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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES--LIABILITY AND
COMPUTATION

Introduced By: Representatives Cortvriend, and Finkelman

Date Introduced: April 01, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 44-18-7.3 and 44-18-30 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-18
2 entitled "Sales and Use Taxes — Liability and Computation" are hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **44-18-7.3. Services defined.**

5 (a) “Services” means all activities engaged in for other persons for a fee, retainer,
6 commission, or other monetary charge, which activities involve the performance of a service in this
7 state as distinguished from selling property.

8 (b) The following businesses and services performed in this state, along with the applicable
9 2017 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes, are included in the
10 definition of services:

11 (1) Taxicab and limousine services including but not limited to:

12 (i) Taxicab services including taxi dispatchers (485310); and

13 (ii) Limousine services (485320).

14 (2) Other road transportation service including but not limited to:

15 (i) Charter bus service (485510);

16 (ii) “Transportation network companies” (TNC) defined as an entity that uses a digital
17 network to connect transportation network company riders to transportation network operators who
18 provide prearranged rides. Any TNC operating in this state is a retailer as provided in § 44-18-15

1 and is required to file a business application and registration form and obtain a permit to make sales
2 at retail with the tax administrator, to charge, collect, and remit Rhode Island sales and use tax; and
3 (iii) All other transit and ground passenger transportation (485999).
4 (3) Pet care services (812910) except veterinary and testing laboratories services.
5 (4)(i) “Room reseller” or “reseller” means any person, except a tour operator as defined in
6 § 42-63.1-2, having any right, permission, license, or other authority from or through a hotel as
7 defined in § 42-63.1-2, to reserve, or arrange the transfer of occupancy of, accommodations the
8 reservation or transfer of which is subject to this chapter, such that the occupant pays all or a portion
9 of the rental and other fees to the room reseller or reseller. Room reseller or reseller shall include,
10 but not be limited to, sellers of travel packages as defined in this section. Notwithstanding the
11 provisions of any other law, where said reservation or transfer of occupancy is done using a room
12 reseller or reseller, the application of the sales and use tax under §§ 44-18-18 and 44-18-20, and
13 the hotel tax under § 44-18-36.1 shall be as follows: The room reseller or reseller is required to
14 register with, and shall collect and pay to, the tax administrator the sales and use and hotel taxes,
15 with said taxes being calculated upon the amount of rental and other fees paid by the occupant to
16 the room reseller or reseller, less the amount of any rental and other fees paid by the room reseller
17 or reseller to the hotel. The hotel shall collect and pay to the tax administrator said taxes upon the
18 amount of rental and other fees paid to the hotel by the room reseller or reseller and/or the occupant.
19 No assessment shall be made by the tax administrator against a hotel because of an incorrect
20 remittance of the taxes under this chapter by a room reseller or reseller. No assessment shall be
21 made by the tax administrator against a room reseller or reseller because of an incorrect remittance
22 of the taxes under this chapter by a hotel. If the hotel has paid the taxes imposed under this chapter,
23 the occupant and/or room reseller or reseller, as applicable, shall reimburse the hotel for said taxes.
24 If the room reseller or reseller has paid said taxes, the occupant shall reimburse the room reseller
25 or reseller for said taxes. Each hotel and room reseller or reseller shall add and collect, from the
26 occupant or the room reseller or the reseller, the full amount of the taxes imposed on the rental and
27 other fees. When added to the rental and other fees, the taxes shall be a debt owed by the occupant
28 to the hotel or room reseller or reseller, as applicable, and shall be recoverable at law in the same
29 manner as other debts. The amount of the taxes collected by the hotel and/or room reseller or
30 reseller from the occupant under this chapter shall be stated and charged separately from the rental
31 and other fees, and shall be shown separately on all records thereof, whether made at the time the
32 transfer of occupancy occurs, or on any evidence of the transfer issued or used by the hotel or the
33 room reseller or the reseller. A room reseller or reseller shall not be required to disclose to the
34 occupant the amount of tax charged by the hotel; provided, however, the room reseller or reseller

1 shall represent to the occupant that the separately stated taxes charged by the room reseller or
2 reseller include taxes charged by the hotel. No person shall operate a hotel in this state, or act as a
3 room reseller or reseller for any hotel in the state, unless the tax administrator has issued a permit
4 pursuant to § 44-19-1.

5 (ii) "Travel package" means a room, or rooms, bundled with one or more other, separate
6 components of travel such as air transportation, car rental, or similar items, which travel package
7 is charged to the customer or occupant for a single, retail price. When the room occupancy is
8 bundled for a single consideration, with other property, services, amusement charges, or any other
9 items, the separate sale of which would not otherwise be subject to tax under this chapter, the entire
10 single consideration shall be treated as the rental or other fees for room occupancy subject to tax
11 under this chapter; provided, however, that where the amount of the rental, or other fees for room
12 occupancy is stated separately from the price of such other property, services, amusement charges,
13 or other items, on any sales slip, invoice, receipt, or other statement given the occupant, and such
14 rental and other fees are determined by the tax administrator to be reasonable in relation to the
15 value of such other property, services, amusement charges, or other items, only such separately
16 stated rental and other fees will be subject to tax under this chapter. The value of the transfer of any
17 room, or rooms, bundled as part of a travel package may be determined by the tax administrator
18 from the room reseller's and/or reseller's and/or hotel's books and records that are kept in the
19 regular course of business.

20 (5) Investigation, Guard, and Armored Car Services (561611, 561612 & 561613).

21 (6) "Parking services" (812930) means the act of offering a parking space in or on a parking
22 facility for purposes of occupancy by a patron in exchange for a parking fee for a duration of less
23 than one month; but shall not include municipally operated beach parking in the town of
24 Middletown.

