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ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 430

(BY SENATORS PREZIOSO, FOSTER, KESSLER (MR. PRESIDENT) AND BEACH)

[PASSED MARCH 7, 2012; IN EFFECT FROM PASSAGE.]
AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-15B-2, §11-15B-2a, §11-15B-24, §11-15B-25, §11-15B-26, §11-15B-30, §11-15B-32, §11-15B-33 and §11-15B-34 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to the administration of sales and use tax generally; adding new definitions; clarifying present definitions; incorporating changes to the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement; adding a "computer software maintenance contract" as a Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement defined term; relieving seller of tax liability in certain instances; clarifying due dates that fall on weekends and legal holidays; eliminating monetary allowance for certain sellers; providing new effective dates; and clarifying state administration of state and local sales and use taxes, bases and exceptions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §11-15B-2, §11-15B-2a, §11-15B-24, §11-15B-25, §11-15B-26, §11-15B-30, §11-15B-32, §11-15B-33 and §11-15B-34 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 15B. SALES AND USE TAX ADMINISTRATION.


1 (a) General. — When used in this article and articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter, words defined in
subsection (b) of this section shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where a different meaning is distinctly expressed or the context in which the term is used clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended by the Legislature.

(b) Terms defined. —

(1) “Agent” means a person appointed by a seller to represent the seller before the member states.

(2) “Agreement” means the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement as defined in section two-a of this article.

(3) “Alcoholic beverages” means beverages that are suitable for human consumption and contain one half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.

(4) “Bundled transaction” means the retail sale of two or more products, except real property and services to real property, where: (i) The products are otherwise distinct and identifiable; and (ii) the products are sold for one nonitemized price. A “bundled transaction” does not include the sale of any products in which the sales price varies, or is negotiable, based on the selection by the purchaser of the products included in the transaction.

(A) “Distinct and identifiable products” does not include:

(i) Packaging such as containers, boxes, sacks, bags and bottles or other materials such as wrapping, labels, tags and instruction guides that accompany the retail sale of the products and are incidental or immaterial to the retail sale thereof. Examples of packaging that are incidental or immaterial include grocery sacks, shoe boxes, dry cleaning garment bags and express delivery envelopes and boxes;

(ii) A product provided free of charge with the required purchase of another product. A product is “provided free of charge” if the sales price of the product purchased does not vary depending on the inclusion of the product provided free of charge; or
(iii) Items included in the member state's definition of “sales price” as defined in this section.

(B) The term “one nonitemized price” does not include a price that is separately identified by product on binding sales or other supporting sales-related documentation made available to the customer in paper or electronic form including, but not limited to, an invoice, bill of sale, receipt, contract, service agreement, lease agreement, periodic notice of rates and services, rate card or price list.

(C) A transaction that otherwise meets the definition of a “bundled transaction”, as defined in this subdivision, is not a “bundled transaction” if it is:

(i) The retail sale of tangible personal property and a service where the tangible personal property is essential to the use of the service and is provided exclusively in connection with the service and the true object of the transaction is the service; or

(ii) The retail sale of services where one service is provided that is essential to the use or receipt of a second service and the first service is provided exclusively in connection with the second service and the true object of the transaction is the second service; or

(iii) A transaction that includes taxable products and nontaxable products and the purchase price or sales price of the taxable products is de minimis;

(I) “De minimis” means the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable products is ten percent or less of the total purchase price or sales price of the bundled products;

(II) Sellers shall use either the purchase price or the sales price of the products to determine if the taxable products are de minimis. Sellers may not use a combination of the purchase price and sales price of the products to determine if the taxable products are de minimis;
(III) Sellers shall use the full term of a service contract to determine if the taxable products are de minimis; or

(iv) A transaction that includes products taxable at the general rate of tax and food or food ingredients taxable at a lower rate of tax and the purchase price or sales price of the products taxable at the general sales tax rate is de minimis.

For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "de minimis" has the same meaning as ascribed to it under subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph;

(v) The retail sale of exempt tangible personal property, or food and food ingredients taxable at a lower rate of tax, and tangible personal property taxable at the general rate of tax where:

(I) The transaction includes "food and food ingredients", "drugs", "durable medical equipment", "mobility-enhancing equipment", "over-the-counter drugs", "prosthetic devices" or "medical supplies", all as defined in this article; and

(II) Where the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable tangible personal property taxable at the general rate of tax is fifty percent or less of the total purchase price or sales price of the bundled tangible personal property.

Sellers may not use a combination of the purchase price and sales price of the tangible personal property when making the fifty percent determination for a transaction.

(5) "Candy" means a preparation of sugar, honey or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops or pieces. "Candy" shall not include any preparation containing flour and shall require no refrigeration.

(6) "Clothing" means all human wearing apparel suitable for general use. The following list contains examples and is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.

