1	SENATE FLOOR VERSION April 7, 2021
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3	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED
4	HOUSE BILL NO. 2292 By: Roberts (Dustin), Lawson and Caldwell (Chad) of the
5	House
6	and
7	Bullard and Pederson of the Senate
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10	An Act relating to tobacco products enforcement; creating the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Act of
11	2021; authorizing establishment of Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Unit by Oklahoma Tax Commission and
12	enumerating duties; requiring submission of annual report containing specified information; establishing
13	specified requirements and procedures for remittance and reporting of tobacco products tax by a
14	wholesaler; providing for collection of tobacco products tax by specified parties other than
15	wholesaler when tax is not remitted by wholesaler; establishing liability of certain vendors under
16	specified circumstances; clarifying status of certain vendors with respect to assessment of fines;
17	establishing specified requirements and procedures for remittance and reporting of tobacco products tax
18	by a retailer or consumer under specified circumstances; requiring retailers to purchase
19	products from licensed wholesalers and providing penalty for noncompliance; providing for deposit of
20	penalties and fines; requiring Tax Commission to make list of licensed wholesalers available in certain
21	manner; creating the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Unit Revolving Fund; providing for deposit and
22	expenditure of funds; providing for transfer of monies under certain circumstances; directing Tax
23	Commission to make administrative changes for specified purpose; providing enforcement of act based
24	on contingency of funds; amending 68 O.S. 2011,

Sections 401, 402-1, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 1 8, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 2018, 403, 403.1, 403.2, 407, 412, as amended by Section 1, 2 Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2013, 413, as amended by Section 3 7, Chapter 357, O.S.L. 2012, 414, 415, 417, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 66, O.S.L. 2018, 418, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2013, 4 420.1, 421, 422 and 426 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020, Sections 5 402-1, 412, 413, 417 and 418), which relate to tobacco products excise tax compliance and enforcement; modifying definitions; deleting 6 definitions; defining term; deleting requirement for stamps as evidence of tax; modifying manner in which 7 tobacco products tax is levied with respect to use of stamps and deleting associated procedures and 8 penalties; imposing requirements on wholesalers in 9 sales transactions involving tobacco products and deleting requirements on certain other parties; modifying specified terms and procedures related to 10 taxation of certain sales subject to tribal compacts; deleting reference to tax stamps for certain products 11 imported into the state; increasing penalty for 12 certain practices to deter enforcement by inspection; conforming language; increasing penalty for certain noncompliant carriers and specifying that certain 13 penalty is administrative; deleting requirement for certain monthly reports; authorizing Tax Commission 14 or peace officer to confiscate certain vehicles used to transport untaxed products; deleting certain 15 application requirement and procedures related to distributing agents; increasing penalty for 16 wholesaler and retailer operating without a license; authorizing Tax Commission, sheriff or police to 17 seize vehicle used in avoidance of tax; increasing penalties for specified licensees for transporting or 18 possessing untaxed product; modifying requirements related to maintenance of invoices or other 19 documentation; clarifying reference; increasing penalty for sale of product subject to certain 20 exemption; providing for applicability of certain compliance requirement; increasing penalty for 21 certain acts related to contraband products; repealing 68 O.S. 2011, Sections 406, 408, 409 and 22 411, which relate to tobacco products excise tax procedures; providing for codification; providing for 23 noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency. 24

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3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
4	SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
5	in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 400 of Title 68, unless there is
6	created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
7	This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tobacco
8	Products Tax Enforcement Act of 2021".
9	SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10	in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 400.1 of Title 68, unless there
11	is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
12	A. For the purpose of enforcing the tobacco tax laws of this
13	state, the Oklahoma Tax Commission is authorized, contingent upon
14	the availability of funds, to establish and maintain a unit to be
15	known as the "Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Unit". The unit
16	shall enforce the tobacco tax laws of this state and ensure that all
17	taxes are paid on tobacco products by:
18	1. Confirming that all entities selling tobacco products in
19	this state are properly licensed as provided in Section 400 et seq.
20	of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
21	2. Verifying that all retailers are only purchasing tobacco
22	products from wholesalers licensed by the Tax Commission;
23	3. Providing a dedicated telephone line and email address for
24	licensed wholesalers, licensed retailers and the general public to
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1 report suspected violations of tobacco tax laws; provided, no 2 entity, individual or those who report violations on behalf of a 3 licensed wholesaler or retailer shall be required to disclose their 4 identity;

5 4. Auditing licensed wholesalers and retailers to ensure all
6 tobacco product taxes are paid;

7 5. Issuing fines for violations as provided in Section 400 et
8 seq. of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

9 6. Conducting wholesale and retail tobacco inspections to find10 and confiscate untaxed tobacco products;

7. Establishing data-sharing programs with tax departments in
 surrounding states related to tobacco product taxes;

8. Creating an industry advisory committee including licensed wholesalers and retailers who may represent the entity related to tobacco products tax enforcement concerns and suggestions. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall promulgate rules establishing the membership and minimum requirements as may be deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of the committee; and

9. Working with law enforcement and conducting investigations
 to stop illegal acquisition and shipment of tobacco products by
 persons not licensed to sell tobacco products in this state.