25 (c) All services as defined herein are required to file a business application and registration
26 form and obtain a permit to make sales at retail with the tax administrator, to charge, collect, and
27 remit Rhode Island sales and use tax.

28 (d) The tax administrator is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance
29 with the provisions of chapter 35 of title 42 to carry out the provisions, policies, and purposes of
30 this chapter.

31 **44-18-30. Gross receipts exempt from sales and use taxes.**

32 There are exempted from the taxes imposed by this chapter the following gross receipts:

33 (1) Sales and uses beyond constitutional power of state. From the sale and from the storage,
34 use, or other consumption in this state of tangible personal property the gross receipts from the sale

1 of which, or the storage, use, or other consumption of which, this state is prohibited from taxing
2 under the Constitution of the United States or under the constitution of this state.

3 (2) Newspapers.

4 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of any
5 newspaper.

6 (ii) “Newspaper” means an unbound publication printed on newsprint that contains news,
7 editorial comment, opinions, features, advertising matter, and other matters of public interest.

8 (iii) “Newspaper” does not include a magazine, handbill, circular, flyer, sales catalog, or
9 similar item unless the item is printed for, and distributed as, a part of a newspaper.

10 (3) School meals. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this
11 state of meals served by public, private, or parochial schools, school districts, colleges, universities,
12 student organizations, and parent-teacher associations to the students or teachers of a school,
13 college, or university whether the meals are served by the educational institutions or by a food
14 service or management entity under contract to the educational institutions.

15 (4) Containers.

16 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of:

17 (A) Non-returnable containers, including boxes, paper bags, and wrapping materials that
18 are biodegradable and all bags and wrapping materials utilized in the medical and healing arts,
19 when sold without the contents to persons who place the contents in the container and sell the
20 contents with the container.

21 (B) Containers when sold with the contents if the sale price of the contents is not required
22 to be included in the measure of the taxes imposed by this chapter.

23 (C) Returnable containers when sold with the contents in connection with a retail sale of
24 the contents or when resold for refilling.

25 (D) Keg and barrel containers, whether returnable or not, when sold to alcoholic beverage
26 producers who place the alcoholic beverages in the containers.

27 (ii) As used in this subdivision, the term “returnable containers” means containers of a kind
28 customarily returned by the buyer of the contents for reuse. All other containers are “non-returnable
29 containers.”

30 (5)(i) Charitable, educational, and religious organizations. From the sale to, as in defined
31 in this section, and from the storage, use, and other consumption in this state, or any other state of
32 the United States of America, of tangible personal property by hospitals not operated for a profit;
33 “educational institutions” as defined in subdivision (18) not operated for a profit; churches,
34 orphanages, and other institutions or organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable

1 purposes; interest-free loan associations not operated for profit; nonprofit, organized sporting
2 leagues and associations and bands for boys and girls under the age of nineteen (19) years; the
3 following vocational student organizations that are state chapters of national vocational student
4 organizations: Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA); Future Business Leaders of
5 America, Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA/PBL); Future Farmers of America (FFA); Future Homemakers
6 of America/Home Economics Related Occupations (FHA/HERD); Vocational Industrial Clubs of
7 America (VICA); organized nonprofit golden age and senior citizens clubs for men and women;
8 and parent-teacher associations; and from the sale, storage, use, and other consumption in this state,
9 of and by the Industrial Foundation of Burrillville, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation.

10 (ii) In the case of contracts entered into with the federal government, its agencies, or
11 instrumentalities, this state, or any other state of the United States of America, its agencies, any
12 city, town, district, or other political subdivision of the states; hospitals not operated for profit;
13 educational institutions not operated for profit; churches, orphanages, and other institutions or
14 organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes, the contractor may purchase
15 such materials and supplies (materials and/or supplies are defined as those that are essential to the
16 project) that are to be utilized in the construction of the projects being performed under the contracts
17 without payment of the tax.

18 (iii) The contractor shall not charge any sales or use tax to any exempt agency, institution,
19 or organization but shall in that instance provide his or her suppliers with certificates in the form
20 as determined by the division of taxation showing the reason for exemption and the contractor's
21 records must substantiate the claim for exemption by showing the disposition of all property so
22 purchased. If any property is then used for a nonexempt purpose, the contractor must pay the tax
23 on the property used.

24 (6) Gasoline. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state
25 of: (i) Gasoline and other products taxed under chapter 36 of title 31 and (ii) Fuels used for the
26 propulsion of airplanes.

27 (7) Purchase for manufacturing purposes.

28 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of computer
29 software, tangible personal property, electricity, natural gas, artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, and
30 water, when the property or service is purchased for the purpose of being manufactured into a
31 finished product for resale and becomes an ingredient, component, or integral part of the
32 manufactured, compounded, processed, assembled, or prepared product, or if the property or
33 service is consumed in the process of manufacturing for resale computer software, tangible personal
34 property, electricity, natural gas, artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, or water.

1 (ii) “Consumed” means destroyed, used up, or worn out to the degree or extent that the
2 property cannot be repaired, reconditioned, or rendered fit for further manufacturing use.

3 (iii) “Consumed” includes mere obsolescence.

4 (iv) “Manufacturing” means and includes: manufacturing, compounding, processing,
5 assembling, preparing, or producing.

6 (v) “Process of manufacturing” means and includes all production operations performed in
7 the producing or processing room, shop, or plant, insofar as the operations are a part of and
8 connected with the manufacturing for resale of tangible personal property, electricity, natural gas,
9 artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, or water and all production operations performed insofar as the
10 operations are a part of and connected with the manufacturing for resale of computer software.

11 (vi) “Process of manufacturing” does not mean or include administration operations such
12 as general office operations, accounting, collection, or sales promotion, nor does it mean or include
13 distribution operations that occur subsequent to production operations, such as handling, storing,
14 selling, and transporting the manufactured products, even though the administration and
15 distribution operations are performed by, or in connection with, a manufacturing business.

