To: Robynn Wilson, Chair

Members of MTC Income & Franchise Tax Uniformity Subcommittee

From: Shirley Sicilian, General Counsel

Date: November 23, 2010

Subject: Model Use Tax Notice and Reporting Project

During its teleconference of September 30, 2010, the Subcommittee adopted several changes to the model use tax reporting statute and directed the drafting group to make a number of additional changes. The additional changes, reflected in the attached draft, are to:

(1) amend to the penalty provision regarding the specific penalties to be applied,
(2) add “invoices” to the list of documents required to contain the use tax notice, and
(3) add specific authority for the Department to estimate the number of violations for purposes of applying penalty.

The draft also reflects some additional provisions identified by the drafting group for Subcommittee consideration. These are:

(4) a statement that the penalty assessment becomes final after 20 days if no protest is timely filed,
(5) An allowance for the accrual of interest accrues on the penalty,
(6) a limitations sections to be clear that the department’s authority and taxpayer’s responsibility under the sales and use tax are not affected,
(7) a severance clause, and
(8) some clean-up of the prior language.
Sales and Use Tax Notice and Reporting Act

(a) **Administration.** The [State Department of Revenue] shall perform all functions necessary and proper for the administration and enforcement of this Act, including promulgating regulations and reviewing protests in accordance with the [State Administrative Procedures Act]. This Act shall be administered and enforced by the [State Department of Revenue], which shall adopt, promulgate, and enforce rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the Act’s provisions. No Court shall have jurisdiction to consider the application, administration, or enforcement of this Act with respect to any person unless that person has exhausted administrative remedies with the [State Department of Revenue].

(b) **Definitions.** For purposes of this Act:

1. **“Department”** means the [State Department of Revenue].
2. **“Director”** means the Director of the [State Department of Revenue].
3. **“Purchaser”** means any person who purchases or leases a product for delivery to a location in this state.

(c) **Notice and Reports, Required.** A person who sells or leases a product; the storage, use, or consumption of which is subject to [State Use Tax Act]; or the sale or lease of which is subject to [State Sales Tax Act]; but who does not collect or remit either such tax, shall provide the following notice and reports.

1. **Notice to Purchaser at Time of Transaction.** A notice shall be provided to each purchaser at the time of each such sale or lease.

   (A) The notice shall indicate that neither sales nor use tax is being collected or remitted upon the transaction, and that the purchaser may be required to remit such tax directly to the Department.
(B) The notice shall be prominently displayed on all invoices and order forms, including, where applicable, electronic and catalogue invoices and order forms, and upon each sales or lease receipt provided to the purchaser. No indication shall be made that sales or use tax is not imposed upon the transaction, unless: (i) such indication is followed immediately with the notice required by this section (c)(1); or (ii) the transaction with respect to which the transaction is given is exempt from [State] sales and use tax pursuant to [State] law.

(C) A person who fails to provide notice as required by this section (c)(1) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other penalties, of $X for each such failure, not to exceed in any calendar year:

(i) a total of $Y if such person had no actual knowledge of the requirement and remedied the failure by providing notices within X days of receiving actual knowledge, and
(ii) a total of $Z if such person had actual knowledge or did not remedy the failure within X days of receiving actual knowledge.

The Director, in his or her sole discretion, may waive all or any portion of this penalty for good cause shown.

(2) Annual Report to Purchaser. A report shall be provided to each purchaser before January 31st of each year,

(A) The report shall include:

(i) a statement indicating that the person does not collect sales or use tax on the purchaser's transactions and that the purchaser may be required to remit such tax directly to the Department;

(ii) a list, by date, generally indicating the type of product purchased or leased during the prior calendar year by the purchaser from such person for delivery to a location in this state and the price of each product;

(iii) instruction for obtaining additional information regarding whether and how to remit the sales or use tax to the Department;

(iv) a statement that such person is required to submit a report to the Department pursuant to section (c)(3) of this Act describing the purchaser's purchases; and

(v) any information as the Director shall reasonably require.