B. The Tax Commission shall annually submit a report to the
Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the
House of Representatives listing the number of wholesale and retail

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tobacco inspections conducted, the amount of untaxed tobacco products confiscated, the number of tobacco products tax audits conducted, the amount of taxes assessed and the amount of taxes collected as the result of audits and confiscations, the number of suspected violations reported and the actions taken in response, and the number of fines issued and the amount of fines collected.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 400.2 of Title 68, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 Α. The excise tax imposed pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 400 et seq. of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes upon the sale, 12 distribution, use, exchange, barter or possession of tobacco products within the state shall be due and payable on the first day 13 of each month by the wholesaler. For the purpose of ascertaining 14 15 the amount of the tax payable by the wholesaler, the wholesaler shall file electronically with the Oklahoma Tax Commission, on or 16 before the twentieth day of each month and upon a form prescribed 17 and furnished by the Commission, a tobacco products tax report 18 signed by the wholesaler under oath. The report shall include: 19

All purchases and deliveries including invoices detailing
 purchases and shipments from manufacturers to the wholesaler and
 from the wholesaler to the licensed retailer for the previous
 calendar month;

2. The taxes due under Section 400 et seq. of Title 68 of the
 Oklahoma Statutes during the preceding calendar month; and

3 3. Any other information required by the Commission for the purposes of correctly computing and collecting the tax levied 4 5 herein. In addition to the information required on reports, the Tax Commission may request, and the taxpayer must furnish, any 6 7 information deemed necessary to enforce the provisions of Section 400 et seq. of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Such tax remitter 8 9 shall compute and remit to the Tax Commission the required tax due 10 for the preceding calendar month, the remittance or remittances of 11 the tax to accompany the reports herein required. If not filed or 12 paid on or before the twentieth day of such month, the tax shall be delinquent from such date. If a report is not timely filed, 13 interest shall be charged from the date the report should have been 14 15 filed until the date the report is actually filed.

B. It shall not be necessary for any person or entity to
purchase stamps or affix stamps to tobacco products in order to
comply with the requirements of Section 400 et seq. of Title 68 of
the Oklahoma Statutes or the provisions of this act.

C. If the tobacco products tax report or payment of taxes is
due on any day specified in Section 82.1 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma
Statutes or on a date when the Federal Reserve Banks are closed,
such requirements may be performed on the next succeeding business
day and no liability shall result from the delay.

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D. The monthly reports shall be filed electronically in the
 format prescribed by the Tax Commission and the tax shall be
 remitted to the Tax Commission by electronic funds transfer.

4 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 400.3 of Title 68, unless there 6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In the event the tax imposed by Section 400 et seq. of Title 7 Α. 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes is not otherwise paid by the wholesaler 8 9 as provided in Section 3 of this act, the tax shall be collected as 10 a backup tax upon the first receipt of tobacco products by any 11 retailer or end user when received from a source outside of the 12 state or upon the first sale or use when the product is manufactured in this state. Such tax is imposed upon, and shall be the liability 13 of, any such retailer or consumer who first received the tobacco 14 15 products in the state.

B. The ultimate vendor of tobacco products shall be jointly and severally liable for the backup tax levied by subsection A of this section if the ultimate vendor knows or has reason to know that the tobacco products tax imposed by Section 400 et seq. of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes has not been paid.

C. The payment of the tax as provided in this section shall not absolve any person from payment of fines assessed under this article.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 400.4 of Title 68, unless there
 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In the event the tax imposed by this act is not paid by the 4 5 wholesaler as provided in Section 3 of this act and must be collected as a backup tax from the retailer or consumer in 6 accordance with Section 4 of this act, the tax is due and payable by 7 the retailer or consumer on the first day of each month for the 8 9 preceding calendar month, and if not paid on or before the twentieth 10 day of the following month, shall be delinquent. The retailer or 11 consumer shall file with the Oklahoma Tax Commission, on forms 12 furnished by the Tax Commission, a return verified by affidavit showing in detail the total purchase price of the tobacco products, 13 the location of the purchase of the tobacco products and any other 14 15 information the Tax Commission may deem reasonably necessary. With each return, the retailer or consumer shall remit to the Tax 16 Commission the amount of tax shown on the return to be due. 17 Reports timely mailed shall be considered timely filed. If a report is not 18 timely filed, interest shall be charged from the date the report 19 should have been filed until the date the report is actually filed. 20 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 400.5 of Title 68, unless there 22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 23

1 A. Retailers shall only purchase tobacco products from an 2 Oklahoma-licensed tobacco wholesaler evidenced by a current listing 3 provided by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. All purchase invoices shall contain the license number of the wholesaler and shall be made 4 5 available for inspection by the Tax Commission. Any purchases of tobacco products from a person who is not holding a current Oklahoma 6 7 wholesale tobacco license shall be punishable by a fine of the greater of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or five times the unpaid 8 9 tax on such products. The fine shall be in addition to payment of 10 any unpaid tobacco products tax. A second or subsequent offense shall be punishable by revocation of the license. If the retailer 11 12 fails to pay a fine within thirty (30) days, the retailer's license shall be suspended until the fine is paid in full. 13

B. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall make available for all
licensed retailers a list of currently licensed wholesalers at least
monthly or through the use of a website maintained by or on behalf
of the Oklahoma Tax Commission with updates made as often as
practical but no less than every thirty (30) days.

C. Fines collected pursuant to the provisions of subsection A of this section shall be deposited in the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Unit Revolving Fund created in Section 7 of this act. SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 400.6 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Tax Commission, to be designated the "Tobacco 2 3 Products Tax Enforcement Unit Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal limitations, and shall 4 5 consist of any monies designated to the fund by law. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may 6 7 be budgeted and expended by the Commission for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Act 8 9 of 2021. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants 10 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise 11 12 Services for approval and payment.

