

## House Bill No. 317

An act relating to tax on sales, use, and other transactions; amending s. 212.031, F.S.; providing that the tax on the lease or rental of or license in real property does not apply when the property is a public or private street or right-of-way used by a utility or franchised cable television company for utility, television, or communication purposes; providing a definition for the term "utility"; amending s. 212.05, F.S.; providing that the sales tax on prepaid calling cards will be assessed at the point of sale of the card; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 212.031, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

212.031 Lease or rental of or license in real property.—

(1)(a) It is declared to be the legislative intent that every person is exercising a taxable privilege who engages in the business of renting, leasing, letting, or granting a license for the use of any real property unless such property is:

1. Assessed as agricultural property under s. 193.461.
2. Used exclusively as dwelling units.
3. Property subject to tax on parking, docking, or storage spaces under s. 212.03(6).

4. Recreational property or the common elements of a condominium when subject to a lease between the developer or owner thereof and the condominium association in its own right or as agent for the owners of individual condominium units or the owners of individual condominium units. However, only the lease payments on such property shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter, and any other use made by the owner or the condominium association shall be fully taxable under this chapter.

5. A public or private street or right-of-way and poles, conduits, fixtures, and similar improvements located on such streets or rights-of-way, occupied or used by a utility or franchised cable television company for utility or communications or television purposes. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "utility" means any person providing utility services as defined in s. 203.012. This exception also applies to property, excluding buildings, wherever located, on which antennas, cables, adjacent accessory structures, or adjacent accessory equipment used in the provision of cellular, enhanced specialized mobile radio, or personal communications services are placed.

6. A public street or road which is used for transportation purposes.

7. Property used at an airport exclusively for the purpose of aircraft landing or aircraft taxiing or property used by an airline for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or property onto or from aircraft or for fueling aircraft.

8.a. Property used at a port authority, as defined in s. 315.02(2), exclusively for the purpose of oceangoing vessels or tugs docking, or such vessels mooring on the property used by a port authority for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or cargo onto or from such a vessel, or property used at a port authority for fueling such vessels, or to the extent that the amount paid for the use of any property at the port is based on the charge for the amount of tonnage actually imported or exported through the port by a tenant.

b. The amount charged for the use of any property at the port in excess of the amount charged for tonnage actually imported or exported shall remain subject to tax except as provided in sub-subparagraph a.

9. Property used as an integral part of the performance of qualified production services. As used in this subparagraph, the term "qualified production services" means any activity or service performed directly in connection with the production of a qualified motion picture, as defined in s. 212.06(1)(b), and includes:

a. Photography, sound and recording, casting, location managing and scouting, shooting, creation of special and optical effects, animation, adaptation (language, media, electronic, or otherwise), technological modifications, computer graphics, set and stage support (such as electricians, lighting designers and operators, greensmen, prop managers and assistants, and grips), wardrobe (design, preparation, and management), hair and makeup (design, production, and application), performing (such as acting, dancing, and playing), designing and executing stunts, coaching, consulting, writing, scoring, composing, choreographing, script supervising, directing, producing, transmitting dailies, dubbing, mixing, editing, cutting, looping, printing, processing, duplicating, storing, and distributing;

b. The design, planning, engineering, construction, alteration, repair, and maintenance of real or personal property including stages, sets, props, models, paintings, and facilities principally required for the performance of those services listed in sub-subparagraph a.; and

c. Property management services directly related to property used in connection with the services described in sub-subparagraphs a. and b.

10. Leased, subleased, or rented to a person providing food and drink concessionaire services within the premises of a movie theater, a business operated under a permit issued pursuant to chapter 550, or any publicly owned arena, sports stadium, convention hall, exhibition hall, auditorium, or recreational facility. A person providing retail concessionaire services involving the sale of food and drink or other tangible personal property within the premises of an airport shall be subject to tax on the rental of real property used for that purpose, but shall not be subject to the tax on any

license to use the property. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "sale" shall not include the leasing of tangible personal property.

11. Property occupied pursuant to an instrument calling for payments which the department has declared, in a Technical Assistance Advisement issued on or before March 15, 1993, to be nontaxable pursuant to rule 12A-1.070(19)(c), Florida Administrative Code; provided that this subparagraph shall only apply to property occupied by the same person before and after the execution of the subject instrument and only to those payments made pursuant to such instrument, exclusive of renewals and extensions thereof occurring after March 15, 1993.

Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 212.05, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

212.05 Sales, storage, use tax.—It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that every person is exercising a taxable privilege who engages in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail in this state, including the business of making mail order sales, or who rents or furnishes any of the things or services taxable under this chapter, or who stores for use or consumption in this state any item or article of tangible personal property as defined herein and who leases or rents such property within the state.

(1) For the exercise of such privilege, a tax is levied on each taxable transaction or incident, which tax is due and payable as follows:

(e)1. At the rate of 6 percent on charges for:

a. All telegraph messages and long-distance telephone calls beginning and terminating in this state, telecommunication service as defined in s. 203.012, and those services described in s. 203.012(2)(a), except that the tax rate for charges for telecommunication service is 7 percent. The tax on calls made with a prepaid telephone calling card shall be collected at the time of sale and remitted by the dealer selling or recharging a prepaid telephone card.

(I) A prepaid telephone card or authorization number means the right to exclusively make telephone calls that must be paid for in advance and that enable the origination of calls using an access number, prepaid mobile account, or authorization code, whether manually or electronically dialed.

(II) If the sale or recharge of the prepaid telephone calling card does not take place at the dealer's place of business, it shall be deemed to take place at the customer's shipping address or, if no item is shipped, at the customer's address or the location associated with the customer's mobile telephone number.

(III) The prepaid phone card constitutes property in this state and subjects the selling dealer to the jurisdiction of this state for purposes of this subsection.

b. Any television system program service.

- c. The installation of telecommunication and telegraphic equipment.
- d. Electrical power or energy, except that the tax rate for charges for electrical power or energy is 7 percent.

2. For purposes of this chapter, "television system program service" means the transmitting, by any means, of any audio or video signal to a subscriber for other than retransmission, or the installing, connecting, re-connecting, disconnecting, moving, or changing of any equipment related to such service. For purposes of this chapter, the term "telecommunication service" does not include local service provided through a pay telephone. The provisions of s. 212.17(3), regarding credit for tax paid on charges subsequently found to be worthless, shall be equally applicable to any tax paid under the provisions of this section on charges for telecommunication or telegraph services or electric power subsequently found to be uncollectible. The word "charges" in this paragraph does not include any excise or similar tax levied by the Federal Government, any political subdivision of the state, or any municipality upon the purchase or sale of telecommunication, television system program, or telegraph service or electric power, which tax is collected by the seller from the purchaser.

3. Telegraph messages and telecommunication services which originate or terminate in this state, other than interstate private communication services, and are billed to a customer, telephone number, or device located within this state are taxable under this paragraph. Interstate private communication services are taxable under this paragraph as follows:

- a. One hundred percent of the charge imposed at each channel termination point within this state;

- b. One hundred percent of the charge imposed for the total channel mileage between each channel termination point within this state; and

- c. The portion of the interstate interoffice channel mileage charge as determined by multiplying said charge times a fraction, the numerator of which is the air miles between the last channel termination point in this state and the vertical and horizontal coordinates, 7856 and 1756, respectively, and the denominator of which is the air miles between the last channel termination point in this state and the first channel termination point outside this state. The denominator of this fraction shall be adjusted, if necessary, by adding the numerator of said fraction to similarly determined air miles in the state in which the other channel termination point is located, so that the summation of the apportionment factor for this state and the apportionment factor for the other state is not greater than one, to ensure that no more than 100 percent of the interstate interoffice channel mileage charge can be taxed by this state and another state.

4. The tax imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed \$50,000 per calendar year on charges to any person for interstate telecommunications services defined in s. 203.012(4) and (7)(b), if the majority of such services used by such person are for communications originating outside of this state and terminating in this state. This exemption shall only be

granted to holders of a direct pay permit issued pursuant to this subparagraph. No refunds shall be given for taxes paid prior to receiving a direct pay permit. Upon application, the department may issue a direct pay permit to the purchaser of telecommunications services authorizing such purchaser to pay tax on such services directly to the department. Any vendor furnishing telecommunications services to the holder of a valid direct pay permit shall be relieved of the obligation to collect and remit the tax on such service. Tax payments and returns pursuant to a direct pay permit shall be monthly. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "person" shall be limited to a single legal entity and shall not be construed as meaning a group or combination of affiliated entities or entities controlled by one person or group of persons.

5. If the sale of a television system program service, as defined in this paragraph, also involves the sale of an item exempt under s. 212.08(7)(j), the tax shall be applied to the value of the taxable service when it is sold separately. If the company does not offer this service separately, the consideration paid shall be separately identified and stated with respect to the taxable and exempt portions of the transaction as a condition of the exemption, except that the amount identified as taxable shall not be less than the cost of the service.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

Approved by the Governor June 17, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 17, 1999.