(A) "Clothing" shall include:
(i) Aprons, household and shop;
(ii) Athletic supporters;
(iii) Baby receiving blankets;
(iv) Bathing suits and caps;
(v) Beach capes and coats;
(vi) Belts and suspenders;
(vii) Boots;
(viii) Coats and jackets;
(ix) Costumes;
(x) Diapers, children and adult, including disposable diapers;
(xi) Ear muffs;
(xii) Footlets;
(xiii) Formal wear;
(xiv) Garters and garter belts;
(xv) Girdles;
(xvi) Gloves and mittens for general use;
(xvii) Hats and caps;
(xviii) Hosiery;
(xix) Insoles for shoes;
(xx) Lab coats;
(xxi) Neckties;
(xxii) Overshoes;
(xxiii) Pantyhose;
(xxiv) Rainwear;

(xxv) Rubber pants;

(xxvi) Sandals;

(xxvii) Scarves;

(xxviii) Shoes and shoe laces;

(xxix) Slippers;

(xxx) Sneakers;

(***i) Socks and stockings;

(***ii) Steel-toed shoes;

(***iii) Underwear;

(***iv) Uniforms, athletic and nonathletic; and

(***v) Wedding apparel.

(B) “Clothing” shall not include:

(i) Belt buckles sold separately;

(ii) Costume masks sold separately;

(iii) Patches and emblems sold separately;

(iv) Sewing equipment and supplies, including, but not
limited to, knitting needles, patterns, pins, scissors, sewing
machines, sewing needles, tape measures and thimbles; and

(v) Sewing materials that become part of clothing
including, but not limited to, buttons, fabric, lace, thread,
yarn and zippers.

(7) “Clothing accessories or equipment” means incidental
items worn on the person or in conjunction with clothing.
“Clothing accessories or equipment” are mutually exclusive
of and may be taxed differently than apparel within the
definition of “clothing”, “sport or recreational equipment”
156 and “protective equipment”. The following list contains
157 examples and is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.
158 “Clothing accessories or equipment” shall include:
159 (A) Briefcases;
160 (B) Cosmetics;
161 (C) Hair notions, including, but not limited to, barrettes,
162 hair bows and hair nets;
163 (D) Handbags;
164 (E) Handkerchiefs;
165 (F) Jewelry;
166 (G) Sunglasses, nonprescription;
167 (H) Umbrellas;
168 (I) Wallets;
169 (J) Watches; and
170 (K) Wigs and hair pieces.
171 (8) “Certified automated system” or “CAS” means
172 software certified under the agreement to calculate the tax
173 imposed by each jurisdiction on a transaction, determine the
174 amount of tax to remit to the appropriate state and maintain
175 a record of the transaction.
176 (9) “Certified service provider” or “CSP” means an agent
177 certified under the agreement to perform all of the seller's
178 sales and use tax functions other than the seller's obligation
179 to remit tax on its own purchases.
180 (10) “Computer” means an electronic device that accepts
181 information in digital or similar form and manipulates the
182 information for a result based on a sequence of instructions.
183 (11) “Computer software” means a set of coded instruc-
184 tions designed to cause a computer or automatic data
185 processing equipment to perform a task.
(12) "Computer software maintenance contract" means a contract that obligates a vendor of computer software, or other person, to provide a customer with future updates or upgrades to computer software, support services with respect to computer software or both. The term "computer software maintenance contract" includes contracts sold by a person other than the vendor of the computer software to which the contract relates.

(A) A "mandatory computer software maintenance contract" is a computer software maintenance contract that the customer is obligated by contract to purchase as a condition to the retail sale of computer software.

(B) An "optional computer maintenance contract" is a computer software maintenance contract that a customer is not obligated to purchase as a condition to the retail sale of computer software.

(13) "Delivered electronically" means delivered to the purchaser by means other than tangible storage media.

(14) "Delivery charges" means charges by the seller of personal property or services for preparation and delivery to a location designated by the purchaser of personal property or services including, but not limited to, transportation, shipping, postage, handling, crating and packing.

(15) "Dietary supplement" means any product, other than tobacco, intended to supplement the diet that:

(A) Contains one or more of the following dietary ingredients:

(i) A vitamin;

(ii) A mineral;

(iii) An herb or other botanical;

(iv) An amino acid;

(v) A dietary substance for use by humans to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake; or
(vi) A concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract or combination of any ingredient described in subparagraph (i) through (v), inclusive, of this paragraph;

(B) And is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap or liquid form, or if not intended for ingestion in such a form, is not represented as conventional food and is not represented for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet; and

(C) Is required to be labeled as a dietary supplement, identifiable by the “Supplemental Facts” box found on the label as required pursuant to 21 CFR § 101.36 or in any successor section of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(16) “Direct mail” means printed material delivered or distributed by United States mail or other delivery service to a mass audience or to addressees on a mailing list provided by the purchaser or at the direction of the purchaser when the cost of the items are not billed directly to the recipients. “Direct mail” includes tangible personal property supplied directly or indirectly by the purchaser to the direct mail seller for inclusion in the package containing the printed material. “Direct mail” does not include multiple items of printed material delivered to a single address.

