

LEGISLATIVE BILL 994

Approved by the Governor April 19, 1994

Introduced by Lindsay, 9

AN ACT relating to sales and use tax; to amend section 77-27,147, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1992, and section 77-2703, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1993; to change provisions relating to collection of tax on leases and rentals of certain vehicles; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 77-2703, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1993, be amended to read as follows:

77-2703. (1) There is hereby imposed a tax at the rate provided in section 77-2701.02 upon the gross receipts from all sales of tangible personal property sold at retail in this state, the gross receipts of every person engaged as a public utility, as a community antenna television service operator or any person involved in the connecting and installing of the services defined in subdivision (2)(a), (b), or (d) of section 77-2702.07, or as a retailer of intellectual or entertainment properties referred to in subsection (3) of section 77-2702.07, the gross receipts from the sale of admissions in this state, and the gross receipts from the sale of warranties, guarantees, service agreements, or maintenance agreements when the items covered are subject to tax under this section. When there is a sale, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in effect at the time the gross receipts are realized under the accounting basis used by the retailer to maintain his or her books and records.

(a) The tax imposed by this section shall be collected by the retailer from the consumer. It shall constitute a part of the purchase price and until collected shall be a debt from the consumer to the retailer and shall be recoverable at law in the same manner as other debts. The tax required to be collected by the retailer from the consumer constitutes a debt owed by the retailer to this state.

(b) It is unlawful for any retailer to advertise, hold out, or state to the public or to any customer, directly or indirectly, that the tax or part thereof will be assumed or absorbed by the retailer, that it will not be added to the selling, renting, or leasing price of the property sold, rented, or leased, or that, if added, it or any part thereof will be refunded. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to a public utility.

(c) The tax required to be collected by the retailer from the purchaser, unless otherwise provided by statute or by rule and regulation of the Tax Commissioner, shall be displayed separately from the list price, the price advertised in the premises, the marked price, or other price on the sales check or other proof of sales, rentals, or leases.

(d) For the purpose of more efficiently securing the payment, collection, and accounting for the sales tax and for the convenience of the retailer in collecting the sales tax, it shall be the duty of the Tax Commissioner to adopt and promulgate appropriate rules and regulations prescribing a schedule or schedules of the amounts to be collected from the consumer or user to effectuate the computation and collection of the tax imposed by the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967. Such schedule or schedules shall provide that the tax shall be collected from the consumer or user uniformly on sales according to brackets based on sales prices of the item or items, except that the Tax Commissioner may authorize computation and collection of the tax uniformly on a straight percentage basis in lieu of brackets in situations involving machine or computer billing.

(e) The use of tokens or stamps for the purpose of collecting or enforcing the collection of the taxes imposed in the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 or for any other purpose in connection with such taxes is prohibited.

(f) For the purpose of the proper administration of the provisions of the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 and to prevent evasion of the retail sales tax, it shall be presumed that all gross receipts are subject to the tax until the contrary is established. The burden of proving that a sale of property is not a sale at retail is upon the person who makes the sale unless he or she takes, in good faith, from the purchaser a resale certificate to the effect that the property is purchased for the purpose of reselling, leasing, or renting it or takes, in good faith, an exemption certificate pursuant to subsection (7) of section 77-2705. Receipt of a resale certificate or exemption certificate, taken in good faith, shall be conclusive proof for the

seller that the sale was made for resale or was exempt.

(g) In the rental or lease of automobiles, trucks, trailers, semitrailers, and truck-tractors as defined in section 60-301, the tax shall be collected by the lessor on the rental or lease price, except as otherwise provided within this section:

(i) From all vehicles registered for operation upon the highways of this state which are rented or leased for periods of one year or more; or

(ii) From all vehicles delivered by the lessor within this state which are rented or leased for periods of less than one year.

(h) In the rental or lease of automobiles, trucks, trailers, semitrailers, and truck-tractors as defined in section 60-301, for periods of one year or more, the lessor may elect not to collect and remit the sales tax on the gross receipts and instead pay a sales tax on the cost of such vehicle. If such election is made, it shall be made pursuant to the following conditions:

(i) Notice of the desire to make such election shall be filed with the Tax Commissioner and shall not become effective until the Tax Commissioner is satisfied that the taxpayer has complied with all conditions of this subsection and all rules and regulations of the Tax Commissioner;

(ii) Such election when made shall continue in force and effect for a period of not less than two years and thereafter until such time as the lessor elects to terminate the election;

(iii) When such election is made, it shall apply to all vehicles of the lessor rented or leased for periods of one year or more except vehicles to be leased to common or contract carriers who provide to the lessor a valid common or contract carrier exemption certificate. If the lessor rents or leases other vehicles for periods of less than one year, such lessor shall maintain his or her books and records and his or her accounting procedure as the Tax Commissioner prescribes; and

(iv) The Tax Commissioner by rule and regulation shall prescribe the contents and form of the notice of election, a procedure for the determination of the tax base of vehicles which are under an existing lease at the time such election becomes effective, the method and manner for terminating such election, and such other rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper administration of this subdivision.

