

**In the
Supreme Court of Ohio**

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 155 North Fifth Street, Inc. | : | |
| | : | Case No. 2024-0035 |
| Appellant, | : | |
| | : | |
| v. | : | On Appeal from the Ohio Board of Tax |
| | : | Appeals December 11, 2023 Decision |
| Patricia Harris, | : | and Order |
| Tax Commissioner of Ohio | : | |
| | : | |
| Appellee. | : | BTA Case No. 2020-263 |

APPELLANT 155 NORTH FIFTH STREET, INC.'S MERIT BRIEF

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Tax Commissioner of Ohio*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The undisputable facts are the Department of Taxation (the “Department”) applied sales tax to transactions that it admits are not taxable. This admission alone warrants reversal of the December 16, 2019 Final Determination (the “Final Determination”). In addition, the Department also concedes that there are two additional errors: (1) using the wrong sample period; and (2) using the wrong cost for at least one liquor item both of which ultimately impacts the Department’s entire analysis including the amount of tax allegedly due, interest, and any potential penalty. For these reasons, the Final Determination needs to be vacated in its entirety and the matter remanded back to the Tax Commissioner to issue a new final determination that applies sales tax to only taxable transactions and recalculates the liquor markup percentage and the taxable percentage of adjusted gross that impacts the entire analysis.

II. STATEMENT OF THE FACTS AND CASE

155 North Fifth Street, Inc. (“155”) operates a gentlemen’s club in Columbus. Tr.¹ at 39. In 2018, the Department decided to conduct a sales tax audit of 155’s business for August 2014 through December 2017. Tr. at 51. During the audit, the Department claimed 155 did not maintain sufficient records and resorted to using a purchase markup audit to calculate 155’s taxable sales for the audit period. Tr. at 41. Under the purchase markup audit, the Department intended to use all of 2017 as a sample period. *Id.* However, instead of using all of 2017, the Department used only transactions in January 2017, July 2017, and August 2017. Tr. at 43. This error resulted in the amount of tax due being overstated by a

¹ “Tr.” will refer to the statutory transcript that was filed with the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals on March 12, 2020.

minimum of \$2,000. Hearing Recording, Part II² at 56.06 min. Because interest and penalty are directly tied to the amount of tax due, they also are similarly overstated. Rec. II at 1 hr. 19-20 min.

In addition to this error, the Department overstated the cost of a bottle of Stolichnaya vodka, which impacts the total final weighted markup percentage for liquor. Tr. at 15; *see also* Rec. II at 1 hr. 19-20 min. Because all of the markup percentages are all dependent upon one another, this error impacts the liquor taxable sales (which makes up almost 80% of 155's taxable sales) and the taxable percentage of adjusted gross sales, which is used to determine the amount of tax, interest, and penalty due under the audit. Tr. at 13; *see also* Rec. II at 1 hr. 21 min.

Lastly, the Department applied sales tax to 155's gross sales, meaning that the Department applied sales tax to transactions that it knew were not taxable. Rec. II at 1 hr. 22-23 min. These non-taxable transactions included cover charges, private room dances, and dancer fees. Rec. II at 16.11 min. As a result of the audit, the Department issued a December 16, 2019 Final Determination holding that 155 owed \$41,562.34 in additional sales tax, \$3,528.89 in pre-assessment interest, and \$6,234.16 as a penalty. Dec. 16, 2019 Final Determination at 4, Appx. 4. The Final Determination was appealed to the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals (the "BTA") and a hearing was held before the BTA on November 10, 2021.

² "Rec." will be used to reference the three-part recording of the November 10, 2021 hearing before the BTA.

On December 11, 2023, the BTA issued a Decision and Order (“Decision”) that affirmed in part and reversed in part the Tax Commissioner’s Final Determination. Dec. 11, 2023 Decision and Order, Appx. 13. The BTA’s Decision reversed the tax, penalty, and interest calculation as a result of the Department using the incorrect sample period, but appears to affirm the Tax Commissioner’s Final Determination in all other respects. Decision at 3, 6-8; Appx. 7, 10-12.³ On January 8, 2024, the BTA’s Decision was appealed to this Court.

III. LAW & ARGUMENT

A. Standard of Review

This Court reviews decisions of the BTA to determine whether they are reasonable and lawful. *Obetz v. McClain*, 164 Ohio St.3d 529, 2021-Ohio-1706, ¶ 14. Although the Court defers to the BTA’s determination as to the credibility of witnesses and its weighing of evidence, the Court does not defer to the BTA’s resolution of legal questions. *Id.* Instead, the Court applies a *de novo* review for legal questions and applies an abuse of discretion standard regarding the BTA’s weighing of evidence and credibility of witnesses. *Id.* The Court will not hesitate to reverse a BTA decision that is based on an incorrect legal conclusion. *Accel, Inc. v. Testa*, 152 Ohio St.3d 262, 2017-Ohio-8798, ¶ 11. The issue presented by this appeal is a legal question subject to a *de novo* review by this Court.

³ It is unclear whether the BTA Decision reversed the Final Determination for the erroneous calculation of one liquor item despite the Department conceding that the calculation was incorrect. Rec. II at 1 hr. 19-21 min. To the extent the BTA Decision does not reverse the Final Determination on that ground, that also was error warranting reversal of the BTA Decision.

Proposition of Law 1: In performing a purchase markup audit, the Department of Taxation may only apply the markup percentage to taxable sales and/or retail sales.

Only those transactions that meet the statutory definition of a taxable sale are subject to the imposition of sales tax. R.C. 5739.02 states that “an excise tax is hereby levied on each retail sale made in this state.” R.C. 5739.01(E) defines a “retail sale” and “sales at retail” as “all sales, except those in which the purpose of the consumer is to resell the thing transferred or benefit of the service provided, by a person engaging in business, in the form in which the same is, or is to be, received by the person.” R.C. 5739.01(B) defines a “sale.”

If transactions do not constitute a sale or a retail sale, they are not subject to sales tax. *See Cincinnati Reds, LLC v. Testa*, 155 Ohio St.3d 512, 2018-Ohio-4669, ¶ 34 (“Because the Reds’ purchase of the promotional items did not constitute a ‘retail sale’ under R.C. 5739.01(E), the provisions of R.C. 5739.02—which apply only to retail sales—are irrelevant in this case.”). A simple review of R.C. 5739.01(B) and R.C. 5739.01(E) confirm that 155’s cover charges, private room charges, and dancer fees are not sales and/or retail sales that are subject to sales tax. The Department in fact concedes these transactions are not subject to sales tax. Rec. II at 1 hr. 22-23 min. As such, imposition of sales tax on these transactions was an error.

Taking the Department’s own taxable percentage of adjusted gross sales (146.14%) (which the Department now admits is incorrect (*see* Rec. Part II at 56.06 min. and 1 hr. 19-21 min.)), and applying it only to 155’s adjusted gross sales, *i.e.* sales that do not reflect non-taxable transactions, reduces the amount of 155’s tax from \$41,562.34 to \$16,350.48 *See* Tr. at 13, 19, 20, 21; Supplement. 1-4. This adjustment also reduces the amount of interest and penalty due as both figures are a percentage of the total amount of tax due. Rec. Part II at 1 hr. 19-21 min.

IV. CONCLUSION

The BTA erred in affirming the Tax Commissioner's Final Determination when the Department of Taxation conceded during the BTA hearing that the taxable markup percentage was applied to transactions that are not subject to sales tax. As such, the BTA Decision must be reversed and the matter remanded back to the Tax Commissioner for further consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Damion M. Clifford

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on February 19, 2024, Appellant's Merit Brief was electronically filed with the Ohio Supreme Court.

The undersigned also hereby certifies that on February 19, 2024, Appellant's Merit Brief was served via electronic mail upon Daniel Kim, Esq., counsel for Appellee.

/s/ Damion M. Clifford _____
Damion M. Clifford

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Department of
Taxation

Office of the Tax Commissioner
30 E. Broad St., 22nd Floor • Columbus, OH 43215

FINAL DETERMINATION

Date: DEC 16 2019

155 North Fifth Street, Inc.
6223 Sunderland Dr
Columbus, OH 43229

Re: Assessment #: 100001012297
Sales Tax
Account No. 25-309837
Reporting Period: 08/01/2014 – 12/31/2017

This is the final determination of the Tax Commissioner with regard to a petition for reassessment filed pursuant to R.C. 5739.13 concerning the following sales tax assessment:

| <u>Tax</u> | <u>Pre-Assessment</u> <u>Interest</u> | <u>Penalty</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| \$41,562.34 | \$3,528.89 | \$6,234.16 | \$51,325.39 |

This assessment is the result of an audit of the petitioner's sales for the reporting period shown above. The petitioner operates a bar in Columbus, Ohio. A hearing was held on September 19, 2019.

Audit Methodology

A mark-up analysis was used to calculate taxable sales based upon a block sample period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Where complete inventory purchase records were not available, information obtained directly from the distributor and summaries maintained by the petitioner were used. The auditor calculated the taxable sales of beer – bottle and can, liquor, and wine. Invoice dates were used to determine which inventory purchase transactions occurred within the sample period. Each category was assigned a mark-up percentage by calculating the weighted average of the product sales price less the product cost per serving and dividing the difference by the product cost per serving. The sales prices were derived from the petitioner's drink price list. The resulting individual mark-up percentages were weighted based on product sales volume, which were determined from an analysis of the total dollar cost of product inventory purchased during the sample period.

The taxable sales for each category were determined by marking up the categorical inventory purchase totals by multiplying them by one plus the applicable calculated weighted mark-up percent. The calculated taxable sales of liquor and wine for the sample period were reduced by ten percent and five percent respectively to account for potential losses of inventory due to spillage and over-pours. The totals for each category of taxable merchandise were summed and divided by the total reported sales for the sample period to determine the taxable percentage of gross sales (146.14%). The reported sales each month of the audit period were multiplied by that percentage to determine the calculated taxable sales for each month. The calculated taxable sales each month were multiplied by

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the applicable tax rate to determine the sales tax liability for each month. The sales tax remitted by the taxpayer was subtracted from the tax liability total to arrive at assessed tax liability.

The petitioner made several contentions in regard to the audit methodology used to calculate sales tax liability. The petitioner alleges the following: the auditor erred in determining the sales tax liability, the auditor erred in using weighted mark-up procedures and block samples because they do not accurately reflect sales that were subject to tax, the auditor erred in using weighted mark-up percentages which grossly inflated the assessment, the auditor erred in using a block sample to determine taxable and non-taxable sales during the audit period instead of using actual petitioner and distributor records, the auditor erred in not applying the petitioner's actual mark-up percentages, and the auditor erred in using a block sample to assess liability

It should be noted that the assessment is presumptively valid. *RKE Trucking Inc. v. Zaino*, 98 Ohio St.3d 495, 787 N.E. 2d 638 (2003). Therefore, once an assessment is made, the burden is on the taxpayer to prove error in the assessment. *Forest Hills Supermarket, Inc., dba Forest Hills Eagle v. Tracy*, BTA No. 97-J-1508, 1999 WL 195629 (Apr. 5, 1999), citing, *Federated Department Stores, Inc. v. Lindley*, 5 Ohio St.3d 213, 450 N.E. 2d 687 (1983); *Automotive Warehouse, Inc. v. Limbach*, BTA No. 87-D-652, 1989 WL 82761 (Jan. 13, 1989). This places an affirmative duty upon the petitioner to provide sufficient evidence to prove its objections.

The petitioner received a letter of agreement from the auditor that explained the audit methodology and how any outstanding liability would be assessed. The petitioner did not sign the agreement; therefore, the petitioner was issued a ten-day letter that provided the opportunity to provide an alternative methodology to calculate any outstanding liability. The petitioner signed this letter on May 30, 2018 but did not submit an alternative method objecting to the use of a block sample, the weighted mark-up process or the mark-up percentages that were used. Further, the petitioner states that actual mark-up percentages should have been used but has not provided any information on what the actual mark-up percentages were at time.

Further, when a vendor does not maintain complete and accurate records, the Tax Commissioner may conduct an audit. Ohio Adm. Code 5703-9-02(D). Pursuant to R.C. 5739.13, the Tax Commissioner is statutorily authorized to utilize any information at his disposal that would reasonably estimate the taxpayer's sales. Purchase markup audits have been approved by the Board of Tax Appeals as a reasonable means of determining the tax liability over the period covered by the audit. See, *Lindsey Enterprises, Inc. v. Tracy*, BTA No. 95-K-1209, 1996 WL 283944 (May 24, 1996).

Here, the auditor was not able to verify the accuracy of the petitioner's records. The auditor reviewed the taxable sales as shown on the petitioner's z-tapes for the months of January, February, and March of 2017 and compared them to the taxable sales for those same months on the petitioner's sales tax returns. The auditor found significant discrepancies between these records. Audit Remarks, Page 4. As such, the petitioner lacked accurate records for the auditor to use, and the mark-up analysis was appropriately conducted.

Objections to the audit methodology are denied.

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Mark-up Procedure

The petitioner contends that the auditor used a different mark-up method versus what is explained in the agreement. The petitioner does not state how the mark-up procedure performed by the auditor differed from what was stated in the agreement. There has been no additional proof provided to support this claim. The objection is denied.

Adjusted Gross Sales

The petitioner contends that the auditor erroneously applied the taxable percentage of gross sales to the petitioner's gross sales instead of the adjusted gross sales, which does not account for the petitioner's tax-exempt sales. However, the sales tax liability is determined by calculating the taxpayer's percentage of taxable sales and applying this percentage to the taxpayer's reported gross sales. The percentage of taxable sales is determined by dividing the calculated taxable sales (as determined in the audit) by the taxpayer's reported gross sales. The resulting number is the calculated taxable percentage of the taxpayer's reported gross sales. Therefore, tax-exempt sales are inherently taken into consideration. Applying this percentage to the taxpayer's gross sales as per the agreement, results in the petitioner's taxable base.