B. At the end of each fiscal year, if the balance of the fund
exceeds Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00), any amount in excess of
Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) shall be transferred to the
General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law not to becodified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

19 The Oklahoma Tax Commission is hereby directed, contingent upon 20 the availability of funds, to provide sufficient staff to comply 21 with the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Act of 2021. The Tax 22 Commission may employ unclassified personnel to staff the Tobacco 23 Products Tax Enforcement Unit provided for in Section 2 of this act, 24 compensate the employees of the unit for working overtime, develop

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alternative work schedules for members of the Enforcement Unit to
 investigate reported tobacco products tax evasion and expend funds
 for employees to participate in tobacco products tax enforcement
 training provided by the Federation of Tax Administrators.

5 The Tax Commission is also directed to enhance agency efforts to discover and reduce tobacco products tax evasion. Such efforts may 6 7 include increased inspections of tobacco products retailers including inspections after normal business hours; enhanced tobacco 8 9 products tax auditing including the auditing of out-of-state 10 licensed wholesalers; the acquisition and use of technology systems 11 designed to identify underreporting of tobacco products taxes; and 12 analysis of data from the electronic reporting of invoices by tobacco products wholesalers. 13

14 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 401, is 15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 401. For the purpose of this article:

17 (a) <u>1.</u> The word "person" shall mean any individual, company, 18 limited liability company, corporation, partnership, association, 19 joint adventure, estate, trust, or any other group, or combination 20 acting as a unit, and the plural as well as the singular, unless the 21 intention to give a more limited meaning is disclosed by the 22 context.

23 (b) <u>2.</u> The term "Tax Commission" shall mean the Oklahoma Tax
 24 Commission.

1 (c) <u>3.</u> The word "wholesaler" shall include dealers whose
2 principal business is that of a wholesale dealer or jobber, and who
3 is known to the trade as such, who shall sell any cigars or tobacco
4 products to licensed retail dealers only for the purpose of resale,
5 or giving them away, or exposing the same where they may be taken or
6 purchased, or otherwise acquired by the retailer.

7 (d) <u>4.</u> The word "retailer" shall include every dealer, other 8 than a wholesale dealer wholesaler as defined above, whose principal 9 business is that of selling merchandise at retail, who shall sell, 10 or offer for sale, cigars or tobacco products, irrespective of 11 quantity, number of sales, giving the same away or exposing the same 12 where they may be taken, or purchased, or otherwise acquired by the 13 consumer.

14 (c) <u>5.</u> The word "consumer" shall mean a person who comes into 15 possession of tobacco for the purpose of consuming it, giving it 16 away, or disposing of it in any way by sale, barter or exchange. 17 (f) <u>6.</u> The words "first sale" shall mean and include the first 18 sale, or distribution, of cigars or tobacco products in intrastate

19 commerce, or the first use or consumption of cigars, or tobacco
20 products within this state.

21 (g) 7. The words "tobacco products" shall mean any cigars, 22 cheroots, stogies, smoking tobacco (including granulated, plug cut, 23 crimp cut, ready rubbed and any other kinds and forms of tobacco 24 suitable for smoking in a pipe or cigarette), chewing tobacco

(including cavendish, twist, plug, scrap and any other kinds and
 forms of tobacco suitable for chewing), however prepared; and shall
 include any other articles or products made of tobacco or any
 substitute therefor.

5 (h) The term "distributing agent" shall mean and include every person in this state who acts as an agent of any person outside the 6 7 state by receiving cigars and tobacco products in interstate commerce and storing such items subject to distribution or delivery, 8 9 upon order from said person outside the state, to distributors, 10 wholesale dealers and retail dealers, or to consumers. The term 11 "distributing agent" shall also mean and include any person who 12 solicits or takes orders for cigars and tobacco products to be shipped in interstate commerce to a person in this state by a person 13 residing outside of Oklahoma, the tax not having been paid on such 14 15 cigars and tobacco products. (i) The term "stamp" shall mean the stamp or stamps by use of 16 which: 17 1. The tax levied pursuant to the provisions of Section 401 et 18 seq. of this title is paid; 19 2. The tax levied pursuant to the provisions of Section 426 of 20 this title is paid; or 21 3. The payment in lieu of taxes authorized pursuant to a 22 compact entered into by the State of Oklahoma and a federally 23

recognized Indian tribe or nation pursuant to the provisions of
 subsection C of Section 346 of this title is paid.

3 (j) The term "drop shipment" shall mean and include any
4 delivery of cigars or tobacco products received by any person within
5 the state when payment for such cigars or tobacco products is made
6 to the shipper or seller by or through a person other than the
7 consignee.

(k) 8. The term "cigars" shall include any roll of tobacco for 8 9 smoking, irrespective of size or shape and irrespective of the 10 tobacco being flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other 11 ingredients, where such roll has a wrapper made chiefly of tobacco. 12 (1) The word "dealer" shall include every person, firm, corporation, or association of persons, who manufactures cigars or 13 tobacco products for distribution, sale, use or consumption in the 14 State of Oklahoma. The word "dealer" is also further defined to 15 16 mean any person, firm, corporation or association of persons, who imports cigars or tobacco products from any state or foreign 17 country, for distribution, sale, use or consumption in the State of 18 Oklahoma. 19 9. The term "untaxed" means that the full amount of tax has not 20 been paid as required by Section 400 et seq. of this title. 21 68 O.S. 2011, Section 402-1, as SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 22 amended by Section 4, Chapter 8, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 23

1 2018 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 402-1), is amended to read as 2 follows:

