STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2398 BY: STEIDLEY

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO REVENUE AND TAXATION; AMENDING 68 O.S. 1991, SECTIONS 1354 AND 1357 (SECTION 15, CHAPTER 342, O.S.L. 1991), WHICH RELATE TO THE OKLAHOMA SALES TAX CODE; PROVIDING CERTAIN EXCEPTION FROM THE TAXATION OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANIES; CLARIFYING STATUTORY LANGUAGE; PROVIDING CERTAIN EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN TELEPHONE OR TELEGRAPH COMPANY SERVICES; DEFINING TERM; REPEALING 68 O.S. 1991, SECTION 1357 (SECTION 2, CHAPTER 337, O.S.L. 1991), WHICH IS A DUPLICATE SECTION RELATING TO THE OKLAHOMA SALES TAX CODE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1354, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1354. Tax Levy - Rate - Sales subject to tax.

1. There is hereby levied upon all sales, not otherwise exempted in the Oklahoma Sales Tax Code, Section 1350 et seq. of this title, an excise tax of four and one-half percent (4.5%) of the gross receipts or gross proceeds of each sale of the following:

(A) Tangible personal property, except newspapers and periodicals;

(B) Natural or artificial gas, electricity, ice, steam, or any other utility or public service, except water, sewage and refuse and those specifically exempt pursuant to the provisions of Section 1357 of this title;

(C) Transportation for hire to persons by common carriers, including railroads both steam and electric, motor transportation companies, taxicab companies, pullman car companies, airlines, and other means of transportation for hire;

(D) Service by telephone or telegraph companies to subscribers or users, including transmission of messages, whether local or long distance~~, and all services and rental charges in connection with transmission of any message~~. Taxable local services shall include basic local service and related transmission charges. Except as provided in Section 1357 of this title, taxable long distance services shall include the following:

(1) intrastate long distance services which originate and terminate within this state;

(2) interstate long distance services which originate in this state and terminate in another state; and

(3) interstate long distance services which originate in another state and terminate in this state and which are charged to the consumer's telephone number or account in this state, regardless of where the billing for such service is made;

(E) Printing or printed matter of all types, kinds, or character and, except for services of printing, copying or photocopying performed by a privately owned scientific and educational library sustained by monthly or annual dues paid by members sharing the use of such services with students interested in the study of geology, petroleum engineering or related subjects, any

service of printing or overprinting, including the copying of information by mimeograph, multigraph, or by otherwise duplicating written or printed matter in any manner, or the production of microfiche containing information from magnetic tapes or other media furnished by customers;

(F) Service of furnishing rooms by hotel, apartment hotel, public rooming house, motel, public lodging house, or tourist camp;

(G) Service of furnishing storage or parking privileges by auto hotels or parking lots;

(H) Computer hardware, software, coding sheets, cards, magnetic tapes or other media on which prewritten programs have been coded, punched, or otherwise recorded, including the gross receipts from the licensing of software programs;

(I) Foods, confections, and all drinks sold or dispensed by hotels, restaurants, or other dispensers, and sold for immediate consumption upon the premises or delivered or carried away from the premises for consumption elsewhere;

(J) Advertising of all kinds, types, and characters, including any and all devices used for advertising purposes and the servicing of any advertising devices except those specifically exempt pursuant to the provisions of Section 1357 of this title;

(K) Dues or fees to clubs including free or complimentary dues or fees which have a value equivalent to the charge that would have otherwise been made, including any fees paid for the use of facilities or services rendered at a health spa or club or any similar facility or business;

(L) Tickets for admission to or voluntary contributions made to places of amusement, sports, entertainment, exhibition, display, or other recreational events or activities, including free or complimentary admissions which have a value equivalent to the charge that would have otherwise been made;

(M) Charges made for the privilege of entering or engaging in any kind of activity, such as tennis, racquetball, or handball, when spectators are charged no admission fee;

(N) Charges made for the privilege of using items for amusement, sports, entertainment, or recreational activity, such as trampolines or golf carts;

(O) The rental of equipment for amusement, sports, entertainment, or other recreational activities, such as bowling shoes, skates, golf carts, or other sports or athletic equipment;

(P) The gross receipts from sales from any vending machine without any deduction for rental to locate the vending machine on the premises of a person who is not the owner or any other deductions therefrom;

(Q) The gross receipts or gross proceeds from the rental or lease of tangible personal property, including rental or lease of personal property when the rental or lease agreement requires the vendor to launder, clean, repair, or otherwise service the rented or leased property on a regular basis, without any deduction for the cost of the service rendered. If the rental or lease charge is based on the retail value of the property at the time of making the rental or lease agreement and the expected life of the property, and the rental or lease charge is separately stated from the service cost in the statement, bill, or invoice delivered to the consumer, the cost of services rendered shall be deducted from the gross receipts or gross proceeds;

(R) Flowers, plants, shrubs, trees, and other floral items, whether or not produced by the vendor, sold by persons engaged in florist or nursery business in this state, including all orders taken by an Oklahoma business for delivery in another state. All orders taken outside this state for delivery within this state shall not be subject to the taxes levied in this section;