16 (8) State and political subdivisions. From the sale to, and from the storage, use, or other
17 consumption by, this state, any city, town, district, or other political subdivision of this state. Every
18 redevelopment agency created pursuant to chapter 31 of title 45 is deemed to be a subdivision of
19 the municipality where it is located.

20 (9) Food and food ingredients. From the sale and storage, use, or other consumption in this
21 state of food and food ingredients as defined in § 44-18-7.1(l).

22 For the purposes of this exemption “food and food ingredients” shall not include candy,
23 soft drinks, dietary supplements, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, food sold through vending
24 machines, or prepared food, as those terms are defined in § 44-18-7.1, unless the prepared food is:

25 (i) Sold by a seller whose primary NAICS classification is manufacturing in sector 311,
26 except sub-sector 3118 (bakeries);

27 (ii) Sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item;

28 (iii) Bakery items, including: bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries,
29 donuts, danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, tortillas; and

30 is not sold with utensils provided by the seller, including: plates, knives, forks, spoons,
31 glasses, cups, napkins, or straws.

32 (10) Medicines, drugs, and durable medical equipment. From the sale and from the storage,
33 use, or other consumption in this state, of:

34 (i) “Drugs” as defined in § 44-18-7.1(h)(i), sold on prescriptions, medical oxygen, and

1 insulin whether or not sold on prescription. For purposes of this exemption drugs shall not include
2 over-the-counter drugs and grooming and hygiene products as defined in § 44-18-7.1(h)(iii).

3 (ii) Durable medical equipment as defined in § 44-18-7.1(k) for home use only, including,
4 but not limited to: syringe infusers, ambulatory drug delivery pumps, hospital beds, convalescent
5 chairs, and chair lifts. Supplies used in connection with syringe infusers and ambulatory drug
6 delivery pumps that are sold on prescription to individuals to be used by them to dispense or
7 administer prescription drugs, and related ancillary dressings and supplies used to dispense or
8 administer prescription drugs, shall also be exempt from tax.

9 (11) Prosthetic devices and mobility enhancing equipment. From the sale and from the
10 storage, use, or other consumption in this state, of prosthetic devices as defined in § 44-18-7.1(t),
11 sold on prescription, including, but not limited to: artificial limbs, dentures, spectacles, eyeglasses,
12 and artificial eyes; artificial hearing devices and hearing aids, whether or not sold on prescription;
13 and mobility enhancing equipment as defined in § 44-18-7.1(p), including wheelchairs, crutches,
14 and canes.

15 (12) Coffins, caskets, urns, shrouds and burial garments. From the sale and from the
16 storage, use, or other consumption in this state of coffins, caskets, burial containers, urns, urn liners,
17 urn vaults, grave liners, grave vaults, burial tent setups, prayer cards, shrouds, and other burial
18 garments that are ordinarily sold by a funeral director as part of the business of funeral directing.

19 (13) Motor vehicles sold to nonresidents.

20 (i) From the sale, subsequent to June 30, 1958, of a motor vehicle to a bona fide nonresident
21 of this state who does not register the motor vehicle in this state, whether the sale or delivery of the
22 motor vehicle is made in this state or at the place of residence of the nonresident. A motor vehicle
23 sold to a bona fide nonresident whose state of residence does not allow a like exemption to its
24 nonresidents is not exempt from the tax imposed under § 44-18-20. In that event, the bona fide
25 nonresident pays a tax to Rhode Island on the sale at a rate equal to the rate that would be imposed
26 in his or her state of residence not to exceed the rate that would have been imposed under § 44-18-
27 20. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a licensed motor vehicle dealer shall add and
28 collect the tax required under this subdivision and remit the tax to the tax administrator under the
29 provisions of chapters 18 and 19 of this title. When a Rhode Island licensed, motor vehicle dealer
30 is required to add and collect the sales and use tax on the sale of a motor vehicle to a bona fide
31 nonresident as provided in this section, the dealer in computing the tax takes into consideration the
32 law of the state of the nonresident as it relates to the trade-in of motor vehicles.

33 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may
34 require any licensed motor vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to bona fide nonresidents as the

1 tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption provided in this
2 subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed motor vehicle dealer that the purchaser of the
3 motor vehicle was the holder of, and had in his or her possession a valid out-of-state motor vehicle
4 registration or a valid out-of-state driver's license.

5 (iii) Any nonresident who registers a motor vehicle in this state within ninety (90) days of
6 the date of its sale to him or her is deemed to have purchased the motor vehicle for use, storage, or
7 other consumption in this state, and is subject to, and liable for, the use tax imposed under the
8 provisions of § 44-18-20.

9 (14) Sales in public buildings by blind people. From the sale and from the storage, use, or
10 other consumption in all public buildings in this state of all products or wares by any person
11 licensed under § 40-9-11.1.

12 (15) Air and water pollution control facilities. From the sale, storage, use, or other
13 consumption in this state of tangible personal property or supplies acquired for incorporation into
14 or used and consumed in the operation of a facility, the primary purpose of which is to aid in the
15 control of the pollution or contamination of the waters or air of the state, as defined in chapter 12
16 of title 46 and chapter 23 of title 23, respectively, and that has been certified as approved for that
17 purpose by the director of environmental management. The director of environmental management
18 may certify to a portion of the tangible personal property or supplies acquired for incorporation
19 into those facilities or used and consumed in the operation of those facilities to the extent that that
20 portion has as its primary purpose the control of the pollution or contamination of the waters or air
21 of this state. As used in this subdivision, "facility" means any land, facility, device, building,
22 machinery, or equipment.

