STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE BILL 591 By: Monson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1356, as last amended by Section 15, Chapter 314, O.S.L. 2000 (68 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 1356), which relates to sales tax exemptions; exempting certain sales from sales taxes; defining term; limiting exemption to sales made within certain time period; providing for refund of sales taxes paid; specifying certain duties of Oklahoma Tax Commission; providing procedures for claim and payment of refunds; requiring certain documentation and affidavits; requiring certain certification by Oklahoma Employment Security Commission; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 1991, Section 1356, as last amended by Section 15, Chapter 314, O.S.L. 2000 (68 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 1356), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1356. Exemptions - Governmental and nonprofit entities.

There are hereby specifically exempted from the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title:

1. Sale of tangible personal property or services to the United States government or to the State of Oklahoma, any political subdivision of this state or any agency of a political subdivision of this state; provided, all sales to contractors in connection with the performance of any contract with the United States government, State of Oklahoma or any of its political subdivisions shall not be exempted from the tax levied by this article, except as hereinafter provided;

2. Sales of property to agents appointed by or under contract with agencies or instrumentalities of the United States government

if ownership and possession of such property transfers immediately to the United States government;

3. Sales of property to agents appointed by or under contract with a political subdivision of this state if the sale of such property is associated with the development of a qualified federal facility, as provided in the Oklahoma Federal Facilities Development Act, and if ownership and possession of such property transfers immediately to the political subdivision or the state;

4. Sales made directly by county, district or state fair authorities of this state, upon the premises of the fair authority, for the sole benefit of the fair authority;

5. Sale of food in cafeterias or lunch rooms of elementary schools, high schools, colleges or universities which are operated primarily for teachers and pupils and are not operated primarily for the public or for profit;

6. Dues paid to fraternal, religious, civic, charitable or educational societies or organizations by regular members thereof, provided, such societies or organizations operate under what is commonly termed the lodge plan or system, and provided such societies or organizations do not operate for a profit which inures to the benefit of any individual member or members thereof to the exclusion of other members and dues paid monthly or annually to privately owned scientific and educational libraries by members sharing the use of services rendered by such libraries with students interested in the study of geology, petroleum engineering or related subjects;

7. Sale of tangible personal property or services to or by churches, except sales made in the course of business for profit or savings, competing with other persons engaged in the same or a similar business;

8. The amount of proceeds received from the sale of admission tickets which is separately stated on the ticket of admission for

the repayment of money borrowed by any accredited state-supported college or university or any public trust of which a county in this state is the beneficiary, for the purpose of constructing or enlarging any facility to be used for the staging of an athletic event, a theatrical production, or any other form of entertainment, edification or cultural cultivation to which entry is gained with a paid admission ticket. Such facilities include, but are not limited to, athletic fields, athletic stadiums, field houses, amphitheaters and theaters. To be eligible for this sales tax exemption, the amount separately stated on the admission ticket shall be a surcharge which is imposed, collected and used for the sole purpose of servicing or aiding in the servicing of debt incurred by the college or university to effect the capital improvements hereinbefore described;

9. Sales of tangible personal property or services to the council organizations or similar state supervisory organizations of the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of U.S.A. and the Campfire Boys and Girls shall be exempt from sales tax;

10. Sale of tangible personal property or services to any county, municipality, rural water district, public school district, the institutions of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the Grand River Dam Authority, the Northeast Oklahoma Public Facilities Authority, the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority, Muskogee City-County Port Authority or to any person with whom any of the above-named subdivisions or agencies of this state has duly entered into a public contract pursuant to law, necessary for carrying out such public contract or to any subcontractor to such a public contract. Any person making purchases on behalf of such subdivision or agency of this state shall certify, in writing, on the copy of the invoice or sales ticket to be retained by the vendor that the purchases are made for and on behalf of such subdivision or agency of this state

and set out the name of such public subdivision or agency. Any person who wrongfully or erroneously certifies that purchases are for any of the above-named subdivisions or agencies of this state or who otherwise violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined an amount equal to double the amount of sales tax involved or incarcerated for not more than sixty (60) days or both;

11. Sales of tangible personal property or services to private institutions of higher education and private elementary and secondary institutions of education accredited by the State Department of Education or registered by the State Board of Education for purposes of participating in federal programs or accredited as defined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education which are exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3), including materials, supplies, and equipment used in the construction and improvement of buildings and other structures owned by the institutions and operated for educational purposes.