Further, as previously stated, the methodology was explained in the audit agreement and the petitioner had the chance to offer an alternative methodology. The petitioner did not do so. The objection is denied.

Spillage

The petitioner contends that they were not provided enough credit to account for inventory lost due to shrinkage and over-pouring. The exact percentage of inventory lost could not be determined because of the inconsistent nature of such losses and a lack of inventory control by the petitioner. Therefore, based on industry averages, the calculated taxable sales for affected categories (liquor-blended rate and wine) were reduced by ten percent and five percent respectively. Audit Remarks, Page 6. The petitioner did not provide any evidence to show that the reductions given were inadequate. The objection is denied.

Employee Theft

The petitioner contends that the Department did not appropriately account for inventory lost due to employee theft or waste. The petitioner does not state what inventory was stolen or provide any evidence to support this contention, such as police reports or insurance claims. The petitioner has a burden to do more than merely state a conclusion. The objection is denied.

Interest Abatement

The petitioner contends that pre-assessment interest was added in error because the Department has no factual or legal basis for this assessment. As stated above, the petitioner has not provided sufficient evidence that the tax was erroneously assessed. Therefore, the Tax Commissioner is without jurisdiction to reduce the statutory interest promulgated by the General Assembly under R.C. 5739.132. The objection is denied.

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Penalty Abatement

The petitioner requests full abatement of the penalty contending that the Department abused its discretion in adding the penalty. The Tax Commissioner may add a penalty of up to fifty percent of the amount assessed where a taxpayer fails to collect and remit the tax as required. R.C. 5739.133(A). Penalty remission is within the discretion of the Tax Commissioner. See, *Jennings & Churella Constr. Co. v. Lindley*, 10 Ohio St.3d 67, 461 N.E.2d 897 (1984). The penalty was reduced to fifteen percent at the conclusion of the audit. Based on the facts and circumstances, further penalty abatement is not warranted. The objection is denied.

Responsible Party

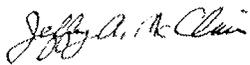
Finally, the petitioner contends that the Department erred in holding that Margarita Ramirez is the responsible party. The issue of who is the responsible party is a separate matter from the assessed tax liability. Therefore, this issue cannot be considered. The objection is denied.

The assessment is affirmed as issued.

Current records indicate that no payment has been made towards the assessment. However, due to payment processing and posting time lags, payments may have been made that are not reflected in this final determination. Any post assessment interest will be added to the assessment as provided by law. Payments shall be made payable to "Treasurer – State of Ohio." Any payment made within sixty (60) days of the date of this final determination should be forwarded to: Department of Taxation, Compliance Division, P.O. Box 2678, Columbus, OH 43216-2678.

THIS IS THE TAX COMMISSIONER'S FINAL DETERMINATION WITH REGARD TO THIS MATTER. UPON EXPIRATION OF THE SIXTY-DAY APPEAL PERIOD PRESCRIBED BY R.C. 5717.02, THIS MATTER WILL BE CONCLUDED AND THE FILE APPROPRIATELY CLOSED.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE COPY OF THE ENTRY RECORDED IN THE TAX COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL



JEFFREY A. MCCLAIN
TAX COMMISSIONER

/s/ Jeffrey A. McClain

Jeffrey A. McClain
Tax Commissioner



Dear Taxpayer:

Enclosed is the Tax Commissioner's final determination regarding your case. The title is captioned either "Journal Entry" or "Final Determination."

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Board of Tax Appeals. Unlike appeals to the Tax Commissioner, proceedings before the Board of Tax Appeals are very formal, and the Board's procedures must be carefully followed. An appeal to the Board may be done in the following way:

- You have only sixty (60) days from the date you received this final determination to appeal.
- If you choose to appeal, you must send the Board of Tax Appeals your original notice of appeal and two copies, unless filed using an electronic method. A copy of the enclosed final determination should also be attached to each notice of appeal. Your notice of appeal must **clearly** state why you are appealing and include a request for the relief sought. The law requires you to describe carefully each error which you believe the Tax Commissioner made.
- You must also send the Tax Commissioner a copy of your notice of appeal and a copy of the enclosed final determination. The Tax Commissioner's copies must be mailed or delivered in person. There is no electronic option.
- The Board of Tax Appeals and the Tax Commissioner **must each receive** the notice of appeal and the copy of the final determination within sixty (60) days of your receipt of this final determination. In order to file your appeal on time, you must send the notices by certified mail, express mail, fax, authorized delivery service or electronic transmission to the board and make sure that the recorded date is within sixty (60) days of your receipt of the enclosed final determination. Ordinary mail delivery is not considered received until each agency actually receives your notice of appeal. If the notice of appeal is filed by fax or electronic transmission, the date and time the notice is received by the board shall be the date and time reflected on a timestamp provided by the board's electronic system. Alternatively, you may personally deliver the notices before the sixty (60) days are up to be sure both agencies receive it within the sixty (60) day time limit. Appeals which are received late do not meet the requirements of the law and cannot be considered.

Ohio Revised Code Section 5717.02 is the section of the Code stating the requirements for a proper appeal to the Board of Tax Appeals. You must follow all of these mandatory requirements in order to appeal. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

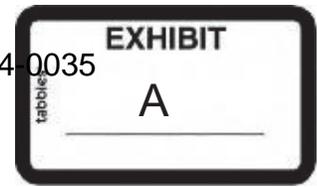
The mailing address of the Board of Tax Appeals is:

30 East Broad Street
24th Floor State Office Tower
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

The Tax Commissioner's mailing address is:

30 East Broad Street
22nd Floor State Office Tower
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

OHIO BOARD OF TAX APPEALS



155 NORTH FIFTH STREET, INC.,
 (et. al.),)
)
 Appellant(s),)
)
 vs.)
)
 PATRICIA HARRIS, TAX)
 COMMISSIONER OF OHIO, (et.)
 al.),)
)
 Appellee(s).)

CASE NO(S). 2020-263

(SALES TAX)

DECISION AND ORDER

APPEARANCES:

For the Appellant(s) - 155 NORTH FIFTH STREET, INC.
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 SUITE 400
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For the Appellee(s) - PATRICIA HARRIS, TAX COMMISSIONER OF OHIO
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 COLUMBUS, OH 43215

Entered Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. Harbarger, Ms. Clements, and Ms. Allison concur.

The appellant-taxpayer, 155 North Fifth Street, Inc. d/b/a X Show Bar, appeals a final determination of the Tax Commissioner, affirming an assessment based on an audit of the taxpayer’s sales for the period August 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017. We decide the case on the notice of appeal, the statutory transcript (“S.T.”), the OFAST, the record of this Board’s hearing, and the parties’ briefs. For the following reasons, we affirm in part, reverse in part, and remand for further proceedings.

BACKGROUND

The taxpayer operates a bar and gentleman’s club in Columbus. The taxpayer made taxable sales of bottled/canned beer, liquor, and wine. The Commissioner initiated an audit because the

taxpayer reported low taxable sales in comparison to distributor records. Shortly after the audit commenced, the taxpayer presented the Commissioner's auditor with "daily z-tapes, weekly sales reports and inventory purchase invoices." OFAST, Audit Remarks at 5. After the auditor determined the taxpayer failed to maintain "complete, accurate and adequate primary and secondary records as required by Ohio Adm.Code 5703-9-02," she proceeded to estimate liability using a purchase markup. *Id.* at 3-5. She did so using a "'bar and restaurant markup audit methodology' developed by the Department [of Taxation]." *Id.* at 4. The taxpayer did not agree to the methodology but did not propose an alternative.

The auditor began by analyzing beer sales using distributor records and a price list in place during the sample periods. The auditor utilized a 338% markup percentage with no reduction for spillage. The auditor then used distributor information and utilized a 398% markup for liquor (10% reduction for spillage) and a 464% markup for wine (5% reduction for spillage). The Commissioner then assessed the taxpayer for \$51,325.39 in tax, penalty, and interest.

In its petition for reassessment, the taxpayer advanced fifteen assignments of error. In sum, the taxpayer alleged the Commissioner erred in issuing the assessment because the "markup procedures and block samples" did not lead to an accurate assessment and were "not reflective" of the taxpayer's actual sales. The taxpayer further argued the Commissioner failed to account for shrinkage and waste. Ultimately, the taxpayer requested cancellation of the assessment in full. The Commissioner affirmed the assessment in full, and this appeal ensued.

BOARD PROCEEDING

As requested by the taxpayer, this Board held a merit hearing. During opening, the taxpayer, through counsel, stated there were three fundamental flaws with the audit and the Commissioner's final determination. First, the taxpayer alleged the auditor utilized prices that already included the tax. Second, the auditor picked up exempt sales because she applied the markup percentage to "gross sales" not "adjusted gross sales." Third, the taxpayer stressed the

Commissioner erred in assessing penalties at all. During her opening, the Commissioner conceded she found a limited error that warranted a downward adjustment of approximately \$2,000 in tax. Otherwise, the Commissioner argued the final determination should be affirmed in all other respects.

The taxpayer called Charles Diebel, an accountant and consultant. Mr. Diebel explained that his business provides a software system designed track inventory and measure shrink and lost inventory. Specifically, Mr. Diebel's company begins by tracking initial inventory, then (on a weekly or bi-weekly basis) will track sales in the POS and then compare those figures with absolute usage and inventory. He testified he was aware of the Commissioner's markup practices based on Mr. Diebel's experience in other audits. After explaining his process, Mr. Diebel emphasized the importance of using accurate sales reports, product mix reports, cash & draw reports, etc. Net sales are typically used since sales tax is remitted.

The taxpayer presented Mr. Diebel with the Commissioner's markup percentage spreadsheets for beer, liquor, and wine, which Diebel had reviewed. He indicated he was retained to review these documents in addition to other audit documents generated by the Commissioner. Diebel testified he found several mistakes. First, Diebel testified markup percentages were applied to gross prices that already included tax. For example, Diebel began by locating the line item for Bud Light Lime. The Commissioner listed the standard price (the nighttime price) at \$4.50 and the daytime price as \$2.25. It appears the wholesale cost per service was 86 cents. The Commissioner had applied a 50% markup for the Bud Light Lime, which generated a weighted price markup of 289.61% (after averaging standard and daytime prices). Diebel testified the entire calculation was flawed because the price list included sales tax, which Diebel explained was a common practice in the industry. Diebel stated he recalculated by removing the tax, and he provided a spreadsheet outlining his calculations. *Compare* H.R., at Ex. A (Bud Light Lime combined with average price at \$3.375) *with* H.R., at Ex. B (Bud Light Lime combined with average price at \$3.122). Mr.

Diebel testified he conducted the same analysis with regard to liquor and wine. Moreover, Mr. Diebel testified at least one of the Commissioner's liquor figures was incorrect because such a size bottle was unavailable in the state of Ohio. Mr. Diebel then presented exhibit D, wherein he compared his final values with those used by the Commissioner. *Compare* H.R. at Ex. A at 6 *with* Ex. C. In exhibit C, Mr. Diebel modified the Commissioner's final taxable percentage of gross calculation using Diebel's revised taxable sales and markup percentage. Diebel maintained several figures utilized by the Commissioner, e.g., purchases per distributor records and spillage for liquor and wine. In exhibit D, Diebel revised the Commissioner's tax liability by period. *Compare* Ex. A at 7 *with* Exhibit D. Due to his calculations, Diebel's spreadsheet lists modified adjusted gross sales and taxable percentages, which led to a lower total liability. He stressed that the methodology was generally the same as that used by the Commissioner. He also noted he excluded other forms of revenue, such as cover fees and performer fees.

On cross, Mr. Diebel testified he performed work for the taxpayer during the audit but was not directly involved in the audit. He indicated he was unaware of any communications between the taxpayer and the auditor. Diebel explained in response to a question that he generally used the Commissioner's formula but changed the unit price to back out the sales tax. Diebel further emphasized that he completed his calculations using traditional cost accounting principles. The taxpayer waived redirect.

The Commissioner then called John Okamoto, a tax examiner specialist from the Department. Okamoto explained his responsibilities were those of an auditor, but he also reviews audits prior to assessment. He explained he was not involved in the audit, but he did review the audit before the assessment. Okamoto testified he was on the initial "team" charged with creating a procedure to apply a purchase markup methodology to bars and restaurants. He stated he

reviewed the primary and secondary documents, but those documents could not be reconciled with the returns. For example, Okamoto pointed to audit remarks comparing net sales tax from z-tapes with taxable sales listed on the returns. S.T. at 41.

Okamoto moved on to discuss the basic audit procedures. He then responded to the allegation the auditor failed to utilize net sales. Okamoto testified to his understanding that such an adjustment would be improper per Department policy and statute because the sales tax code requires the sales tax to be separately stated. He explained the separately stated requirement is important so customers know they are paying the tax, presumably, so the customer is aware of potential use tax liability.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

In an appeal of the Commissioner's final determination, the Ohio Supreme Court has held that the Commissioner's factual findings are presumptively valid subject to rebuttal. *Alcan Aluminum Corp. v. Limbach*, 42 Ohio St.3d 121, 537 N.E.2d 1302 (1989); *Belgrade Gardens, Inc. v. Kosydar*, 38 Ohio St.2d 135, 311 N.E.2d 1 (1974). A taxpayer must present credible evidence establishing in what manner and to what extent the Commissioner's determination is in error. *Federated Dept. Stores, Inc. v. Lindley*, 5 Ohio St.3d 213, 450 N.E.2d 687 (1983); *see also Kern v. Tracy*, 72 Ohio St.3d 347, 650 N.E.2d 428 (1995).

