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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Cote, P Fogarty, Archambault, and Felag

Date Introduced: January 21, 2014

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **44-18-30. Gross receipts exempt from sales and use taxes.** -- There are exempted from  
4 the taxes imposed by this chapter the following gross receipts:

5 (1) Sales and uses beyond constitutional power of state. - From the sale and from the  
6 storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible personal property the gross receipts  
7 from the sale of which, or the storage, use, or other consumption of which, this state is prohibited  
8 from taxing under the Constitution of the United States or under the constitution of this state.

9 (2) Newspapers.

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

12 (ii) "Newspaper" means an unbound publication printed on newsprint, which contains  
13 news, editorial comment, opinions, features, advertising matter, and other matters of public  
14 interest.

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

17 (3) School meals. - From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this  
18 state of meals served by public, private, or parochial schools, school districts, colleges,  
19 universities, student organizations, and parent teacher associations to the students or teachers of a

1 school, college, or university whether the meals are served by the educational institutions or by a  
2 food service or management entity under contract to the educational institutions.

3 (4) Containers.

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

5 (A) Non-returnable containers, including boxes, paper bags, and wrapping materials  
6 which are biodegradable and all bags and wrapping materials utilized in the medical and healing  
7 arts, when sold without the contents to persons who place the contents in the container and sell  
8 the contents with the container.

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

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

13 (ii) As used in this subdivision, the term "returnable containers" means containers of a  
14 kind customarily returned by the buyer of the contents for reuse. All other containers are "non-  
15 returnable containers."

16 (5) (i) Charitable, educational, and religious organizations. - From the sale to as in  
17 defined in this section, and from the storage, use, and other consumption in this state or any other  
18 state of the United States of America of tangible personal property by hospitals not operated for a  
19 profit, "educational institutions" as defined in subdivision (18) not operated for a profit, churches,  
20 orphanages, and other institutions or organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable  
21 purposes, interest free loan associations not operated for profit, nonprofit organized sporting  
22 leagues and associations and bands for boys and girls under the age of nineteen (19) years, the  
23 following vocational student organizations that are state chapters of national vocational students  
24 organizations: Distributive Education Clubs of America, (DECA); Future Business Leaders of  
25 America, phi beta lambda (FBLA/PBL); Future Farmers of America (FFA); Future Homemakers  
26 of America/Home Economics Related Occupations (FHA/HERD); and Vocational Industrial  
27 Clubs of America (VICA), organized nonprofit golden age and senior citizens clubs for men and  
28 women, and parent teacher associations.

29 (ii) In the case of contracts entered into with the federal government, its agencies or  
30 instrumentalities, this state or any other state of the United States of America, its agencies, any  
31 city, town, district, or other political subdivision of the states, hospitals not operated for profit,  
32 educational institutions not operated for profit, churches, orphanages, and other institutions or  
33 organizations operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes, the contractor may  
34 purchase such materials and supplies (materials and/or supplies are defined as those which are

1 essential to the project) that are to be utilized in the construction of the projects being performed  
2 under the contracts without payment of the tax.

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

9 (6) Gasoline. - From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state  
10 of: (i) gasoline and other products taxed under chapter 36 of title 31, and (ii) fuels used for the  
11 propulsion of airplanes.

12 (7) Purchase for manufacturing purposes.

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

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

22 (iii) "Consumed" includes mere obsolescence.

23 (iv) "Manufacturing" means and includes manufacturing, compounding, processing,  
24 assembling, preparing, or producing.

25 (v) "Process of manufacturing" means and includes all production operations performed  
26 in the producing or processing room, shop, or plant, insofar as the operations are a part of and  
27 connected with the manufacturing for resale of tangible personal property, electricity, natural gas,  
28 artificial gas, steam, refrigeration, or water and all production operations performed insofar as the  
29 operations are a part of and connected with the manufacturing for resale of computer software.