23 (16) Camps. From the rental charged for living quarters, or sleeping, or housekeeping
24 accommodations at camps or retreat houses operated by religious, charitable, educational, or other
25 organizations and associations mentioned in subsection (5), or by privately owned and operated
26 summer camps for children.

27 (17) Certain institutions. From the rental charged for living or sleeping quarters in an
28 institution licensed by the state for the hospitalization, custodial, or nursing care of human beings.

29 (18) Educational institutions. From the rental charged by any educational institution for
30 living quarters, or sleeping, or housekeeping accommodations or other rooms or accommodations
31 to any student or teacher necessitated by attendance at an educational institution. "Educational
32 institution" as used in this section means an institution of learning not operated for profit that is
33 empowered to confer diplomas, educational, literary, or academic degrees; that has a regular
34 faculty, curriculum, and organized body of pupils or students in attendance throughout the usual

1 school year; that keeps and furnishes to students and others records required and accepted for
2 entrance to schools of secondary, collegiate, or graduate rank; and no part of the net earnings of
3 which inures to the benefit of any individual.

4 (19) Motor vehicle and adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities.

5 (i) From the sale of: (A) Special adaptations; (B) The component parts of the special
6 adaptations; or (C) A specially adapted motor vehicle; provided that the owner furnishes to the tax
7 administrator an affidavit of a licensed physician to the effect that the specially adapted motor
8 vehicle is necessary to transport a family member with a disability or where the vehicle has been
9 specially adapted to meet the specific needs of the person with a disability. This exemption applies
10 to not more than one motor vehicle owned and registered for personal, noncommercial use.

11 (ii) For the purpose of this subsection the term “special adaptations” includes, but is not
12 limited to: wheelchair lifts, wheelchair carriers, wheelchair ramps, wheelchair securements, hand
13 controls, steering devices, extensions, relocations, and crossovers of operator controls, power-
14 assisted controls, raised tops or dropped floors, raised entry doors, or alternative signaling devices
15 to auditory signals.

16 (iii) From the sale of: (a) Special adaptations, (b) The component parts of the special
17 adaptations, for a “wheelchair accessible taxicab” as defined in § 39-14-1, and/or a “wheelchair
18 accessible public motor vehicle” as defined in § 39-14.1-1.

19 (iv) For the purpose of this subdivision the exemption for a “specially adapted motor
20 vehicle” means a use tax credit not to exceed the amount of use tax that would otherwise be due on
21 the motor vehicle, exclusive of any adaptations. The use tax credit is equal to the cost of the special
22 adaptations, including installation.

23 (20) Heating fuels. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this
24 state of every type of heating fuel.

25 (21) Electricity and gas. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in
26 this state of electricity and gas.

27 (22) Manufacturing machinery and equipment.

28 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tools, dies,
29 molds, machinery, equipment (including replacement parts), and related items to the extent used in
30 an industrial plant in connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible
31 personal property, or to the extent used in connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or
32 processing of computer software as that term is utilized in industry numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373
33 in the standard industrial classification manual prepared by the Technical Committee on Industrial
34 Classification, Office of Statistical Standards, Executive Office of the President, United States

1 Bureau of the Budget, as revised from time to time, to be sold, or that machinery and equipment
2 used in the furnishing of power to an industrial manufacturing plant. For the purposes of this
3 subdivision, “industrial plant” means a factory at a fixed location primarily engaged in the
4 manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property to be sold in the regular
5 course of business;

6 (ii) Machinery and equipment and related items are not deemed to be used in connection
7 with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property, or in
8 connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of computer software as that
9 term is utilized in industry numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373 in the standard industrial classification
10 manual prepared by the Technical Committee on Industrial Classification, Office of Statistical
11 Standards, Executive Office of the President, United States Bureau of the Budget, as revised from
12 time to time, to be sold to the extent the property is used in administration or distribution operations;

13 (iii) Machinery and equipment and related items used in connection with the actual
14 manufacture, conversion, or processing of any computer software or any tangible personal property
15 that is not to be sold and that would be exempt under subdivision (7) or this subdivision if purchased
16 from a vendor or machinery and equipment and related items used during any manufacturing,
17 converting, or processing function is exempt under this subdivision even if that operation, function,
18 or purpose is not an integral or essential part of a continuous production flow or manufacturing
19 process;

20 (iv) Where a portion of a group of portable or mobile machinery is used in connection with
21 the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of computer software or tangible personal
22 property to be sold, as previously defined, that portion, if otherwise qualifying, is exempt under
23 this subdivision even though the machinery in that group is used interchangeably and not otherwise
24 identifiable as to use.

25 (23) Trade-in value of motor vehicles. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
26 consumption in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used automobile as is
27 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the automobile of the buyer given in trade to the seller, or of
28 the proceeds applicable only to the automobile as are received from the manufacturer of
29 automobiles for the repurchase of the automobile whether the repurchase was voluntary or not
30 towards the purchase of a new or used automobile by the buyer. For the purpose of this subdivision,
31 the word “automobile” means a private passenger automobile not used for hire and does not refer
32 to any other type of motor vehicle.

33 (24) Precious metal bullion.

34 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of precious

1 metal bullion, substantially equivalent to a transaction in securities or commodities.

2 (ii) For purposes of this subdivision, “precious metal bullion” means any elementary
3 precious metal that has been put through a process of smelting or refining, including, but not limited
4 to: gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, and chromium, and that is in a state or condition that its value
5 depends upon its content and not upon its form.

6 (iii) The term does not include fabricated precious metal that has been processed or
7 manufactured for some one or more specific and customary industrial, professional, or artistic uses.

8 (25) Commercial vessels. From sales made to a commercial ship, barge, or other vessel of
9 fifty (50) tons burden or over, primarily engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, and from the
10 repair, alteration, or conversion of the vessels, and from the sale of property purchased for the use
11 of the vessels including provisions, supplies, and material for the maintenance and/or repair of the
12 vessels.