(17) “Drug” means a compound, substance or preparation, and any component of a compound, substance or preparation, other than food and food ingredients, dietary supplements or alcoholic beverages:

(A) Recognized in the official United States Pharmacopeia, official Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States or official National Formulary, and supplement to any of them;

(B) Intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease; or

(C) Intended to affect the structure or any function of the body. The amendment to this subdivision enacted during the
(18) “Durable medical equipment” means equipment, including repair and replacement parts for the equipment, but does not include mobility-enhancing equipment, which:

(A) Can withstand repeated use;

(B) Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;

(C) Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and

(D) Is not worn in or on the body.

(19) “Electronic” means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities.

(20) “Eligible property” means an item of a type, such as clothing, that qualifies for a sales tax holiday exemption in this state.

(21) “Energy Star qualified product” means a product that meets the energy efficient guidelines set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy that are authorized to carry the Energy Star label. Covered products are those listed at www.energystar.gov or successor address.

(22) “Entity-based exemption” means an exemption based on who purchases the product or service or who sells the product or service. An exemption that is available to all individuals shall not be considered an entity-based exemption.

(23) “Food and food ingredients” means substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional
value. “Food and food ingredients” does not include alco-
holic beverages, prepared food or tobacco.

(24) “Food sold through vending machines” means food
dispensed from a machine or other mechanical device that
accepts payment.

(25) “Fur clothing” means clothing that is required to be
labeled as a fur product under the Federal Fur Products
Labeling Act (15 U. S. C. §69) and the value of the fur
components in the product is more than three times the value
of the next most valuable tangible component. “Fur cloth-
ing” is human-wearing apparel suitable for general use but
may be taxed differently from clothing. For the purposes of
the definition of “fur clothing”, the term “fur” means any
animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece or fur fibers
attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state, but
shall not include such skins that have been converted into
leather or suede, or which in processing the hair, fleece or fur
fiber has been completely removed.

(26) “Governing board” means the governing board of
the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

(27) “Grooming and hygiene products” are soaps and
cleaning solutions, shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash,
antiperspirants and sun tan lotions and screens, regardless
of whether the items meet the definition of “over-the-
counter drugs”.

(28) “Includes” and “including” when used in a defini-
tion contained in this article is not considered to exclude
other things otherwise within the meaning of the term being
defined.

(29) “Layaway sale” means a transaction in which
property is set aside for future delivery to a customer who
makes a deposit, agrees to pay the balance of the purchase
price over a period of time and, at the end of the payment
period, receives the property. An order is accepted for
layaway by the seller when the seller removes the property
from normal inventory or clearly identifies the property as sold to the purchaser.

(30) "Lease" includes rental, hire and license. "Lease" means any transfer of possession or control of tangible personal property for a fixed or indeterminate term for consideration. A lease or rental may include future options to purchase or extend.

(A) "Lease" does not include:

(i) A transfer of possession or control of property under a security agreement or deferred payment plan that requires the transfer of title upon completion of the required payments;

(ii) A transfer or possession or control of property under an agreement that requires the transfer of title upon completion of required payments and payment of an option price does not exceed the greater of $100 or one percent of the total required payments; or

(iii) Providing tangible personal property along with an operator for a fixed or indeterminate period of time. A condition of this exclusion is that the operator is necessary for the equipment to perform as designed. For the purpose of this subparagraph, an operator must do more than maintain, inspect or set up the tangible personal property.

(iv) "Lease" or "rental" includes agreements covering motor vehicles and trailers where the amount of consideration may be increased or decreased by reference to the amount realized upon sale or disposition of the property as defined in 26 U.S. C. §7701(h)(1).

(B) This definition shall be used for sales and use tax purposes regardless if a transaction is characterized as a lease or rental under generally accepted accounting principles, the Internal Revenue Code, the Uniform Commercial Code or other provisions of federal, state or local law.
(31) "Load and leave" means delivery to the purchaser by use of a tangible storage media where the tangible storage media is not physically transferred to the purchaser.

(32) "Mobility-enhancing equipment" means equipment, including repair and replacement parts to the equipment, but does not include "durable medical equipment", which:

(A) Is primarily and customarily used to provide or increase the ability to move from one place to another and which is appropriate for use either in a home or a motor vehicle;

(B) Is not generally used by persons with normal mobility; and

(C) Does not include any motor vehicle or equipment on a motor vehicle normally provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer.