30 (vi) "Process of manufacturing" does not mean or include administration operations such  
31 as general office operations, accounting, collection, sales promotion, nor does it mean or include  
32 distribution operations which occur subsequent to production operations, such as handling,  
33 storing, selling, and transporting the manufactured products, even though the administration and  
34 distribution operations are performed by or in connection with a manufacturing business.

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

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

7 For the purposes of this exemption "food and food ingredients" shall not include candy,  
8 soft drinks, dietary supplements, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, food sold through vending  
9 machines or prepared food (as those terms are defined in section 44-18-7.1, unless the prepared  
10 food is:

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

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

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

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

18 (10) Medicines, drugs and durable medical equipment. - From the sale and from the  
19 storage, use, or other consumption in this state, of;

20 (i) "Drugs" as defined in section 44-18-7.1(h)(i), sold on prescriptions, medical oxygen,  
21 and insulin whether or not sold on prescription. For purposes of this exemption drugs shall not  
22 include over-the-counter drugs and grooming and hygiene products as defined in section 44-18-  
23 7.1(h)(iii).

24 (ii) Durable medical equipment as defined in section 44-18-7.1(k) for home use only,  
25 including, but not limited to, syringe infusers, ambulatory drug delivery pumps, hospital beds,  
26 convalescent chairs, and chair lifts. Supplies used in connection with syringe infusers and  
27 ambulatory drug delivery pumps which are sold on prescription to individuals to be used by them  
28 to dispense or administer prescription drugs, and related ancillary dressings and supplies used to  
29 dispense or administer prescription drugs shall also be exempt from tax.

30 (11) Prosthetic devices and mobility enhancing equipment. - From the sale and from the  
31 storage, use, or other consumption in this state, of prosthetic devices as defined in section 44-18-  
32 7.1(t), sold on prescription, including but not limited to, artificial limbs, dentures, spectacles and  
33 eyeglasses, and artificial eyes; artificial hearing devices and hearing aids, whether or not sold on  
34 prescription and mobility enhancing equipment as defined in section 44-18-7.1(p) including

1 wheelchairs, crutches and canes.

2 (12) Coffins, caskets, and burial garments. - From the sale and from the storage, use, or  
3 other consumption in this state of coffins or caskets, and shrouds or other burial garments which  
4 are ordinarily sold by a funeral director as part of the business of funeral directing.

5 (13) Motor vehicles sold to nonresidents.

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

20 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of sections 44-19-27 and 44-19-  
21 28, may require any licensed motor vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to bona fide  
22 nonresidents as the tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption  
23 provided in this subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed motor vehicle dealer that the  
24 purchaser of the motor vehicle was the holder of, and had in his or her possession a valid out of  
25 state motor vehicle registration or a valid out of state driver's license.

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

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

33 (15) Air and water pollution control facilities. - From the sale, storage, use, or other  
34 consumption in this state of tangible personal property or supplies acquired for incorporation into

1 or used and consumed in the operation of a facility, the primary purpose of which is to aid in the  
2 control of the pollution or contamination of the waters or air of the state, as defined in chapter 12  
3 of title 46 and chapter 25 of title 23, respectively, and which has been certified as approved for  
4 that purpose by the director of environmental management. The director of environmental  
5 management may certify to a portion of the tangible personal property or supplies acquired for  
6 incorporation into those facilities or used and consumed in the operation of those facilities to the  
7 extent that that portion has as its primary purpose the control of the pollution or contamination of  
8 the waters or air of this state. As used in this subdivision, "facility" means any land, facility,  
9 device, building, machinery, or equipment.

10 (16) Camps. - From the rental charged for living quarters, or sleeping or housekeeping  
11 accommodations at camps or retreat houses operated by religious, charitable, educational, or  
12 other organizations and associations mentioned in subdivision (5), or by privately owned and  
13 operated summer camps for children.