13 (26) Commercial fishing vessels. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
14 consumption in this state of vessels and other watercraft that are in excess of five (5) net tons and
15 that are used exclusively for “commercial fishing,” as defined in this subdivision, and from the
16 repair, alteration, or conversion of those vessels and other watercraft, and from the sale of property
17 purchased for the use of those vessels and other watercraft including provisions, supplies, and
18 material for the maintenance and/or repair of the vessels and other watercraft and the boats nets,
19 cables, tackle, and other fishing equipment appurtenant to or used in connection with the
20 commercial fishing of the vessels and other watercraft. “Commercial fishing” means taking or
21 attempting to take any fish, shellfish, crustacea, or bait species with the intent of disposing of it for
22 profit or by sale, barter, trade, or in commercial channels. The term does not include subsistence
23 fishing, i.e., the taking for personal use and not for sale or barter; or sport fishing; but shall include
24 vessels and other watercraft with a Rhode Island party and charter boat license issued by the
25 department of environmental management pursuant to § 20-2-27.1 that meet the following criteria:
26 (i) The operator must have a current United States Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) license to carry
27 passengers for hire; (ii) U.S.C.G. vessel documentation in the coast wide fishery trade; (iii)
28 U.S.C.G. vessel documentation as to proof of Rhode Island home port status or a Rhode Island boat
29 registration to prove Rhode Island home port status; and (iv) The vessel must be used as a
30 commercial passenger carrying fishing vessel to carry passengers for fishing. The vessel must be
31 able to demonstrate that at least fifty percent (50%) of its annual gross income derives from charters
32 or provides documentation of a minimum of one hundred (100) charter trips annually; and (v) The
33 vessel must have a valid Rhode Island party and charter boat license. The tax administrator shall
34 implement the provisions of this subdivision by promulgating rules and regulations relating thereto.

1 (27) Clothing and footwear. From the sales of articles of clothing, including footwear,
2 intended to be worn or carried on or about the human body for sales prior to October 1, 2012.
3 Effective October 1, 2012, the exemption will apply to the sales of articles of clothing, including
4 footwear, intended to be worn or carried on or about the human body up to two hundred and fifty
5 dollars (\$250) of the sales price per item. For the purposes of this section, “clothing or footwear”
6 does not include clothing accessories or equipment or special clothing or footwear primarily
7 designed for athletic activity or protective use as these terms are defined in § 44-18-7.1(f). In
8 recognition of the work being performed by the streamlined sales and use tax governing board,
9 upon passage of any federal law that authorizes states to require remote sellers to collect and remit
10 sales and use taxes, this unlimited exemption will apply as it did prior to October 1, 2012. The
11 unlimited exemption on sales of clothing and footwear shall take effect on the date that the state
12 requires remote sellers to collect and remit sales and use taxes.

13 (28) Water for residential use. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
14 consumption in this state of water furnished for domestic use by occupants of residential premises.

15 (29) Bibles. [Unconstitutional; see Ahlburn v. Clark, 728 A.2d 449 (R.I. 1999); see Notes
16 to Decisions.] From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in the state of any
17 canonized scriptures of any tax-exempt nonprofit religious organization including, but not limited
18 to, the Old Testament and the New Testament versions.

19 (30) Boats.

20 (i) From the sale of a boat or vessel to a bona fide nonresident of this state who does not
21 register the boat or vessel in this state or document the boat or vessel with the United States
22 government at a home port within the state, whether the sale or delivery of the boat or vessel is
23 made in this state or elsewhere; provided, that the nonresident transports the boat within thirty (30)
24 days after delivery by the seller outside the state for use thereafter solely outside the state.

25 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may
26 require the seller of the boat or vessel to keep records of the sales to bona fide nonresidents as the
27 tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption provided in this
28 subdivision, including the affidavit of the seller that the buyer represented himself or herself to be
29 a bona fide nonresident of this state and of the buyer that he or she is a nonresident of this state.

30 (31) Youth activities equipment. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this
31 state of items for not more than twenty dollars (\$20.00) each by nonprofit Rhode Island
32 eleemosynary organizations, for the purposes of youth activities that the organization is formed to
33 sponsor and support; and by accredited elementary and secondary schools for the purposes of the
34 schools or of organized activities of the enrolled students.

1 (32) Farm equipment. From the sale and from the storage or use of machinery and
2 equipment used directly for commercial farming and agricultural production; including, but not
3 limited to: tractors, ploughs, harrows, spreaders, seeders, milking machines, silage conveyors,
4 balers, bulk milk storage tanks, trucks with farm plates, mowers, combines, irrigation equipment,
5 greenhouses and greenhouse coverings, graders and packaging machines, tools and supplies and
6 other farming equipment, including replacement parts appurtenant to or used in connection with
7 commercial farming and tools and supplies used in the repair and maintenance of farming
8 equipment. “Commercial farming” means the keeping or boarding of five (5) or more horses or the
9 production within this state of agricultural products, including, but not limited to, field or orchard
10 crops, livestock, dairy, and poultry, or their products, where the keeping, boarding, or production
11 provides at least two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in annual gross sales to the operator,
12 whether an individual, a group, a partnership, or a corporation for exemptions issued prior to July
13 1, 2002. For exemptions issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, there shall be two (2) levels. Level I
14 shall be based on proof of annual, gross sales from commercial farming of at least twenty-five
15 hundred dollars (\$2,500) and shall be valid for purchases subject to the exemption provided in this
16 subdivision except for motor vehicles with an excise tax value of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or
17 greater. Level II shall be based on proof of annual gross sales from commercial farming of at least
18 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or greater and shall be valid for purchases subject to the exemption
19 provided in this subdivision including motor vehicles with an excise tax value of five thousand
20 dollars (\$5,000) or greater. For the initial issuance of the exemptions, proof of the requisite amount
21 of annual gross sales from commercial farming shall be required for the prior year; for any renewal
22 of an exemption granted in accordance with this subdivision at either level I or level II, proof of
23 gross annual sales from commercial farming at the requisite amount shall be required for each of
24 the prior two (2) years. Certificates of exemption issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, shall clearly
25 indicate the level of the exemption and be valid for four (4) years after the date of issue. This
26 exemption applies even if the same equipment is used for ancillary uses, or is temporarily used for
27 a non-farming or a non-agricultural purpose, but shall not apply to motor vehicles acquired after
28 July 1, 2002, unless the vehicle is a farm vehicle as defined pursuant to § 31-1-8 and is eligible for
29 registration displaying farm plates as provided for in § 31-3-31.