(33) "Model I seller" means a seller registered under the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement that has selected a certified service provider as its agent to perform all the seller’s sales and use tax functions, other than the seller’s obligation to remit tax on its own purchases.

(34) "Model II seller" means a seller registered under the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement that has selected a certified automated system to perform part of its sales and use tax functions, but retains responsibility for remitting the tax.

(35) "Model III seller" means a seller registered under the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement that has sales in at least five member states, has total annual sales revenue of at least $500 million, has a proprietary system that calculates the amount of tax due each jurisdiction and has entered into a performance agreement with the member states that establishes a tax performance standard for the seller. As used in this definition, a seller includes an affiliated group of sellers using the same proprietary system.
"Model IV seller" means a seller registered under the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement and is not a Model I seller, a Model II seller or a Model III seller.

"Over-the-counter drug" means a drug that contains a label that identifies the product as a drug as required by 21 CFR §201.66. The "over-the-counter drug" label includes:

(A) A drug facts panel; or
(B) A statement of the active ingredient(s) with a list of those ingredients contained in the compound, substance or preparation.

"Person" means an individual, trust, estate, fiduciary, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, corporation or any other legal entity.

"Personal service" includes those:

(A) Compensated by the payment of wages in the ordinary course of employment; and
(B) Rendered to the person of an individual without, at the same time, selling tangible personal property, such as nursing, barbering, manicuring and similar services.

"Prepared food" means:

(i) Food sold in a heated state or heated by the seller;
(ii) Two or more food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller for sale as a single item; or
(iii) Food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller, including plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins or straws. A plate does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food.

"Prepared food" in subparagraph (ii), paragraph (A) of this subdivision does not include food that is only cut, repackaged or pasteurized by the seller, and eggs, fish, meat, poultry and foods containing these raw animal foods requir-
ing cooking by the consumer as recommended by the Food and Drug Administration in Chapter 3, Part 401.11 of its Food Code of 2001 so as to prevent food-borne illnesses.

(C) Additionally, “prepared food” as defined in this subdivision does not include:

(i) Food sold by a seller whose proper primary NAICS classification is manufacturing in Sector 311, except Subsection 3118 (bakeries);

(ii) Food sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item; or

(iii) Bakery items, including bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries, donuts, danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, tortillas.

(41) “Prescription” means an order, formula or recipe issued in any form of oral, written, electronic or other means of transmission by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by the laws of this state to issue prescriptions.

(42) “Prewritten computer software” means computer software, including prewritten upgrades, which is not designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser.

(A) The combining of two or more prewritten computer software programs or prewritten portions thereof does not cause the combination to be other than prewritten computer software.

(B) “Prewritten computer software” includes software designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser when it is sold to a person other than the specific purchaser. Where a person modifies or enhances computer software of which the person is not the author or creator, the person is considered to be the author or creator only of the person’s modifications or enhancements.
(C) "Prewritten computer software" or a prewritten portion thereof that is modified or enhanced to any degree, where the modification or enhancement is designed and developed to the specifications of a specific purchaser, remains prewritten computer software. However, where there is a reasonable, separately stated charge or an invoice or other statement of the price given to the purchaser for the modification or enhancement, the modification or enhancement does not constitute prewritten computer software.

(43) "Product-based exemption" means an exemption based on the description of the product or service and not based on who purchases the product or service or how the purchaser intends to use the product or service.

(44) "Prosthetic device" means a replacement, corrective or supportive device, including repair and replacement parts for the device worn on or in the body, to:

(A) Artificially replace a missing portion of the body;

(B) Prevent or correct physical deformity or malfunction of the body; or

(C) Support a weak or deformed portion of the body.

(45) "Protective equipment" means items for human wear and designed as protection of the wearer against injury or disease or as protections against damage or injury of other persons or property but not suitable for general use.

(46) "Purchase price" means the measure subject to the tax imposed by article fifteen or fifteen-a of this chapter and has the same meaning as sales price.

(47) "Purchaser" means a person to whom a sale of personal property is made or to whom a service is furnished.

(48) "Retail sale" or "sale at retail" means:

(A) Any sale, lease or rental for any purpose other than for resale as tangible personal property, sublease or subrent; and
(B) Any sale of a service other than a service purchased for resale.

(49) (A) "Sales price" means the measure subject to the tax levied under article fifteen or fifteen-a of this chapter and includes the total amount of consideration, including cash, credit, property and services, for which personal property or services are sold, leased or rented, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise, without any deduction for the following:

(i) The seller's cost of the property sold;

(ii) The cost of materials used, labor or service cost, interest, losses, all costs of transportation to the seller, all taxes imposed on the seller and any other expense of the seller;

(iii) Charges by the seller for any services necessary to complete the sale, other than delivery and installation charges;

(iv) Delivery charges; and

(v) Installation charges.

