

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 571

Approved by the Governor May 17, 1983

Introduced by V. Johnson, 8; Wesely, 26

AN ACT relating to taxation; to amend section 77-2703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 77-2708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, as amended by section 1, Legislative Bill 2, Eighty-seventh Legislature, Second Special Session, 1982, and section 1, Legislative Bill 101, Eighty-eighth Legislature, First Session, 1983; to change the rate of reimbursement for collection of certain taxes; and to repeal the original sections.

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

Section 1. That section 77-2703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

77-2703. (1) There is hereby imposed a tax of two per cent 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 or as a community antenna television service operator, and the gross receipts from the sale of admissions in this state until January 1, 1970, and on and after such date the rate shall be that which is set by the State Board of Equalization and Assessment as provided in section 77-2715.01. When there is a sale, as defined in subdivision (13) of section 77-2702, after March 26, 1974, 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 the provisions of 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 of this state;

(b) It is unlawful for any retailer to advertise or to hold out or to 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 or 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 provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135. 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 and shall provide that no tax be collected on sales below a sum of fifteen cents; PROVIDED, 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 of enforcing the collection of the taxes imposed in sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135 or for any other purpose in connection with such taxes is prohibited;

(f) For the purpose of the proper administration of the provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135 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 tangible personal 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) Whenever any retailer shall make delivery of any tangible personal property in this state on or after June 1, 1967, it shall be conclusively presumed that such property was sold at retail on or after June 1, 1967, unless the delivery thereof is made pursuant to a contract executed in writing for a fixed price before June 1, 1967, with at least twenty-five per cent of the total price paid prior to June 1, 1967, and such delivery is made prior to August 31, 1967;

(h) In the rental or lease of automobiles, trucks, trailers, semitrailers, and truck-tractors as defined in section 60-301, for periods of thirty days 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 thirty days or more. If the lessor rents or leases other vehicles for periods of less than thirty days, such lessor shall maintain his or her books and records and his or her accounting procedure as the Tax Commissioner shall prescribe; 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) If a sales or use tax has been paid on the purchase, storage, use, or other consumption of tangible personal property used in the performance of a construction contract, which contract is with the project owner, is for a fixed price, and has been executed prior to June 1, 1967, and which tangible personal property is incorporated into the project and transferred to the owner of the structure constructed

upon the completion of the contract, the person having paid such sales or use tax shall be entitled to a refund of the amount of taxes so paid. The Tax Commissioner shall by rule and regulation provide the manner and means of applying for such refund and shall require the furnishing of such proof as may reasonably be required to establish the fact that such property was used in the completion of a contract as defined in this subdivision and that any sales or use tax has in fact been paid on such tangible personal property;

(j) The tax imposed by the provisions of 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 the tax shall be collected by the county treasurer 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 hereunder, and (ii) furnish to the purchaser a certified statement of the transaction, in such form as the Tax Commissioner shall prescribe, 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. 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 or who willfully falsifies any such 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 twenty days of the purchase thereof, the tax imposed by the provisions of this section shall immediately thereafter be paid by the purchaser to the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall report and remit the tax so collected to the Tax Commissioner at such times as the Tax Commissioner may require by rule and regulation. The county treasurer shall deduct and withhold for the use of the county general fund the collection fee permitted to be deducted by any retailer collecting the sales tax; PROVIDED, this collection fee shall be forfeited if the county treasurer violates any

rule or regulation pertaining to the collection of the use tax; and

(k) The Tax Commissioner shall adopt and promulgate necessary rules and regulations for determining the amount subject to the taxes imposed by the provisions of 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 the provisions of 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 tangible personal property purchased, leased, or rented from any retailer 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 said lease or rental prices.

(a) Every person storing, using, or otherwise consuming in this state tangible personal property purchased from a retailer or leased or rented from another person for such purpose is 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 is not 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 sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135 relating to the sales tax, regarded as a retailer engaged in business in this state, given to the purchaser pursuant to subdivision (b) of this subsection is 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 tangible personal 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 said persons such authority as is necessary to collect any use tax which is due and payable to the State of Nebraska. The Tax Commissioner shall 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 three per cent of the first five thousand dollars remitted each month and one per cent of all amounts in excess of five thousand dollars remitted each month thereof as reimbursement for the cost of collecting the tax, but 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 provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135 and to prevent evasion of the use tax, it shall be presumed that tangible personal 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 tangible personal 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.

Sec. 2. That section 77-2708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, as amended by section 1, Legislative Bill 2, Eighty-seventh Legislature, Second Special Session, 1982, and section 1, Legislative Bill 101, Eighty-eighth Legislature, First Session, 1983, be amended to read as follows:

77-2708. (1) (a) The sales and use taxes imposed by the provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135 shall be due and payable to the Tax Commissioner monthly on or before the twenty-fifth day of the month next succeeding each monthly period, unless otherwise provided pursuant to the provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135.

