax waiver applies to the following back-to-school 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.

In District 25, Dunklin, Pemiscot, Ripley and Wayne counties and the City of Dexter are among those participating in the sales tax holiday.

It's essential for students who go to school to be prepared to participate, study and learn. By offering a tax break for purchasing back-to-school items, we hope families will take advantage of this opportunity to save a little money as they prepare their youngsters, teens or college students for the upcoming school year.

For an exact listing of cities and counties participating in the sales tax holiday and for more information about qualifying items, visit www.dor.mo.gov or call the Department of Revenue at (573) 751-2836.

As always, 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 phone at 1-877-291-5584.

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