3 Section 402-1. In addition to the tax levied by Section 402 of 4 this title, there is hereby levied upon the sale, use, exchange or 5 possession of articles containing tobacco as defined in said Section 6 402, a tax in the following amounts:

7 (a) <u>1.</u> Upon cigars of all descriptions made of tobacco, or any 8 substitute therefor, and weighing more than three (3) pounds per 9 thousand, and having a manufacturer's recommended retail selling 10 price, under the Federal Code, of more than four cents (\$0.04) for 11 each cigar, Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per thousand. For the purpose of 12 computing the tax, cheroots, stogies, etc., are hereby classed as 13 cigars;

14 (b) 2. Upon all smoking tobacco including granulated, plug cut, 15 crimp cut, ready rubbed and other kinds and forms of tobacco 16 prepared in such manner as to be suitable for smoking in a pipe or 17 cigarette, the tax shall be fifteen percent (15%) of the factory 18 list price exclusive of any trade discount, special discount or 19 deals; and

20 (c) 3. Upon chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, and snuff, the 21 tax shall be ten percent (10%) of the factory list price exclusive 22 of any trade discount, special discount or deals.

This tax shall be paid by the consumer and no retailer may advertise that he will pay or absorb this tax.

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The tax herein levied on tobacco products shall be evidenced by stamps and collected on the same basis and in the same manner and in all respects as the tax levied by the Tobacco Products Tax Law. The revenue from this additional tax shall be apportioned by the Oklahoma Tax Commission in the same manner as provided in Section 404 of this title, for the apportionment of other tobacco products tax revenue.

8 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 403, is 9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 403. (a) A. The excise taxes levied by this article shall be paid by affixing stamps in the manner and at the time 11 12 herein set forth. In the case of cigars, including five (5)-pack and other small packs, stogies and cheroots, the stamps shall be 13 affixed to the box, or container, in which or from which normally 14 15 sold at wholesale. Wholesalers and jobbers shall affix the required 16 stamps within seventy-two (72) hours after such tobacco products are received by them. Any retailer shall have twenty-four (24) hours 17 within which to affix the stamps after such tobacco products are 18 received by him, or them the wholesaler liable for payment of the 19 tax. Provided, that the Tax Commission may, in its discretion, 20 where it is practical and reasonable for the enforcement of the 21 collection of taxes provided hereunder, promulgate such rules and 22 regulations as to permit cigars, stogies, cheroots, and tobacco 23 products $_{\tau}$ to remain unstamped untaxed in the hands of the 24

wholesalers and jobbers until the original case or crate is broken,
 unpacked or sold.

3	(b) In the case of tobacco products wrapped in packages of two
4	(2) pounds or less, the stamps shall be affixed to the containers in
5	which or from which the individual packages are normally sold at
6	wholesale and the stamps shall be affixed by wholesalers and jobbers
7	within seventy-two (72) hours after such products are received by
8	them, and by any retailer within the twenty-four (24) hours of
9	receipt by him or them of any such products. Such goods must be
10	stamped before being sold. All retail dealers in manufactured
11	tobacco products, purchasing or receiving such commodities from
12	without the state, whether the same shall have been ordered through
13	a wholesaler or jobber in this state and/or by drop shipment and/or
14	otherwise, shall within five (5) days after receipt of same, mail a
15	duplicate invoice of all such purchases or receipts to the Tax
16	Commission. Failure to furnish duplicate invoices as required shall
17	be deemed a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, be punishable by a
18	fine of not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each
19	offense, or imprisonment in the county jail for a period not
20	exceeding thirty (30) days.
21	$\frac{(c)}{B.}$ It is the intent and purpose of this section to require
22	all manufacturers within this State, wholesale dealers, jobbers,
23	distributors and retail dealers, wholesalers to affix the stamps pay
24	applicable tax provided for in this section to article upon the

1 sale, use, exchange or possession of taxable commodities, but when 2 the stamps have been affixed as required herein, no further or other 3 stamp shall be required regardless of how often such articles may be 4 sold or resold within this State.

5 SECTION 12. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 403.1, is 6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 403.1. A. The Oklahoma Tax Commission is hereby authorized and empowered, if in its discretion it deems practical 8 9 and reasonable, to establish procedures for payment of excise taxes 10 levied in Section 401 400 et seq. of this title, for the collection 11 from a wholesaler of payments in lieu of excise taxes authorized 12 pursuant to a compact entered into by the State of Oklahoma and a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation pursuant to the 13 provisions of subsection C of Section 346 of this title, in respect 14 15 to articles containing tobacco, pursuant to monthly tobacco products tax reports in lieu of payment by purchasing and affixing stamps, 16 notwithstanding the provisions of Section 403 et seq. of this title. 17 Provided, exercise by the Tax Commission of the authority granted 18 herein shall be by adoption of rules and regulations necessary to 19 establish procedures for collection of such tax through monthly 20 reporting procedures consistent with the provisions of Section 401 21 400 et seq. of this title, other than those provisions relating 22 directly to payment of such tax by purchasing and affixing stamps. 23

1 <u>B.</u> In the event the Tax Commission shall determine to collect 2 such tax through monthly reporting procedures and adopt rules and 3 regulations therefor:

All provisions of Section 401 400 et seq. of this title
relating to unstamped untaxed tobacco products shall be interpreted
to include and shall be applicable to all tobacco products for which
the tax required by law has not been paid;

No person, dealer, distributing agent <u>retailer</u> or
wholesaler, as defined in Section 401 400 of this title, shall
possess, sell, use, exchange, barter, give away or in any manner
deal with any tobacco products within this state upon which such tax
is levied and unpaid, unless such person, dealer, retailer,
distributing agent or wholesaler holds a valid tobacco license
issued pursuant to Section 415 of this title; and

3. Any <u>person wholesaler</u> required to report and remit such taxes or payments in lieu of taxes required pursuant to a compact authorized by subsection C of Section 346 of this title to the Tax Commission shall be allowed a discount of two percent (2%) of the tax due for maintaining and collecting such tax or payments for the benefit of the state, if such tax or payment is timely reported and remitted.