(B) The report shall be sent to the purchaser’s billing address, or if unknown, the purchaser’s shipping address, in an envelope marked prominently with words indicating important tax information is enclosed. If no billing or shipping address is known, the report shall be sent to the purchaser’s last-known e-mail address with a subject heading indicating important tax information is enclosed.
(C) A person who fails to provide a report as required by section (c)(2) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other penalties, of $X for each such failure, not to exceed in any calendar year:

(i) a total of $Y if such person had no actual knowledge of the requirement or remedied the failure by providing notices within X days of receiving actual knowledge, and

(ii) a total of $Z if such person had actual knowledge or did not remedy the failure within X days of receiving actual knowledge.

The Director, in his or her sole discretion, may waive all or any portion of this penalty for good cause shown.

(3) Annual Report to [State Department of Revenue]. A report shall be provided before January 31st of each year to the Department.

(A) The report shall include, with respect to each purchaser:

(i) The name of the purchaser;

(ii) The billing address and, if different, the last known mailing address;

(iii) The shipping address for each product sold or leased to such purchaser for delivery to a location in this state;

(iv) The total dollar amount of all such purchases by such purchaser which were made during the prior calendar year.

(B) The report shall be filed electronically in the form and manner required by the Director. A person who fails to provide a report as required by section (c)(3) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other penalties, equal to $X times the number of such purchasers that should have been included on such report, not to exceed in any calendar year:

(i) a total of $Y if such person had no actual knowledge of the requirement and remedied the failure by providing the report within X days of receiving actual knowledge, and

(ii) a total of $Z if such person had actual knowledge or did not remedy the failure within X days of receiving actual knowledge.

The Director, in his or her sole discretion, may waive all or any portion of this penalty for good cause shown.

(d) Exceptions.

(1) Small Seller. A person who made less than $A [original SST threshold for small seller was $100,000] in total gross sales during the prior calendar year shall not be required to file notice or reports pursuant to section (c) of this Act.

(2) De minimis In-State Sales. A person who made less than $B [CO: $100,000] in total gross sales for delivery to a location in this state during the prior calendar year shall not be required to file notice or reports pursuant to section (c) of this Act.
Penalties.

(1) **Amount.** The Director shall assess a penalty upon any person who fails to provide notices and reports as required by this Act as follows:

(A) **Penalty for Failure to Provide Notice to Purchaser at Time of Transaction.** A person who fails to provide notice as required by section (c)(1) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other applicable penalties, in the amount of $X for each such failure, not to exceed:

(i) a total of $Y in one calendar year, if such person remedied each failure by providing such notices within X days of the date such notice was required to be provided, and

(ii) a total of $Z in one calendar year where section (e)(1)(A)(i) of this Act does not apply

(B) **Penalty for Failure to Provide Annual Report to Purchaser.** A person who fails to provide a report as required by section (c)(2) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other applicable penalty, of $X for each such failure, not to exceed:

(i) a total of $Y in one calendar year if such person remedied each failure by providing such notices within X days of the date such report was required to be provided, and

(ii) a total of $Z in one calendar year where section (e)(1)(B)(i) of this Act does not apply.

(C) **Penalty for Failure to Provide Annual Report to Department.** A person who fails to provide a report as required by section (c)(3) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other applicable penalty, equal to $X times the number of such purchasers that should have been included on such report, not to exceed:

(i) a total of $Y in one calendar year if such person remedied the failure by providing the report within X days of the date such report was required to be provided, and

(ii) a total of $Z in one calendar year where section (e)(1)(C)(i) of this Act does not apply.

(2) **Estimates Authorized.** When assessing a penalty pursuant to section (e) of this Act, the Director may use any reasonable sampling or estimation technique where necessary or appropriate to determine the number of failures in any calendar year.

(3) **Interest.** Interest shall accrue on the amount of the total penalty assessed for each calendar year pursuant to section (e) of this Act at the rate established pursuant to [state code section setting interest rate for tax underpayment].

