

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2879

By: Bastin

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1354, as last amended by Section 13, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994 (68 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1354), which relates to sales tax levy and rate; increasing rate of sales tax; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1357, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 1995 (68 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1357), which relates to exemptions from sales tax; providing for sales tax exemptions for certain food products; providing definition; providing exceptions; providing for repeal of income tax beginning on certain date; prohibiting Oklahoma Tax Commission from assessing or collecting income tax; providing exceptions for certain accrued taxes; repealing 68 O.S. 1991, Sections 2351, 2352, 2352.1, 2353, as amended by Section 24, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2354, 2355, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 1992, 2357, 2357.1, 2357.2, 2357.4, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 383, O.S.L. 1992, 2357.6, 2357.7, 2357.8, 2357.9, 2357.10, 2357.11, as last amended by Section 25, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2357.22, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 379, O.S.L. 1994, Section 1, Chapter 79, O.S.L. 1995, 2357.31,

as amended by Section 3, Chapter 355, O.S.L. 1995, 2357.32, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 224, O.S.L. 1992, Section 49, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 1993, 2358, as last amended by Section 7, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 1995, 2358.1, 2358.2, Section 41, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1995, 2359, 2360, 2361, as last amended by Section 8, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 1995, 2362, as amended by Section 27, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993, 2368, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993, 2369, 2370, 2372, 2373, as amended by Section 25, Chapter 146, O.S.L. 1993, 2374, 2375, as last amended by Section 28, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2381, 2382, 2385.1, as last amended by Section 29, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2385.2, as amended by Section 30, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2385.3, as amended by Section 47, Chapter 366, O.S.L. 1993, 2385.4, 2385.5, 2385.6, 2385.7, 2385.8, 2385.9, 2385.10, 2385.11, 2385.12, 2385.13, 2385.14, 2385.15, 2385.16, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 28, O.S.L. 1992, 2385.17, 2385.18, 2385.19, 2385.20, 2385.23 and 2385.24 (68 O.S. Supp. 1995, Sections 2353, 2355, 2357.4, 2357.11, 2357.22, 2357.24, 2357.31, 2357.32, 2357.59, 2358, 2358.3, 2361, 2362, 2367, 2368, 2373, 2375, 2385.1, 2385.2, 2385.3 and 2385.16), which relate to the Oklahoma Income Tax Act; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1354, as last amended by Section 13, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994 (68 O.S. Supp. 1995, 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%)~~ seven percent (7%) 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, excluding:

(1) transportation services provided by a tourism service broker which are incidental to the rendition of tourism brokerage services by such broker to a customer regardless of whether or not such transportation services are actually owned and operated by the tourism service broker. For purposes of this subsection, "tourism service broker" means any person, firm, association or corporation or any employee of such person, firm, association or corporation which, for a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, arranges or offers to arrange trips, tours or other vacation or recreational travel plans for a customer, and

(2) transportation services provided by a funeral establishment to family members and other persons for purposes of conducting a funeral in this state;

(D) Telecommunications services that originate and terminate in this state and that originate or terminate in this state and are charged to the consumer's telephone number or account in this state regardless of where the billing for such service is made, and all local telecommunications service and rental charges, including all installation and construction charges and all service and rental charges having any connection with transmission of any message or image.

(1) The term "telecommunications services" shall mean the transmission of any interactive, two-way electromagnetic communications, including voice, image, data and information, through the use of any medium such as wires, cables, microwaves, cellular radio, radio waves, light waves, or any combination of those or similar media, but shall not include the following:

- a. 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 but not including services commonly known as voice mail,
- b. any interstate telecommunications service which is:
 - (1) rendered by a company for private use within its organization, or
 - (2) used, allocated, or distributed by a company to its affiliated group, or
- c. sales of any carrier access services, right of access services, telecommunications services to be resold, or telecommunications services used in the subsequent

provision of, use as a component part of, or
integrated into end-to-end telecommunications service,

(2) The term "telecommunications services" shall include, but not be limited to sales of any interstate telecommunications services which:

- a. entitle 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 any interexchange carrier's facilities and telephone or radiotelephone stations in diverse geographical locations specified by the subscriber, or
- b. entitle the subscriber to private communications services which allow exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of channels between exchanges, and

(3) The term "interstate" includes any international service that either originates or terminates outside of the fifty (50) United States and the District of Columbia;

(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 and the contractor shall file a claim for refund before the expiration of three (3) years after the date of contract completion or five (5) years after the contract was entered into, whichever occurs earlier; 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, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 1995 (68 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 1357), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1357. Exemption - General.