22 SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 403.2, is 23 amended to read as follows:

Section 403.2. A. It shall be unlawful to affix a stamp to any
 package or container of tobacco products or for any person to sell,
 offer for sale, or import into this state any package or container
 of tobacco products:

Which bears any label or notice prescribed by the United
 States Department of Treasury to identify tobacco products intended
 for export and exempt from tax by the United States pursuant to
 Section 5704(b) of Title 26 of the United States Code or any notice
 or label described in Section 290.185 of Title 27 of the United
 States Code of Federal Regulations;

11 2. Which is not labeled in conformity with the provisions of 12 the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, or any other 13 federal requirement for the placement of labels, warnings or other 14 information applicable to packages or containers of tobacco products 15 intended for domestic consumption;

16 3. Upon which all federal taxes due have not been paid or which 17 is not in compliance with all federal trademark and copyright laws; 18 or

The packaging of which has been modified or altered by a
 person other than the manufacturer or person specifically authorized
 by the manufacturer, including, but not limited to, the placement of
 a sticker or label to cover information on the package or container.
 Possession of more than thirty (30) ounces of tobacco products
 in packages or containers bearing Oklahoma stamps in violation of

1 this subsection by a person other than an employee of this state or 2 the federal government performing official duties relating to 3 enforcement of the provisions of Section 401 400 et seq. of this 4 title shall constitute prima facie evidence of a violation of the 5 provisions of this subsection.

B. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Attorney General7 shall enforce the provisions of this section.

8 SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 407, is 9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 407. It shall be provided by regulations of the Tax 11 Commission the methods of breaking packages, forms and kinds of 12 containers, and methods of affixing stamps, that shall be employed by persons subject to the tax levied by this Article article which 13 will make possible the enforcement of payment by inspection; and any 14 15 such person engaging in or permitting such practices as are prohibited by this Article article, or in any other practice which 16 makes it difficult to enforce the provisions of this Article article 17 by inspection, and any person or agent thereof who shall upon demand 18 of any officer or agent of the Tax Commission refuse to allow full 19 inspection of the premises or any part thereof, or who shall hinder 20 or in anywise delay or prevent such inspection when demand is made 21 therefor, shall be quilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon 22 conviction, be fined not more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) Two 23

1 <u>Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)</u> for each offense, or imprisonment in 2 the county jail for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days or both. 3 SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 412, as 4 amended by Section 1, Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2013 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020, 5 Section 412), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 412. (a) A. Every wholesaler, jobber, retailer 7 consumer who purchases or allows to come into his or her possession any unstamped untaxed merchandise coming under the scope of this 8 9 article shall file with the Oklahoma Tax Commission a surety or 10 collateral or cash bond in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand 11 Dollars (\$25,000.00), payable to the State of Oklahoma and 12 conditioned upon compliance with the provisions of this article and the rules of the Tax Commission. 13

(b) B. Any consumer who purchases or brings into this state 14 15 unstamped untaxed cigars or tobacco products whereon the tax would 16 be more than twenty-five cents (\$0.25) is subject to the tax thereon. Upon failure to pay the tax levied in this article, the 17 consumer shall be subject to a fine of not more than Five Hundred 18 Dollars (\$500.00) or not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) to 19 be deposited in the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Unit Revolving 20 Fund created in Section 7 of this act. Provided, any person in 21 possession of more than one thousand small or large cigars or two 22 hundred sixteen (216) ounces of chewing or smoking tobacco products 23 24 in packages or containers for which the tax required by law has not

been paid shall be punished by administrative fines in the manner
 and amounts provided in subsection D of Section 418 of this title.

3 SECTION 16. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 413, as 4 amended by Section 7, Chapter 357, O.S.L. 2012 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020, 5 Section 413), is amended to read as follows:

Section 413. A. The right of a carrier in this state to carry 6 7 unstamped untaxed cigars and tobacco products shall not be affected hereby; provided, that carriers delivering untaxed tobacco products 8 9 to any person in this state other than an Oklahoma-licensed 10 wholesaler for the purpose of selling or consuming untaxed tobacco 11 products in this state in violation of this article shall be subject 12 to seizure of the shipments and forfeiture of the inventory pursuant to the provisions of Section 417 of this title. Provided further, 13 that should any such carrier sell any cigars and tobacco products in 14 15 this state, such sale shall be subject to the stamp tax and other provisions of this article and to the rules of the Tax Commission. 16 The carrier transporting tobacco products and cigars to a point 17 within this state, or a bonded warehouseman or bailee having in its 18 possession tobacco products and cigars, shall transmit to the Tax 19 Commission a statement of such consignment of tobacco products and 20 cigars, showing the date, point of origin, point of delivery, and to 21 whom delivered. All carriers or bailees or warehousemen shall 22 permit an examination by the Tax Commission, or its agents or 23 legally authorized representatives, of their records relating to the 24

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1 shipment or receipt of tobacco products and cigars. Any person who fails or refuses to transmit to the Tax Commission the aforesaid 2 3 statement, or who refuses to permit the examination of his or her records by the Tax Commission or its legally authorized agents or 4 5 representatives, shall be quilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a an administrative fine of not to exceed Five Hundred 6 Dollars (\$500.00) Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) and not less than 7 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be 8 9 deposited in the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Unit Revolving 10 Fund created in Section 7 of this act.