(4) **Protest.** A person may protest the assessment of any such penalty or interest by filing a written objection with the Director within 20 days of
the date of assessment. Disposition of a timely filed protest shall be in accordance with [State Administrative Procedures Act]. If no such protest is filed within the time allowed, the assessment shall become final and subject to [judgment, warrant, collection procedures].

(5) **Waiver.** Upon written request received within the time established for protest pursuant to section (e)(4) above, the Director, in his or her sole discretion, may waive any portion or all of the penalty or interest applicable under this section for good cause shown.

(f) **Confidentiality of Purchaser Information.** Information received by the [State Department of Revenue] pursuant to this Act shall be exempt from any disclosure required pursuant to [State Open Records Act]. Such information shall be treated as confidential taxpayer information pursuant to [cite to open records exception for confidential taxpayer information, including exceptions statutes] and all exceptions, penalties, punishments, and remedies applicable to disclosure of confidential taxpayer information pursuant to [cite to statutes regarding confidential taxpayer information disclosure exceptions and penalties] shall apply to disclosure of information received by the Department pursuant to this Act.

(g) **Limitations.** Nothing in this Act shall relieve a person who is subject to [the state’s sales tax act or the use tax act] from any responsibilities imposed thereunder. Nor shall anything in this Act prevent the Director from administering and enforcing [the state’s sales tax act or the use tax act] with respect any person who is subject to them.

(h) **Severance.** The provisions of this Act are severable and if any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Act shall for any reason be held to be invalid of unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Act, which shall remain in effect.
Sales and Use Tax Notice and Reporting Act

(a) **Administration.** The [State Department of Revenue] shall perform all functions necessary and proper for the administration and enforcement of this Act, including promulgating regulations and reviewing protests in accordance with the [State Administrative Procedures Act].

(b) **Definitions.** For purposes of this Act:

1. **“Department”** means the [State Department of Revenue].
2. **“Director”** means the Director of the [State Department of Revenue].
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(c) **Notice and Reports, Required.** A person who sells or leases a product; the storage, use, or consumption of which is subject to [State Use Tax Act], or the sale or lease of which is subject to [State Sales Tax Act]; but who does not collect or remit either such tax, shall provide the following notice and reports.

1. **Notice to Purchaser at Time of Transaction.** A notice shall be provided to each purchaser at the time of each such sale or lease.

   (A) The notice shall indicate that neither sales nor use tax is being collected or remitted upon the transaction, and that the purchaser may be required to remit such tax directly to the Department.

   (B) The notice shall be prominently displayed on all invoices and order forms, including, where applicable, electronic and catalogue invoices and order forms, and upon each sale or lease receipt provided to the purchaser. No indication shall be made that sales or use tax is not imposed upon the transaction, unless: (i) such indication is followed immediately with the notice required by this
section (c)(1); or (ii) the transaction with respect to which the transaction is given is exempt from [State] sales and use tax pursuant to [State] law.

(2) **Annual Report to Purchaser.** A report shall be provided to each purchaser before January 31st of each year,

(A) The report shall include:
   (i) a statement indicating that the person did not collect sales or use tax on the purchaser’s transactions and that the purchaser may be required to remit such tax directly to the Department;
   (ii) a list, by date, generally indicating the type of product purchased or leased during the prior calendar year by the purchaser from such person for delivery to a location in this state and the price of each product;
   (iii) instruction for obtaining additional information regarding whether and how to remit the sales or use tax to the Department;
   (iv) a statement that such person is required to submit a report to the Department pursuant to section (c)(3) of this Act describing the purchaser’s purchases; and
   (v) any information as the Director shall reasonably require.

(B) The report shall be sent to the purchaser’s billing address, or if unknown, the purchaser’s shipping address, in an envelope marked prominently with words indicating important tax information is enclosed. If no billing or shipping address is known, the report shall be sent to the purchaser’s last-known e-mail address with a subject heading indicating important tax information is enclosed.

(3) **Annual Report to [State Department of Revenue].** A report shall be provided before January 31st of each year to the Department.

