

2016 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVE MONTOUCET

TAX/SALES & USE: Requires the advance payment of sales tax (Item #35)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:306(B), relative to collection of advance sales tax; to provide for the  
3 disposition of the tax; to authorize the secretary of the Department of Revenue to  
4 promulgate rules; to provide for exemptions; to provide for an effective date; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 47:306(B) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §306. Returns and payment of tax; penalty for absorption

9 \* \* \*

10 B. Collection by Wholesalers. (1)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of  
11 Subsection A or any other provision of this Chapter to the contrary, every  
12 manufacturer, wholesaler, jobber, or supplier who sells for resale to any person any  
13 article of tangible personal property, the retail sale of which is taxable under this  
14 Chapter, shall collect as advance sales tax a percent of the sales price of the article  
15 equal to the sales tax levied on the article by this Chapter.

16 (b) The collection of tax on motor vehicles shall be in accordance with the  
17 provisions of R.S. 47:303(B).

18 (c) The secretary of the Department of Revenue shall promulgate rules and  
19 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Subsection.

1           (2)(a) The amount paid by dealers to manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers,  
2           or suppliers shall be advance payment of the Louisiana sales tax that the dealer is  
3           required to collect upon the sale at retail, and the advance payment is required only  
4           as a means of facilitating collection of the sales tax.

5           (b) Manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers, and suppliers who collect advance  
6           sales tax from a dealer pursuant to this Paragraph shall remit the tax to the collector  
7           of revenue in the manner provided hereinabove for dealers and in accordance with  
8           the rules and regulations prescribed by the collector.

9           (3) In making returns to the collector, dealers who have paid advance sales  
10          tax shall deduct from the total tax collected upon the retail sale of the article of  
11          tangible personal property the amount of advance sales tax paid by the dealer during  
12          the reporting period, provided the dealer claiming the refund or credit has retained  
13          the invoices evidencing the amount of tax paid. If the amount of advance sales tax  
14          paid during any reporting period is greater than the tax collected by the dealer for the  
15          reporting period, the excess amount paid shall be allowed as a refund or credit  
16          against the tax collected by the dealer during the succeeding period or periods.

17          (4) Manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers, and suppliers collecting advance  
18          sales taxes as hereinabove provided shall be allowed a 0.935 percent deduction from  
19          the amount of advance sales tax collected and remitted to the secretary as  
20          compensation for the collection. This compensation shall be allowed only if the  
21          payment of the manufacturer, wholesaler, jobber, or supplier is timely paid and the  
22          return is timely filed.

23          (5) Parishes, municipalities, school boards and other local governing  
24          authorities that levy a sales tax are prohibited from requiring manufacturers,  
25          wholesalers, jobbers, or suppliers to collect advance local sales taxes from dealers.

26          (6) Absorption of the tax as defined in this Section by any retailer,  
27          wholesaler, manufacturer, or other supplier shall constitute a misdemeanor and, upon  
28          conviction, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars, or  
29          by imprisonment in the parish jail for not more than two years, or both.

1           (7) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to the sale of  
2           telecommunication services, as defined in R.S. 47:301(14)(i).

3           (8) Any dealer, fifty percent or more of whose sales are made to industrial  
4           users, shall be exempt from the payment of advance sales taxes and shall be issued  
5           an exemption identification number by the Department of Revenue. For purposes  
6           of this Paragraph, an "industrial user" shall be a business engaged in the manufacture  
7           of tangible personal property for sale, whose sales are primarily to other dealers for  
8           resale. A "contractor" shall be a business that constructs, alters, repairs, improves,  
9           or demolishes fixed structures, either directly or indirectly. A dealer who is exempt  
10           from the payment of advance sales under this Paragraph shall collect the taxes due  
11           on the sales made by the dealer and remit the taxes to the state as otherwise required  
12           by this Chapter.

13           (9)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the sale  
14           of tangible personal property by a manufacturer to an out-of-state wholesale dealer  
15           in building materials who has not been issued an exemption identification number,  
16           but that has delivered by drop shipment to Louisiana, shall be exempt from advance  
17           sales tax if the out-of-state wholesale dealer subsequently transfers the property to  
18           a wholesale dealer in building materials that has been issued an exemption  
19           identification number. The manufacturer shall note on the invoice the transitory  
20           nature of the sale and the exemption identification number of the wholesale dealer  
21           receiving the property.