ANALYSIS

R.C. 5739.11 mandates that "[e]ach vendor shall keep complete and accurate records of sales, together with a record of the tax collected on the sales, which shall be the amount due under sections 5739.01 to 5739.31 of the Revised Code, and shall keep all invoices, bills of lading, and other such pertinent documents." Existing records must enable the Commissioner to ascertain if the proper sales tax was collected or remitted. *See National Delicatessens Inc. v. Collins*, 46 Ohio St.2d 333, 348 N.E.2d 710 (1976); *see also McDonald's of Springfield, Inc. v. Kosydar*, 43 Ohio St.2d 5, 330 N.E.2d 699 (1975) (holding that register tapes that failed to delineate tax charged per

transaction were inadequate); *Kostecki v. Kosydar*, 43 Ohio St.2d 14, 330 N.E.2d 659 (1975) (holding that daily recap sheets compiled from register tapes that did not separately state price and sales tax charged for items were unreliable).

In the event a vendor does not have records sufficient to determine the accuracy of reported taxable sales and tax collected and remitted, R.C. 5739.13 provides the Commissioner with the authority to assess “such vendor based upon any information in the [C]ommissioner’s possession.” Ohio Adm.Code 5703-9-02(B); *see also Russo v. Donahue*, 10 Ohio St.2d 201, 226 N.E.2d 747 (1967). This includes undergoing purchase markup audits. *Lindsey Enterprises, Inc. v. Tracy*, BTA No. 95-K-1209, 1996 Ohio Tax LEXIS 507 (May 24, 1996); *accord Club Ethio v. McClain*, BTA No. 2022-28, 2022 Ohio Tax LEXIS 3031 (Dec. 27, 2022). Consequently, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 5703-9-02(A), “the burden of proof rests upon each vendor to show what part, if any, of their gross receipts from sales resulted in nontaxable sales.” This Board has long held that appellants must establish actual tax liability or quantify the impact of alleged sampling errors on total tax due. *Khatib v. Wilkins*, 2006-A-1572, 2007 Ohio Tax LEXIS 1572 (Nov. 16, 2007); *Convenient Food Mart, Inc. v. Wilkins*, 2006-V-2233, 2010 Ohio Tax LEXIS 688 (Feb. 16, 2010); *Baker v. Testa*, BTA No. 2015-1479, 2016 Ohio Tax LEXIS 1420 (June 24, 2016).

Here, the taxpayer has distilled its position to three general arguments. The first argument relates to the number of months in the sample size. The Commissioner now stipulates a downward adjustment is appropriate. Because both parties agree a remand is appropriate, we reverse that portion of the Commissioner’s decision.

We address the other arguments together. The taxpayer argues the sample collected included non-taxable sales such as cover charges, dancer fees, and private room fees. The error, the taxpayer alleges, is compounded by the fact that the standard prices used by the auditor already include sales tax. Diebel testified that the taxpayer claims to have included tax in the stated price.

Additionally, the taxpayer asserts that one line item in the inventory list was incorrect because that brand of vodka did not sell that size bottle in Ohio during the audit period.

We find these arguments unpersuasive. To start, a purchase markup would have been entirely unnecessary if the taxpayer maintained primary documents as it was required to do by law. In fact, it could have presented this Board with such evidence, but it chose not to. The two arguments leveled at the audit are either unsupported or speculative. As the Commissioner argues in her reply brief, the sales ratios necessarily account for the relationship between taxable and non-taxable sales, and the Board has repeatedly upheld assessments using a similar methodology. *Grossman DT, Inc. v. McClain*, BTA No. 2020-155, 2021 Ohio Tax LEXIS 70 (Jan. 12, 2021); *Convenient Food Mart, Inc. v. Wilkins*, BTA No. 2006-V-2233, 2010 Ohio Tax LEXIS 688 (Feb. 16, 2010). Also, the taxpayer was obliged to quantify the impact and present evidence of actual liability. But the taxpayer never presented actual records or called witnesses with knowledge of actual liability. Diebel is experienced in the industry, but his testimony alone does not show actual liability without records from the taxpayer. Moreover, as the Commissioner argues in her reply, the taxpayer's embedded tax theory is unsupported by the evidence. *See Equilon Enterprises LLC v. Levin*, BTA No. 2007-V-441, 2010 Ohio Tax LEXIS 225 (Feb. 9, 2010).

The taxpayer also argues penalty abatement is warranted. The Supreme Court has held that R.C. 5739.13(A) “confers discretionary authority on the tax commissioner to impose a penalty in conjunction with an assessment of unpaid sales tax.” *Karr v. McClain*, 166 Ohio St.3d 513, 2022-Ohio-449, 187 N.E.3d 540, ¶ 7, citing *J.M. Smucker, L.L.C. v. Levin*, 113 Ohio St.3d 337, 2007-Ohio-2073, 865 N.E.2d 866, ¶¶ 14-15 (collecting cases). “An abuse of discretion in the tax-penalty context is an act showing an ‘arbitrary or unconscionable attitude’ on the part of the tax commissioner.” *Renacci v. Testa*, 148 Ohio St.3d 470, 2016-Ohio-3394, 71 N.E.3d 962, ¶ 32, citing *J.M. Smucker, L.L.C.*, at ¶ 16.” *Karr* at ¶ 8. Here, upon review of the record, we conclude there is no evidence that the Commissioner abused her discretion in assessing penalties in this

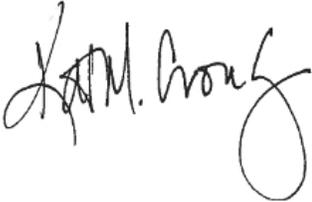
case. However, because the penalty was based on tax due and because the Board has directed that amount to be adjusted, the Commissioner is directed to recalculate the penalty consistent with this decision and order. *See Stingray Pressure Pumping LLC v. McClain*, 10th Dist. Franklin Nos. 18 AP110, 2019-Ohio-5198, ¶¶ 27-28 (adjustment of penalties necessary when tax assessed is modified).

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, we affirm and reverse in part. We remand for further consideration consistent with this opinion.

| BOARD OF TAX APPEALS | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| RESULT OF VOTE | YES | NO |
| Mr. Harbarger |  | |
| Ms. Clements |  | |
| Ms. Allison |  | |

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and complete copy of the action taken by the Board of Tax Appeals of the State of Ohio and entered upon its journal this day, with respect to the captioned matter.



Kathleen M. Crowley, Board Secretary



Ohio Revised Code Section 5739.01 Sales tax definitions.

Effective: October 3, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 33

As used in this chapter:

(A) "Person" includes individuals, receivers, assignees, trustees in bankruptcy, estates, firms, partnerships, associations, joint-stock companies, joint ventures, clubs, societies, corporations, the state and its political subdivisions, and combinations of individuals of any form.

(B) "Sale" and "selling" include all of the following transactions for a consideration in any manner, whether absolutely or conditionally, whether for a price or rental, in money or by exchange, and by any means whatsoever:

(1) All transactions by which title or possession, or both, of tangible personal property, is or is to be transferred, or a license to use or consume tangible personal property is or is to be granted;

(2) All transactions by which lodging by a hotel is or is to be furnished to transient guests;

(3) All transactions by which:

(a) An item of tangible personal property is or is to be repaired, except property, the purchase of which would not be subject to the tax imposed by section 5739.02 of the Revised Code;

(b) An item of tangible personal property is or is to be installed, except property, the purchase of which would not be subject to the tax imposed by section 5739.02 of the Revised Code or property that is or is to be incorporated into and will become a part of a production, transmission, transportation, or distribution system for the delivery of a public utility service;

(c) The service of washing, cleaning, waxing, polishing, or painting a motor vehicle is or is to be furnished;



- (d) Laundry and dry cleaning services are or are to be provided;

- (e) Automatic data processing, computer services, or electronic information services are or are to be provided for use in business when the true object of the transaction is the receipt by the consumer of automatic data processing, computer services, or electronic information services rather than the receipt of personal or professional services to which automatic data processing, computer services, or electronic information services are incidental or supplemental. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, such transactions that occur between members of an affiliated group are not sales. An "affiliated group" means two or more persons related in such a way that one person owns or controls the business operation of another member of the group. In the case of corporations with stock, one corporation owns or controls another if it owns more than fifty per cent of the other corporation's common stock with voting rights.

- (f) Telecommunications service, including prepaid calling service, prepaid wireless calling service, or ancillary service, is or is to be provided, but not including coin-operated telephone service;

- (g) Landscaping and lawn care service is or is to be provided;

- (h) Private investigation and security service is or is to be provided;

- (i) Information services or tangible personal property is provided or ordered by means of a nine hundred telephone call;

- (j) Building maintenance and janitorial service is or is to be provided;

- (k) Exterminating service is or is to be provided;

- (l) Physical fitness facility service is or is to be provided;

- (m) Recreation and sports club service is or is to be provided;

- (n) Satellite broadcasting service is or is to be provided;



(o) Personal care service is or is to be provided to an individual. As used in this division, "personal care service" includes skin care, the application of cosmetics, manicuring, pedicuring, hair removal, tattooing, body piercing, tanning, massage, and other similar services. "Personal care service" does not include a service provided by or on the order of a licensed physician or licensed chiropractor, or the cutting, coloring, or styling of an individual's hair.

(p) The transportation of persons by motor vehicle or aircraft is or is to be provided, when the transportation is entirely within this state, except for transportation provided by an ambulance service, by a transit bus, as defined in section 5735.01 of the Revised Code, and transportation provided by a citizen of the United States holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under 49 U.S.C. 41102;

(q) Motor vehicle towing service is or is to be provided. As used in this division, "motor vehicle towing service" means the towing or conveyance of a wrecked, disabled, or illegally parked motor vehicle.

(r) Snow removal service is or is to be provided. As used in this division, "snow removal service" means the removal of snow by any mechanized means, but does not include the providing of such service by a person that has less than five thousand dollars in sales of such service during the calendar year.

(s) Electronic publishing service is or is to be provided to a consumer for use in business, except that such transactions occurring between members of an affiliated group, as defined in division (B)(3)(e) of this section, are not sales.

(4) All transactions by which printed, imprinted, overprinted, lithographic, multilithic, blueprinted, photostatic, or other productions or reproductions of written or graphic matter are or are to be furnished or transferred;

(5) The production or fabrication of tangible personal property for a consideration for consumers who furnish either directly or indirectly the materials used in the production of fabrication work; and include the furnishing, preparing, or serving for a consideration of any tangible personal property consumed on the premises of the person furnishing, preparing, or serving such tangible personal



property. Except as provided in section 5739.03 of the Revised Code, a construction contract pursuant to which tangible personal property is or is to be incorporated into a structure or improvement on and becoming a part of real property is not a sale of such tangible personal property. The construction contractor is the consumer of such tangible personal property, provided that the sale and installation of carpeting, the sale and installation of agricultural land tile, the sale and erection or installation of portable grain bins, or the provision of landscaping and lawn care service and the transfer of property as part of such service is never a construction contract.

As used in division (B)(5) of this section:

(a) "Agricultural land tile" means fired clay or concrete tile, or flexible or rigid perforated plastic pipe or tubing, incorporated or to be incorporated into a subsurface drainage system appurtenant to land used or to be used primarily in production by farming, agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture. The term does not include such materials when they are or are to be incorporated into a drainage system appurtenant to a building or structure even if the building or structure is used or to be used in such production.

(b) "Portable grain bin" means a structure that is used or to be used by a person engaged in farming or agriculture to shelter the person's grain and that is designed to be disassembled without significant damage to its component parts.

(6) All transactions in which all of the shares of stock of a closely held corporation are transferred, or an ownership interest in a pass-through entity, as defined in section 5733.04 of the Revised Code, is transferred, if the corporation or pass-through entity is not engaging in business and its entire assets consist of boats, planes, motor vehicles, or other tangible personal property operated primarily for the use and enjoyment of the shareholders or owners;

(7) All transactions in which a warranty, maintenance or service contract, or similar agreement by which the vendor of the warranty, contract, or agreement agrees to repair or maintain the tangible personal property of the consumer is or is to be provided;

(8) The transfer of copyrighted motion picture films used solely for advertising purposes, except that the transfer of such films for exhibition purposes is not a sale;



(9) All transactions by which tangible personal property is or is to be stored, except such property that the consumer of the storage holds for sale in the regular course of business;

(10) All transactions in which "guaranteed auto protection" is provided whereby a person promises to pay to the consumer the difference between the amount the consumer receives from motor vehicle insurance and the amount the consumer owes to a person holding title to or a lien on the consumer's motor vehicle in the event the consumer's motor vehicle suffers a total loss under the terms of the motor vehicle insurance policy or is stolen and not recovered, if the protection and its price are included in the purchase or lease agreement;

(11)(a) Except as provided in division (B)(11)(b) of this section, all transactions by which health care services are paid for, reimbursed, provided, delivered, arranged for, or otherwise made available by a medicaid health insuring corporation pursuant to the corporation's contract with the state.

(b) If the centers for medicare and medicaid services of the United States department of health and human services determines that the taxation of transactions described in division (B)(11)(a) of this section constitutes an impermissible health care-related tax under the "Social Security Act," section 1903(w), 42 U.S.C. 1396b(w), and regulations adopted thereunder, the medicaid director shall notify the tax commissioner of that determination. Beginning with the first day of the month following that notification, the transactions described in division (B)(11)(a) of this section are not sales for the purposes of this chapter or Chapter 5741. of the Revised Code. The tax commissioner shall order that the collection of taxes under sections 5739.02, 5739.021, 5739.023, 5739.026, 5741.02, 5741.021, 5741.022, and 5741.023 of the Revised Code shall cease for transactions occurring on or after that date.

(12) All transactions by which a specified digital product is provided for permanent use or less than permanent use, regardless of whether continued payment is required.

Except as provided in this section, "sale" and "selling" do not include transfers of interest in leased property where the original lessee and the terms of the original lease agreement remain unchanged, or professional, insurance, or personal service transactions that involve the transfer of tangible personal property as an inconsequential element, for which no separate charges are made.



