STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 3162 By: Covey

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1361, as last amended by Section 561, Chapter 133, O.S.L. 1997 (68 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 1361), which relates to payment and collection of sales tax; modifying language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1361, as last amended by Section 561, Chapter 133, O.S.L. 1997 (68 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 1361), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1361. Consumer to pay tax - Vendor to collect tax - Penalties for failure to collect.

A. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section, the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title shall be paid by the consumer or user to the vendor as trustee for and on account of this state. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section, each and every vendor in this state shall collect from the consumer or user the full amount of the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title, or an amount equal as nearly as possible or practicable to the average equivalent thereof. Every

person required to collect any tax imposed by Section 1350 et seq. of this title, and in the case of a corporation, each principal officer thereof, shall be personally liable for the tax. In the case of a limited liability company, all managers and members under a duty to collect and remit taxes for the limited liability company shall be liable for the tax. If no managers or members have been specified to be under the duty of withholding and remitting taxes, then all managers and members shall be liable for the tax.

~~However, if~~ If the Oklahoma Tax Commission finds that a consumer or user improperly presented a sales tax permit or other certification or used the property purchased exempt from tax in a manner that would not have qualified for exemption, the purchaser shall be liable for the remittance of the tax, interest and penalty due thereon and the Tax Commission shall pursue collection thereof from the purchaser in any manner in which sales tax may be collected from a vendor. Upon such determination, the vendor shall be relieved of any liability for any sales tax imposed by the provisions of this section upon such vendor with respect to such sale.

B. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section, vendors shall add the tax imposed by Section 1350 et seq. of this title, or the average equivalent thereof, to the sales price, charge, consideration, gross receipts or gross proceeds of the sale of tangible personal property or services taxed by Section 1350 et seq. of this title, and when added such tax shall constitute a part of such price or charge, shall be a debt from the consumer or user to vendor until paid, and shall be recoverable at law in the same manner as other debts.

C. A person who has obtained a direct payment permit as provided in Section 1364.1 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall accrue all taxes imposed pursuant to Sections 1354 or 1402 of this title on all purchases made by the person pursuant to the

permit at the time the purchased items are first used or consumed in a taxable manner and pay the accrued tax directly to the Oklahoma Tax Commission on reports as required by Section 1365 of this title.

D. Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section, a vendor who willfully or intentionally fails, neglects or refuses to collect the full amount of the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title, or willfully or intentionally fails, neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of Section 1350 et seq. of this title, or remits or rebates to a consumer or user, either directly or indirectly, and by whatsoever means, all or any part of the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title, or makes in any form of advertising, verbally or otherwise, any statement which implies that the vendor is absorbing the tax, or paying the tax for the consumer or user by an adjustment of prices or at a price including the tax, or in any manner whatsoever, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), and upon conviction for a second or other subsequent offense shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), or incarcerated for not more than sixty (60) days, or both. Provided, sales by vending machines may be made at a stated price which includes state and any municipal sales tax.

E. A consumer or user who willfully or intentionally fails, neglects or refuses to pay the full amount of tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title or willfully or intentionally uses a sales tax permit or direct payment permit which is invalid, expired, revoked, canceled or otherwise limited to a specific line of business or willfully or intentionally issues a resale certificate to a vendor to evade the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title shall be subject to a penalty in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) per reporting period upon determination thereof,

which shall be apportioned as provided for the apportionment of the tax.

F. Any sum or sums collected or accrued or required to be collected or accrued in Section 1350 et seq. of this title shall be deemed to be held in trust for the State of Oklahoma, and, as trustee, the collecting vendor or holder of a direct payment permit as provided for in Section 1364.1 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall have a fiduciary duty to the State of Oklahoma in regards to such sums and shall be subject to the trust laws of this state. Any vendor who willfully or intentionally fails to remit the tax, after the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title was collected from the consumer or user, and appropriates the tax held in trust to his or her own use, or to the use of any person not entitled thereto, without authority of law, shall be guilty of the felony of embezzlement. Any holder of a direct payment permit who willfully or intentionally fails to remit the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title and appropriates the tax held in trust to his or her own use, or to the use of any person not entitled thereto, without authority of law, shall be guilty of the felony of embezzlement.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 3. 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.

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