

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 182A

Approved by the Governor June 10, 1997

Introduced by Warner, 25; Landis, 46

AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation; to amend sections 77-2701, 77-2702.13, 77-2703, and 77-27,142.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change sales and use tax provisions; to redefine retail sale; to authorize direct payment permits; to provide for submission to voters of changes in local option sales and use tax authorizations; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

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

Section 1. Section 77-2701, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-2701. Sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135.01 and sections 4 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967.

Sec. 2. Section 77-2702.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-2702.13. (1) Retail sale or sale at retail shall mean:

(a) A sale of property for any purpose other than for resale in the regular course of business;

(b) A sale of property to an advertising agency which purchases the property as an agent for a disclosed or undisclosed principal. The advertising agency is and remains liable for the sales and use tax on the purchase the same as if the principal had made the purchase directly;

(c) The delivery in this state of property by an owner or former owner thereof or by a factor or agent of such owner, former owner, or factor, if the delivery is to a customer or person for redelivery to a consumer, pursuant to a retail sale made by a retailer not engaged in business in this state. The person making the delivery in such cases shall include the delivery person's selling price of the property in his or her gross receipts;

(d) The sale of admissions which shall mean the right or privilege to have access to or to use a place or location. When an admission to an activity is combined with the solicitation of a contribution, the portion or the amount charged representing the fair market price of the admission shall be considered a retail sale subject to the tax imposed by section 77-2703. The organization conducting the activity shall determine the amount properly attributable to the purchase of the privilege, benefit, or other consideration in advance, and such amount shall be clearly indicated on any ticket, receipt, or other evidence issued in connection with the payment. Admissions shall not include (i) fees charged by elementary or secondary schools, public or private, (ii) fees charged by school districts, student organizations, or parent-teacher associations pursuant to an agreement with the proper school authorities in an elementary or secondary school, public or private, during the regular school day or at an approved function of any such school, or (iii) fees charged by ballot question committees, candidate committees, independent committees, and political party committees as defined in the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act;

(e) A sale of live plants incorporated into real estate except when such incorporation is incidental to the transfer of an improvement upon real estate or the real estate; and

(f) A sale of any property annexed to real estate by a person electing to be taxed as a retailer pursuant to subdivision (1) of section 77-2702.05 except when such annexation is incidental to the transfer of an improvement upon real estate or the real estate.

(2) Retail sale or sale at retail shall not mean:

(a) The sale of:

(i) Property which will enter into and become an ingredient or component part of property manufactured, processed, or fabricated for ultimate sale at retail; or

(ii) Refractory materials, lime, synthetic slag, mill rolls, and guides for use in manufacturing of steel or cement;

(b) The sale of:

(i) Any form of animal life of a kind the products of which ordinarily constitute food for human consumption. Animal life shall include live poultry or livestock on the hoof when sales are made by the grower, producer, feeder, or any person engaged in the business of bartering, buying, or selling live poultry or livestock on the hoof;

(ii) Seeds and annual plants, the products of which ordinarily constitute food for human consumption and which seeds and annual plants are sold to commercial producers of such products, and seed legumes, seed grasses, and seed grains when sold to be used exclusively for agricultural purposes;

(iii) Agricultural chemicals, adjuvants, surfactants, bonding agents, clays, oils, and any other additives or compatibility agents for use in commercial agriculture and applied to land or crops and sold in any tax period that has not been closed by the applicable statute of limitations. Agricultural chemicals shall not mean chemicals, adjuvants, surfactants, bonding agents, clays, oils, and any other additives or compatibility agents applied to harvested grains stored in commercial elevators; or

(iv) Oxygen for use in aquaculture as defined in section 2-3804.01;

(c) The sale of:

(i) Nonreturnable containers when sold without contents to persons who place contents in the container and sell the contents together with the container;

(ii) Containers when sold with contents if the sales price of the contents is not required to be included in the measure of the taxes imposed by the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967; and

(iii) Returnable containers when sold with contents in connection with a retail sale of the contents or when resold for refilling.

The term returnable containers shall mean containers of a kind customarily returned by the buyer of the contents for reuse. All other containers are nonreturnable containers;

(d) The sale of property the transfer of which to the consumer constitutes an occasional sale or the transfer of which to the consumer is made by way of an occasional sale;

(e) The sale of property the sale, purchase, or use of which has been taxed to that taxpayer in another state, territory, or possession of the United States of America when such other state, territory, or possession grants a reciprocal exclusion or an exemption to similar transactions in this state;

(f) The purchase in this state or the purchase outside this state, with title passing in this state, of materials and replacement parts used as or used directly in the repair and maintenance or manufacture of railroad rolling stock, whether owned by a railroad or by any person, whether a common or contract carrier or otherwise, motor vehicles, watercraft, or aircraft engaged as common or contract carriers or the purchase in such manner of motor vehicles, watercraft, or aircraft to be used as common or contract carriers. All purchasers seeking to take advantage of the exemption shall apply to the Tax Commissioner for a common or contract carrier exemption. All common or contract carrier exemption certificates shall expire on October 31, 1986, and on October 31 every three years thereafter. All persons seeking to continue to take advantage of the common or contract carrier exemption shall apply for a new certificate at the expiration of the prior certificate. The Tax Commissioner shall notify such exemption certificate holders at least sixty days prior to the expiration date of such certificate that their certificate will expire and be null and void as of such date;

(g) The sale of railroad rolling stock whether purchased by a railroad or by any other person; or

(h) The sale of property annexed to real estate.