(C) "Vendor" means the person providing the service or by whom the transfer effected or license given by a sale is or is to be made or given and, for sales described in division (B)(3)(i) of this section, the telecommunications service vendor that provides the nine hundred telephone service; if two or more persons are engaged in business at the same place of business under a single trade name in which all collections on account of sales by each are made, such persons shall constitute a single vendor.

Physicians, dentists, hospitals, and veterinarians who are engaged in selling tangible personal property as received from others, such as eyeglasses, mouthwashes, dentifrices, or similar articles, are vendors. Veterinarians who are engaged in transferring to others for a consideration drugs, the dispensing of which does not require an order of a licensed veterinarian or physician under federal law, are vendors.

The operator of any peer-to-peer car sharing program shall be considered to be the vendor.

(D)(1) "Consumer" means the person for whom the service is provided, to whom the transfer effected or license given by a sale is or is to be made or given, to whom the service described in division (B)(3)(f) or (i) of this section is charged, or to whom the admission is granted.

(2) Physicians, dentists, hospitals, and blood banks operated by nonprofit institutions and persons licensed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry are consumers of all tangible personal property and services purchased by them in connection with the practice of medicine, dentistry, the rendition of hospital or blood bank service, or the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry. In addition to being consumers of drugs administered by them or by their assistants according to their direction, veterinarians also are consumers of drugs that under federal law may be dispensed only by or upon the order of a licensed veterinarian or physician, when transferred by them to others for a consideration to provide treatment to animals as directed by the veterinarian.

(3) A person who performs a facility management, or similar service contract for a contractee is a consumer of all tangible personal property and services purchased for use in connection with the performance of such contract, regardless of whether title to any such property vests in the contractee. The purchase of such property and services is not subject to the exception for resale under division



(E) of this section.

(4)(a) In the case of a person who purchases printed matter for the purpose of distributing it or having it distributed to the public or to a designated segment of the public, free of charge, that person is the consumer of that printed matter, and the purchase of that printed matter for that purpose is a sale.

(b) In the case of a person who produces, rather than purchases, printed matter for the purpose of distributing it or having it distributed to the public or to a designated segment of the public, free of charge, that person is the consumer of all tangible personal property and services purchased for use or consumption in the production of that printed matter. That person is not entitled to claim exemption under division (B)(42)(f) of section 5739.02 of the Revised Code for any material incorporated into the printed matter or any equipment, supplies, or services primarily used to produce the printed matter.

(c) The distribution of printed matter to the public or to a designated segment of the public, free of charge, is not a sale to the members of the public to whom the printed matter is distributed or to any persons who purchase space in the printed matter for advertising or other purposes.

(5) A person who makes sales of any of the services listed in division (B)(3) of this section is the consumer of any tangible personal property used in performing the service. The purchase of that property is not subject to the resale exception under division (E) of this section.

(6) A person who engages in highway transportation for hire is the consumer of all packaging materials purchased by that person and used in performing the service, except for packaging materials sold by such person in a transaction separate from the service.

(7) In the case of a transaction for health care services under division (B)(11) of this section, a medicaid health insuring corporation is the consumer of such services. The purchase of such services by a medicaid health insuring corporation is not subject to the exception for resale under division (E) of this section or to the exemptions provided under divisions (B)(12), (18), (19), and (22) of section 5739.02 of the Revised Code.



(E) "Retail sale" and "sales at retail" include all sales, except those in which the purpose of the consumer is to resell the thing transferred or benefit of the service provided, by a person engaging in business, in the form in which the same is, or is to be, received by the person.

(F) "Business" includes any activity engaged in by any person with the object of gain, benefit, or advantage, either direct or indirect. "Business" does not include the activity of a person in managing and investing the person's own funds.

(G) "Engaging in business" means commencing, conducting, or continuing in business, and liquidating a business when the liquidator thereof holds itself out to the public as conducting such business. Making a casual sale is not engaging in business.

(H)(1)(a) "Price," except as provided in divisions (H)(2), (3), and (4) of this section, means the total amount of consideration, including cash, credit, property, and services, for which tangible personal property or services are sold, leased, or rented, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise, without any deduction for any of the following:

(i) The vendor's cost of the property sold;

(ii) The cost of materials used, labor or service costs, interest, losses, all costs of transportation to the vendor, all taxes imposed on the vendor, including the tax imposed under Chapter 5751. of the Revised Code, and any other expense of the vendor;

(iii) Charges by the vendor for any services necessary to complete the sale;

(iv) Delivery charges. As used in this division, "delivery charges" means charges by the vendor for preparation and delivery to a location designated by the consumer of tangible personal property or a service, including transportation, shipping, postage, handling, crating, and packing.

(v) Installation charges;

(vi) Credit for any trade-in.



(b) "Price" includes consideration received by the vendor from a third party, if the vendor actually receives the consideration from a party other than the consumer, and the consideration is directly related to a price reduction or discount on the sale; the vendor has an obligation to pass the price reduction or discount through to the consumer; the amount of the consideration attributable to the sale is fixed and determinable by the vendor at the time of the sale of the item to the consumer; and one of the following criteria is met:

(i) The consumer presents a coupon, certificate, or other document to the vendor to claim a price reduction or discount where the coupon, certificate, or document is authorized, distributed, or granted by a third party with the understanding that the third party will reimburse any vendor to whom the coupon, certificate, or document is presented;

(ii) The consumer identifies the consumer's self to the seller as a member of a group or organization entitled to a price reduction or discount. A preferred customer card that is available to any patron does not constitute membership in such a group or organization.

(iii) The price reduction or discount is identified as a third party price reduction or discount on the invoice received by the consumer, or on a coupon, certificate, or other document presented by the consumer.

(c) "Price" does not include any of the following:

(i) Discounts, including cash, term, or coupons that are not reimbursed by a third party that are allowed by a vendor and taken by a consumer on a sale;

(ii) Interest, financing, and carrying charges from credit extended on the sale of tangible personal property or services, if the amount is separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale, or similar document given to the purchaser;

(iii) Any taxes legally imposed directly on the consumer that are separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale, or similar document given to the consumer. For the purpose of this division, the tax imposed under Chapter 5751. of the Revised Code is not a tax directly on the consumer, even if the tax or a portion thereof is separately stated.



(iv) Notwithstanding divisions (H)(1)(b)(i) to (iii) of this section, any discount allowed by an automobile manufacturer to its employee, or to the employee of a supplier, on the purchase of a new motor vehicle from a new motor vehicle dealer in this state.

(v) The dollar value of a gift card that is not sold by a vendor or purchased by a consumer and that is redeemed by the consumer in purchasing tangible personal property or services if the vendor is not reimbursed and does not receive compensation from a third party to cover all or part of the gift card value. For the purposes of this division, a gift card is not sold by a vendor or purchased by a consumer if it is distributed pursuant to an awards, loyalty, or promotional program. Past and present purchases of tangible personal property or services by the consumer shall not be treated as consideration exchanged for a gift card.

(2) In the case of a sale of any new motor vehicle by a new motor vehicle dealer, as defined in section 4517.01 of the Revised Code, in which another motor vehicle is accepted by the dealer as part of the consideration received, "price" has the same meaning as in division (H)(1) of this section, reduced by the credit afforded the consumer by the dealer for the motor vehicle received in trade.

(3) In the case of a sale of any watercraft or outboard motor by a watercraft dealer licensed in accordance with section 1547.543 of the Revised Code, in which another watercraft, watercraft and trailer, or outboard motor is accepted by the dealer as part of the consideration received, "price" has the same meaning as in division (H)(1) of this section, reduced by the credit afforded the consumer by the dealer for the watercraft, watercraft and trailer, or outboard motor received in trade. As used in this division, "watercraft" includes an outdrive unit attached to the watercraft.

(4) In the case of transactions for health care services under division (B)(11) of this section, "price" means the amount of managed care premiums received each month by a medicaid health insuring corporation.

(I) "Receipts" means the total amount of the prices of the sales of vendors, provided that the dollar value of gift cards distributed pursuant to an awards, loyalty, or promotional program, and cash discounts allowed and taken on sales at the time they are consummated are not included, minus any amount deducted as a bad debt pursuant to section 5739.121 of the Revised Code. "Receipts" does



not include the sale price of property returned or services rejected by consumers when the full sale price and tax are refunded either in cash or by credit.

(J) "Place of business" means any location at which a person engages in business.

(K) "Premises" includes any real property or portion thereof upon which any person engages in selling tangible personal property at retail or making retail sales and also includes any real property or portion thereof designated for, or devoted to, use in conjunction with the business engaged in by such person.

(L) "Casual sale" means a sale of an item of tangible personal property that was obtained by the person making the sale, through purchase or otherwise, for the person's own use and was previously subject to any state's taxing jurisdiction on its sale or use, and includes such items acquired for the seller's use that are sold by an auctioneer employed directly by the person for such purpose, provided the location of such sales is not the auctioneer's permanent place of business. As used in this division, "permanent place of business" includes any location where such auctioneer has conducted more than two auctions during the year.

(M) "Hotel" means every establishment kept, used, maintained, advertised, or held out to the public to be a place where sleeping accommodations are offered to guests, in which five or more rooms are used for the accommodation of such guests, whether the rooms are in one or several structures, except as otherwise provided in section 5739.091 of the Revised Code.

(N) "Transient guests" means persons occupying a room or rooms for sleeping accommodations for less than thirty consecutive days.

(O) "Making retail sales" means the effecting of transactions wherein one party is obligated to pay the price and the other party is obligated to provide a service or to transfer title to or possession of the item sold. "Making retail sales" does not include the preliminary acts of promoting or soliciting the retail sales, other than the distribution of printed matter which displays or describes and prices the item offered for sale, nor does it include delivery of a predetermined quantity of tangible personal property or transportation of property or personnel to or from a place where a service is performed.



(P) "Used directly in the rendition of a public utility service" means that property that is to be incorporated into and will become a part of the consumer's production, transmission, transportation, or distribution system and that retains its classification as tangible personal property after such incorporation; fuel or power used in the production, transmission, transportation, or distribution system; and tangible personal property used in the repair and maintenance of the production, transmission, transportation, or distribution system, including only such motor vehicles as are specially designed and equipped for such use. Tangible personal property and services used primarily in providing highway transportation for hire are not used directly in the rendition of a public utility service. In this definition, "public utility" includes a citizen of the United States holding, and required to hold, a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under 49 U.S.C. 41102.

(Q) "Refining" means removing or separating a desirable product from raw or contaminated materials by distillation or physical, mechanical, or chemical processes.

(R) "Assembly" and "assembling" mean attaching or fitting together parts to form a product, but do not include packaging a product.

(S) "Manufacturing operation" means a process in which materials are changed, converted, or transformed into a different state or form from which they previously existed and includes refining materials, assembling parts, and preparing raw materials and parts by mixing, measuring, blending, or otherwise committing such materials or parts to the manufacturing process. "Manufacturing operation" does not include packaging.

(T) "Fiscal officer" means, with respect to a regional transit authority, the secretary-treasurer thereof, and with respect to a county that is a transit authority, the fiscal officer of the county transit board if one is appointed pursuant to section 306.03 of the Revised Code or the county auditor if the board of county commissioners operates the county transit system.

(U) "Transit authority" means a regional transit authority created pursuant to section 306.31 of the Revised Code or a county in which a county transit system is created pursuant to section 306.01 of the Revised Code. For the purposes of this chapter, a transit authority must extend to at least the entire area of a single county. A transit authority that includes territory in more than one county must



include all the area of the most populous county that is a part of such transit authority. County population shall be measured by the most recent census taken by the United States census bureau.

(V) "Legislative authority" means, with respect to a regional transit authority, the board of trustees thereof, and with respect to a county that is a transit authority, the board of county commissioners.

(W) "Territory of the transit authority" means all of the area included within the territorial boundaries of a transit authority as they from time to time exist. Such territorial boundaries must at all times include all the area of a single county or all the area of the most populous county that is a part of such transit authority. County population shall be measured by the most recent census taken by the United States census bureau.

(X) "Providing a service" means providing or furnishing anything described in division (B)(3) of this section for consideration.

(Y)(1)(a) "Automatic data processing" means processing of others' data, including keypunching or similar data entry services together with verification thereof, or providing access to computer equipment for the purpose of processing data.

(b) "Computer services" means providing services consisting of specifying computer hardware configurations and evaluating technical processing characteristics, computer programming, and training of computer programmers and operators, provided in conjunction with and to support the sale, lease, or operation of taxable computer equipment or systems.

(c) "Electronic information services" means providing access to computer equipment by means of telecommunications equipment for the purpose of either of the following:

(i) Examining or acquiring data stored in or accessible to the computer equipment;

(ii) Placing data into the computer equipment to be retrieved by designated recipients with access to the computer equipment.

"Electronic information services" does not include electronic publishing.



(d) "Automatic data processing, computer services, or electronic information services" shall not include personal or professional services.

(2) As used in divisions (B)(3)(e) and (Y)(1) of this section, "personal and professional services" means all services other than automatic data processing, computer services, or electronic information services, including but not limited to:

(a) Accounting and legal services such as advice on tax matters, asset management, budgetary matters, quality control, information security, and auditing and any other situation where the service provider receives data or information and studies, alters, analyzes, interprets, or adjusts such material;

(b) Analyzing business policies and procedures;

(c) Identifying management information needs;

(d) Feasibility studies, including economic and technical analysis of existing or potential computer hardware or software needs and alternatives;

(e) Designing policies, procedures, and custom software for collecting business information, and determining how data should be summarized, sequenced, formatted, processed, controlled, and reported so that it will be meaningful to management;

(f) Developing policies and procedures that document how business events and transactions are to be authorized, executed, and controlled;

(g) Testing of business procedures;

(h) Training personnel in business procedure applications;

(i) Providing credit information to users of such information by a consumer reporting agency, as defined in the "Fair Credit Reporting Act," 84 Stat. 1114, 1129 (1970), 15 U.S.C. 1681a(f), or as



hereafter amended, including but not limited to gathering, organizing, analyzing, recording, and furnishing such information by any oral, written, graphic, or electronic medium;

(j) Providing debt collection services by any oral, written, graphic, or electronic means;

(k) Providing digital advertising services;

(l) Providing services to electronically file any federal, state, or local individual income tax return, report, or other related document or schedule with a federal, state, or local government entity or to electronically remit a payment of any such individual income tax to such an entity. For the purpose of this division, "individual income tax" does not include federal, state, or local taxes withheld by an employer from an employee's compensation.