(B) "Sales price" does not include:

(i) Discounts, including cash, term or coupons that are not reimbursed by a third party that are allowed by a seller and taken by a purchaser on a sale;

(ii) Interest, financing and carrying charges from credit extended on the sale of personal property, goods or services, if the amount is separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale or similar document given to the purchaser; or

(iii) Any taxes legally imposed directly on the consumer that are separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale or similar document given to the purchaser.

(C) "Sales price" shall include consideration received by the seller from third parties if:
(i) The seller actually receives consideration from a party other than the purchaser and the consideration is directly related to a price reduction or discount on the sale;

(ii) The seller has an obligation to pass the price reduction or discount through to the purchaser;

(iii) The amount of the consideration attributable to the sale is fixed and determinable by the seller at the time of the sale of the item to the purchaser; and

(iv) One of the following criteria is met:

(I) The purchaser presents a coupon, certificate or other documentation to the seller to claim a price reduction or discount where the coupon, certificate or documentation is authorized, distributed or granted by a third party with the understanding that the third party will reimburse any seller to whom the coupon, certificate or documentation is presented;

(II) The purchaser identifies himself or herself to the seller as a member of a group or organization entitled to a price reduction or discount (a preferred customer card that is available to any patron does not constitute membership in such a group); or

(III) The price reduction or discount is identified as a third-party price reduction or discount on the invoice received by the purchaser or on a coupon, certificate or other documentation presented by the purchaser.

(50) "Sales tax" means the tax levied under article fifteen of this chapter.

(51) "School art supply" means an item commonly used by a student in a course of study for artwork. The term is mutually exclusive of the terms "school supply", "school instructional material" and "school computer supply" and may be taxed differently. The following is an all-inclusive list:
(A) Clay and glazes;
(B) Paints; acrylic, tempora and oil;
(C) Paintbrushes for artwork;
(D) Sketch and drawing pads; and
(E) Watercolors.

(52) "School instructional material" means written material commonly used by a student in a course of study as a reference and to learn the subject being taught. The term is mutually exclusive of the terms "school supply", "school art supply" and "school computer supply" and may be taxed differently. The following is an all-inclusive list:

(A) Reference books;
(B) Reference maps and globes;
(C) Textbooks; and
(D) Workbooks.

(53) "School computer supply" means an item commonly used by a student in a course of study in which a computer is used. The term is mutually exclusive of the terms "school supply", "school art supply" and "school instructional material" and may be taxed differently. The following is an all-inclusive list:

(A) Computer storage media; diskettes, compact disks;
(B) Handheld electronic schedulers, except devices that are cellular phones;
(C) Personal digital assistants, except devices that are cellular phones;
(D) Computer printers; and
(E) Printer supplies for computers; printer paper, printer ink.
“School supply” means an item commonly used by a student in a course of study. The term is mutually exclusive of the terms “school art supply”, “school instructional material” and “school computer supply” and may be taxed differently. The following is an all-inclusive list of school supplies:

(A) Binders;
(B) Book bags;
(C) Calculators;
(D) Cellophane tape;
(E) Blackboard chalk;
(F) Compasses;
(G) Composition books;
(H) Crayons;
(I) Erasers;
(J) Folders; expandable, pocket, plastic and manila;
(K) Glue, paste and paste sticks;
(L) Highlighters;
(M) Index cards;
(N) Index card boxes;
(O) Legal pads;
(P) Lunch boxes;
(Q) Markers;
(R) Notebooks;
(S) Paper; loose-leaf ruled notebook paper, copy paper, graph paper, tracing paper, manila paper, colored paper, poster board and construction paper;
(T) Pencil boxes and other school supply boxes;
(U) Pencil sharpeners;
(V) Pencils;
(W) Pens;
(X) Protractors;
(Y) Rulers;
(Z) Scissors; and
(AA) Writing tablets.

(55) "Seller" means any person making sales, leases or rentals of personal property or services.

(56) "Service" or "selected service" includes all nonprofessional activities engaged in for other persons for a consideration which involve the rendering of a service as distinguished from the sale of tangible personal property, but does not include contracting, personal services, services rendered by an employee to his or her employer, any service rendered for resale or any service furnished by a business that is subject to the control of the Public Service Commission when the service or the manner in which it is delivered is subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission of this state. The term "service" or "selected service" does not include payments received by a vendor of tangible personal property as an incentive to sell a greater volume of such tangible personal property under a manufacturer's, distributor's or other third-party's marketing support program, sales incentive program, cooperative advertising agreement or similar type of program or agreement and these payments are not considered to be payments for a service or selected service rendered, even though the vendor may engage in attendant or ancillary activities associated with the sales of tangible personal property as required under the programs or agreements.
(57) "Soft drink" means nonalcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. "Soft drinks" do not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice or similar milk substitutes or greater than fifty percent of vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