22           (b) For purposes of this Section, a "wholesale dealer" is any person whose  
23           retail sales, as defined by this Chapter, constitute less than fifty percent of total  
24           yearly sales. Sales made in interstate commerce or sales where delivery is made  
25           outside the territorial jurisdiction of the state of Louisiana are not considered retail  
26           sales for the purposes of determining whether a person qualifies as a wholesaler.

27           (10)(a) The secretary of the Department of Revenue is authorized to issue  
28           an exemption from the payment of advance sales taxes and an exemption  
29           identification number to any dealer meeting all of the following requirements:

1               (i) The dealer is registered with and has filed sales tax returns with the  
2               Department of Revenue for a minimum of one year.

3               (ii) The dealer has sales of three million dollars or more on sales of tangible  
4               personal property for a consecutive twelve-month period, exclusive of the tax due  
5               on purchases by the dealer, and has timely filed the returns and remitted the tax due  
6               during the twelve-month period.

7               (b) The secretary shall determine the base periods for a dealer's eligibility.  
8               An exemption identification number shall be effective for a period not to exceed five  
9               years as determined by the secretary. The secretary may reissue exemption  
10              identification numbers to dealers who continue to meet the qualifications under this  
11              Paragraph and may revoke the exemption identification number of dealers who no  
12              longer meet the qualifications. The secretary may refuse the issuance of an  
13              exemption identification number or remove the exemption identification number of  
14              any dealer when the secretary determines the dealer's audit, filing, or payment  
15              histories indicate that a greater level of tax compliance could be achieved by the  
16              dealer's payment of the advance sales tax on purchases of tangible personal property  
17              for resale.

18              (c) Eligibility for the exemption identification numbers provided for in this  
19              Paragraph shall be based on sales of tangible personal property attributable to each  
20              sales location of the dealer applying for the exemption identification number.  
21              However, the secretary, by rule, may provide standards not inconsistent with these  
22              provisions, for the issuance of the exemption identification numbers to multi-location  
23              consolidated sales tax filers, and to new business locations of dealers who have  
24              received exemption identification numbers under this Paragraph.

25    \*       \*       \*

26              Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
27              signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
28              by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

- 1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
2 effective on the day following such approval.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 65 Original

2016 First Extraordinary Session

Montoucet

**Abstract:** Requires advance payment of sales tax to be collected and remitted by certain wholesalers and authorizes compensation for those wholesalers collecting advance sales tax.

Present law provides for returns and monthly or quarterly payment of sales tax by dealers. Further requires certain reporting relative to sales by dealers. Authorizes a vendor's compensation of 0.935% of the sales tax remitted by a dealer for timely remitting the sales tax. Requires registration by certain nonresident contractors. Provides for payment of the tax by a licensed vehicle dealer.

Proposed law retains present law and requires collection of advance sales tax by manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers, and suppliers from any retail sale that would be taxable under the provisions of present law.

Proposed law provides an exemption for the advance payment of sales tax for dealers whose sales are comprised of more than 50% to industrial users.

Proposed law defines "industrial user" as a business engaged in the manufacture of tangible personal property for sale, whose sales are primarily to other dealers for resale.

Proposed law exempts certain out-of-state wholesale dealers from payment of advance sales tax when transferring property to wholesale dealers who have an exemption identification number. Further defines "wholesale dealer" as a dealer who has at least 50% of sales that do not constitute retail sales.

Proposed law requires the advance payment amount collected by the wholesaler from the dealer to be the same amount the dealer would be required to collect upon the sale of the item.

Proposed law authorizes dealers to deduct out of the sales tax collected upon the retail sale of an item that amount of advance sales tax paid by the dealer to the wholesaler for the item.

Proposed law authorizes manufacturers, wholesalers, jobbers, and suppliers collecting advance sales tax to deduct 0.935% from the amount collected and remitted as compensation for the collection.

Proposed law prohibits local governing bodies from requiring advance sales tax collection.

Proposed law prohibits absorption of the tax by any retailer, wholesaler, manufacturer, or other supplier. Proposed law establishes a misdemeanor crime for absorption, punishable by a fine of not more than \$2,000, not more than two years in parish jail, or both.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Revenue to issue exemption identification numbers for certain dealers. To be eligible to receive an exemption identification number, a dealer must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Be registered and filing sales tax returns for a minimum of one year.
- (2) Have sales over 12 consecutive month periods to be \$3 million or more.
- (3) Have timely filed returns for the same period.

Proposed law grants the secretary discretion in determining eligibility. Further authorizes the secretary to refuse the issuance of an exemption identification number.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary to promulgate rules to administer advance sale tax implementation.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 47:306(B))