The services listed in divisions (Y)(2)(a) to (l) of this section are not automatic data processing or computer services.

(Z) "Highway transportation for hire" means the transportation of personal property belonging to others for consideration by any of the following:

(1) The holder of a permit or certificate issued by this state or the United States authorizing the holder to engage in transportation of personal property belonging to others for consideration over or on highways, roadways, streets, or any similar public thoroughfare;

(2) A person who engages in the transportation of personal property belonging to others for consideration over or on highways, roadways, streets, or any similar public thoroughfare but who could not have engaged in such transportation on December 11, 1985, unless the person was the holder of a permit or certificate of the types described in division (Z)(1) of this section;

(3) A person who leases a motor vehicle to and operates it for a person described by division (Z)(1) or (2) of this section.

(AA)(1) "Telecommunications service" means the electronic transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals to a point, or between or among points.



"Telecommunications service" includes such transmission, conveyance, or routing in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, code, or protocol of the content for purposes of transmission, conveyance, or routing without regard to whether the service is referred to as voice-over internet protocol service or is classified by the federal communications commission as enhanced or value-added. "Telecommunications service" does not include any of the following:

- (a) Data processing and information services that allow data to be generated, acquired, stored, processed, or retrieved and delivered by an electronic transmission to a consumer where the consumer's primary purpose for the underlying transaction is the processed data or information;
 - (b) Installation or maintenance of wiring or equipment on a customer's premises;
 - (c) Tangible personal property;
 - (d) Advertising, including directory advertising;
 - (e) Billing and collection services provided to third parties;
 - (f) Internet access service;
 - (g) Radio and television audio and video programming services, regardless of the medium, including the furnishing of transmission, conveyance, and routing of such services by the programming service provider. Radio and television audio and video programming services include, but are not limited to, cable service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. 522(6), and audio and video programming services delivered by commercial mobile radio service providers, as defined in 47 C.F.R. 20.3;
 - (h) Ancillary service;
 - (i) Digital products delivered electronically, including software, music, video, reading materials, or ring tones.
- (2) "Ancillary service" means a service that is associated with or incidental to the provision of telecommunications service, including conference bridging service, detailed telecommunications



billing service, directory assistance, vertical service, and voice mail service. As used in this division:

(a) "Conference bridging service" means an ancillary service that links two or more participants of an audio or video conference call, including providing a telephone number. "Conference bridging service" does not include telecommunications services used to reach the conference bridge.

(b) "Detailed telecommunications billing service" means an ancillary service of separately stating information pertaining to individual calls on a customer's billing statement.

(c) "Directory assistance" means an ancillary service of providing telephone number or address information.

(d) "Vertical service" means an ancillary service that is offered in connection with one or more telecommunications services, which offers advanced calling features that allow customers to identify callers and manage multiple calls and call connections, including conference bridging service.

(e) "Voice mail service" means an ancillary service that enables the customer to store, send, or receive recorded messages. "Voice mail service" does not include any vertical services that the customer may be required to have in order to utilize the voice mail service.

(3) "900 service" means an inbound toll telecommunications service purchased by a subscriber that allows the subscriber's customers to call in to the subscriber's prerecorded announcement or live service, and which is typically marketed under the name "900 service" and any subsequent numbers designated by the federal communications commission. "900 service" does not include the charge for collection services provided by the seller of the telecommunications service to the subscriber, or services or products sold by the subscriber to the subscriber's customer.

(4) "Prepaid calling service" means the right to access exclusively telecommunications services, which must be paid for in advance and which enables the origination of calls using an access number or authorization code, whether manually or electronically dialed, and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(5) "Prepaid wireless calling service" means a telecommunications service that provides the right to



utilize mobile telecommunications service as well as other non-telecommunications services, including the download of digital products delivered electronically, and content and ancillary services, that must be paid for in advance and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(6) "Value-added non-voice data service" means a telecommunications service in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, content, code, or protocol of the information or data primarily for a purpose other than transmission, conveyance, or routing.

(7) "Coin-operated telephone service" means a telecommunications service paid for by inserting money into a telephone accepting direct deposits of money to operate.

(8) "Customer" has the same meaning as in section 5739.034 of the Revised Code.

(BB) "Laundry and dry cleaning services" means removing soil or dirt from towels, linens, articles of clothing, or other fabric items that belong to others and supplying towels, linens, articles of clothing, or other fabric items. "Laundry and dry cleaning services" does not include the provision of self-service facilities for use by consumers to remove soil or dirt from towels, linens, articles of clothing, or other fabric items.

(CC) "Magazines distributed as controlled circulation publications" means magazines containing at least twenty-four pages, at least twenty-five per cent editorial content, issued at regular intervals four or more times a year, and circulated without charge to the recipient, provided that such magazines are not owned or controlled by individuals or business concerns which conduct such publications as an auxiliary to, and essentially for the advancement of the main business or calling of, those who own or control them.

(DD) "Landscaping and lawn care service" means the services of planting, seeding, sodding, removing, cutting, trimming, pruning, mulching, aerating, applying chemicals, watering, fertilizing, and providing similar services to establish, promote, or control the growth of trees, shrubs, flowers, grass, ground cover, and other flora, or otherwise maintaining a lawn or landscape grown or maintained by the owner for ornamentation or other nonagricultural purpose. However, "landscaping and lawn care service" does not include the providing of such services by a person who has less than



five thousand dollars in sales of such services during the calendar year.

(EE) "Private investigation and security service" means the performance of any activity for which the provider of such service is required to be licensed pursuant to Chapter 4749. of the Revised Code, or would be required to be so licensed in performing such services in this state, and also includes the services of conducting polygraph examinations and of monitoring or overseeing the activities on or in, or the condition of, the consumer's home, business, or other facility by means of electronic or similar monitoring devices. "Private investigation and security service" does not include special duty services provided by off-duty police officers, deputy sheriffs, and other peace officers regularly employed by the state or a political subdivision.

(FF) "Information services" means providing conversation, giving consultation or advice, playing or making a voice or other recording, making or keeping a record of the number of callers, and any other service provided to a consumer by means of a nine hundred telephone call, except when the nine hundred telephone call is the means by which the consumer makes a contribution to a recognized charity.

(GG) "Research and development" means designing, creating, or formulating new or enhanced products, equipment, or manufacturing processes, and also means conducting scientific or technological inquiry and experimentation in the physical sciences with the goal of increasing scientific knowledge which may reveal the bases for new or enhanced products, equipment, or manufacturing processes.

(HH) "Qualified research and development equipment" means either of the following:

(1) Capitalized tangible personal property, and leased personal property that would be capitalized if purchased, used by a person primarily to perform research and development;

(2) Any tangible personal property used by a megaproject operator primarily to perform research and development at the site of a megaproject that satisfies the criteria described in division (A)(11)(a)(ii) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code during the period that the megaproject operator has an agreement for such megaproject with the tax credit authority under division (D) of that section that remains in effect and has not expired or been terminated.



"Qualified research and development equipment" does not include tangible personal property primarily used in testing, as defined in division (A)(4) of section 5739.011 of the Revised Code, or used for recording or storing test results, unless such property is primarily used by the consumer in testing the product, equipment, or manufacturing process being created, designed, or formulated by the consumer in the research and development activity or in recording or storing such test results.

(II) "Building maintenance and janitorial service" means cleaning the interior or exterior of a building and any tangible personal property located therein or thereon, including any services incidental to such cleaning for which no separate charge is made. However, "building maintenance and janitorial service" does not include the providing of such service by a person who has less than five thousand dollars in sales of such service during the calendar year. As used in this division, "cleaning" does not include sanitation services necessary for an establishment described in 21 U.S.C. 608 to comply with rules and regulations adopted pursuant to that section.

(JJ) "Exterminating service" means eradicating or attempting to eradicate vermin infestations from a building or structure, or the area surrounding a building or structure, and includes activities to inspect, detect, or prevent vermin infestation of a building or structure.

(KK) "Physical fitness facility service" means all transactions by which a membership is granted, maintained, or renewed, including initiation fees, membership dues, renewal fees, monthly minimum fees, and other similar fees and dues, by a physical fitness facility such as an athletic club, health spa, or gymnasium, which entitles the member to use the facility for physical exercise.

(LL) "Recreation and sports club service" means all transactions by which a membership is granted, maintained, or renewed, including initiation fees, membership dues, renewal fees, monthly minimum fees, and other similar fees and dues, by a recreation and sports club, which entitles the member to use the facilities of the organization. "Recreation and sports club" means an organization that has ownership of, or controls or leases on a continuing, long-term basis, the facilities used by its members and includes an aviation club, gun or shooting club, yacht club, card club, swimming club, tennis club, golf club, country club, riding club, amateur sports club, or similar organization.

(MM) "Livestock" means farm animals commonly raised for food, food production, or other



agricultural purposes, including, but not limited to, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, and captive deer. "Livestock" does not include invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, domestic pets, animals for use in laboratories or for exhibition, or other animals not commonly raised for food or food production.

(NN) "Livestock structure" means a building or structure used exclusively for the housing, raising, feeding, or sheltering of livestock, and includes feed storage or handling structures and structures for livestock waste handling.

(OO) "Horticulture" means the growing, cultivation, and production of flowers, fruits, herbs, vegetables, sod, mushrooms, and nursery stock. As used in this division, "nursery stock" has the same meaning as in section 927.51 of the Revised Code.

(PP) "Horticulture structure" means a building or structure used exclusively for the commercial growing, raising, or overwintering of horticultural products, and includes the area used for stocking, storing, and packing horticultural products when done in conjunction with the production of those products.

(QQ) "Newspaper" means an unbound publication bearing a title or name that is regularly published, at least as frequently as biweekly, and distributed from a fixed place of business to the public in a specific geographic area, and that contains a substantial amount of news matter of international, national, or local events of interest to the general public.

(RR)(1) "Feminine hygiene products" means tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary napkins, and other similar tangible personal property designed for feminine hygiene in connection with the human menstrual cycle, but does not include grooming and hygiene products.

(2) "Grooming and hygiene products" means soaps and cleaning solutions, shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, antiperspirants, and sun tan lotions and screens, regardless of whether any of these products are over-the-counter drugs.

(3) "Over-the-counter drugs" means a drug that contains a label that identifies the product as a drug as required by 21 C.F.R. 201.66, which label includes a drug facts panel or a statement of the active ingredients with a list of those ingredients contained in the compound, substance, or preparation.



(SS)(1) "Lease" or "rental" means any transfer of the possession or control of tangible personal property for a fixed or indefinite term, for consideration. "Lease" or "rental" includes future options to purchase or extend, and agreements described in 26 U.S.C. 7701(h)(1) covering motor vehicles and trailers where the amount of consideration may be increased or decreased by reference to the amount realized upon the sale or disposition of the property. "Lease" or "rental" does not include:

(a) A transfer of possession or control of tangible personal property under a security agreement or a deferred payment plan that requires the transfer of title upon completion of the required payments;

(b) A transfer of possession or control of tangible personal property under an agreement that requires the transfer of title upon completion of required payments and payment of an option price that does not exceed the greater of one hundred dollars or one per cent of the total required payments;

(c) Providing tangible personal property along with an operator for a fixed or indefinite period of time, if the operator is necessary for the property to perform as designed. For purposes of this division, the operator must do more than maintain, inspect, or set up the tangible personal property.

(2) "Lease" and "rental," as defined in division (SS) of this section, shall not apply to leases or rentals that exist before June 26, 2003.

(3) "Lease" and "rental" have the same meaning as in division (SS)(1) of this section regardless of whether a transaction is characterized as a lease or rental under generally accepted accounting principles, the Internal Revenue Code, Title XIII of the Revised Code, or other federal, state, or local laws.

(TT) "Mobile telecommunications service" has the same meaning as in the "Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act," Pub. L. No. 106-252, 114 Stat. 631 (2000), 4 U.S.C.A. 124(7), as amended, and, on and after August 1, 2003, includes related fees and ancillary services, including universal service fees, detailed billing service, directory assistance, service initiation, voice mail service, and vertical services, such as caller ID and three-way calling.

(UU) "Certified service provider" has the same meaning as in section 5740.01 of the Revised Code.



(VV) "Satellite broadcasting service" means the distribution or broadcasting of programming or services by satellite directly to the subscriber's receiving equipment without the use of ground receiving or distribution equipment, except the subscriber's receiving equipment or equipment used in the uplink process to the satellite, and includes all service and rental charges, premium channels or other special services, installation and repair service charges, and any other charges having any connection with the provision of the satellite broadcasting service.

(WW) "Tangible personal property" means personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or touched, or that is in any other manner perceptible to the senses. For purposes of this chapter and Chapter 5741. of the Revised Code, "tangible personal property" includes motor vehicles, electricity, water, gas, steam, and prewritten computer software.

(XX) "Municipal gas utility" means a municipal corporation that owns or operates a system for the distribution of natural gas.

(YY) "Computer" means an electronic device that accepts information in digital or similar form and manipulates it for a result based on a sequence of instructions.

(ZZ) "Computer software" means a set of coded instructions designed to cause a computer or automatic data processing equipment to perform a task.

