

HOUSE BILL No. 5045

September 20, 1989, Introduced by Rep. Bryant and referred to the Committee on Taxation.

A bill to amend section 1 of Act No. 167 of the Public Acts of 1933, entitled as amended

"General sales tax act,"

as amended by Act No. 259 of the Public Acts of 1987, being section 205.51 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Section 1 of Act No. 167 of the Public Acts of
2 1933, as amended by Act No. 259 of the Public Acts of 1987, being
3 section 205.51 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 1. (1) As used in this act:

6 (a) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, joint
7 venture, association, social club, fraternal organization,
8 municipal or private corporation, whether organized for profit or
9 not, company, estate, trust, receiver, trustee, syndicate, the

1 United States, this state, county, or any other group or
2 combination acting as a unit, and includes the plural as well as
3 the singular number, unless the intention to give a more limited
4 meaning is disclosed by the context.

5 (b) "Sale at retail" means a transaction by which the owner-
6 ship of tangible personal property is transferred for considera-
7 tion, if the transfer is made in the ordinary course of the
8 transferor's business and is made to the transferee for consump-
9 tion or use, or for any purpose other than for resale, or for
10 lease, when the rental receipts are taxable under the use tax
11 act, Act No. 94 of the Public Acts of 1937, as amended, being
12 sections 205.91 to 205.111 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, in the
13 form of tangible personal property to a person licensed under
14 this act, or FOR demonstration purposes or lending or leasing to
15 a public or parochial school offering a course in automobile
16 driving, except that a vehicle purchased by the school shall be
17 certified for driver education and shall not be reassigned for
18 personal use of the school's administrative personnel. For a
19 dealer selling a new car or truck, the exemption for demonstra-
20 tion purposes shall be determined by the number of new cars and
21 trucks sold during the current calendar year or the immediate
22 prior year without regard to specific make or style in accordance
23 with the following schedule: 0 to 25, 2 units; 26 to 100, 7
24 units; 101 to 500, 20 units; 501 or more, 25 units; but not to
25 exceed 25 cars and trucks in a calendar year for demonstration
26 purposes.

1 (c) "Sale at retail" includes the sale of tangible personal
2 property to persons directly engaged in the business of
3 constructing, altering, repairing, or improving real estate for
4 others, except property affixed to and made a structural part of
5 the real estate of a nonprofit hospital or nonprofit housing. A
6 nonprofit hospital or nonprofit housing includes only the prop-
7 erty of a nonprofit hospital or the homes or dwelling places con-
8 structed by a nonprofit housing entity qualified as exempt pursu-
9 ant to section 15a of the state housing development authority act
10 of 1966, Act No. 346 of the Public Acts of 1966, as amended,
11 being section 125.1415a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the income
12 or property of which does not directly or indirectly inure to the
13 benefit of an individual, private stockholder, or other private
14 person.

15 (d) "Sale at retail" includes a conditional sale, install-
16 ment lease sale, and other transfer of property when title is
17 retained as security for the purchase price but is intended to be
18 transferred later.

19 (e) "Sale at retail" includes the sale of electricity, natu-
20 ral or artificial gas, or steam when made to the consumer or user
21 for consumption or use rather than for resale. Sale at retail
22 does not include the sale of water through water mains or the
23 sale of water delivered in bulk tanks in quantities of not less
24 than 500 gallons.

25 (f) "Sale at retail" includes computer software offered for
26 general sale to the public or software modified or adapted to the
27 user's needs or equipment by the seller, only if the software is

1 available for sale from a seller of software on an as is basis or
2 as an end product without modification or adaptation. Sale at
3 retail does not include specific charges for technical support or
4 for adapting or modifying prewritten, standard, or canned com-
5 puter software programs to a purchaser's needs or equipment if
6 those charges are separately stated and identified. Sale at
7 retail does not include computer software originally designed for
8 the exclusive use and special needs of the purchaser. As used in
9 this subdivision, "computer software" means a set of statements
10 or instructions that when incorporated in a machine usable medium
11 is capable of causing a machine or device having information pro-
12 cessing capabilities to indicate, perform, or achieve a particu-
13 lar function, task, or result.

14 (g) "Sale at retail" does not include an isolated transac-
15 tion by a person not licensed or required to be licensed under
16 this act, in which tangible personal property is offered for
17 sale, sold, transferred, and delivered by the owner.

18 (h) "Gross proceeds" means the amount received in money,
19 credits, subsidies, property, or other money's worth in consider-
20 ation of a sale at retail within this state ~~—~~ without a deduc-
21 tion for the cost of the property sold, the cost of material
22 used, the cost of labor or service purchased, an amount paid for
23 interest or a discount, a tax paid on beer or liquor at time of
24 purchase, A TAX PAID ON CIGARETTES AT TIME OF PURCHASE, or other
25 expenses. Also, a deduction is not allowed for losses. Gross
26 proceeds does not include an amount received or billed by the
27 taxpayer for remittance to the employee as a gratuity or tip, if

1 the gratuity or tip is separately identified and itemized on the
2 guest check or billed to the customer. In a taxable sale at
3 retail of a motor vehicle, if another motor vehicle is used as
4 part payment of the purchase price, the value of the motor vehi-
5 cle used as part payment of the purchase price shall be that
6 value agreed to by the parties to the sale as evidenced by the
7 signed statement executed pursuant to section 251 of THE MICHIGAN
8 VEHICLE CODE, Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, as amended,
9 being section 257.251 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. For a sale
10 at retail of a motor vehicle or trailer coach with a transfer of
11 a used motor vehicle or trailer coach, for a sale at retail of a
12 titled watercraft with a transfer of a used titled watercraft, or
13 for a sale at retail of an aircraft with a transfer of a used
14 aircraft made on or after March 14, 1984, and on or before
15 February 1, 1985, the gross proceeds attributable to the sale at
16 retail shall equal 30% of the value of the used motor vehicle,
17 used trailer coach, used aircraft, or used titled watercraft used
18 as part payment of the purchase price, or 30% of the value of a
19 motor vehicle as represented by an unexpired certificate issued
20 pursuant to sections 7 or 7a that is presented in connection with
21 the sale at retail of a motor vehicle or trailer coach, sub-
22 tracted from the full retail price of the motor vehicle, trailer
23 coach, aircraft, or titled watercraft being purchased. A credit
24 or refund for returned goods may be deducted.

25 (i) "Business" includes an activity engaged in by a person
26 or caused to be engaged in by that person with the object of
27 gain, benefit, or advantage, either direct or indirect.

1 (j) "Tax year" or "taxable year" means the fiscal year of
2 the state or the taxpayer's fiscal year if permission is obtained
3 by the taxpayer from the department to use the taxpayer's fiscal
4 year as the tax period instead.

5 (k) "Department" means the revenue division of the depart-
6 ment of treasury.

7 (l) "Taxpayer" means a person subject to a tax under this
8 act.

9 (m) "Tax" includes a tax, interest, or penalty levied under
10 this act.

11 (2) If the department determines that it is necessary for
12 the efficient administration of this act to regard an unlicensed
13 person, including a salesperson, representative, peddler, or can-
14 vasser as the agent of the dealer, distributor, supervisor, or
15 employer under whom the unlicensed person operates or from whom
16 the unlicensed person obtains the tangible personal property sold
17 by the unlicensed person, irrespective of whether the unlicensed
18 person is making sales on the unlicensed person's own behalf or
19 on behalf of the dealer, distributor, supervisor, or employer,
20 the department may so regard the unlicensed person and may regard
21 the dealer, distributor, supervisor, or employer as making sales
22 at retail at the retail price for the purposes of this act.