(58) "Sport or recreational equipment" means items designed for human use and worn in conjunction with an athletic or recreational activity that are not suitable for general use. Sport or recreational equipment are mutually exclusive of and may be taxed differently than apparel within the definition of "clothing", "clothing accessories or equipment" and "protective equipment". The following list contains examples and is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. "Sport or recreational equipment" shall include:

(A) Ballet and tap shoes;
(B) Cleated or spiked athletic shoes;
(C) Gloves, including, but not limited to, baseball, bowling, boxing, hockey and golf;
(D) Goggles;
(E) Hand and elbow guards;
(F) Life preservers and vests;
(G) Mouth guards;
(H) Roller and ice skates;
(I) Shin guards;
(J) Shoulder pads;
(K) Ski boots;
(L) Waders; and
(M) Wetsuits and fins.

(59) "State" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
(60) "Tangible personal property" means personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt or touched or that is in any manner perceptible to the senses. "Tangible personal property" includes, but is not limited to, electricity, steam, water, gas and prewritten computer software.

(61) "Tax" includes all taxes levied under articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter and additions to tax, interest and penalties levied under article ten of this chapter.

(62) "Tax Commissioner" means the State Tax Commissioner or his or her delegate. The term "delegate" in the phrase "or his or her delegate", when used in reference to the Tax Commissioner, means any officer or employee of the State Tax Division duly authorized by the Tax Commissioner directly, or indirectly by one or more redelegations of authority, to perform the functions mentioned or described in this article or rules promulgated for this article.

(63) "Taxpayer" means any person liable for the taxes levied by articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter or any additions to tax penalties imposed by article ten of this chapter.

(64) "Telecommunications service" or "telecommunication service" when used in this article and articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter shall have the same meaning as that term is defined in section two-b of this article.

(65) "Tobacco" means cigarettes, cigars, chewing or pipe tobacco or any other item that contains tobacco.

(66) "Use tax" means the tax levied under article fifteen-a of this chapter.

(67) "Use-based exemption" means an exemption based on a specified use of the product or service by the purchaser.

(68) "Vendor" means any person furnishing services taxed by article fifteen or fifteen-a of this chapter or making sales of tangible personal property or custom software. "Vendor" and "seller" are used interchangeably in this article and in articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter.
(c) Additional definitions. —

Other terms used in this article are defined in articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter, which definitions are incorporated by reference into this article. Additionally, other sections of this article may define terms primarily used in the section in which the term is defined.


As used in this article and articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter, the term “Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement” or “agreement” means the agreement adopted November 12, 2002, by states that enacted authority to engage in multistate discussions similar to that provided in section four of this article, except when the context in which the term is used clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended by the Legislature. “Agreement” includes amendments to the agreement adopted by the implementing states in calendar years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and amendments adopted by the governing board on or before, January 31, 2012, but does not include any substantive changes in the agreement adopted after January 31, 2012.


(a) General rules.—

When a purchaser claims an exemption from paying tax under article fifteen or fifteen-a of this chapter:

(1) Sellers shall obtain identifying information of the purchaser and the reason for claiming a tax exemption at the time of the purchase, as determined by the governing board.

(2) A purchaser is not required to provide a signature to claim an exemption from tax unless a paper exemption certificate is used.

(3) The seller shall use the standard form for claiming an exemption electronically that is adopted by the governing board.
(4) The seller shall obtain the same information for proof of a claimed exemption regardless of the medium in which the transaction occurred.

(5) The Tax Commissioner may utilize a system wherein the purchaser exempt from the payment of the tax is issued an identification number that is presented to the seller at the time of the sale.

(6) The seller shall maintain proper records of exempt transactions and provide the records to the Tax Commissioner or the Tax Commissioner's designee.

(7) The Tax Commissioner shall administer use-based and entity-based exemptions when practicable through a direct pay permit, an exemption certificate or another means that does not burden sellers.

(8) In the case of drop shipments, a third-party vendor such as a drop shipper may claim a resale exemption based on an exemption certificate provided by its customer/reseller or any other acceptable information available to the third-party vendor evidencing qualification for a resale exemption, regardless of whether the customer/reseller is registered to collect and remit sales and use taxes in this state, when the sale is sourced to this state.

(b) The Tax Commissioner shall relieve sellers that follow the requirements of this section from the tax otherwise applicable if it is determined that the purchaser improperly claimed an exemption and shall hold the purchaser liable for the nonpayment of tax. This relief from liability does not apply:

(A) To a seller who fraudulently fails to collect the tax;

(B) To a seller who solicits purchasers to participate in the unlawful claim of an exemption;

(C) To a seller who accepts an exemption certificate when the purchaser claims an entity-based exemption when:

(i) The subject of the transaction sought to be covered by the
exemption certificate is actually received by the purchaser at a location operated by the seller; and (ii) the state in which that location resides provides an exemption certificate that clearly and affirmatively indicates (graying out exemption reason types on uniform form and posting it on a state's website is an indicator) that the claimed exemption is not available in that state.