(AAA) "Delivered electronically" means delivery of computer software from the seller to the purchaser by means other than tangible storage media.

(BBB) "Prewritten computer software" means computer software, including prewritten upgrades, that is not designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser. The combining of two or more prewritten computer software programs or prewritten portions thereof does not cause the combination to be other than prewritten computer software. "Prewritten computer software" includes software designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser when it is sold to a person other than the purchaser. If a person modifies or enhances computer software of which the person is not the author or creator, the person shall be deemed to be the author or creator only of such person's modifications



or enhancements. Prewritten computer software or a prewritten portion thereof that is modified or enhanced to any degree, where such modification or enhancement is designed and developed to the specifications of a specific purchaser, remains prewritten computer software; provided, however, that where there is a reasonable, separately stated charge or an invoice or other statement of the price given to the purchaser for the modification or enhancement, the modification or enhancement shall not constitute prewritten computer software.

(CCC)(1) "Food" means substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value. "Food" does not include alcoholic beverages, dietary supplements, soft drinks, or tobacco.

(2) As used in division (CCC)(1) of this section:

(a) "Dietary supplements" means any product, other than tobacco, that is intended to supplement the diet and that is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap, or liquid form, or, if not intended for ingestion in such a form, is not represented as conventional food for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet; that is required to be labeled as a dietary supplement, identifiable by the "supplement facts" box found on the label, as required by 21 C.F.R. 101.36; and that contains one or more of the following dietary ingredients:

(i) A vitamin;

(ii) A mineral;

(iii) An herb or other botanical;

(iv) An amino acid;

(v) A dietary substance for use by humans to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake;

(vi) A concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combination of any ingredient described in



divisions (CCC)(2)(a)(i) to (v) of this section.

(b) "Soft drinks" means nonalcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. "Soft drinks" does not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes, or that contains greater than fifty per cent vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

(DDD) "Drug" means a compound, substance, or preparation, and any component of a compound, substance, or preparation, other than food, dietary supplements, or alcoholic beverages that is recognized in the official United States pharmacopoeia, official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United States, or official national formulary, and supplements to them; is intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease; or is intended to affect the structure or any function of the body.

(EEE) "Prescription" means an order, formula, or recipe issued in any form of oral, written, electronic, or other means of transmission by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by the laws of this state to issue a prescription.

(FFF) "Durable medical equipment" means equipment, including repair and replacement parts for such equipment, that can withstand repeated use, is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose, generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury, and is not worn in or on the body. "Durable medical equipment" does not include mobility enhancing equipment.

(GGG) "Mobility enhancing equipment" means equipment, including repair and replacement parts for such equipment, that is primarily and customarily used to provide or increase the ability to move from one place to another and is appropriate for use either in a home or a motor vehicle, that is not generally used by persons with normal mobility, and that does not include any motor vehicle or equipment on a motor vehicle normally provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer. "Mobility enhancing equipment" does not include durable medical equipment.

(HHH) "Prosthetic device" means a replacement, corrective, or supportive device, including repair and replacement parts for the device, worn on or in the human body to artificially replace a missing portion of the body, prevent or correct physical deformity or malfunction, or support a weak or



deformed portion of the body. As used in this division, before July 1, 2019, "prosthetic device" does not include corrective eyeglasses, contact lenses, or dental prosthesis. On or after July 1, 2019, "prosthetic device" does not include dental prosthesis but does include corrective eyeglasses or contact lenses.

(III)(1) "Fractional aircraft ownership program" means a program in which persons within an affiliated group sell and manage fractional ownership program aircraft, provided that at least one hundred airworthy aircraft are operated in the program and the program meets all of the following criteria:

(a) Management services are provided by at least one program manager within an affiliated group on behalf of the fractional owners.

(b) Each program aircraft is owned or possessed by at least one fractional owner.

(c) Each fractional owner owns or possesses at least a one-sixteenth interest in at least one fixed-wing program aircraft.

(d) A dry-lease aircraft interchange arrangement is in effect among all of the fractional owners.

(e) Multi-year program agreements are in effect regarding the fractional ownership, management services, and dry-lease aircraft interchange arrangement aspects of the program.

(2) As used in division (III)(1) of this section:

(a) "Affiliated group" has the same meaning as in division (B)(3)(e) of this section.

(b) "Fractional owner" means a person that owns or possesses at least a one-sixteenth interest in a program aircraft and has entered into the agreements described in division (III)(1)(e) of this section.

(c) "Fractional ownership program aircraft" or "program aircraft" means a turbojet aircraft that is owned or possessed by a fractional owner and that has been included in a dry-lease aircraft interchange arrangement and agreement under divisions (III)(1)(d) and (e) of this section, or an



aircraft a program manager owns or possesses primarily for use in a fractional aircraft ownership program.

(d) "Management services" means administrative and aviation support services furnished under a fractional aircraft ownership program in accordance with a management services agreement under division (III)(1)(e) of this section, and offered by the program manager to the fractional owners, including, at a minimum, the establishment and implementation of safety guidelines; the coordination of the scheduling of the program aircraft and crews; program aircraft maintenance; program aircraft insurance; crew training for crews employed, furnished, or contracted by the program manager or the fractional owner; the satisfaction of record-keeping requirements; and the development and use of an operations manual and a maintenance manual for the fractional aircraft ownership program.

(e) "Program manager" means the person that offers management services to fractional owners pursuant to a management services agreement under division (III)(1)(e) of this section.

(JJJ) "Electronic publishing" means providing access to one or more of the following primarily for business customers, including the federal government or a state government or a political subdivision thereof, to conduct research: news; business, financial, legal, consumer, or credit materials; editorials, columns, reader commentary, or features; photos or images; archival or research material; legal notices, identity verification, or public records; scientific, educational, instructional, technical, professional, trade, or other literary materials; or other similar information which has been gathered and made available by the provider to the consumer in an electronic format. Providing electronic publishing includes the functions necessary for the acquisition, formatting, editing, storage, and dissemination of data or information that is the subject of a sale.

(KKK) "Medicaid health insuring corporation" means a health insuring corporation that holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 1751. of the Revised Code and is under contract with the department of medicaid pursuant to section 5167.10 of the Revised Code.

(LLL) "Managed care premium" means any premium, capitation, or other payment a medicaid health insuring corporation receives for providing or arranging for the provision of health care services to its members or enrollees residing in this state.



(MMM) "Captive deer" means deer and other cervidae that have been legally acquired, or their offspring, that are privately owned for agricultural or farming purposes.

(NNN) "Gift card" means a document, card, certificate, or other record, whether tangible or intangible, that may be redeemed by a consumer for a dollar value when making a purchase of tangible personal property or services.

(OOO) "Specified digital product" means an electronically transferred digital audiovisual work, digital audio work, or digital book.

As used in division (OOO) of this section:

(1) "Digital audiovisual work" means a series of related images that, when shown in succession, impart an impression of motion, together with accompanying sounds, if any.

(2) "Digital audio work" means a work that results from the fixation of a series of musical, spoken, or other sounds, including digitized sound files that are downloaded onto a device and that may be used to alert the customer with respect to a communication.

(3) "Digital book" means a work that is generally recognized in the ordinary and usual sense as a book.

(4) "Electronically transferred" means obtained by the purchaser by means other than tangible storage media.

(PPP) "Digital advertising services" means providing access, by means of telecommunications equipment, to computer equipment that is used to enter, upload, download, review, manipulate, store, add, or delete data for the purpose of electronically displaying, delivering, placing, or transferring promotional advertisements to potential customers about products or services or about industry or business brands.

(QQQ) "Peer-to-peer car sharing program" has the same meaning as in section 4516.01 of the



Revised Code.

(RRR) "Megaproject" and "megaproject operator" have the same meanings as in section 122.17 of the Revised Code.

(SSS)(1) "Diaper" means an absorbent garment worn by humans who are incapable of, or have difficulty, controlling their bladder or bowel movements.

(2) "Children's diaper" means a diaper marketed to be worn by children.

(3) "Adult diaper" means a diaper other than a children's diaper.

(TTT) "Sales tax holiday" means three or more dates on which sales of all eligible tangible personal property are exempt from the taxes levied under sections 5739.02, 5739.021, 5739.023, 5739.026, 5741.02, 5741.021, 5741.022, and 5741.023 of the Revised Code.

(UUU) "Eligible tangible personal property" means any item of tangible personal property that meets both of the following requirements:

(1) The price of the item does not exceed five hundred dollars;

(2) The item is not a watercraft or outboard motor required to be titled pursuant to Chapter 1548. of the Revised Code, a motor vehicle, an alcoholic beverage, tobacco, a vapor product as defined in section 5743.01 of the Revised Code, or an item that contains marijuana as defined in section 3796.01 of the Revised Code.

(VVV) "Alcoholic beverages" means beverages that are suitable for human consumption and contain one-half of one per cent or more of alcohol by volume.

(WWW) "Tobacco" means cigarettes, cigars, chewing or pipe tobacco, or any other item that contains tobacco.



Ohio Revised Code

Section 5739.02 Levy of sales tax - purpose - rate - exemptions.

Effective: October 3, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 33

For the purpose of providing revenue with which to meet the needs of the state, for the use of the general revenue fund of the state, for the purpose of securing a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state, for the purpose of affording revenues, in addition to those from general property taxes, permitted under constitutional limitations, and from other sources, for the support of local governmental functions, and for the purpose of reimbursing the state for the expense of administering this chapter, an excise tax is hereby levied on each retail sale made in this state.

(A)(1) The tax shall be collected as provided in section 5739.025 of the Revised Code. The rate of the tax shall be five and three-fourths per cent. The tax applies and is collectible when the sale is made, regardless of the time when the price is paid or delivered.

(2) In the case of the lease or rental, with a fixed term of more than thirty days or an indefinite term with a minimum period of more than thirty days, of any motor vehicles designed by the manufacturer to carry a load of not more than one ton, watercraft, outboard motor, or aircraft, or of any tangible personal property, other than motor vehicles designed by the manufacturer to carry a load of more than one ton, to be used by the lessee or renter primarily for business purposes, the tax shall be collected by the vendor at the time the lease or rental is consummated and shall be calculated by the vendor on the basis of the total amount to be paid by the lessee or renter under the lease agreement. If the total amount of the consideration for the lease or rental includes amounts that are not calculated at the time the lease or rental is executed, the tax shall be calculated and collected by the vendor at the time such amounts are billed to the lessee or renter. In the case of an open-end lease or rental, the tax shall be calculated by the vendor on the basis of the total amount to be paid during the initial fixed term of the lease or rental, and for each subsequent renewal period as it comes due. As used in this division, "motor vehicle" has the same meaning as in section 4501.01 of the Revised Code, and "watercraft" includes an outdrive unit attached to the watercraft.

A lease with a renewal clause and a termination penalty or similar provision that applies if the



renewal clause is not exercised is presumed to be a sham transaction. In such a case, the tax shall be calculated and paid on the basis of the entire length of the lease period, including any renewal periods, until the termination penalty or similar provision no longer applies. The taxpayer shall bear the burden, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the transaction or series of transactions is not a sham transaction.

(3) Except as provided in division (A)(2) of this section, in the case of a sale, the price of which consists in whole or in part of the lease or rental of tangible personal property, the tax shall be measured by the installments of that lease or rental.

(4) In the case of a sale of a physical fitness facility service or recreation and sports club service, the price of which consists in whole or in part of a membership for the receipt of the benefit of the service, the tax applicable to the sale shall be measured by the installments thereof.

(B) The tax does not apply to the following:

(1) Sales to the state or any of its political subdivisions, or to any other state or its political subdivisions if the laws of that state exempt from taxation sales made to this state and its political subdivisions including either of the following:

(a) Sales or rentals of tangible personal property by construction contractors or subcontractors to provide temporary traffic control or temporary structures, including material and equipment used to comply with the Ohio manual of uniform traffic control devices adopted pursuant to section 4511.09 of the Revised Code, whereby the state or any of its political subdivisions take title to, or permanent or temporary possession of, such tangible personal property for use by the state or any of its political subdivisions, including for use by the general public thereof;

(b) Sales of services by construction contractors or subcontractors to provide temporary traffic control or structures, including labor used to comply with the Ohio manual of uniform traffic control devices adopted pursuant to section 4511.09 of the Revised Code, whereby the state or any of its political subdivisions, including the general public thereof, receive the benefit of such services.

As used in divisions (B)(1)(a) and (b) of this section, "temporary structures" include temporary



roads, bridges, drains, and pavement.

(2) Sales of food for human consumption off the premises where sold;

(3) Sales of food sold to students only in a cafeteria, dormitory, fraternity, or sorority maintained in a private, public, or parochial school, college, or university;

(4) Sales of newspapers and sales or transfers of magazines distributed as controlled circulation publications;

(5) The furnishing, preparing, or serving of meals without charge by an employer to an employee provided the employer records the meals as part compensation for services performed or work done;

(6)(a) Sales of motor fuel upon receipt, use, distribution, or sale of which in this state a tax is imposed by the law of this state, but this exemption shall not apply to the sale of motor fuel on which a refund of the tax is allowable under division (A) of section 5735.14 of the Revised Code; and the tax commissioner may deduct the amount of tax levied by this section applicable to the price of motor fuel when granting a refund of motor fuel tax pursuant to division (A) of section 5735.14 of the Revised Code and shall cause the amount deducted to be paid into the general revenue fund of this state;

(b) Sales of motor fuel other than that described in division (B)(6)(a) of this section and used for powering a refrigeration unit on a vehicle other than one used primarily to provide comfort to the operator or occupants of the vehicle.