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

1. Transportation of school pupils to and from elementary schools or high schools in motor or other vehicles;

2. 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;

3. 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 paragraph 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;

4. 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;

5. 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;

6. 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 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 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;

7. In addition to the exemptions authorized by Section 1357.6 of this 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;

8. 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;

9. 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;

10. 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;

11. Sales of food or food products to or by an organization which:

- a. is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c) (3), and which provides and delivers prepared meals for home consumption to elderly or homebound persons as part of a program commonly known as "Meals on Wheels" or "Mobile Meals", or
- b. is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c) (3), and which receives federal funding pursuant to the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, for the purpose of providing nutrition programs for the care and benefit of elderly persons;

12. Sales of tangible personal property or services to or by organizations which are exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c) (3), and which are primarily involved in the collection and distribution of food and other household products to other organizations which are exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c) (3), which facilitate the distribution of such products to the needy, except sales made in the course of business for profit or savings, competing with other persons engaged in the same or similar business;

13. Sales of food, food products, or clothing to children's homes which are located on church-owned property and are operated by organizations exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c) (3);

14. 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 paragraph, "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 paragraph, 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);

15. Sales of tangible personal property consumed or incorporated in the construction or expansion of a qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facility as defined in paragraph 13 of this section. For purposes of this paragraph, 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;

16. Sales of any interstate telecommunications services which:

- a. entitle 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 any interexchange carrier's facilities and telephone or radiotelephone stations in diverse geographical locations specified by the subscriber, or
- b. entitle the subscriber to private communications services which allow exclusive or priority use of a

communications channel or group of channels between exchanges;

17. Sales of railroad track spikes manufactured and sold for use in this state in the construction or repair of railroad tracks, switches, sidings and turnouts; ~~and~~

18. Sales of aircraft and aircraft parts provided such sales occur at a qualified aircraft maintenance facility. As used in this paragraph, "qualified aircraft maintenance facility" means a facility operated by an air common carrier at which there were employed at least two thousand (2,000) full-time-equivalent employees in the preceding year as certified by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and which is primarily related to the fabrication, repair, alteration, modification, refurbishing, maintenance, building or rebuilding of commercial aircraft or aircraft parts used in air common carriage. For purposes of this paragraph, "air common carrier" shall also include members of an affiliated group as defined by Section 1504 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 1504; and

19. Sales of food products for human consumption. For purposes of this subsection, "food products" shall include, but shall not be limited to: cereals and cereal products; milk and milk products, including ice cream; oleomargarine; meat and meat products; poultry and poultry products; fish and fish products; eggs and egg products; vegetables and vegetable products; fruit and fruit products; spices, condiments and salt; sugar and sugar products; coffee and coffee substitutes; tea, cocoa and cocoa products; or any combination of such food products. "Food products" shall not include: medicines, tonics, vitamins or medicinal preparations in any form; carbonated or noncarbonated packaged soft drinks; diluted juices where sold in liquid or frozen form; ice; candy; or foods and drinks served, prepared or sold ready for immediate consumption in or by restaurants, drug stores, lunch counters, cafeterias, vending

machines, hotels or like places of business or sold ready for immediate consumption from pushcarts, motor vehicles or any other form of vehicle.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2350.1 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Beginning January 1, 1997, the income tax levied pursuant to Section 2355 of this title shall be repealed. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall be prohibited from assessing or collecting any income tax accruing after this date. However, the Tax Commission shall continue with due diligence to assess and collect any income tax accruing prior to January 1, 1997. All references to income tax or tax on the income of any individual, corporation or organization shall have no force or effect after January 1, 1997, except with regards to any income taxes accruing prior to this date.

SECTION 4. REPEALER 68 O.S. 1991, Sections 2351, 2352, 2352.1, 2353, as amended by Section 24, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2354, 2355, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 1992, 2357, 2357.1, 2357.2, 2357.4, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 383, O.S.L. 1992, 2357.6, 2357.7, 2357.8, 2357.9, 2357.10, 2357.11, as last amended by Section 25, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2357.22, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 379, O.S.L. 1994, Section 1, Chapter 79, O.S.L. 1995, 2357.31, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 355, O.S.L. 1995, 2357.32, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 224, O.S.L. 1992, Section 49, Chapter 275, O.S.L. 1993, 2358, as last amended by Section 7, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 1995, 2358.1, 2358.2, Section 41, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1995, 2359, 2360, 2361, as last amended by Section 8, Chapter 337, O.S.L. 1995, 2362, as amended by Section 27, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993, 2368, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 1993, 2369, 2370, 2372, 2373, as amended by Section 25, Chapter 146, O.S.L. 1993, 2374, 2375, as last amended by

Section 28, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2381, 2382, 2385.1, as last amended by Section 29, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2385.2, as amended by Section 30, Chapter 278, O.S.L. 1994, 2385.3, as amended by Section 47, Chapter 366, O.S.L. 1993, 2385.4, 2385.5, 2385.6, 2385.7, 2385.8, 2385.9, 2385.10, 2385.11, 2385.12, 2385.13, 2385.14, 2385.15, 2385.16, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 28, O.S.L. 1992, 2385.17, 2385.18, 2385.19, 2385.20, 2385.23 and 2385.24 (68 O.S. Supp. 1995, Sections 2353, 2355, 2357.4, 2357.11, 2357.22, 2357.24, 2357.31, 2357.32, 2357.59, 2358, 2358.3, 2361, 2362, 2367, 2368, 2373, 2375, 2385.1, 2385.2, 2385.3 and 2385.16), are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective January 1, 1997.

45-2-9015

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