DIGEST

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St. Germain HB No. 225

Abstract: Authorizes an annual "sales tax holiday" from state sales and use taxes on the first $1,500 of the purchase price of certain hurricane-preparedness items or supplies during the last weekend in May of each year.

Proposed law provides for an annual "sales tax holiday" during the last weekend of May each year beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, affecting state sales and use taxes on the first $1,500 of the purchase price on the purchase of certain hurricane-preparedness items or supplies.

Proposed law defines "hurricane-preparedness items or supplies" as any of the following:

(1) Any portable self-powered light source.
(2) Any portable self-powered radio.
(3) Any tarpaulin or other flexible waterproof sheeting.
(4) Any ground anchor system or tie-down kit.
(5) Any gas or diesel fuel tank.
(6) Any package of AAA, AA, C, D, 6-volt, or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries.
(7) Any cell phone battery and any cell phone charger.
(8) Any nonelectric food storage cooler.
(9) Any portable generator used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage.
(10) Any "storm shutter device".
(11) Any carbon monoxide detector.
(12) Any blue ice product.

Proposed law prohibits hurricane-preparedness items or supplies purchased at airports, public lodging establishments, convenience stores, and entertainment complexes from qualifying for this sales and use tax exemption.

Proposed law provides for the tax treatment of exempt items sold in sets, promotional sales, exchanges, layaways, rainchecks, and rebates.

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

(Adds R.S. 47:305.56)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Ways and Means to the original bill.

1. Deletes application of this exemption on local sales and use taxes.

2. Provides that the state sales and use tax holiday is applicable on the first $1,500 of the purchase price of hurricane-preparedness items or supplies.

3. Prohibits hurricane-preparedness items or supplies purchased at convenience stores from qualifying for this sales and use tax exemption.