11 B. Wholesalers shall make a monthly report to the Tax 12 Commission. Such report must be received in the office of the Tax Commission not later than the twentieth day of each month, showing 13 purchases and invoices of all merchandise coming under this article, 14 15 for the previous month; and the report shall also show the invoice 16 number, the name and address of the consignee and consignor, the date, and such other information as may be requested by the Tax 17 Commission. Retailers or consumers purchasing tobacco products and 18 19 cigars in drop shipments shall be required to make monthly reports to the Tax Commission, as are required of wholesalers. 20 SECTION 17. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 414, is 21 amended to read as follows: 22

23 Section 414. (a) <u>A.</u> Each truck or vehicle wherefrom cigars or 24 tobacco products are sold shall be considered as a place of business

1 and required to have a wholesale license and a bond of not less than
2 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

3 (b) B. Any person operating a truck or vehicle by selling, exchanging τ or giving away unstamped untaxed merchandise covered by 4 5 this article shall be deemed quilty of violation of same and shall be penalized as hereinbefore set forth, and unstamped untaxed 6 7 merchandise handled by him this person as well as the vehicle used to transport the untaxed tobacco products shall be subject to 8 confiscation by authorized agents of the Tax Commission or duly 9 10 authorized peace officers.

11 (c) C. After seizure or confiscation by such agent or officer, 12 the merchandise and property shall be held until all taxes, interest and penalties due have been paid. If not paid within five (5) days 13 after date of seizure, it shall be sold at public sale by the 14 15 sheriff of the county where confiscated, after being advertised by posting of notice of such sale in five (5) public places in the 16 county where the sale is to occur. The proceeds of the sale shall 17 be applied to taxes, interest and penalties due and to the cost of 18 the sale, and the remainder, if any, shall be paid to the State 19 Treasurer, by the sheriff conducting such sale, to be deposited to 20 the credit of the General Revenue Fund. 21

22 SECTION 18. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 415, is 23 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 415. A. Every dealer and wholesaler of tobacco 2 products in this state, as a condition of carrying on such business, 3 shall annually secure from the Oklahoma Tax Commission a written license and shall pay an annual fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars 4 5 (\$250.00); provided, such fee shall not be applicable if paid pursuant to Section 304 of this title. The Tax Commission shall 6 7 promulgate rules which provide a procedure for the issuance of a joint license for any wholesaler making application pursuant to this 8 9 section and Section 304 of this title. Application for such 10 license, which shall be made upon such forms as prescribed by the Tax Commission, shall include the following: 11

The applicant's agreement to the jurisdiction of the Tax
 Commission and the courts of this state for purposes of enforcement
 of the provisions of Section 301 et seq. of this title; and

15 2. The applicant's agreement to abide by the provisions of Section 301 et seq. of this title and the rules promulgated by the 16 Tax Commission with reference thereto. This license, which will be 17 for the ensuing year, must at all times be displayed in a 18 conspicuous place so that it can be seen. Persons operating more 19 than one place of business must secure a license for each place of 20 business. "Place of business" shall be construed to include the 21 place where orders are received, or where tobacco products are sold. 22 If tobacco products are sold on or from any vehicle, the vehicle 23 shall constitute a place of business, and the license fee of Two 24

Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) shall be paid with respect thereto. However, if the vehicle is owned or operated by a place of business for which the regular license fee is paid, the annual fee for the license with respect to such vehicle shall be only Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The expiration for such vehicle license shall expire on the same date as the current license of the place of business.

B. Every retailer in this state, as a condition of carrying on
such business, shall secure from the Tax Commission a license and
shall pay therefor a fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00). Application
for such license, which shall be made upon such forms as prescribed
by the Tax Commission, shall include the following:

The applicant's agreement to the jurisdiction of the Tax
 Commission and the courts of this state for purposes of enforcement
 of the provisions of Section 301 et seq. of this title; and

15 2. The applicant's agreement to abide by the provisions of 16 Section 301 et seq. of this title and the rules promulgated by the 17 Tax Commission with reference thereto;

The applicant's agreement that it shall not purchase any
 tobacco products for resale from a supplier that does not hold a
 current wholesaler's license issued pursuant to this section; and

4. The applicant's agreement to sell tobacco products only to
 consumers.

Such license, which will be for the ensuing three (3) years,
must at all times be displayed in a conspicuous place so that it can

1 be seen. Upon expiration of such license, the retailer to whom such license was issued may obtain a renewal license which shall be valid 2 3 for three (3) years or until expiration of the retailer's sales tax permit, whichever is earlier, after which a renewal license shall be 4 5 valid for three (3) years. The manner and prorated fee for renewals shall be prescribed by the Tax Commission. Every person operating 6 under such license as a retailer and who owns or operates more than 7 one place of business must secure a license for each place of 8 9 business. "Place of business" shall be construed to include places 10 where orders are received or where tobacco products are sold.

C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person holding a retail license from also holding a wholesaler license.