(A) The report shall include, with respect to each purchaser:
   (i) The name of the purchaser;
   (ii) The billing address and, if different, the last known mailing address;
   (iii) The shipping address for each product sold or leased to such purchaser for delivery to a location in this state;
   (iv) The total dollar amount of all such purchases by such purchaser which were made during the prior calendar year.

(B) The report shall be filed electronically in the form and manner required by the Director.

(d) **Exceptions.**

(1) **Small Seller.** A person who made less than $A [original SST threshold for small seller was $100,000] in total gross sales during the prior year...
calendar year shall not be required to file notice or reports pursuant to section (c) of this Act.

(2) **De minimis In-State Sales.** A person who made less than $B \[CO: $100,000\] in total gross sales for delivery to a location in this state during the prior calendar year shall not be required to file notice or reports pursuant to section (c) of this Act.

(e) **Penalties.**

(1) **Amount.** The Director shall assess a penalty upon any person who fails to provide notices and reports as required by this Act as follows:

(A) **Penalty for Failure to Provide Notice to Purchaser at Time of Transaction.** A person who fails to provide notice as required by section (c)(1) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other applicable penalties, in the amount of $X for each such failure, not to exceed:

(i) a total of $Y in one calendar year, if such person remedied each failure by providing such notices within X days of the date such notice was required to be provided, and

(ii) a total of $Z in one calendar year where section (e)(1)(A)(i) of this Act does not apply

(B) **Penalty for Failure to Provide Annual Report to Purchaser.** A person who fails to provide a report as required by section (c)(2) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other applicable penalty, of $X for each such failure, not to exceed:

(i) a total of $Y in one calendar year if such person remedied each failure by providing such notices within X days of the date such report was required to be provided, and

(ii) a total of $Z in one calendar year where section (e)(1)(B)(i) of this Act does not apply.

(C) **Penalty for Failure to Provide Annual Report to Department.** A person who fails to provide a report as required by section (c)(3) shall be assessed a penalty, in addition to any other applicable penalty, equal to $X times the number of such purchasers that should have been included on such report, not to exceed:

(i) a total of $Y in one calendar year if such person remedied the failure by providing the report within X days of the date such report was required to be provided, and

(ii) a total of $Z in one calendar year where section (e)(1)(C)(i) of this Act does not apply.

(2) **Estimates Authorized.** When assessing a penalty pursuant to section (e) of this Act, the Director may use any reasonable sampling or estimation technique where necessary or appropriate to determine the number of failures in any calendar year.
(3) **Interest.** Interest shall accrue on the amount of the total penalty assessed for each calendar year pursuant to section (e) of this Act at the rate established pursuant to [state code section setting interest rate for tax underpayment].

(4) **Protest.** A person may protest the assessment of any such penalty or interest by filing a written objection with the Director within 20 days of the date of assessment. Disposition of a timely filed protest shall be in accordance with [State Administrative Procedures Act]. If no such protest is filed within the time allowed, the assessment shall become final and subject to [judgment, warrant, collection procedures].

(5) **Waiver.** Upon written request received within the time established for protest pursuant to section (e)(4) above, the Director, in his or her sole discretion, may waive any portion or all of the penalty or interest applicable under this section for good cause shown.

(f) **Confidentiality of Purchaser Information.** Information received by the [State Department of Revenue] pursuant to this Act shall be exempt from any disclosure required pursuant to [State Open Records Act]. Such information shall be treated as confidential taxpayer information pursuant to [cite to open records exception for confidential taxpayer information, including exceptions statutes] and all exceptions, penalties, punishments, and remedies applicable to disclosure of confidential taxpayer information pursuant to [cite to statutes regarding confidential taxpayer information disclosure exceptions and penalties] shall apply to disclosure of information received by the Department pursuant to this Act.

(g) **Limitations.** Nothing in this Act shall relieve a person who is subject to [the state’s sales tax act or the use tax act] from any responsibilities imposed thereunder. Nor shall anything in this Act prevent the Director from administering and enforcing [the state’s sales tax act or the use tax act] with respect any person who is subject to them.

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