(S) Tangible personal property sold to persons, peddlers, solicitors, or other salesmen, for resale when there is likelihood that this state will lose tax revenue due to the difficulty of enforcing the provisions of the Oklahoma Sales Tax Code because of:

(1) the operation of the business;

(2) the nature of the business;

(3) the turnover of independent contractors;

(4) the lack of place of business in which to display a permit or keep records;

(5) lack of adequate records;

(6) the fact that the persons are minors or transients;

(7) the fact that the persons are engaged in service businesses; or

(8) any other reasonable reason;

(T) Any taxable services and tangible personal property including materials, supplies, and equipment sold to contractors for the purpose of developing and improving real estate even though said real estate is intended for resale as real property, hereby declared to be sales to consumers or users, however, taxable materials, supplies and equipment sold to contractors as provided by this subsection which are purchased as a result of and subsequent to the date of a contract entered into either prior to the effective date of any law increasing the rate of sales tax imposed by this article, or entered into prior to the effective date of an ordinance or other measure increasing the sales tax levy of a political subdivision shall be subject to the rate of sales tax applicable, as of the date such contract was entered into, to sales of such materials, supplies and equipment if such purchases are required in order to complete the contract. Such rate shall be applicable to purchases made pursuant to the contract or any change order under the contract until the contract or any change order has been completed, accepted and the contractor has been discharged from any further obligation

under the contract or change order or until two (2) years from the date on which the contract was entered into whichever occurs first. The increased sales tax rate shall be applicable to all such purchases at the time of sale; however, the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall prescribe rules and regulations and shall provide procedures for the refund to a contractor of sales taxes collected on purchases eligible for the lower sales tax rate authorized by this subsection;

(U) Any taxable services and tangible personal property sold to persons who are primarily engaged in selling their services, such as repairmen, hereby declared to be sales to consumers or users.

2. All solicitations or advertisements in print or electronic media by Group Three vendors, for the sale of tangible property to be delivered within this state, shall contain a notice that the sale is subject to Oklahoma sales tax, unless the sale is exempt from such taxation.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1357 (Section 15, Chapter 342, O.S.L. 1991), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1357. Exemption - General.

There are hereby specifically exempted from the tax levied by this article:

(A) Transportation of school pupils to and from elementary schools or high schools in motor or other vehicles;

(B) Transportation of persons where the fare of each person does not exceed One Dollar ($1.00), or local transportation of persons within the corporate limits of a municipality except by taxicabs;

(C) Sales for resale to persons engaged in the business of reselling the articles purchased, whether within or without the state, provided that such sales to residents of this state are made to persons to whom sales tax permits have been issued as provided in this article. This exemption shall not apply to the sales of

articles made to persons holding permits when such persons purchase items for their use and which they are not regularly engaged in the business of reselling; neither shall this exemption apply to sales of tangible personal property to peddlers, solicitors and other salesmen who do not have an established place of business and a sales tax permit. The exemption provided by this subsection shall apply to sales of motor fuel or diesel fuel to a Group Five vendor, but the use of such motor fuel or diesel fuel by the Group Five vendor shall not be exempt from the tax levied by this article. The purchase of motor fuel or diesel fuel is exempt from sales tax when the motor fuel is for shipment outside this state and consumed by a common carrier by rail in the conduct of its business. The sales tax shall apply to the purchase of motor fuel or diesel fuel in Oklahoma by a common carrier by rail when such motor fuel is purchased for fueling, within this state, of any locomotive or other motorized flanged wheel equipment;

(D) Sales of advertising space in newspapers and periodicals and billboard advertising service, and any advertising through the electronic media, including radio, television and cable television;

(E) Eggs, feed, supplies, machinery and equipment purchased by persons regularly engaged in the business of raising worms, fish, any insect or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic animal life and used for the purpose of raising same for marketing. This exemption shall only be granted and extended to the purchaser when the items are to be used and in fact are used in the raising of animal life as set out above. Each purchaser shall certify, in writing, on the invoice or sales ticket retained by the vendor that he is regularly engaged in the business of raising such animal life and that the items purchased will be used only in such business. The vendor shall certify to the Oklahoma Tax Commission that the price of the items has been reduced to grant the full benefit of the

exemption. Violation hereof by the purchaser or vendor shall be a misdemeanor;

(F) Sale of natural or artificial gas and electricity when sold exclusively for residential use after December 31, 1980. Provided, nothing herein shall be construed as limiting or prohibiting cities and towns, and counties levying a tax pursuant to the provisions of ~~Section 5 of Enrolled House Bill No. 1001 of the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 43rd Oklahoma Legislature~~ 1370.2 of this title, from levying and collecting taxes on the sale of natural or artificial gas and electricity. Provided further, any sales tax levied by a city or town, or a county levying a tax pursuant to the provisions of Section ~~5 of Enrolled House Bill No. 1001 of the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 43rd Oklahoma Legislature~~ 1370.2 of this title, on natural or artificial gas and electricity shall be in effect regardless of ordinance or contractual provisions referring to previously imposed state sales tax on such items;