30 (33) Compressed air. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in the
31 state of compressed air.

32 (34) Flags. From the sale and from the storage, consumption, or other use in this state of
33 United States, Rhode Island or POW-MIA flags.

34 (35) Motor vehicle and adaptive equipment to certain veterans. From the sale of a motor

1 vehicle and adaptive equipment to and for the use of a veteran with a service-connected loss of or
2 the loss of use of a leg, foot, hand, or arm, or any veteran who is a double amputee, whether service
3 connected or not. The motor vehicle must be purchased by and especially equipped for use by the
4 qualifying veteran. Certificate of exemption or refunds of taxes paid is granted under rules or
5 regulations that the tax administrator may prescribe.

6 (36) Textbooks. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state
7 of textbooks by an “educational institution,” as defined in subsection (18) of this section, and any
8 educational institution within the purview of § 16-63-9(4), and used textbooks by any purveyor.

9 (37) Tangible personal property and supplies used in on-site hazardous waste recycling,
10 reuse, or treatment. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible
11 personal property or supplies used or consumed in the operation of equipment, the exclusive
12 function of which is the recycling, reuse, or recovery of materials (other than precious metals, as
13 defined in subdivision (24)(ii) of this section) from the treatment of “hazardous wastes,” as defined
14 in § 23-19.1-4, where the “hazardous wastes” are generated in Rhode Island solely by the same
15 taxpayer and where the personal property is located at, in, or adjacent to a generating facility of the
16 taxpayer in Rhode Island. The taxpayer shall procure an order from the director of the department
17 of environmental management certifying that the equipment and/or supplies as used or consumed,
18 qualify for the exemption under this subdivision. If any information relating to secret processes or
19 methods of manufacture, production, or treatment is disclosed to the department of environmental
20 management only to procure an order, and is a “trade secret” as defined in § 28-21-10(b), it is not
21 open to public inspection or publicly disclosed unless disclosure is required under chapter 21 of
22 title 28 or chapter 24.4 of title 23.

23 (38) Promotional and product literature of boat manufacturers. From the sale and from the
24 storage, use, or other consumption of promotional and product literature of boat manufacturers
25 shipped to points outside of Rhode Island that either: (i) Accompany the product that is sold; (ii)
26 Are shipped in bulk to out-of-state dealers for use in the sale of the product; or (iii) Are mailed to
27 customers at no charge.

28 (39) Food items paid for by food stamps. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
29 consumption in this state of eligible food items payment for which is properly made to the retailer
30 in the form of U.S. government food stamps issued in accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1977,
31 7 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq.

32 (40) Transportation charges. From the sale or hiring of motor carriers as defined in § 39-
33 12-2(12) to haul goods, when the contract or hiring cost is charged by a motor freight tariff filed
34 with the Rhode Island public utilities commission on the number of miles driven or by the number

1 of hours spent on the job.

2 (41) Trade-in value of boats. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption
3 in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used boat as is allocated for a trade-
4 in allowance on the boat of the buyer given in trade to the seller or of the proceeds applicable only
5 to the boat as are received from an insurance claim as a result of a stolen or damaged boat, towards
6 the purchase of a new or used boat by the buyer.

7 (42) Equipment used for research and development. From the sale and from the storage,
8 use, or other consumption of equipment to the extent used for research and development purposes
9 by a qualifying firm. For the purposes of this subsection, “qualifying firm” means a business for
10 which the use of research and development equipment is an integral part of its operation and
11 “equipment” means scientific equipment, computers, software, and related items.

12 (43) Coins. From the sale and from the other consumption in this state of coins having
13 numismatic or investment value.

14 (44) Farm structure construction materials. Lumber, hardware, and other materials used in
15 the new construction of farm structures, including production facilities such as, but not limited to:
16 farrowing sheds, free stall and stanchion barns, milking parlors, silos, poultry barns, laying houses,
17 fruit and vegetable storages, rooting cellars, propagation rooms, greenhouses, packing rooms,
18 machinery storage, seasonal farm worker housing, certified farm markets, bunker and trench silos,
19 feed storage sheds, and any other structures used in connection with commercial farming.

20 (45) Telecommunications carrier access service. Carrier access service or
21 telecommunications service when purchased by a telecommunications company from another
22 telecommunications company to facilitate the provision of telecommunications service.

23 (46) Boats or vessels brought into the state exclusively for winter storage, maintenance,
24 repair, or sale. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 44-18-10, 44-18-11 and 44-18-20, the tax
25 imposed by § 44-18-20 is not applicable for the period commencing on the first day of October in
26 any year up to and including the 30th day of April next succeeding with respect to the use of any
27 boat or vessel within this state exclusively for purposes of: (i) Delivery of the vessel to a facility in
28 this state for storage, including dry storage and storage in water by means of apparatus preventing
29 ice damage to the hull, maintenance, or repair; (ii) The actual process of storage, maintenance, or
30 repair of the boat or vessel; or (iii) Storage for the purpose of selling the boat or vessel.