Any person, firm, agency or entity making purchases on behalf of any institution, agency or subdivision in this state, shall certify in writing, on the copy of the invoice or sales ticket the nature of the purchases, and violation of this paragraph shall be a misdemeanor as set forth in paragraph 10 of this section;

12. Tuition and educational fees paid to private institutions of higher education and private elementary and secondary institutions of education accredited by the State Department of Education or registered by the State Board of Education for purposes of participating in federal programs or accredited as defined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education which are exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3);

13. Sales of tangible personal property made by:

a. a public school,

b. a private school offering instruction for grade levels kindergarten through twelfth grade,

c. a public school district,

d. a public or private school board,

e. a public or private school student group or organization,

f. a parent-teacher association or organization, or

g. public or private school personnel for purposes of raising funds for the benefit of a public or private school, public school district, public or private school board or public or private school student group or organization.

The exemption provided by this paragraph for sales made by a public or private school shall be limited to those public or private schools accredited by the State Department of Education or registered by the State Board of Education for purposes of participating in federal programs. Sale of tangible personal property in this paragraph shall include sale of admission tickets and concessions at athletic events;

14. Sales of tangible personal property by:

a. local 4-H clubs,

b. county, regional or state 4-H councils,

c. county, regional or state 4-H committees,

d. 4-H leader associations,

e. county, regional or state 4-H foundations, and

f. authorized 4-H camps and training centers.

The exemption provided by this paragraph shall be limited to sales for the purpose of raising funds for the benefit of such organizations. Sale of tangible personal property exempted by this paragraph shall include sale of admission tickets;

15. The first Seventy-five Thousand Dollars ($75,000.00) each year from sale of tickets and concessions at athletic events by each organization exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(4);

16. Items or services which are subsequently given away by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department as promotional items pursuant to Section 1834 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

17. Sales of tangible personal property or services to fire departments organized pursuant to Section 592 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes which items are to be used for the purposes of the fire department. Any person making purchases on behalf of any such fire department shall certify, in writing, on the copy of the invoice or sales ticket to be retained by the vendor that the purchases are made for and on behalf of such fire department and set out the name of such fire department. Any person who wrongfully or erroneously certifies that the purchases are for any such fire department or who otherwise violates the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined an amount equal to double the amount of sales tax involved or incarcerated for not more than sixty (60) days, or both;

18. Complimentary or free tickets for admission to places of amusement, sports, entertainment, exhibition, display or other recreational events or activities which are issued through a box office or other entity which is operated by a state institution of higher education with institutional employees or by a municipality with municipal employees;

19. The first Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000.00) each year from sales of tangible personal property by fire departments organized pursuant to Titles 11, 18, or 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes for the purposes of raising funds for the benefit of the fire department. Fire departments selling tangible personal property for the purposes of raising funds shall be limited to no more than six

(6) days each year to raise such funds in order to receive the exemption granted by this paragraph;

20. Sales of tangible personal property or services to any Boys & Girls Clubs of America affiliate in this state which is not affiliated with the Salvation Army and which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3);

21. Sales of tangible personal property or services to any organization, which takes court-adjudicated juveniles for purposes of rehabilitation, and which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3), provided that at least fifty percent (50%) of the juveniles served by such organization are court adjudicated and the organization receives state funds in an amount less than ten percent (10%) of the annual budget of the organization;

22. Sales of tangible personal property or services to:

a. any federally qualified community health center as defined in Section 254c of Title 42 of the United States Code,

b. any migrant health center as defined in Section 254b of Title 42 of the United States Code,

c. any clinic receiving disbursements of state monies from the Indigent Health Care Revolving Fund pursuant to the provisions of Section 66 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and

d. any community based health center which meets all of the following criteria:

(1) provides primary care services at no cost to the recipient, and

(2) 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);

23. Dues or fees, including free or complimentary dues or fees which have a value equivalent to the charge that could have otherwise been made, to YMCAs, YWCAs or municipally-owned recreation centers for the use of facilities and programs;

24. The first Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000.00) each year from sales of tangible personal property or services to or by a cultural organization established to sponsor and promote educational, charitable and cultural events for disadvantaged children, and which organization is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3);