(c) Time within which seller must obtain exemption certificates. —

A seller is relieved from paying tax otherwise applicable under article fifteen or fifteen-a of this chapter if the seller obtains a fully completed exemption certificate or captures the required data elements within ninety days subsequent to the date of sale.

(d) (1) If the seller has not obtained an exemption certificate or all required data elements, the seller shall, within one hundred twenty days subsequent to a request for substantiation by the Tax Commissioner, either obtain a fully completed exemption certificate from the purchaser, taken in good faith which means that the seller obtain a certificate that claims an exemption that: (i) Was statutorily available on the date of the transaction in the jurisdiction where the transaction is sourced; (ii) could be applicable to the item being purchased; and (iii) is reasonable for the purchaser's type of business; or obtain other information establishing that the transaction was not subject to the tax.

(2) If the seller obtains the information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the seller shall be relieved of any liability for the tax on the transaction unless it is discovered through the audit process that the seller had knowledge or had reason to know at the time such information was provided that the information relating to the exemption claimed was materially false or the seller otherwise knowingly participated in activity intended to purposefully evade the tax that is properly due on the transaction.
(e) Nothing in this section shall affect the ability of the Tax Commissioner to require purchasers to update exemption certificate information or to reapply with the state to claim certain exemptions.

(f) A seller is relieved from paying the tax otherwise applicable if the seller obtains a blanket exemption certificate from a purchaser with which the seller has a recurring business relationship. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the Tax Commissioner may not request from the seller renewal of blanket certificates or updates of exemption certificate information or data elements when there is a recurring business relationship between the buyer and seller. For purposes of this subdivision, a recurring business relationship exists when a period of no more than twelve months elapses between sales transactions.

(g) Exception.—

No exemption certificate or direct pay permit number is required when the sale is exempt per se from the taxes imposed by articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter.


(a) General.—

A seller who registers with this state is required to file a single sales and use tax return with the Tax Commissioner for each taxing period.

(b) Due date of return.—

(1) This return shall be due on the twentieth day of the month following the month in which the transaction subject to tax occurred.

(2) When the due date for a return falls on a Saturday or Sunday or legal holiday, the return shall be due on the next succeeding business day. If the return is filed in conjunction with a remittance and the remittance cannot be made
pursuant to subdivision (e), section twenty-six of this article, the return shall be accepted as timely on the same day as the remittance under that subdivision.

(c) Additional information returns.—

The Tax Commissioner shall make available to all sellers, except sellers of products qualifying for exclusion from the provisions of the agreement, a simplified return that is filed electronically.

(d) The Tax Commissioner may not require a seller which has indicated at the time of registration that it anticipates making no sales which would be sourced to this state to file a return, except that the seller shall lose the exemption upon making any taxable sales into this state and shall file a return in the month following any sale.

(e) After January 1, 2010, the Tax Commissioner shall give notice to a seller, which has no legal requirement to register in this state, of a failure to file a required return and a minimum of thirty days to file thereafter prior to establishing a liability amount for taxes based solely on the seller's failure to timely file a return: Provided, That the Tax Commissioner may establish a liability amount of taxes based solely on the seller's failure to timely file a return if such seller has a history of nonfiling or late filing.

(f) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Tax Commissioner from allowing additional return options or the filing of returns less frequently.


(a) General.—

Only one remittance is required for each return except as provided in this section.

(b) When electronic remittance required.—

(1) All remittances from sellers under Models I, II and III shall be remitted electronically after December 31, 2003.
(2) All remittances in payment of taxes reported on the approved simplified return format shall be remitted electronically.

(c) Method of remittance.—

Electronic payments shall be made using either the ACH credit or ACH debit method.

(d) Alternative method.—

The Tax Commissioner shall provide by rule, which may be an existing rule, an alternative method for making same-day payments if an electronic funds transfer fails.

(e) Due date of remittances.—

(1) If a due date for a payment falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the payment, including any related payment voucher information, is due on the next succeeding business day.

(2) If the Federal Reserve Bank is closed on a due date that prohibits a person from being able to make a payment by ACH debit or credit, the payment shall be accepted as timely if made on the next day the Federal Reserve Bank is open.

(f) Format of data accompanying remittance.—

Any data that accompanies a remittance shall be formatted using uniform tax type and payment type codes approved by the governing board.

§11-15B-30. Monetary allowances for new technological models for sales tax collection; delayed effective date.