(b) (i) On or before the twenty-fifth day of the month following each monthly period or such other period as the Tax Commissioner may require, a return for such period, along with all taxes due, shall be filed with the Tax Commissioner in such form and content as the Tax Commissioner may prescribe, and containing such information as the Tax Commissioner deems necessary for the proper administration of the provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135. The Tax Commissioner, if he or she deems it necessary in order to insure payment to or facilitate the collection by the state of the amount of sales or use taxes due, may require returns and payment of the amount of such taxes for periods other than monthly periods, in the case of a particular seller, retailer, or purchaser, as the case may be. The Tax Commissioner may by rule and regulation permit or require quarterly, semiannual, or annual reports and tax payments from sellers, retailers, or purchasers as the case may be who have small tax liabilities, but no such reports or payments may be permitted or required when the tax liability exceeds sixty dollars in any quarter, one hundred twenty dollars in any semiannual period, or two hundred forty dollars in any year;

(ii) For purposes of the sales tax, a return shall be filed by every retailer liable for collection from a purchaser and payment to the state of the tax. For purposes of the use tax a return shall be filed by every retailer engaged in business in this state and by every person who has purchased tangible personal property, the storage, use, or other consumption of which is subject to the use tax, but who has not paid the use tax due to a retailer required to collect the tax;

(iii) Returns shall be signed by the person required to file the return or by his or her duly authorized agent but need not be verified by oath; and

(iv) A taxpayer who keeps his or her regular books and records on a cash basis or on an accrual basis or on any generally recognized accounting basis which correctly reflects the operation of the business, may file the sales and use tax returns required by sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135 on the same accounting basis that is used for the regular books and records. On credit, conditional, and installment sales the retailer may elect to pay the tax upon the collections made during each month if this accounting method correctly reflects the operation of the business and is the same accounting method used for the regular books and records. When the retailer has adopted one basis or the other of reporting credit, conditional, or installment sales and paying the tax thereon, he or she will not be permitted to change from that basis without first having obtained the permission of the Tax Commissioner.

(c) The taxpayer required to file the return shall deliver or mail any required return together with a remittance of the net amount of the tax due to the office of the Tax Commissioner on or before the required filing date. Failure to file the return, filing after the required filing date, failure to remit the net amount of the tax due, or remitting the net amount of the tax due after the required filing date shall be cause for a penalty of forfeiture of the collection fee allowed pursuant to subdivision (d) of this subsection or five dollars, whichever is greater.

(d) The taxpayer shall deduct and withhold, from the taxes otherwise due from him or her on his or her tax return, three per cent of the first five thousand dollars remitted each month and one per cent of all amounts in excess of five thousand dollars remitted each month thereof to reimburse himself or herself for the cost of collecting the tax.

(2) (a) If the Tax Commissioner determines that any sales or use tax amount, penalty, or interest has been paid more than once, or has been erroneously or illegally collected or computed, the Tax Commissioner shall set forth that fact in his or her records and the excess amount collected or paid may be credited on any sales, use, or income tax amounts then due and payable from the person under the provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135. Any balance may be refunded to the person by whom it was paid, or his or her successors, administrators, or executors.

(b) No refund shall be allowed unless a claim therefor is filed with the Tax Commissioner by the person who made the overpayment or his or her attorney, assignee, executor, or administrator, within three years from the required filing date following the close of the period for which the overpayment was made, or within six months after any determination becomes final under the provisions of section 77-2709, or within six months from the date of overpayment with respect to such determinations, whichever of these three periods expires the later unless the credit relates to a period for which a waiver has been given. Failure to file a claim within the time prescribed in this subsection shall constitute a waiver of any demand against the state on account of overpayment.

(c) Every claim shall be in writing and shall state the specific grounds upon which the claim is founded.

(d) The Tax Commissioner shall allow or disallow a claim within one hundred eighty days after it has been filed. If the Tax Commissioner has neither allowed nor disallowed a claim within such one hundred eighty days, the claim shall be deemed to have been allowed.

(e) Within thirty days after disallowing any claim in whole or in part, the Tax Commissioner shall serve notice of his or her action on the claimant in the manner prescribed for service of notice of a deficiency determination.

(f) Within thirty days after the mailing of the notice of the Tax Commissioner's action upon a claim filed pursuant to the provisions of sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135, the action of the Tax Commissioner shall be final unless the taxpayer seeks review of the Tax Commissioner's determination as provided in section 77-27,127.

(g) Upon the allowance of a credit or refund, of any sum erroneously or illegally assessed or collected, or of any penalty collected without authority, or of any sum which was excessive or in any manner wrongfully collected, interest shall be allowed and paid on the amount of such credit or refund at the rate specified in section 45-104.01, as such rate may from time to time be adjusted by the Legislature, from the date such sum was paid or from the date the return was required to be filed, whichever date is later, to the date of the allowance of the refund, or in the case of a credit, to the due date of the amount against which the credit is allowed, but in the case of a voluntary and unrequested payment in excess of actual tax liability, no interest shall be allowed when such excess is refunded or credited.

(h) No suit or proceeding shall be maintained in any court for the recovery of any amount alleged to have been erroneously or illegally determined or collected unless a claim for refund or credit has been duly filed.

(i) The Tax Commissioner may recover any refund or part thereof which is erroneously made and any credit or part thereof which is erroneously allowed in an action brought, within one year from the date of refund or credit, in the name of the state, in a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the taxpayer involved is located.

(j) The action shall be tried in the county in which the taxpayer involved is a resident unless the court orders a change of place of trial.

(k) The Attorney General shall prosecute the action provided for in subdivision (i) of this subsection, and the provisions of state law and the rules of civil procedure relating to service of summons, pleadings, proofs, trials, and appeals shall be applicable to the proceedings.

(l) Credit shall be allowed to the retailer, contractor, or repairperson for sales or use taxes paid pursuant to sections 77-2701 to 77-27,135 on (i) sales represented by that portion of an account determined to

be worthless and actually charged off for federal income tax purposes. If such accounts are thereafter collected by the retailer, contractor, or repairperson, a tax shall be paid upon the amount so collected; or (ii) on the portion of the purchase price remaining unpaid at the time of a repossession made under the terms of a conditional sales contract.

Sec. 3. That original section 77-2703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 77-2708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, as amended by section 1, Legislative Bill 2, Eighty-seventh Legislature, Second Special Session, 1982, and section 1, Legislative Bill 101, Eighty-eighth Legislature, First Session, 1983, are repealed.