25. Sales of tangible personal property or services to museums or other entities which have been accredited by the American Association of Museums. Any person making purchases on behalf of any such museum or other entity shall certify, in writing, on the copy of the invoice or sales ticket to be retained by the vendor that the purchases are made for and on behalf of such museum or other entity and set out the name of such museum or other entity. Any person who wrongfully or erroneously certifies that the purchases are for any such museum or other entity or who otherwise violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined an amount equal to double the amount of sales tax involved or incarcerated for not more than sixty (60) days, or by both such fine and incarceration;

26. Sales of tickets for admission by any museum accredited by the American Association of Museums. In order to be eligible for the exemption provided by this paragraph, an amount equivalent to the amount of the tax which would otherwise be required to be collected pursuant to the provisions of Section 1350 et seq. of this title shall be separately stated on the admission ticket and shall be collected and used for the sole purpose of servicing or aiding in

the servicing of debt incurred by the museum to effect the construction, enlarging or renovation of any facility to be used for entertainment, edification or cultural cultivation to which entry is gained with a paid admission ticket;

27. Sales of tangible personal property or services occurring on or after June 1, 1995, to children's homes which are supported or sponsored by one or more churches, members of which serve as trustees of the home;

28. Sales of tangible personal property or services to the organization known as the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Oklahoma, Inc., and subordinate chapters thereof;

29. Sales of tangible personal property or services to youth camps which are supported or sponsored by one or more churches, members of which serve as trustees of the organization;

30. Transfer of tangible personal property made pursuant to Section 3226 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes by the University Hospitals Trust;

31. Sales of tangible personal property or services to a municipality, county or school district pursuant to a lease or lease-purchase agreement executed between the vendor and a municipality, county or school district. A copy of the lease or lease-purchase agreement shall be retained by the vendor;

32. Sales of tangible personal property or services to any spaceport user, as defined in the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Act;

33. The sale, use, storage, consumption, or distribution in this state, whether by the importer, exporter, or another person, of any satellite or any associated launch vehicle, including components of, and parts and motors for, any such satellite or launch vehicle, imported or caused to be imported into this state for the purpose of export by means of launching into space. This exemption provided by this paragraph shall not be affected by:

a. the destruction in whole or in part of the satellite or launch vehicle,

b. the failure of a launch to occur or be successful, or

c. the absence of any transfer or title to, or possession of, the satellite or launch vehicle after launch;

34. The sale, lease, use, storage, consumption, or distribution in this state of any space facility, space propulsion system or space vehicle, satellite, or station of any kind possessing space flight capacity, including components thereof;

35. The sale, lease, use, storage, consumption, or distribution in this state of tangible personal property, placed on or used aboard any space facility, space propulsion system or space vehicle, satellite, or station possessing space flight capacity, which is launched into space, irrespective of whether such tangible property is returned to this state for subsequent use, storage, or consumption in any manner;

36. The sale, lease, use, storage, consumption, or distribution in this state of tangible personal property meeting the definition of "section 38 property" as defined in Sections 48(a)(1)(A) and (B)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that is an integral part of and used primarily in support of space flight; however, section 38 property used in support of space flight shall not include general office equipment, any boat, mobile home, motor vehicle, or other vehicle of a class or type required to be registered, licensed, titled, or documented in this state or by the United States government, or any other property not specifically suited to supporting space activity. The term "in support of space flight", for purposes of this paragraph, means the altering, monitoring, controlling, regulating, adjusting, servicing, or repairing of any space facility, space propulsion systems or space vehicle, satellite, or station possessing space flight capacity, including the components thereof;

37. The purchase or lease of machinery and equipment for use at a fixed location in this state, which is used exclusively in the manufacturing, processing, compounding, or producing of any space facility, space propulsion system or space vehicle, satellite, or station of any kind possessing space flight capacity. Provided, the exemption provided for in this paragraph shall not be allowed unless the purchaser or lessee signs an affidavit stating that the item or items to be exempted are for the exclusive use designated herein. Any person furnishing a false affidavit to the vendor for the purpose of evading payment of any tax imposed by Section 1354 of this title shall be subject to the penalties provided by law. As used in this paragraph, "machinery and equipment" means "section 38 property" as defined in Sections 48(a)(1)(A) and (B)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which is used as an integral part of the manufacturing, processing, compounding, or producing of items of tangible personal property. Such term includes parts and accessories only to the extent that the exemption thereof is consistent with the provisions of this paragraph;