(†) (i) The tax imposed by this section on the sales of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers as defined in section 60-301 shall be the liability of the purchaser and, with the exception of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers registered pursuant to section 60-305.09, the tax shall be collected by the county treasurer or designated county official as provided in section 60-302 at the time the purchaser makes application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer for operation upon the highways of this state. The tax imposed by this section on motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers registered pursuant to section 60-305.09 shall be collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles at the time the purchaser makes application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer for operation upon the highways of this state. At the time of the sale of any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, the seller shall (i) state on the sales invoice the dollar amount of the tax imposed under this section and (ii) furnish to the purchaser a certified statement of the transaction, in such form as the Tax Commissioner prescribes, setting forth as a minimum the total sales price, the allowance for any trade-in, and the difference between the two. The sales tax due shall be computed on the difference between the total sales price and the allowance for any trade-in as disclosed by such certified statement. Any seller who willfully understates the amount upon which the sales tax is due shall be subject to a penalty of one thousand dollars. A copy of such certified statement shall also be furnished to the Tax Commissioner. Any seller who fails or refuses to furnish such certified statement shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars. If the seller fails to state on the sales invoice the dollar amount of the tax due, the purchaser shall have the right and authority to rescind any agreement for purchase and to declare the purchase null and void. If the purchaser retains such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer in this state and does not register it for operation on the highways of this state within thirty days of the purchase thereof, the tax imposed by this section shall immediately thereafter be paid by the purchaser to the county treasurer, the designated county official, or the Department of Motor Vehicles. If the tax is not paid on or before the thirtieth day after its purchase, the county treasurer, designated county official, or Department of Motor Vehicles shall also collect from the purchaser interest from the thirtieth day through the date of payment and sales tax penalties as provided

in the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967. The county treasurer, designated county official, or Department of Motor Vehicles shall report and remit the tax so collected to the Tax Commissioner by the fifteenth day of the following month. The county treasurer or designated county official shall deduct and withhold for the use of the county general fund, from all amounts required to be collected under this subsection, the collection fee permitted to be deducted by any retailer collecting the sales tax. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall deduct, withhold, and deposit in the Interstate Registration Operations Cash Fund the collection fee permitted to be deducted by any retailer collecting the sales tax. The collection fee shall be forfeited if the county treasurer, designated county official, or Department of Motor Vehicles violates any rule or regulation pertaining to the collection of the use tax.

(+) (i) The Tax Commissioner shall adopt and promulgate necessary rules and regulations for determining the amount subject to the taxes imposed by this section so as to insure that the full amount of any applicable tax is paid in cases in which a sale is made of which a part is subject to the taxes imposed by this section and a part of which is not so subject and a separate accounting is not practical or economical.

(2) A use tax is hereby imposed on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of property purchased, leased, or rented from any retailer and on any transaction the gross receipts of which are subject to tax under subsection (1) of this section on or after June 1, 1967, for storage, use, or other consumption in this state at the rate set as provided in subsection (1) of this section on the sales price of the property or, in the case of leases or rentals, of the lease or rental prices.

(a) Every person storing, using, or otherwise consuming in this state property purchased from a retailer or leased or rented from another person for such purpose shall be liable for the use tax at the rate in effect when his or her liability for the use tax becomes certain under the accounting basis used to maintain his or her books and records. His or her liability shall not be extinguished until the use tax has been paid to this state, except that a receipt from a retailer engaged in business in this state or from a retailer who is authorized by the Tax Commissioner, under such rules and regulations as he or she may prescribe, to collect the sales tax and who is, for the purposes of the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 relating to the sales tax, regarded as a retailer engaged in business in this state, which receipt is given to the purchaser pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subsection, shall be sufficient to relieve the purchaser from further liability for the tax to which the receipt refers.

(b) Every retailer engaged in business in this state and selling, leasing, or renting property for storage, use, or other consumption in this state shall, at the time of making any sale, collect any tax which may be due from the purchaser and shall give to the purchaser, upon request, a receipt therefor in the manner and form prescribed by the Tax Commissioner.

