

2020 -- H 7189

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LC003509  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND  
COMPUTATION

Introduced By: Representatives Solomon, Vella-Wilkinson, O'Brien, Ucci, and  
Blazejewski

Date Introduced: January 22, 2020

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 44-18 of the General Laws entitled "Sales and Use Taxes –  
2 Liability and Computation" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **44-18-18.2. Annual Sales Tax Holiday.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any general or public law to the contrary, for the days of August 8,  
5 2020 and August 9, 2020, sales tax shall not be imposed upon nonbusiness sales at retail of  
6 tangible personal property. For purposes of this section, tangible personal property shall not  
7 include telecommunications, tobacco products, gas, steam, oil, electricity, motor vehicles,  
8 motorboats, meals or a single item whose price exceeds two thousand five hundred dollars  
9 (\$2,500).

10 (b) Notwithstanding any general or public law to the contrary, for the days of August 8,  
11 2020 and August 9, 2020, a vendor shall not add to the sales price, or collect from a nonbusiness  
12 purchaser, an excise upon sales at retail of tangible personal property. The director of the  
13 department of revenue ("the director") shall not require a vendor to collect and pay taxes upon  
14 sales at retail of tangible personal property purchased on August 8, 2020 and August 9, 2020. An  
15 excise erroneously or improperly collected during the days of August 8, 2020 and August 9,  
16 2020, shall be remitted to the department of revenue.

17 This section shall not apply to the sale of telecommunications, tobacco products, gas,  
18 steam, oil, electricity, motor vehicles, motorboats, meals or a single item the price of which is in

1 excess of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

2 (c) Reporting requirements imposed upon vendors of tangible personal property, by law  
3 or by regulation, including, but not limited to, the requirements for filing returns required  
4 pursuant to the general laws, shall remain in effect for sales for the days of August 8, 2020 and  
5 August 9, 2020.

6 (d) On or before December 31, 2020, the director of the department of revenue shall  
7 certify to the comptroller the amount of sales tax forgone, as well as new revenue raised from  
8 personal and corporate income taxes and other sources pursuant to this section. The director shall  
9 file a report with the house and senate finance committees detailing the distribution of revenues  
10 which would have been deposited in each fund without this section.

11 (e) The director shall issue instructions or forms, or promulgate rules or regulations, as  
12 necessary for the implementation of this section.

13 (f) Eligible sales at retail of tangible personal property under subsections (a) and (b) of  
14 this section are restricted to those transactions occurring on August 8, 2020 and August 9, 2020.  
15 Transfer of possession of or payment in full for the property shall occur on one of those days, and  
16 prior sales or layaway sales shall be ineligible.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would create a sales tax holiday for the days of August 8, 2020 and August 9,  
2 2020, and no sales taxes would be collected on nonbusiness sales of tangible personal property,  
3 with the exception of sales of telecommunications, tobacco products, gas, steam, oil, electricity,  
4 motor vehicles, motorboats, meals or a single item whose price exceeds two thousand five  
5 hundred dollars (\$2,500).

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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