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

16 (18) Educational institutions. - From the rental charged by any educational institution for  
17 living quarters, or sleeping or housekeeping accommodations or other rooms or accommodations  
18 to any student or teacher necessitated by attendance at an educational institution. "Educational  
19 institution" as used in this section means an institution of learning not operated for profit which is  
20 empowered to confer diplomas, educational, literary, or academic degrees, which has a regular  
21 faculty, curriculum, and organized body of pupils or students in attendance throughout the usual  
22 school year, which keeps and furnishes to students and others records required and accepted for  
23 entrance to schools of secondary, collegiate, or graduate rank, no part of the net earnings of which  
24 inures to the benefit of any individual.

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

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

33 (ii) For the purpose of this subsection the term "special adaptations" includes, but is not  
34 limited to: wheelchair lifts; wheelchair carriers; wheelchair ramps; wheelchair securements; hand

1 controls; steering devices; extensions, relocations, and crossovers of operator controls; power-  
2 assisted controls; raised tops or dropped floors; raised entry doors; or alternative signaling  
3 devices to auditory signals.

4 (iii) From the sale of: (a) special adaptations, (b) the component parts of the special  
5 adaptations, for a "wheelchair accessible taxicab" as defined in section 39-14-1 and/or a  
6 "wheelchair accessible public motor vehicle" as defined in section 39-14.1-1.

7 (iv) For the purpose of this subdivision the exemption for a "specially adapted motor  
8 vehicle" means a use tax credit not to exceed the amount of use tax that would otherwise be due  
9 on the motor vehicle, exclusive of any adaptations. The use tax credit is equal to the cost of the  
10 special adaptations, including installation.

11 (20) Heating fuels. - From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in  
12 this state of every type of fuel used in the heating of homes and residential premises.

13 (21) Electricity and gas. - From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption  
14 in this state of electricity and gas furnished for domestic use by occupants of residential premises.

15 (22) Manufacturing machinery and equipment.

16 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tools,  
17 dies, and molds, and machinery and equipment (including replacement parts), and related items to  
18 the extent used in an industrial plant in connection with the actual manufacture, conversion, or  
19 processing of tangible personal property, or to the extent used in connection with the actual  
20 manufacture, conversion or processing of computer software as that term is utilized in industry  
21 numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373 in the standard industrial classification manual prepared by the  
22 technical committee on industrial classification, office of statistical standards, executive office of  
23 the president, United States bureau of the budget, as revised from time to time, to be sold, or that  
24 machinery and equipment used in the furnishing of power to an industrial manufacturing plant.  
25 For the purposes of this subdivision, "industrial plant" means a factory at a fixed location  
26 primarily engaged in the manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property to  
27 be sold in the regular course of business;

28 (ii) Machinery and equipment and related items are not deemed to be used in connection  
29 with the actual manufacture, conversion, or processing of tangible personal property, or in  
30 connection with the actual manufacture, conversion or processing of computer software as that  
31 term is utilized in industry numbers 7371, 7372, and 7373 in the standard industrial classification  
32 manual prepared by the technical committee on industrial classification, office of statistical  
33 standards, executive office of the president, United States bureau of the budget, as revised from  
34 time to time, to be sold to the extent the property is used in administration or distribution

1 operations;

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

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

14 (23) Trade-in value of motor vehicles. - From the sale and from the storage, use, or other  
15 consumption in this state of so much of the purchase price paid for a new or used automobile as is  
16 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the automobile of the buyer given in trade to the seller, or of  
17 the proceeds applicable only to the automobile as are received from the manufacturer of  
18 automobiles for the repurchase of the automobile whether the repurchase was voluntary or not  
19 towards the purchase of a new or used automobile by the buyer. For the purpose of this  
20 subdivision, the word "automobile" means a private passenger automobile not used for hire, or a  
21 pickup truck with a gross vehicle weight of under six thousand pounds (6,000 lbs) and used  
22 exclusively for personal use, and does not refer to any other type of motor vehicle.

23 (24) Precious metal bullion.

24 (i) From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of precious  
25 metal bullion, substantially equivalent to a transaction in securities or commodities.