31 (47) Jewelry display product. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
32 consumption in this state of tangible personal property used to display any jewelry product;
33 provided that title to the jewelry display product is transferred by the jewelry manufacturer or seller
34 and that the jewelry display product is shipped out of state for use solely outside the state and is not

1 returned to the jewelry manufacturer or seller.

2 (48) Boats or vessels generally. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the tax
3 imposed by §§ 44-18-20 and 44-18-18 shall not apply with respect to the sale and to the storage,
4 use, or other consumption in this state of any new or used boat. The exemption provided for in this
5 subdivision does not apply after October 1, 1993, unless prior to October 1, 1993, the federal ten
6 percent (10%) surcharge on luxury boats is repealed.

7 (49) Banks and regulated investment companies interstate toll-free calls. Notwithstanding
8 the provisions of this chapter, the tax imposed by this chapter does not apply to the furnishing of
9 interstate and international, toll-free terminating telecommunication service that is used directly
10 and exclusively by or for the benefit of an eligible company as defined in this subdivision; provided
11 that an eligible company employs on average during the calendar year no less than five hundred
12 (500) "full-time equivalent employees" as that term is defined in § 42-64.5-2. For purposes of this
13 section, an "eligible company" means a "regulated investment company" as that term is defined in
14 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 851, or a corporation to the extent the service is
15 provided, directly or indirectly, to or on behalf of a regulated investment company, an employee
16 benefit plan, a retirement plan or a pension plan, or a state-chartered bank.

17 (50) Mobile and manufactured homes generally. From the sale and from the storage, use,
18 or other consumption in this state of mobile and/or manufactured homes as defined and subject to
19 taxation pursuant to the provisions of chapter 44 of title 31.

20 (51) Manufacturing business reconstruction materials.

21 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of lumber,
22 hardware, and other building materials used in the reconstruction of a manufacturing business
23 facility that suffers a disaster, as defined in this subdivision, in this state. "Disaster" means any
24 occurrence, natural or otherwise, that results in the destruction of sixty percent (60%) or more of
25 an operating manufacturing business facility within this state. "Disaster" does not include any
26 damage resulting from the willful act of the owner of the manufacturing business facility.

27 (ii) Manufacturing business facility includes, but is not limited to, the structures housing
28 the production and administrative facilities.

29 (iii) In the event a manufacturer has more than one manufacturing site in this state, the sixty
30 percent (60%) provision applies to the damages suffered at that one site.

31 (iv) To the extent that the costs of the reconstruction materials are reimbursed by insurance,
32 this exemption does not apply.

33 (52) Tangible personal property and supplies used in the processing or preparation of floral
34 products and floral arrangements. From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of

1 tangible personal property or supplies purchased by florists, garden centers, or other like producers
2 or vendors of flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and artificial floral arrangements that are
3 ultimately sold with flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and artificial floral arrangements
4 or are otherwise used in the decoration, fabrication, creation, processing, or preparation of flowers,
5 plants, floral products, or natural and artificial floral arrangements, including descriptive labels,
6 stickers, and cards affixed to the flower, plant, floral product, or arrangement, artificial flowers,
7 spray materials, floral paint and tint, plant shine, flower food, insecticide, and fertilizers.

8 (53) Horse food products. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption
9 in this state of horse food products purchased by a person engaged in the business of the boarding
10 of horses.

11 (54) Non-motorized recreational vehicles sold to nonresidents.

12 (i) From the sale, subsequent to June 30, 2003, of a non-motorized recreational vehicle to
13 a bona fide nonresident of this state who does not register the non-motorized recreational vehicle
14 in this state, whether the sale or delivery of the non-motorized recreational vehicle is made in this
15 state or at the place of residence of the nonresident; provided that a non-motorized recreational
16 vehicle sold to a bona fide nonresident whose state of residence does not allow a like exemption to
17 its nonresidents is not exempt from the tax imposed under § 44-18-20; provided, further, that in
18 that event the bona fide nonresident pays a tax to Rhode Island on the sale at a rate equal to the rate
19 that would be imposed in his or her state of residence not to exceed the rate that would have been
20 imposed under § 44-18-20. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a licensed, non-motorized
21 recreational vehicle dealer shall add and collect the tax required under this subdivision and remit
22 the tax to the tax administrator under the provisions of chapters 18 and 19 of this title. Provided,
23 that when a Rhode Island licensed, non-motorized recreational vehicle dealer is required to add and
24 collect the sales and use tax on the sale of a non-motorized recreational vehicle to a bona fide
25 nonresident as provided in this section, the dealer in computing the tax takes into consideration the
26 law of the state of the nonresident as it relates to the trade-in of motor vehicles.

27 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of §§ 44-19-27 and 44-19-28, may
28 require any licensed, non-motorized recreational vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to bona fide
29 nonresidents as the tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption
30 provided in this subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed, non-motorized recreational
31 vehicle dealer that the purchaser of the non-motorized recreational vehicle was the holder of, and
32 had in his or her possession a valid out-of-state non-motorized recreational vehicle registration or
33 a valid out-of-state driver's license.

34 (iii) Any nonresident who registers a non-motorized recreational vehicle in this state within

1 ninety (90) days of the date of its sale to him or her is deemed to have purchased the non-motorized
2 recreational vehicle for use, storage, or other consumption in this state, and is subject to, and liable
3 for, the use tax imposed under the provisions of § 44-18-20.

4 (iv) “Non-motorized recreational vehicle” means any portable dwelling designed and
5 constructed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, camping, recreational, and vacation use
6 that is eligible to be registered for highway use, including, but not limited to, “pick-up coaches” or
7 “pick-up campers,” “travel trailers,” and “tent trailers” as those terms are defined in chapter 1 of
8 title 31.