D. Every distributing agent shall, as a condition of carrying 14 15 on such business, pursuant to written application on a form 16 prescribed by and in such detailed form as the Tax Commission may require, annually secure from the Tax Commission a license, and 17 shall pay therefor an annual fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). 18 An application shall be filed and a license obtained for each place 19 of business owned or operated by a distributing agent. The license, 20 which will be for the ensuing year, shall be consecutively numbered, 21 nonassignable and nontransferable, and shall authorize the storing 22 and distribution of unstamped tobacco products within this state 23 when such distribution is made upon interstate orders only. 24

E. 1. All wholesale, or retail, and distributing agents'
licenses shall be nonassignable and nontransferable from one person
to another person. Such licenses may be transferred from one
location to another location after an application has been filed
with the Tax Commission requesting such transfer and after the
approval of the Tax Commission.

7 2. Wholesale, and retail, and distributing agent's licenses shall be applied for on a form prescribed by the Tax Commission. 8 9 Any person operating as a wholesaler, or retailer, or distributing 10 agent must at all times have an effective unexpired license which 11 has been issued by the Tax Commission. If any such person or licensee continues to operate as such on a license issued by the Tax 12 Commission which has expired, or operates without ever having 13 obtained from the Tax Commission such license, such person or 14 licensee shall, after becoming delinquent for a period in excess of 15 fifteen (15) days, pay to the Tax Commission, in addition to the 16 annual license fee, a penalty of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) Ten 17 Dollars (\$10.00) per day on each delinquent license for each day so 18 operated in excess of fifteen (15) days. The penalty provided for 19 herein shall not exceed the annual license fee for such license. 20 The penalties collected pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph 21 shall be deposited in the Tobacco Products Tax Enforcement Unit 22 23 Revolving Fund created in Section 7 of this act.

F. E. No license may be granted, maintained or renewed if any of the following conditions apply to the applicant. For purposes of this section, "applicant" includes any combination of persons owning directly or indirectly, in the aggregate, more than ten percent (10%) of the ownership interests in the applicant:

6 1. The applicant owes Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or more in
7 delinquent tobacco products taxes;

8 2. The applicant had a dealer, wholesaler, or retailer license
9 revoked by the Tax Commission within the past two (2) years; or

The applicant has been convicted of a crime relating to
 stolen or counterfeit tobacco products, or receiving stolen or
 counterfeit tobacco products.

G. F. No person or entity licensed pursuant to the provisions
of this section shall purchase tobacco products from or sell tobacco
products to a person or entity required to obtain a license unless
such person or entity has obtained such license.

H. G. In addition to any civil or criminal penalty provided by law, upon a finding that a licensee has violated any provision of Section 301 et seq. of this title, the Tax Commission may revoke or suspend the license or licenses of the licensee pursuant to the procedures applicable to revocation of a license set forth in Section 418 of this title.

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SECTION 19. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 417, as
 amended by Section 6, Chapter 66, O.S.L. 2018 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020,
 Section 417), is amended to read as follows:

Section 417. A. All unstamped tobacco products upon which a 4 5 tax is levied by Section 401 400 et seq. of this title and all tobacco products stamped, sold, offered for sale, or imported into 6 this state in violation of the provisions of Section 403.2 of this 7 title, found in the possession, custody or control of any person for 8 9 the purpose of being consumed, sold or transported from one place to 10 another in this state, for the purpose of evading or violating the provisions of Section 401 400 et seq. of this title, or with intent 11 12 to avoid payment of the tax imposed thereunder, and any vehicle being used in avoidance of such tax may be seized by any authorized 13 agent of the Oklahoma Tax Commission or any sheriff, deputy sheriff 14 15 or police within the state. Tobacco products from the time of seizure shall be forfeited to the State of Oklahoma. A proper 16 proceeding shall be filed to maintain such seizure and prosecute the 17 forfeiture as herein provided; the provisions of this section shall 18 not apply, however, where the tax on such unstamped tobacco products 19 does not exceed One Dollar (\$1.00). 20

B. All such tobacco products so seized shall first be listed
and appraised by the officer making such seizure and turned over to
the Tax Commission and a receipt taken therefor.

1 C. The person making such seizure shall immediately make and 2 file a written report thereof to the Tax Commission, showing the 3 name of the person making such seizure, the place where seized, the person from whom seized, the property seized and an inventory and 4 5 appraisement thereof, which inventory shall be based on the usual and ordinary retail price or value of the articles seized, and the 6 Attorney General, in the case of tobacco products stamped, sold, 7 offered for sale τ or imported into this state in violation of the 8 9 provisions of Section 403.2 of this title. Within sixty (60) days 10 of seizure, the person from whom the property was seized may file a 11 request for hearing with the Tax Commission or the Attorney General 12 to show why the seized property should not be forfeited and destroyed. If a hearing is requested, the owner of the tobacco 13 products shall be given at least ten (10) days' notice of the 14 hearing. If no request for hearing is filed within the time 15 provided, the property seized will be forfeited and destroyed. 16

D. The seizure of such tobacco products shall not relieve the person from whom such tobacco products were seized from prosecution or the payment of penalties.

E. The forfeiture provisions of Section 401 400 et seq. of this
title shall only apply to persons having possession of or
transporting tobacco products with intent to barter, sell or give
away the same.

SECTION 20. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 418, as
 amended by Section 2, Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2013 (68 O.S. Supp. 2020,
 Section 418), is amended to read as follows:

Section 418. A. It shall be unlawful for any person to
transport or possess unstamped tobacco products where the tax on
such unstamped tobacco products <u>has not been paid and</u> exceeds the
sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) <u>One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)</u>.