(7) Sales of natural gas by a natural gas company or municipal gas utility, of water by a water-works company, or of steam by a heating company, if in each case the thing sold is delivered to consumers through pipes or conduits, and all sales of communications services by a telegraph company, all terms as defined in section 5727.01 of the Revised Code, and sales of electricity delivered through wires;

(8) Casual sales by a person, or auctioneer employed directly by the person to conduct such sales, except as to such sales of motor vehicles, watercraft or outboard motors required to be titled under



section 1548.06 of the Revised Code, watercraft documented with the United States coast guard, snowmobiles, and all-purpose vehicles as defined in section 4519.01 of the Revised Code;

(9)(a) Sales of services or tangible personal property, other than motor vehicles, mobile homes, and manufactured homes, by churches, organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or nonprofit organizations operated exclusively for charitable purposes as defined in division (B)(12) of this section, provided that the number of days on which such tangible personal property or services, other than items never subject to the tax, are sold does not exceed six in any calendar year, except as otherwise provided in division (B)(9)(b) of this section. If the number of days on which such sales are made exceeds six in any calendar year, the church or organization shall be considered to be engaged in business and all subsequent sales by it shall be subject to the tax. In counting the number of days, all sales by groups within a church or within an organization shall be considered to be sales of that church or organization.

(b) The limitation on the number of days on which tax-exempt sales may be made by a church or organization under division (B)(9)(a) of this section does not apply to sales made by student clubs and other groups of students of a primary or secondary school, or a parent-teacher association, booster group, or similar organization that raises money to support or fund curricular or extracurricular activities of a primary or secondary school.

(c) Divisions (B)(9)(a) and (b) of this section do not apply to sales by a noncommercial educational radio or television broadcasting station.

(10) Sales not within the taxing power of this state under the Constitution or laws of the United States or the Constitution of this state including either of the following:

(a) Sales or rentals of tangible personal property by construction contractors or subcontractors to provide temporary traffic control or temporary structures, including material and equipment used to comply with the Ohio manual of uniform traffic control devices adopted pursuant to section 4511.09 of the Revised Code, whereby the United States takes title to, or permanent or temporary possession of, such tangible personal property for use by the United States including for use by the general public thereof;



(b) Sales of services by construction contractors or subcontractors to provide temporary traffic control or structures, including labor used to comply with the Ohio manual of uniform traffic control devices adopted pursuant to section 4511.09 of the Revised Code, whereby the United States, including the general public thereof, receives the benefit of such services.

As used in divisions (B)(10)(a) and (b) of this section, "temporary structures" include temporary roads, bridges, drains, and pavement.

(11) Except for transactions that are sales under division (B)(3)(p) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code, the transportation of persons or property, unless the transportation is by a private investigation and security service;

(12) Sales of tangible personal property or services to churches, to organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and to any other nonprofit organizations operated exclusively for charitable purposes in this state, no part of the net income of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and no substantial part of the activities of which consists of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; sales to offices administering one or more homes for the aged or one or more hospital facilities exempt under section 140.08 of the Revised Code; and sales to organizations described in division (D) of section 5709.12 of the Revised Code.

"Charitable purposes" means the relief of poverty; the improvement of health through the alleviation of illness, disease, or injury; the operation of an organization exclusively for the provision of professional, laundry, printing, and purchasing services to hospitals or charitable institutions; the operation of a home for the aged, as defined in section 5701.13 of the Revised Code; the operation of a radio or television broadcasting station that is licensed by the federal communications commission as a noncommercial educational radio or television station; the operation of a nonprofit animal adoption service or a county humane society; the promotion of education by an institution of learning that maintains a faculty of qualified instructors, teaches regular continuous courses of study, and confers a recognized diploma upon completion of a specific curriculum; the operation of a parent-teacher association, booster group, or similar organization primarily engaged in the promotion and support of the curricular or extracurricular activities of a primary or secondary school; the operation of a community or area center in which presentations in music, dramatics, the arts, and related fields



are made in order to foster public interest and education therein; the production of performances in music, dramatics, and the arts; or the promotion of education by an organization engaged in carrying on research in, or the dissemination of, scientific and technological knowledge and information primarily for the public.

Nothing in this division shall be deemed to exempt sales to any organization for use in the operation or carrying on of a trade or business, or sales to a home for the aged for use in the operation of independent living facilities as defined in division (A) of section 5709.12 of the Revised Code.

(13) Building and construction materials and services sold to construction contractors for incorporation into a structure or improvement to real property under a construction contract with this state or a political subdivision of this state, or with the United States government or any of its agencies; building and construction materials and services sold to construction contractors for incorporation into a structure or improvement to real property that are accepted for ownership by this state or any of its political subdivisions, or by the United States government or any of its agencies at the time of completion of the structures or improvements; building and construction materials sold to construction contractors for incorporation into a horticulture structure or livestock structure for a person engaged in the business of horticulture or producing livestock; building materials and services sold to a construction contractor for incorporation into a house of public worship or religious education, or a building used exclusively for charitable purposes under a construction contract with an organization whose purpose is as described in division (B)(12) of this section; building materials and services sold to a construction contractor for incorporation into a building under a construction contract with an organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 when the building is to be used exclusively for the organization's exempt purposes; building and construction materials sold for incorporation into the original construction of a sports facility under section 307.696 of the Revised Code; building and construction materials and services sold to a construction contractor for incorporation into real property outside this state if such materials and services, when sold to a construction contractor in the state in which the real property is located for incorporation into real property in that state, would be exempt from a tax on sales levied by that state; building and construction materials for incorporation into a transportation facility pursuant to a public-private agreement entered into under sections 5501.70 to 5501.83 of the Revised Code; until one calendar year after the construction of a convention center that qualifies for property tax exemption under section 5709.084 of the Revised Code is completed, building and



construction materials and services sold to a construction contractor for incorporation into the real property comprising that convention center; and building and construction materials sold for incorporation into a structure or improvement to real property that is used primarily as, or primarily in support of, a manufacturing facility or research and development facility and that is to be owned by a megaproject operator upon completion and located at the site of a megaproject that satisfies the criteria described in division (A)(11)(a)(ii) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code, provided that the sale occurs during the period that the megaproject operator has an agreement for such megaproject with the tax credit authority under division (D) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code that remains in effect and has not expired or been terminated.

(14) Sales of ships or vessels or rail rolling stock used or to be used principally in interstate or foreign commerce, and repairs, alterations, fuel, and lubricants for such ships or vessels or rail rolling stock;

(15) Sales to persons primarily engaged in any of the activities mentioned in division (B)(42)(a), (g), or (h) of this section, to persons engaged in making retail sales, or to persons who purchase for sale from a manufacturer tangible personal property that was produced by the manufacturer in accordance with specific designs provided by the purchaser, of packages, including material, labels, and parts for packages, and of machinery, equipment, and material for use primarily in packaging tangible personal property produced for sale, including any machinery, equipment, and supplies used to make labels or packages, to prepare packages or products for labeling, or to label packages or products, by or on the order of the person doing the packaging, or sold at retail. "Packages" includes bags, baskets, cartons, crates, boxes, cans, bottles, bindings, wrappings, and other similar devices and containers, but does not include motor vehicles or bulk tanks, trailers, or similar devices attached to motor vehicles. "Packaging" means placing in a package. Division (B)(15) of this section does not apply to persons engaged in highway transportation for hire.

(16) Sales of food to persons using supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to purchase the food. As used in this division, "food" has the same meaning as in 7 U.S.C. 2012 and federal regulations adopted pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

(17) Sales to persons engaged in farming, agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture, of tangible personal property for use or consumption primarily in the production by farming, agriculture,



horticulture, or floriculture of other tangible personal property for use or consumption primarily in the production of tangible personal property for sale by farming, agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture; or material and parts for incorporation into any such tangible personal property for use or consumption in production; and of tangible personal property for such use or consumption in the conditioning or holding of products produced by and for such use, consumption, or sale by persons engaged in farming, agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture, except where such property is incorporated into real property;

(18) Sales of drugs for a human being that may be dispensed only pursuant to a prescription; insulin as recognized in the official United States pharmacopoeia; urine and blood testing materials when used by diabetics or persons with hypoglycemia to test for glucose or acetone; hypodermic syringes and needles when used by diabetics for insulin injections; epoetin alfa when purchased for use in the treatment of persons with medical disease; hospital beds when purchased by hospitals, nursing homes, or other medical facilities; and medical oxygen and medical oxygen-dispensing equipment when purchased by hospitals, nursing homes, or other medical facilities;

(19) Sales of prosthetic devices, durable medical equipment for home use, or mobility enhancing equipment, when made pursuant to a prescription and when such devices or equipment are for use by a human being.

(20) Sales of emergency and fire protection vehicles and equipment to nonprofit organizations for use solely in providing fire protection and emergency services, including trauma care and emergency medical services, for political subdivisions of the state;

(21) Sales of tangible personal property manufactured in this state, if sold by the manufacturer in this state to a retailer for use in the retail business of the retailer outside of this state and if possession is taken from the manufacturer by the purchaser within this state for the sole purpose of immediately removing the same from this state in a vehicle owned by the purchaser;

(22) Sales of services provided by the state or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities, institutions, or authorities, or by governmental entities of the state or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities, institutions, or authorities;



(23) Sales of motor vehicles to nonresidents of this state under the circumstances described in division (B) of section 5739.029 of the Revised Code;

(24) Sales to persons engaged in the preparation of eggs for sale of tangible personal property used or consumed directly in such preparation, including such tangible personal property used for cleaning, sanitizing, preserving, grading, sorting, and classifying by size; packages, including material and parts for packages, and machinery, equipment, and material for use in packaging eggs for sale; and handling and transportation equipment and parts therefor, except motor vehicles licensed to operate on public highways, used in intraplant or interplant transfers or shipment of eggs in the process of preparation for sale, when the plant or plants within or between which such transfers or shipments occur are operated by the same person. "Packages" includes containers, cases, baskets, flats, fillers, filler flats, cartons, closure materials, labels, and labeling materials, and "packaging" means placing therein.

(25)(a) Sales of water to a consumer for residential use;

(b) Sales of water by a nonprofit corporation engaged exclusively in the treatment, distribution, and sale of water to consumers, if such water is delivered to consumers through pipes or tubing.

(26) Fees charged for inspection or reinspection of motor vehicles under section 3704.14 of the Revised Code;

(27) Sales to persons licensed to conduct a food service operation pursuant to section 3717.43 of the Revised Code, of tangible personal property primarily used directly for the following:

(a) To prepare food for human consumption for sale;

(b) To preserve food that has been or will be prepared for human consumption for sale by the food service operator, not including tangible personal property used to display food for selection by the consumer;

(c) To clean tangible personal property used to prepare or serve food for human consumption for sale.



- (28) Sales of animals by nonprofit animal adoption services or county humane societies;
- (29) Sales of services to a corporation described in division (A) of section 5709.72 of the Revised Code, and sales of tangible personal property that qualifies for exemption from taxation under section 5709.72 of the Revised Code;
- (30) Sales and installation of agricultural land tile, as defined in division (B)(5)(a) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code;
- (31) Sales and erection or installation of portable grain bins, as defined in division (B)(5)(b) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code;
- (32) The sale, lease, repair, and maintenance of, parts for, or items attached to or incorporated in, motor vehicles that are primarily used for transporting tangible personal property belonging to others by a person engaged in highway transportation for hire, except for packages and packaging used for the transportation of tangible personal property;
- (33) Sales to the state headquarters of any veterans' organization in this state that is either incorporated and issued a charter by the congress of the United States or is recognized by the United States veterans administration, for use by the headquarters;
- (34) Sales to a telecommunications service vendor, mobile telecommunications service vendor, or satellite broadcasting service vendor of tangible personal property and services used directly and primarily in transmitting, receiving, switching, or recording any interactive, one- or two-way electromagnetic communications, including voice, image, data, and information, through the use of any medium, including, but not limited to, poles, wires, cables, switching equipment, computers, and record storage devices and media, and component parts for the tangible personal property. The exemption provided in this division shall be in lieu of all other exemptions under division (B)(42)(a) or (n) of this section to which the vendor may otherwise be entitled, based upon the use of the thing purchased in providing the telecommunications, mobile telecommunications, or satellite broadcasting service.



(35)(a) Sales where the purpose of the consumer is to use or consume the things transferred in making retail sales and consisting of newspaper inserts, catalogues, coupons, flyers, gift certificates, or other advertising material that prices and describes tangible personal property offered for retail sale.

(b) Sales to direct marketing vendors of preliminary materials such as photographs, artwork, and typesetting that will be used in printing advertising material; and of printed matter that offers free merchandise or chances to win sweepstake prizes and that is mailed to potential customers with advertising material described in division (B)(35)(a) of this section;

(c) Sales of equipment such as telephones, computers, facsimile machines, and similar tangible personal property primarily used to accept orders for direct marketing retail sales.

(d) Sales of automatic food vending machines that preserve food with a shelf life of forty-five days or less by refrigeration and dispense it to the consumer.

For purposes of division (B)(35) of this section, "direct marketing" means the method of selling where consumers order tangible personal property by United States mail, delivery service, or telecommunication and the vendor delivers or ships the tangible personal property sold to the consumer from a warehouse, catalogue distribution center, or similar fulfillment facility by means of the United States mail, delivery service, or common carrier.

(36) Sales to a person engaged in the business of horticulture or producing livestock of materials to be incorporated into a horticulture structure or livestock structure;

(37) Sales of personal computers, computer monitors, computer keyboards, modems, and other peripheral computer equipment to an individual who is licensed or certified to teach in an elementary or a secondary school in this state for use by that individual in preparation for teaching elementary or secondary school students;

(38) Sales of tangible personal property that is not required to be registered or licensed under the laws of this state to a citizen of a foreign nation that is not a citizen of the United States, provided the property is delivered to a person in this state that is not a related member of the purchaser, is



physically present in this state for the sole purpose of temporary storage and package consolidation, and is subsequently delivered to the purchaser at a delivery address in a foreign nation. As used in division (B)(38) of this section, "related member" has the same meaning as in section 5733.042 of the Revised Code, and "temporary storage" means the storage of tangible personal property for a period of not more than sixty days.