(a) Monetary allowance under Model I.—

(1) The Tax Commissioner shall provide a monetary allowance to a certified service provider in Model I. This allowance shall be in accordance with the terms of the contract between the governing board of the Streamlined
Sales and Use Tax Agreement and the certified service provider. The details of this monetary allowance shall be developed and provided through the contract process. The contract shall provide that the allowance be funded entirely from money collected in Model I.

(2) The contract between the governing board and the certified service provider may base the monetary allowance to a certified service provider on one or more of the following:

(A) A base rate that applies to taxable transactions processed by the certified service provider; or

(B) For a period not to exceed twenty-four months following a voluntary seller's registration through the agreement's central registration process, a percentage of tax revenue generated for a member state by the voluntary seller for each member state for which the seller does not have a requirement to register to collect the tax.

(b) Monetary allowance for Model II sellers.—

The monetary allowance to sellers under Model II may be based on the following:

(1) All sellers shall receive a base rate for a period not to exceed twenty-four months following the commencement of participation by a seller. The base rate is set by the governing board of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement after the base rate has been established for Model I certified service providers. This allowance is in addition to any vendor or seller discount afforded by each member state at the time.

(2) A voluntary Model II seller not otherwise required to register with this state to collect the consumers sales and service tax and use tax, that registers through the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement's central registration process, shall receive for a period not to exceed twenty-four months following the voluntary seller's registration, the base rate percentage of tax revenue generated for this state by the voluntary seller.
(3) Following the conclusion of the twenty-four-month period, a seller will only be entitled to a vendor discount afforded under each member state’s law at the time the base rate expires.

(c) Prohibition on allowance or payment of monetary allowances.—

Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section, the Tax Commissioner may not allow any vendor, seller or certified service provider any monetary allowance, discount or other compensation for collecting and remitting the taxes levied by articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter, or for making and filing the periodic reports required by this article, or articles fifteen and fifteen-a of this chapter, until the cost of collection study required by the agreement is completed and the monetary allowances are based on the results of that study, or on requirements of federal law requiring remote sellers to collect sales and use taxes for states that have signed the agreement.

§11-15B-32. Effective date.

(a) The provisions of this article, as amended or added during the regular legislative session in the year 2003, shall take effect January 1, 2004, and apply to all sales made on or after that date and to all returns and payments due on or after that day, except as otherwise expressly provided in section five of this article.

(b) The provisions of this article, as amended or added during the second extraordinary legislative session in the year 2003, shall take effect January 1, 2004, and apply to all sales made on or after that date.

(c) The provisions of this article, as amended or added by act of the Legislature in the year 2004 shall apply to all sales made on or after the date of passage in the year 2004.

(d) The provisions of this article, as amended or added during the regular legislative session in the year 2008, shall apply to all sales made on or after the date of passage and to
all returns and payments due on or after that day, except as otherwise expressly provided in this article.

(e) The provisions of this article, as amended or added during the 2009 regular legislative session, shall apply to all sales made on or after the date of passage and to all returns and payments due on or after that day, except as otherwise expressly provided in this article.

(f) The provisions of this article, as amended or added during the 2010 regular legislative session, shall apply to all sales made on or after the date of passage and to all returns and payments due on or after that day, except as otherwise expressly provided in this article.

(g) The provisions of this article, as amended or added during the 2012 regular legislative session, shall apply to all sales made on or after the date of passage and to all returns and payments due on or after that day, except as otherwise expressly provided in this article.

§11-15B-33. State administration of local sales and use taxes.

The Tax Commissioner shall administer, or authorize others to conduct on his or her behalf, the sales and use tax laws of this state subject to the agreement. Sellers and purchasers are only required to register with, file returns with and remit funds to the Tax Commissioner. The Tax Commissioner shall collect any municipal sales and use taxes and distribute them to the appropriate taxing jurisdictions. The Tax Commissioner shall conduct, or others may be authorized to conduct on his or her behalf, all audits of sellers and purchasers for compliance with the sales and use tax laws of this state and the sales and use tax laws of its local jurisdictions. Except as provided herein, local jurisdictions may not conduct independent sales or use tax audits of sellers and purchasers.

§11-15B-34. State and local sales and use tax bases.

(a) General.
The tax base of a local jurisdiction that levies a local sales or use tax pursuant to authority granted by the Legislature shall be identical to the sales and use tax base of this state, unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Exceptions.—

This section does not apply to sales or use taxes levied on: (1) The wholesale sale of gasoline or special fuel to power motor vehicles, aircraft, locomotives, or watercraft or to electricity, piped natural or artificial gas or other fuels delivered by the seller, which local jurisdictions are prohibited from taxing; or (2) the retail sale or transfer of motor vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, modular homes, manufactured homes or mobile homes.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 20th Day of March, 2012.

Governor