(c) The Tax Commissioner, in order to facilitate the proper administration of the use tax, may designate such person or persons as he or she may deem necessary to be use tax collectors and delegate to such persons such authority as is necessary to collect any use tax which is due and payable to the State of Nebraska. The Tax Commissioner may require of all persons so designated a surety bond in favor of the State of Nebraska to insure against any misappropriation of state funds so collected. The Tax Commissioner may require any tax official, city, county, or state, to collect the use tax on behalf of the state. All persons designated to or required to collect the use tax shall account for such collections in the manner prescribed by the Tax Commissioner. Nothing in this subdivision shall be so construed as to prevent the Tax Commissioner or his or her employees from collecting any use taxes due and payable to the State of Nebraska.

(d) All persons designated to collect the use tax and all persons required to collect the use tax shall forward the total of such collections to the Tax Commissioner at such time and in such manner as the Tax Commissioner may prescribe. Such collectors of the use tax shall deduct and withhold from the amount of taxes collected two and one-half percent of the first three thousand dollars remitted each month and one-half of one percent of all amounts in excess of three thousand dollars remitted each month as reimbursement for the cost of collecting the tax, except that for each month from October 1, 1991, to September 30, 1992, such collectors shall deduct and withhold from the amount of taxes collected three percent of the first five thousand dollars remitted each month and one percent of all amounts in excess of five thousand dollars remitted each month as reimbursement for the cost of collecting the tax and for each month from April 1, 1993, to March 31, 1994, such collectors shall deduct and withhold from the amount of taxes collected three-quarters of one percent of the first two thousand dollars remitted each

month and one-quarter of one percent of all amounts in excess of two thousand dollars remitted each month as reimbursement for the cost of collecting the tax. Any such deduction shall be forfeited to the State of Nebraska if such collector violates any rule, regulation, or directive of the Tax Commissioner.

(e) For the purpose of the proper administration of the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 and to prevent evasion of the use tax, it shall be presumed that property sold, leased, or rented by any person for delivery in this state is sold, leased, or rented for storage, use, or other consumption in this state until the contrary is established. The burden of proving the contrary is upon the person who purchases, leases, or rents the property.

(f) It shall be further presumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that property shipped or brought to this state by the purchaser after June 1, 1967, was purchased from a retailer on or after that date for storage, use, or other consumption in this state.

(g)(i) Except as provided in subdivisions (g)(ii), (g)(iii), and (g)(iv) of this subsection, when a person purchases property in another state, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, or any foreign country with the intent of using such property in such other state, commonwealth, territory, possession, or country and such property is actually used in the other state, commonwealth, territory, possession, or country for its intended purpose, the property shall not be subject to tax in this state.

(ii) Subdivision (g)(i) of this subsection shall only apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer as defined in section 60-301 when it is licensed for operation on the highways of the other state, commonwealth, territory, possession, or country prior to being brought into this state.

(iii) Subdivision (g)(i) of this subsection shall not apply to an aircraft which is brought into this state within one year of purchase and (A) is regularly based within this state or (B) more than one-half of the aircraft's operating hours are within this state.

For purposes of subdivision (g)(iii) of this subsection, operation of the aircraft for the purpose of maintenance, repair, or fabrication with subsequent removal from this state upon completion of such maintenance, repair, or fabrication shall not be considered operating hours.

(iv) Subdivision (g)(i) of this subsection shall not apply to any property that is manufactured, processed, or fabricated in another state and that is not used for its intended purpose in the other state after its manufacture, processing, or fabrication.

Sec. 2. That section 77-27,147, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1992, be amended to read as follows:

77-27,147. All relevant provisions of the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967, as amended from time to time, and not inconsistent with the Local Option Revenue Act, shall govern transactions, proceedings, and activities pursuant to any tax imposed under the Local Option Revenue Act.

For the purposes of the Local Option Revenue Act, all retail sales, rentals, and leases, as defined and described in the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967, are consummated:

(1) At the place where title, possession, or segregation takes place, with the exception of sales or leases or rentals for more than one year of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers, if a purchaser takes possession of tangible personal property within a municipality which has enacted a tax under the Local Option Revenue Act, regardless of the business location of the Nebraska retailer;

(2) At the point of delivery of utility services and community antenna television services or where such services are provided, with the exception that Nebraska intrastate message toll telephone and telegraph services shall be consummated in the municipality where the customer is normally billed for such service; and

(3) At the physical location of individual vending machines; and

(4) At the place designated on the application for registration for operation upon the highways of this state for motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers sold or leased or rented for more than one year.

Sec. 3. This act shall become operative on January 1, 1989.

Sec. 4. That original section 77-27,147, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1992, and section 77-2703, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1993, are repealed.