B. Except as otherwise provided in subsections C and D of this 8 9 section, any person found guilty of violating the provisions of 10 Section 401 400 et seq. of this title shall be punished by an 11 administrative fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) 12 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for a first offense or not more than Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for a second or subsequent 13 offense. Provided, any person in possession of more than one 14 15 thousand small or large cigars or two hundred sixteen (216) ounces 16 of chewing or smoking tobacco products in packages or containers for which the tax required by law has not been paid shall be punished by 17 administrative fines in the manner and amounts provided in 18 subsection D of this section. 19

20 C. Any retailer violating the provisions of Section 403.2 of 21 this title shall:

1. For a first offense, be punished by an administrative fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) <u>Two Thousand</u> Dollars (\$2,000.00);

1 2. For a second offense, be punished by an administrative fine 2 of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) Ten Thousand 3 Dollars (\$10,000.00); and 3. For a third or subsequent offense, be punished by an 4 5 administrative fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00). 6 7 D. Any wholesaler, distributing agent or dealer violating the provisions of Section 403.2 of this title shall: 8 9 1. For a first offense, be punished by an administrative fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) Ten Thousand 10 11 Dollars (\$10,000.00); and 12 2. For a second or subsequent offense, be punished by an administrative fine of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars 13 (\$20,000.00). 14 Administrative fines collected pursuant to the provisions of 15 this subsection shall be deposited to the revolving fund created in 16 Section 305.2 of this title. 17 The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall immediately revoke the 18 Ε. license of a person punished for a violation pursuant to the 19 provisions of paragraph 3 of subsection C of this section or a 20 person punished for a violation pursuant to the provisions of 21 subsection D of this section. A person whose license is so revoked 22 shall not be eligible to receive another license pursuant to the 23

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1 provisions of Section 301 et seq. of this title for a period of ten
2 (10) years.

F. Fines collected pursuant to the provisions of subsections B,
C and D of this section shall be deposited in the Tobacco Products
Tax Enforcement Unit Revolving Fund created in Section 7 of this
act.

7 SECTION 21. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 420.1, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 420.1. A. Each distributor wholesaler of tobacco products, as defined in Section 401 400 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma 10 11 Statutes this title, shall maintain copies of invoices or equivalent 12 documentation for each of its facilities for every transaction in which the distributor wholesaler is the seller, purchaser, 13 consignor, consignee, or recipient of tobacco products. The 14 invoices or documentation shall contain the distributor's 15 wholesaler's tobacco license number and the retailer's tobacco 16 license number if the sale is to a retailer and the quantity by 17 brand style of the tobacco products involved in the transaction. 18 Each wholesaler shall maintain the documents required by this 19 subsection for a period of three (3) years. 20

B. Each retailer of tobacco products, as defined in Section 401
400 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title, shall maintain
copies of invoices or equivalent documentation for every transaction
in which the retailer receives or purchases tobacco products at each

1 of its facilities. The invoices or documentation shall show the 2 name and, address and tobacco license number of the distributor 3 wholesaler from whom, or the address of another facility of the same retailer from which, the tobacco products were received, the 4 quantity of each brand style received in such transaction, the date 5 the tobacco products were received and the retail cigarette license 6 number or sales tax license number. Each retailer shall maintain 7 the documents required by this subsection for a period of one (1) 8 9 year. 10 SECTION 22. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 421, is 11 amended to read as follows: 12 Section 421. The sale of such tobacco products under the two (2) preceding Sections paragraph 1 of Section 419 and Section 420 of 13 this title shall be restricted to sales or distribution to inmates 14 15 of such Veterans' Hospitals veterans hospitals, or residents of such 16 state operated state-operated domiciliary homes for Veterans

18 use and consumption. Possession of tobacco products taxed under 19 this Article article, which have been purchased or received from any 20 such Veterans' Hospital veterans hospital or any such home by any 21 person other than an inmate or resident thereof, shall be deemed a 22 misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of Two Hundred Dollars 23 (\$200.00) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.

veterans, as shown by the records thereof, for their own personal

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1SECTION 23.AMENDATORY68 O.S. 2011, Section 422, is2amended to read as follows:

3 Section 422. All manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers, or retailers, or other person, selling or distributing such tobacco 4 5 products under the three (3) preceding Sections the provisions of this act shall comply with the provisions of such Sections, 6 and the rules and regulations of the Oklahoma Tax Commission as to 7 such sale or distribution, and failure to so comply shall constitute 8 9 grounds for revocation of any license issued to said manufacturer, 10 the wholesaler, jobber, or retailer or other person, by the Tax Commission. 11

12 SECTION 24. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 426, is 13 amended to read as follows:

Section 426. A. It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly 14 to ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute or purchase 15 16 contraband tobacco products. Any person who engages in shipping, transporting, receiving, possessing, selling, distributing or 17 purchasing contraband tobacco products shall, upon conviction, be 18 quilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than One 19 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Any 20 person convicted of a second or subsequent violation hereof shall be 21 quilty of a felony and shall be punishable by a fine of not more 22 than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), by a term of imprisonment in 23

the State Penitentiary <u>custody of the Department of Corrections</u> for
 not more than two (2) years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

B. Any person who knowingly engages in shipping, transporting,
receiving, possessing, selling, distributing or purchasing
contraband tobacco products shall be subject to the forfeiture of
property as is provided by Section 417 of this title and assessment
of penalty as provided thereby and assessment for any delinquent
taxes found to be owing.

9 SECTION 25. REPEALER 68 O.S. 2011, Sections 406, 408,
10 409 and 411, are hereby repealed.

11 SECTION 26. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

12 SECTION 27. It being immediately necessary for the preservation

13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby 14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and

15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

- 16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS April 7, 2021 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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