38. The amount of a surcharge or any other amount which is separately stated on an admission ticket which is imposed, collected and used for the sole purpose of constructing, remodeling or enlarging facilities of a public trust having a municipality or county as its sole beneficiary; ~~and~~

39. Sales of tangible personal property or services which are directly used in or for the benefit of a state park in this state, which are made to an organization which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3) and which is organized primarily for the purpose of supporting one or more state parks located in this state; and

40. Sales of tangible personal property to a qualified nonprofit organization exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to be

consumed or incorporated in or to be used to furnish or equip a qualified facility owned by the organization. For purposes of this paragraph, sales made to a contractor or subcontractor that has previously entered into a contractual relationship with a qualified nonprofit organization for construction or furnishing of a qualified facility shall be considered sales made to a qualified nonprofit organization. For purposes of this paragraph, "qualified facility" means a new facility which:

a. is primarily used for telephone solicitation on behalf of the organization,

b. has a total construction cost of Seven Million Dollars ($7,000,000.00) or more, and

c. employs or will employ within three (3) years of the date of completion of construction of the facility at least one hundred fifty (150) new full-time-equivalent employees, as certified by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

Only sales made within forty-eight (48) months of the effective date of this act shall be eligible for the exemption provided by this subsection. In order to receive the exemption provided for in this paragraph, the sales tax must be paid to the vendor and a claim for refund filed with the Tax Commission as provided in Section 2 of this act.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1356.2 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. In order to administer the exemption for sales to a qualified nonprofit organization as provided by paragraph 40 of Section 1356 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, there shall be made a sales tax refund for state and local sales taxes paid on sales of property therein described by a qualified nonprofit organization.

B. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall transfer each month from sales tax collected the amount which the Tax Commission estimates to be necessary to make the sales tax refund provided by this section to an account designated as the Tax Commission determines.

C. Any refund shall be paid from the account prescribed by this section at the time the claim for refund is approved by the Tax Commission. The amount of the refund shall not exceed the total state and local sales taxes paid together with accrued interest upon such total. The amount of interest paid to a qualified nonprofit organization upon the principal amount of any refund made to the organization for purposes of administering the exemption provided by paragraph 40 of Section 1356 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be determined according to the provisions of this subsection. For any month during which the Tax Commission transfers a sum to the account prescribed by subsection B of this section, the Tax Commission shall determine an interest rate by determining the rate of interest paid for a three-month Treasury Bill of the United States government as of the first work day of the month and the interest shall accrue upon any amount transferred during the month and upon the amounts previously transferred to the account together with interest previously accrued upon such amounts.

D. State and local sales taxes paid by a contractor or subcontractor that has previously entered into a contractual relationship with a qualified nonprofit organization for construction or furnishing of a qualified facility shall, upon proper showing, be refunded to the qualified nonprofit organization.

E. The qualified nonprofit organization shall file, within thirty-six (36) months of the date of purchase, with the Tax Commission, the following documentation for any refund claimed:

1. Invoices indicating the amount of state and local sales tax paid;

2. Affidavit of each vendor that state and local sales tax billed to the purchaser has not been audited, rebated, or refunded to the purchaser but has been collected by the vendor and remitted to the Tax Commission; and

3. All additional documentation required to be submitted pursuant to rules promulgated by the Tax Commission.

F. In the event that state and local sales tax was paid by a contractor or subcontractor, the qualified nonprofit organization shall file with the Tax Commission the documentation required in subsection E of this section, but in lieu of the affidavit of each vendor, the qualified nonprofit organization shall file, for any refund claimed, an affidavit from the contractor or subcontractor stating that:

a. the sales tax refund to the qualified nonprofit organization is based on state and local sales tax paid by the contractor or subcontractor on tangible personal property consumed or incorporated in or used to furnish or equip a qualified facility owned by the organization,

b. the amount of state and local sales tax claimed was paid to the vendor, and

c. no credit, refund or rebate of the sales tax has been claimed by the contractor or subcontractor.

G. Only sales of tangible personal property made within forty-eight (48) months of the effective date of this act shall be eligible for the refund established in this section.

H. The qualified nonprofit organization shall file, within sixty (60) months of the date of the first purchase, with the Tax Commission a certification issued by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission stating that the requirements of subparagraph c of paragraph 40 of Section 1356 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes

have been met in order to qualify for the refund authorized by this section.

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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