26 (ii) For purposes of this subdivision, "precious metal bullion" means any elementary  
27 precious metal which has been put through a process of smelting or refining, including, but not  
28 limited to, gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, and chromium, and which is in a state or condition  
29 that its value depends upon its content and not upon its form.

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

33 (25) Commercial vessels. - From sales made to a commercial ship, barge, or other vessel  
34 of fifty (50) tons burden or over, primarily engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, and from



1 the repair, alteration, or conversion of the vessels, and from the sale of property purchased for the  
2 use of the vessels including provisions, supplies, and material for the maintenance and/or repair  
3 of the vessels.

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

27 (27) Clothing and footwear. - From the sales of articles of clothing, including footwear,  
28 intended to be worn or carried on or about the human body. For the purposes of this section,  
29 "clothing or footwear" does not include clothing accessories or equipment or special clothing or  
30 footwear primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use as these terms are defined in  
31 section 44-18-7.1(f).

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

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

5 (30) Boats.

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

11 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of sections 44-19-17 and 44-19-  
12 28, may require the seller of the boat or vessel to keep records of the sales to bona fide  
13 nonresidents as the tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the exemption  
14 provided in this subdivision, including the affidavit of the seller that the buyer represented  
15 himself or herself to be a bona fide nonresident of this state and of the buyer that he or she is a  
16 nonresident of this state.

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

22 (32) Farm equipment. - From the sale and from the storage or use of machinery and  
23 equipment used directly for commercial farming and agricultural production; including, but not  
24 limited to, tractors, ploughs, harrows, spreaders, seeders, milking machines, silage conveyors,  
25 balers, bulk milk storage tanks, trucks with farm plates, mowers, combines, irrigation equipment,  
26 greenhouses and greenhouse coverings, graders and packaging machines, tools and supplies and  
27 other farming equipment, including replacement parts, appurtenant to or used in connection with  
28 commercial farming and tools and supplies used in the repair and maintenance of farming  
29 equipment. "Commercial farming" means the keeping or boarding of five (5) or more horses or  
30 the production within this state of agricultural products, including, but not limited to, field or  
31 orchard crops, livestock, dairy, and poultry, or their products, where the keeping, boarding, or  
32 production provides at least two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) in annual gross sales to  
33 the operator, whether an individual, a group, a partnership, or a corporation for exemptions issued  
34 prior to July 1, 2002; for exemptions issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, there shall be two (2)

1 levels. Level I shall be based on proof of annual gross sales from commercial farming of at least  
2 twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) and shall be valid for purchases subject to the exemption  
3 provided in this subdivision except for motor vehicles with an excise tax value of five thousand  
4 dollars (\$5,000) or greater; Level II shall be based on proof of annual gross sales from  
5 commercial farming of at least ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or greater and shall be valid for  
6 purchases subject to the exemption provided in this subdivision including motor vehicles with an  
7 excise tax value of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or greater. For the initial issuance of the  
8 exemptions, proof of the requisite amount of annual gross sales from commercial farming shall be  
9 required for the prior year; for any renewal of an exemption granted in accordance with this  
10 subdivision at either Level I or Level II, proof of gross annual sales from commercial farming at  
11 the requisite amount shall be required for each of the prior two (2) years. Certificates of  
12 exemption issued or renewed after July 1, 2002, shall clearly indicate the level of the exemption  
13 and be valid for four (4) years after the date of issue. This exemption applies even if the same  
14 equipment is used for ancillary uses, or is temporarily used for a non-farming or a non-  
15 agricultural purpose, but shall not apply to motor vehicles acquired after July 1, 2002, unless the  
16 vehicle is a farm vehicle as defined pursuant to section 31-1-8 and is eligible for registration  
17 displaying farm plates as provided for in section 31-3-31.