Sec. 3. Section 77-2703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

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 (i) a resale certificate to the effect that the property is purchased for the purpose of reselling, leasing, or renting it, (ii) or takes, in good faith, an exemption certificate pursuant to subsection (7) of section 77-2705, or (iii) a direct payment permit pursuant to sections 4 to 6 of this act. Receipt of a resale certificate, or exemption certificate, or direct payment permit, taken in good faith, shall be conclusive proof for the seller that the sale was made for resale or was exempt or that the tax will be paid directly to the state.

(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 Motor Carrier Division 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.

(j)(i) The tax imposed by this section on the sale of a motorboat as defined in section 37-1204 shall be the liability of the purchaser. The tax shall be collected by the county treasurer or designated county official at the time the purchaser makes application for the registration of the motorboat. At the time of the sale of a motorboat, the seller shall (A) state on the sales invoice the dollar amount of the tax imposed under this section and (B) 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 motorboat in this state and does not register it

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 or designated county official. If the tax is not paid on or before the thirtieth day after its purchase, the county treasurer or designated county official 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 or designated county official 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 collection fee shall be forfeited if the county treasurer or designated county official violates any rule or regulation pertaining to the collection of the use tax.

(ii) In the rental or lease of motorboats, the tax shall be collected by the lessor on the rental or lease price, except as otherwise provided within this section:

(A) From all motorboats registered for operation within this state which are rented or leased for periods of one year or more; or

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

(iii) Subdivisions (1)(j)(i) and (ii) of this section become operative January 1, 1997.

(k) 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) through (g)(v) 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)(A) Subdivision (g)(i) of this subsection shall only apply to a motorboat as defined in section 37-1204 when it is registered for operation in the other state, commonwealth, territory, possession, or country prior to being brought into this state.

(B) Subdivision (g)(iv)(A) of this subsection becomes operative January 1, 1997.

(v) 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. 4. (1) The Tax Commissioner may issue direct payment permits to any person who annually purchases at least three million dollars of taxable property excluding purchases for which a resale certificate could be used.

(2) The applicant for a direct payment permit shall apply on a form prescribed by the Tax Commissioner. The applicant shall pay a nonrefundable fee of ten dollars for processing the application. The application shall include the agreement of the applicant to accrue and pay to the Tax Commissioner on or before the twenty-fifth day of the month following the date of purchase, lease, or rental all sales and use taxes on the taxable property purchased, leased, or rented by the applicant unless the items are exempt from taxation and the tax paid will be treated as a sales tax. The Tax Commissioner may require a description of the accounting methods by which an applicant will differentiate between taxable and exempt transactions.

(3) The Tax Commissioner may issue a direct payment permit to any applicant who meets the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The direct payment permit shall become effective on the first day of

the month following approval of an application. The decision of the Tax Commissioner under this section is not appealable. An applicant who is denied a direct payment permit may submit an amended application or reapply.

(4) A direct payment permit is not transferable.

(5) The holder of a direct payment permit is not entitled to any collection fee otherwise payable to those who collect and remit sales and use taxes.

Sec. 5. The holder of a direct payment permit shall provide a copy of the permit to each retailer who sells, leases, or rents to the permitholder. The retailer shall not collect sales and use taxes on any future sales, leases, or rentals to the permitholder until notified that the permit has been revoked or relinquished. The direct payment permit may not be used for purchases of motor vehicles. The permitholder shall pay all sales and use taxes even on sales for which a refund could be obtained.

Sec. 6. (1) The holder of a direct payment permit holds the permit as a revocable privilege. The Tax Commissioner may revoke a direct payment permit. The Tax Commissioner shall send notice of revocation to the permitholder by registered or certified mail. The decision of the Tax Commissioner to revoke a direct payment permit is not appealable.

(2) A permitholder may voluntarily relinquish a direct payment permit.

(3) Upon revocation or relinquishment of a direct payment permit, the permitholder shall notify all retailers given copies of the permit that it has been revoked or relinquished. Failure to give the notice shall be treated as a failure to pay sales and use taxes.

Sec. 7. Section 77-27,142.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

77-27,142.01. (1) The governing body of any incorporated municipality which, after January 1, 1978, and prior to February 14, 1978, authorizes a sales and use tax pursuant to section 77-27,142, shall submit the question of continuing such tax at the first regular city, county, or state election held within such incorporated municipality after such tax is imposed. If a majority of those voting on the question shall be opposed to such tax, the governing body of the incorporated municipality shall immediately discontinue the tax.

(2) The governing body of any incorporated municipality may submit the question of changing any terms and conditions of a sales and use tax previously authorized under section 77-27,142. The question of modification shall be submitted to the voters at any primary or general election or at a special election if the governing body submits a certified copy of the resolution proposing modification to the election commissioner or county clerk within a reasonable time prior to the primary, general, or special election.

Sec. 8. Original sections 77-2701, 77-2702.13, 77-2703, and 77-27,142.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 9. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.