9 (55) Sprinkler and fire alarm systems in existing buildings. From the sale in this state of
10 sprinkler and fire alarm systems; emergency lighting and alarm systems; and the materials
11 necessary and attendant to the installation of those systems that are required in buildings and
12 occupancies existing therein in July 2003 in order to comply with any additional requirements for
13 such buildings arising directly from the enactment of the Comprehensive Fire Safety Act of 2003
14 and that are not required by any other provision of law or ordinance or regulation adopted pursuant
15 to that act. The exemption provided in this subdivision shall expire on December 31, 2008.

16 (56) Aircraft. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the tax imposed by §§ 44-
17 18-18 and 44-18-20 shall not apply with respect to the sale and to the storage, use, or other
18 consumption in this state of any new or used aircraft or aircraft parts.

19 (57) Renewable energy products. Notwithstanding any other provisions of Rhode Island
20 general laws, the following products shall also be exempt from sales tax: solar photovoltaic
21 modules or panels, or any module or panel that generates electricity from light; solar thermal
22 collectors, including, but not limited to, those manufactured with flat glass plates, extruded plastic,
23 sheet metal, and/or evacuated tubes; geothermal heat pumps, including both water-to-water and
24 water-to-air type pumps; wind turbines; towers used to mount wind turbines if specified by or sold
25 by a wind turbine manufacturer; DC to AC inverters that interconnect with utility power lines; and
26 manufactured mounting racks and ballast pans for solar collector, module, or panel installation. Not
27 to include materials that could be fabricated into such racks; monitoring and control equipment, if
28 specified or supplied by a manufacturer of solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, or wind
29 energy systems or if required by law or regulation for such systems but not to include pumps, fans
30 or plumbing or electrical fixtures unless shipped from the manufacturer affixed to, or an integral
31 part of, another item specified on this list; and solar storage tanks that are part of a solar domestic
32 hot water system or a solar space heating system. If the tank comes with an external heat exchanger
33 it shall also be tax exempt, but a standard hot water tank is not exempt from state sales tax.

34 (58) Returned property. The amount charged for property returned by customers upon

1 rescission of the contract of sale when the entire amount exclusive of handling charges paid for the
2 property is refunded in either cash or credit, and where the property is returned within one hundred
3 twenty (120) days from the date of delivery.

4 (59) Dietary supplements. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption
5 of dietary supplements as defined in § 44-18-7.1(l)(v), sold on prescriptions.

6 (60) Blood. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption of human blood.

7 (61) Agricultural products for human consumption. From the sale and from the storage,
8 use, or other consumption of livestock and poultry of the kinds of products that ordinarily constitute
9 food for human consumption and of livestock of the kind the products of which ordinarily constitute
10 fibers for human use.

11 (62) Diesel emission control technology. From the sale and use of diesel retrofit
12 technology that is required by § 31-47.3-4.

13 (63) Feed for certain animals used in commercial farming. From the sale of feed for
14 animals as described in subsection (61) of this section.

15 (64) Alcoholic beverages. From the sale and storage, use, or other consumption in this
16 state by a Class A licensee of alcoholic beverages, as defined in § 44-18-7.1, excluding beer and
17 malt beverages; provided, further, notwithstanding § 6-13-1 or any other general or public law to
18 the contrary, alcoholic beverages, as defined in § 44-18-7.1, shall not be subject to minimum
19 markup.

20 (65) Seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients. From the sale, storage, use,
21 or other consumption in this state of seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients as
22 defined in § 44-18-7.1(l)(i). “Seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients” shall not
23 include marijuana seeds or plants.

24 (66) Feminine hygiene products. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
25 consumption of tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary napkins, and other similar products
26 the principal use of which is feminine hygiene in connection with the menstrual cycle.

27 (67) “Breast pump collection and storage supplies” means items of tangible personal
28 property used in conjunction with a breast pump to collect milk expressed from a human breast and
29 to store collected milk until it is ready for consumption. “Breast pump collection and storage
30 supplies” include, but are not limited to, breast shields and breast shield connectors; breast pump
31 tubes and tubing adaptors; breast pump valves and membranes; backflow protectors and backflow
32 protector adaptors; bottles and bottle caps specific to the operation of the breast pump; breast milk
33 storage bags; and related items sold as part of a breast pump kit pre-packaged by the breast pump
34 manufacturer. “Breast pump collection and storage supplies” does not include: bottles and bottle

1 caps not specific to the operation of the breast pump; breast pump travel bags and other similar
2 carrying accessories, including ice packs, labels, and other similar products, unless sold as part of
3 a breast pump kit pre-packed by the breast pump manufacturer; breast pump cleaning supplies,
4 unless sold as part of a breast pump kit pre-packaged by the breast pump manufacturer; nursing
5 bras, bra pads, breast shells, and other similar products; and creams, ointments, and other similar
6 products that relieve breastfeeding-related symptoms or conditions of the breasts or nipples.

7 (68) Trade-in value of motorcycles. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other
8 consumption in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used motorcycle as is
9 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the motorcycle of the buyer given in trade to the seller, or of
10 the proceeds applicable only to the motorcycle as are received from the manufacturer of
11 motorcycles for the repurchase of the motorcycle whether the repurchase was voluntary or not
12 towards the purchase of a new or used motorcycle by the buyer. For the purpose of this subsection,
13 the word “motorcycle” means a motorcycle not used for hire and does not refer to any other type
14 of motor vehicle.

15 (69) Parking services. From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this
16 state of so much of the purchase price paid for parking services for municipally operated beach
17 parking in the town of Middletown.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC006233
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES--LIABILITY AND
COMPUTATION

- 1 This act would exempt from sales tax the amount paid for a parking space at municipally
- 2 operated beach parking in the town of Middletown.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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