(G) In addition to the exemptions authorized by Section ~~16~~ 1357.4 of this ~~act~~ title, sales of medicines or drugs prescribed for the treatment of human beings by a person licensed to prescribe the medicines or drugs. Provided, this exemption shall not apply to proprietary or patent medicines as defined by Section 353.1 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

(H) Transfers of title or possession of empty, partially filled, or filled returnable oil and chemical drums to any person who is not regularly engaged in the business of selling, reselling or otherwise transferring empty, partially filled, or filled returnable oil drums;

(I) Sales of one-way utensils, paper napkins, paper cups, disposable hot containers and other one-way carry out materials to a vendor of meals or beverages;

(J) Sales of food or food products for home consumption which are purchased in whole or in part with coupons issued pursuant to

the federal food stamp program as authorized by Sections 2011 through 2029 of Title 7 of the United States Code, as to that portion purchased with such coupons. The exemption provided for such sales shall be inapplicable to such sales upon the effective date of any federal law that removes the requirement of the exemption as a condition for participation by the State of Oklahoma in the federal food stamp program;

(K) Sales of computers, data processing equipment, related peripherals and telephone, telegraph or telecommunications service and equipment to a new or expanding business. In order to qualify for the exemption provided for by this subsection, the sale of said items shall equal or exceed the sum of Two Million Dollars ($2,000,000.00). For purposes of this subsection, qualified purchaser means any new or expanding business which adds at least one hundred (100) new full-time-equivalent employees, as certified by the Employment Security Commission. Only sales of computers, data processing equipment, related peripherals and telephone, telegraph or telecommunications service and equipment made within thirty-six (36) months of the effective date of this act shall be eligible for the exemption provided by this subsection;

(L) Sales of computers, data processing equipment, related peripherals and telephone, telegraph or telecommunications service and equipment for use in a qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facility. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facility" means a new or expanding facility primarily engaged in aircraft repair, building or rebuilding whether or not on a factory basis, whose total cost of construction exceeds the sum of Five Million Dollars ($5,000,000.00) and which employs at least two hundred fifty (250) new full-time-equivalent employees, as certified by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, upon completion of the facility. In order to qualify for the exemption provided for by this subsection, the cost

of said items purchased by the qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facility shall equal or exceed the sum of Two Million Dollars ($2,000,000.00);

(M) Sales of tangible personal property consumed or incorporated in the construction or expansion of a qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facility as defined in subsection (L) of this section. For purposes of this subsection, sales made to a contractor or subcontractor that has previously entered into a contractual relationship with a qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facility for construction or expansion of such a facility shall be considered sales made to a qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facility; ~~and~~

(N) Effective July 1, 1993, and thereafter, sales of repair machinery, repair equipment and repair parts, and fuel, oil, lubricants and other substances used for the operation and maintenance of such repair machinery, repair equipment and repair parts, all of which are to be used directly within a nongovernmental aircraft maintenance facility which is primarily engaged in aircraft repair, building or rebuilding whether or not on a factory basis and:

1. Which has been certified by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission as employing at least two thousand (2,000) full-time-equivalent employees; or

2. Whose total cost of construction exceeds the sum of Five Million Dollars ($5,000,000.00) and which employs at least two hundred fifty (250) new full-time-equivalent employees and which is owned or leased by an aircraft manufacturing facility which employs at least two thousand (2,000) full-time-equivalent employees in this state as certified by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

Provided, the provisions of this subsection shall be null and void unless and until there are two (2) or more such <u>aircraft maintenance</u> facilities located in this state<u>; and</u>

(O) Sales of the following services provided by telephone or telegraph companies to subscribers or users:

(1) sales of any interstate service which entitles the subscriber to inward or outward calling respectively between a station associated with an access line in the local telephone system area or a station directly connected to an interexchange carrier's facilities and telephone or radio telephone stations in diverse geographical service areas specified by the subscriber;

(2) sales of any interstate private communications service to the persons contracting for the receipt of that service that entitles the purchaser to exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of channels between exchanges;

(3) sales of any carrier access services, right of access services, telecommunications services to be resold, and telecommunications equipment and services used in the subsequent provision of, used as a component part of, or integrated into end-to-end telecommunications service;

(4) sales of value-added nonvocal services in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, content, code, or protocol of the information to be transmitted; including charges for the storage of data or information for subsequent retrieval or the processing of data or information intended to change its form or content;

(5) any telecommunications service rendered by a company for private use within its organization or used, allocated, or distributed by a company to its affiliated group; and

(6) for purposes of this subsection, interstate telecommunications shall include only those services that both originate and terminate in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. The term "interstate" shall not include any services that either originate or terminate outside of the fifty states and the District of Columbia.

SECTION 3. REPEALER 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1357 (Section 2, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 1991), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

43-2-7340 DDL