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

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

22 (35) Motor vehicle and adaptive equipment to certain veterans. - From the sale of a  
23 motor vehicle and adaptive equipment to and for the use of a veteran with a service-connected  
24 loss of or the loss of use of a leg, foot, hand, or arm, or any veteran who is a double amputee,  
25 whether service connected or not. The motor vehicle must be purchased by and especially  
26 equipped for use by the qualifying veteran. Certificate of exemption or refunds of taxes paid is  
27 granted under rules or regulations that the tax administrator may prescribe.

28 (36) Textbooks. - From the sale and from the storage, use, or other consumption in this  
29 state of textbooks by an "educational institution" as defined in subdivision (18) of this section and  
30 as well as any educational institution within the purview of section 16-63-9(4) and used textbooks  
31 by any purveyor.

32 (37) Tangible personal property and supplies used in on-site hazardous waste recycling,  
33 reuse, or treatment. - From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible  
34 personal property or supplies used or consumed in the operation of equipment, the exclusive

1 function of which is the recycling, reuse, or recovery of materials (other than precious metals, as  
2 defined in subdivision (24)(ii) of this section) from the treatment of "hazardous wastes", as  
3 defined in section 23-19.1-4, where the "hazardous wastes" are generated in Rhode Island solely  
4 by the same taxpayer and where the personal property is located at, in, or adjacent to a generating  
5 facility of the taxpayer in Rhode Island. The taxpayer shall procure an order from the director of  
6 the department of environmental management certifying that the equipment and/or supplies as  
7 used, or consumed, qualify for the exemption under this subdivision. If any information relating  
8 to secret processes or methods of manufacture, production, or treatment is disclosed to the  
9 department of environmental management only to procure an order, and is a "trade secret" as  
10 defined in section 28-21-10(b), it is not open to public inspection or publicly disclosed unless  
11 disclosure is required under chapter 21 of title 28 or chapter 24.4 of title 23.

12 (38) Promotional and product literature of boat manufacturers. - From the sale and from  
13 the storage, use, or other consumption of promotional and product literature of boat  
14 manufacturers shipped to points outside of Rhode Island which either: (i) accompany the product  
15 which is sold, (ii) are shipped in bulk to out of state dealers for use in the sale of the product, or  
16 (iii) are mailed to customers at no charge.

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

21 (40) Transportation charges. - From the sale or hiring of motor carriers as defined in  
22 section 39-12-2(1) to haul goods, when the contract or hiring cost is charged by a motor freight  
23 tariff filed with the Rhode Island public utilities commission on the number of miles driven or by  
24 the number of hours spent on the job.

25 (41) Trade-in value of boats. - 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 boat as is  
27 allocated for a trade-in allowance on the boat of the buyer given in trade to the seller or of the  
28 proceeds applicable only to the boat as are received from an insurance claim as a result of a stolen  
29 or damaged boat, towards the purchase of a new or used boat by the buyer.

30 (42) Equipment used for research and development. - From the sale and from the  
31 storage, use, or other consumption of equipment to the extent used for research and development  
32 purposes by a qualifying firm. For the purposes of this subdivision, "qualifying firm" means a  
33 business for which the use of research and development equipment is an integral part of its  
34 operation, and "equipment" means scientific equipment, computers, software, and related items.

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

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

10 (45) Telecommunications carrier access service. - Carrier access service or  
11 telecommunications service when purchased by a telecommunications company from another  
12 telecommunications company to facilitate the provision of telecommunications service.

13 (46) Boats or vessels brought into the state exclusively for winter storage, maintenance,  
14 repair or sale. - Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 44-18-10, 44-18-11, 44-18-20, the tax  
15 imposed by section 44-18-20 is not applicable for the period commencing on the first day of  
16 October in any year to and including the 30th day of April next succeeding with respect to the use  
17 of any boat or vessel within this state exclusively for purposes of: (i) delivery of the vessel to a  
18 facility in this state for storage, including dry storage and storage in water by means of apparatus  
19 preventing ice damage to the hull, maintenance, or repair; (ii) the actual process of storage,  
20 maintenance, or repair of the boat or vessel; or (iii) storage for the purpose of selling the boat or  
21 vessel.

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

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

32 (49) Banks and Regulated investment companies interstate toll-free calls. -  
33 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the tax imposed by this chapter does not apply to  
34 the furnishing of interstate and international, toll-free terminating telecommunication service that

1 is used directly and exclusively by or for the benefit of an eligible company as defined in this  
2 subdivision; provided, that an eligible company employs on average during the calendar year no  
3 less than five hundred (500) "full-time equivalent employees", as that term is defined in section  
4 42-64.5-2. For purposes of this section, an "eligible company" means a "regulated investment  
5 company" as that term is defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. section 1 et  
6 seq., or a corporation to the extent the service is provided, directly or indirectly, to or on behalf of  
7 a regulated investment company, an employee benefit plan, a retirement plan or a pension plan or  
8 a state chartered bank.

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

12 (51) Manufacturing business reconstruction materials.

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

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

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

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

25 (52) Tangible personal property and supplies used in the processing or preparation of  
26 floral products and floral arrangements. - From the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this  
27 state of tangible personal property or supplies purchased by florists, garden centers, or other like  
28 producers or vendors of flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and artificial floral  
29 arrangements which are ultimately sold with flowers, plants, floral products, and natural and  
30 artificial floral arrangements or are otherwise used in the decoration, fabrication, creation,  
31 processing, or preparation of flowers, plants, floral products, or natural and artificial floral  
32 arrangements, including descriptive labels, stickers, and cards affixed to the flower, plant, floral  
33 product or arrangement, artificial flowers, spray materials, floral paint and tint, plant shine, flower  
34 food, insecticide and fertilizers.

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

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

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

21 (ii) The tax administrator, in addition to the provisions of sections 44-19-27 and 44-19-  
22 28, may require any licensed non-motorized recreational vehicle dealer to keep records of sales to  
23 bona fide nonresidents as the tax administrator deems reasonably necessary to substantiate the  
24 exemption provided in this subdivision, including the affidavit of a licensed non-motorized  
25 recreational vehicle dealer that the purchaser of the non-motorized recreational vehicle was the  
26 holder of, and had in his or her possession a valid out-of-state non-motorized recreational vehicle  
27 registration or a valid out-of-state driver's license.

28 (iii) Any nonresident who registers a non-motorized recreational vehicle in this state  
29 within ninety (90) days of the date of its sale to him or her is deemed to have purchased the non-  
30 motorized recreational vehicle for use, storage, or other consumption in this state, and is subject  
31 to, and liable for the use tax imposed under the provisions of section 44-18-20.

32 (iv) "Non-motorized recreational vehicle" means any portable dwelling designed and  
33 constructed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, camping, recreational, and vacation use  
34 which is eligible to be registered for highway use, including, but not limited to, "pick-up coaches"

1 or "pick-up campers," "travel trailers," and "tent trailers" as those terms are defined in chapter 1  
2 of title 31.

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

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

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

30 (58) Returned property. - The amount charged for property returned by customers upon  
31 rescission of the contract of sale when the entire amount exclusive of handling charges paid for  
32 the property is refunded in either cash or credit, and where the property is returned within one  
33 hundred twenty (120) days from the date of delivery.

34 (59) Dietary Supplements. - From the sale and from the storage, use or other



1 consumption of dietary supplements as defined in section 44-18-7.1(1)(v), sold on prescriptions.

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

4 (61) Agricultural products for human consumption. - From the sale and from the storage,  
5 use or other consumption of livestock and poultry of the kinds of products of which ordinarily  
6 constitute food for human consumption and of livestock of the kind the products of which  
7 ordinarily constitute fibers for human use.

8 (62) Diesel emission control technology. - From the sale and use of diesel retrofit  
9 technology that is required by section 31-47.3-4 of the general laws.

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

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LC003114  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION

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1           This act would exempt the trade-in value of pickup trucks under six thousand pounds  
2 (6,000 lbs) gross weight used exclusively for personal use from sales tax as presently available to  
3 automobiles.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC003114  
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