(39) Sales of used manufactured homes and used mobile homes, as defined in section 5739.0210 of the Revised Code, made on or after January 1, 2000;

(40) Sales of tangible personal property and services to a provider of electricity used or consumed directly and primarily in generating, transmitting, or distributing electricity for use by others, including property that is or is to be incorporated into and will become a part of the consumer's production, transmission, or distribution system and that retains its classification as tangible personal property after incorporation; fuel or power used in the production, transmission, or distribution of electricity; energy conversion equipment as defined in section 5727.01 of the Revised Code; and tangible personal property and services used in the repair and maintenance of the production, transmission, or distribution system, including only those motor vehicles as are specially designed and equipped for such use. The exemption provided in this division shall be in lieu of all other exemptions in division (B)(42)(a) or (n) of this section to which a provider of electricity may otherwise be entitled based on the use of the tangible personal property or service purchased in generating, transmitting, or distributing electricity.

(41) Sales to a person providing services under division (B)(3)(p) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code of tangible personal property and services used directly and primarily in providing taxable services under that section.

(42) Sales where the purpose of the purchaser is to do any of the following:

(a) To incorporate the thing transferred as a material or a part into tangible personal property to be produced for sale by manufacturing, assembling, processing, or refining; or to use or consume the thing transferred directly in producing tangible personal property for sale by mining, including, without limitation, the extraction from the earth of all substances that are classed geologically as minerals, or directly in the rendition of a public utility service, except that the sales tax levied by this



section shall be collected upon all meals, drinks, and food for human consumption sold when transporting persons. This paragraph does not exempt from "retail sale" or "sales at retail" the sale of tangible personal property that is to be incorporated into a structure or improvement to real property.

- (b) To hold the thing transferred as security for the performance of an obligation of the vendor;
- (c) To resell, hold, use, or consume the thing transferred as evidence of a contract of insurance;
- (d) To use or consume the thing directly in commercial fishing;
- (e) To incorporate the thing transferred as a material or a part into, or to use or consume the thing transferred directly in the production of, magazines distributed as controlled circulation publications;
- (f) To use or consume the thing transferred in the production and preparation in suitable condition for market and sale of printed, imprinted, overprinted, lithographic, multilithic, blueprinted, photostatic, or other productions or reproductions of written or graphic matter;
- (g) To use the thing transferred, as described in section 5739.011 of the Revised Code, primarily in a manufacturing operation to produce tangible personal property for sale;
- (h) To use the benefit of a warranty, maintenance or service contract, or similar agreement, as described in division (B)(7) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code, to repair or maintain tangible personal property, if all of the property that is the subject of the warranty, contract, or agreement would not be subject to the tax imposed by this section;
- (i) To use the thing transferred as qualified research and development equipment;
- (j) To use or consume the thing transferred primarily in storing, transporting, mailing, or otherwise handling purchased sales inventory in a warehouse, distribution center, or similar facility when the inventory is primarily distributed outside this state to retail stores of the person who owns or controls the warehouse, distribution center, or similar facility, to retail stores of an affiliated group of which that person is a member, or by means of direct marketing. This division does not apply to motor



vehicles registered for operation on the public highways. As used in this division, "affiliated group" has the same meaning as in division (B)(3)(e) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code and "direct marketing" has the same meaning as in division (B)(35) of this section.

(k) To use or consume the thing transferred to fulfill a contractual obligation incurred by a warrantor pursuant to a warranty provided as a part of the price of the tangible personal property sold or by a vendor of a warranty, maintenance or service contract, or similar agreement the provision of which is defined as a sale under division (B)(7) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code;

(l) To use or consume the thing transferred in the production of a newspaper for distribution to the public;

(m) To use tangible personal property to perform a service listed in division (B)(3) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code, if the property is or is to be permanently transferred to the consumer of the service as an integral part of the performance of the service;

(n) To use or consume the thing transferred primarily in producing tangible personal property for sale by farming, agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture. Persons engaged in rendering farming, agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture services for others are deemed engaged primarily in farming, agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture. This paragraph does not exempt from "retail sale" or "sales at retail" the sale of tangible personal property that is to be incorporated into a structure or improvement to real property.

(o) To use or consume the thing transferred in acquiring, formatting, editing, storing, and disseminating data or information by electronic publishing;

(p) To provide the thing transferred to the owner or lessee of a motor vehicle that is being repaired or serviced, if the thing transferred is a rented motor vehicle and the purchaser is reimbursed for the cost of the rented motor vehicle by a manufacturer, warrantor, or provider of a maintenance, service, or other similar contract or agreement, with respect to the motor vehicle that is being repaired or serviced;

(q) To use or consume the thing transferred directly in production of crude oil and natural gas for



sale. Persons engaged in rendering production services for others are deemed engaged in production.

As used in division (B)(42)(q) of this section, "production" means operations and tangible personal property directly used to expose and evaluate an underground reservoir that may contain hydrocarbon resources, prepare the wellbore for production, and lift and control all substances yielded by the reservoir to the surface of the earth.

(i) For the purposes of division (B)(42)(q) of this section, the "thing transferred" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

(I) Services provided in the construction of permanent access roads, services provided in the construction of the well site, and services provided in the construction of temporary impoundments;

(II) Equipment and rigging used for the specific purpose of creating with integrity a wellbore pathway to underground reservoirs;

(III) Drilling and workover services used to work within a subsurface wellbore, and tangible personal property directly used in providing such services;

(IV) Casing, tubulars, and float and centralizing equipment;

(V) Trailers to which production equipment is attached;

(VI) Well completion services, including cementing of casing, and tangible personal property directly used in providing such services;

(VII) Wireline evaluation, mud logging, and perforation services, and tangible personal property directly used in providing such services;

(VIII) Reservoir stimulation, hydraulic fracturing, and acidizing services, and tangible personal property directly used in providing such services, including all material pumped downhole;

(IX) Pressure pumping equipment;



(X) Artificial lift systems equipment;

(XI) Wellhead equipment and well site equipment used to separate, stabilize, and control hydrocarbon phases and produced water;

(XII) Tangible personal property directly used to control production equipment.

(ii) For the purposes of division (B)(42)(q) of this section, the "thing transferred" does not include any of the following:

(I) Tangible personal property used primarily in the exploration and production of any mineral resource regulated under Chapter 1509. of the Revised Code other than oil or gas;

(II) Tangible personal property used primarily in storing, holding, or delivering solutions or chemicals used in well stimulation as defined in section 1509.01 of the Revised Code;

(III) Tangible personal property used primarily in preparing, installing, or reclaiming foundations for drilling or pumping equipment or well stimulation material tanks;

(IV) Tangible personal property used primarily in transporting, delivering, or removing equipment to or from the well site or storing such equipment before its use at the well site;

(V) Tangible personal property used primarily in gathering operations occurring off the well site, including gathering pipelines transporting hydrocarbon gas or liquids away from a crude oil or natural gas production facility;

(VI) Tangible personal property that is to be incorporated into a structure or improvement to real property;

(VII) Well site fencing, lighting, or security systems;

(VIII) Communication devices or services;



(IX) Office supplies;

(X) Trailers used as offices or lodging;

(XI) Motor vehicles of any kind;

(XII) Tangible personal property used primarily for the storage of drilling byproducts and fuel not used for production;

(XIII) Tangible personal property used primarily as a safety device;

(XIV) Data collection or monitoring devices;

(XV) Access ladders, stairs, or platforms attached to storage tanks.

The enumeration of tangible personal property in division (B)(42)(q)(ii) of this section is not intended to be exhaustive, and any tangible personal property not so enumerated shall not necessarily be construed to be a "thing transferred" for the purposes of division (B)(42)(q) of this section.

The commissioner shall adopt and promulgate rules under sections 119.01 to 119.13 of the Revised Code that the commissioner deems necessary to administer division (B)(42)(q) of this section.

As used in division (B)(42) of this section, "thing" includes all transactions included in divisions (B)(3)(a), (b), and (c) of section 5739.01 of the Revised Code.

(43) Sales conducted through a coin operated device that activates vacuum equipment or equipment that dispenses water, whether or not in combination with soap or other cleaning agents or wax, to the consumer for the consumer's use on the premises in washing, cleaning, or waxing a motor vehicle, provided no other personal property or personal service is provided as part of the transaction.

(44) Sales of replacement and modification parts for engines, airframes, instruments, and interiors in, and paint for, aircraft used primarily in a fractional aircraft ownership program, and sales of services



for the repair, modification, and maintenance of such aircraft, and machinery, equipment, and supplies primarily used to provide those services.

(45) Sales of telecommunications service that is used directly and primarily to perform the functions of a call center. As used in this division, "call center" means any physical location where telephone calls are placed or received in high volume for the purpose of making sales, marketing, customer service, technical support, or other specialized business activity, and that employs at least fifty individuals that engage in call center activities on a full-time basis, or sufficient individuals to fill fifty full-time equivalent positions.

(46) Sales by a telecommunications service vendor of 900 service to a subscriber. This division does not apply to information services.

(47) Sales of value-added non-voice data service. This division does not apply to any similar service that is not otherwise a telecommunications service.

(48) Sales of feminine hygiene products.

(49) Sales of materials, parts, equipment, or engines used in the repair or maintenance of aircraft or avionics systems of such aircraft, and sales of repair, remodeling, replacement, or maintenance services in this state performed on aircraft or on an aircraft's avionics, engine, or component materials or parts. As used in division (B)(49) of this section, "aircraft" means aircraft of more than six thousand pounds maximum certified takeoff weight or used exclusively in general aviation.

(50) Sales of full flight simulators that are used for pilot or flight-crew training, sales of repair or replacement parts or components, and sales of repair or maintenance services for such full flight simulators. "Full flight simulator" means a replica of a specific type, or make, model, and series of aircraft cockpit. It includes the assemblage of equipment and computer programs necessary to represent aircraft operations in ground and flight conditions, a visual system providing an out-of-the-cockpit view, and a system that provides cues at least equivalent to those of a three-degree-of-freedom motion system, and has the full range of capabilities of the systems installed in the device as described in appendices A and B of part 60 of chapter 1 of title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations.



(51) Any transfer or lease of tangible personal property between the state and JobsOhio in accordance with section 4313.02 of the Revised Code.

(52)(a) Sales to a qualifying corporation.

(b) As used in division (B)(52) of this section:

(i) "Qualifying corporation" means a nonprofit corporation organized in this state that leases from an eligible county land, buildings, structures, fixtures, and improvements to the land that are part of or used in a public recreational facility used by a major league professional athletic team or a class A to class AAA minor league affiliate of a major league professional athletic team for a significant portion of the team's home schedule, provided the following apply:

(I) The facility is leased from the eligible county pursuant to a lease that requires substantially all of the revenue from the operation of the business or activity conducted by the nonprofit corporation at the facility in excess of operating costs, capital expenditures, and reserves to be paid to the eligible county at least once per calendar year.

(II) Upon dissolution and liquidation of the nonprofit corporation, all of its net assets are distributable to the board of commissioners of the eligible county from which the corporation leases the facility.

(ii) "Eligible county" has the same meaning as in section 307.695 of the Revised Code.

(53) Sales to or by a cable service provider, video service provider, or radio or television broadcast station regulated by the federal government of cable service or programming, video service or programming, audio service or programming, or electronically transferred digital audiovisual or audio work. As used in division (B)(53) of this section, "cable service" and "cable service provider" have the same meanings as in section 1332.01 of the Revised Code, and "video service," "video service provider," and "video programming" have the same meanings as in section 1332.21 of the Revised Code.



(54) Sales of a digital audio work electronically transferred for delivery through use of a machine, such as a juke box, that does all of the following:

(a) Accepts direct payments to operate;

(b) Automatically plays a selected digital audio work for a single play upon receipt of a payment described in division (B)(54)(a) of this section;

(c) Operates exclusively for the purpose of playing digital audio works in a commercial establishment.

(55)(a) Sales of the following occurring on the first Friday of August and the following Saturday and Sunday of any year, except in 2024 or any subsequent year in which a sales tax holiday is held pursuant to section 5739.41 of the Revised Code:

(i) An item of clothing, the price of which is seventy-five dollars or less;

(ii) An item of school supplies, the price of which is twenty dollars or less;

(iii) An item of school instructional material, the price of which is twenty dollars or less.

(b) As used in division (B)(55) of this section:

(i) "Clothing" means all human wearing apparel suitable for general use. "Clothing" includes, but is not limited to, aprons, household and shop; athletic supporters; baby receiving blankets; bathing suits and caps; beach capes and coats; belts and suspenders; boots; coats and jackets; costumes; diapers, children and adult, including disposable diapers; earmuffs; footlets; formal wear; garters and garter belts; girdles; gloves and mittens for general use; hats and caps; hosiery; insoles for shoes; lab coats; neckties; overshoes; pantyhose; rainwear; rubber pants; sandals; scarves; shoes and shoe laces; slippers; sneakers; socks and stockings; steel-toed shoes; underwear; uniforms, athletic and nonathletic; and wedding apparel. "Clothing" does not include items purchased for use in a trade or business; clothing accessories or equipment; protective equipment; sports or recreational equipment; belt buckles sold separately; costume masks sold separately; patches and emblems sold separately;



sewing equipment and supplies including, but not limited to, knitting needles, patterns, pins, scissors, sewing machines, sewing needles, tape measures, and thimbles; and sewing materials that become part of "clothing" including, but not limited to, buttons, fabric, lace, thread, yarn, and zippers.

(ii) "School supplies" means items commonly used by a student in a course of study. "School supplies" includes only the following items: binders; book bags; calculators; cellophane tape; blackboard chalk; compasses; composition books; crayons; erasers; folders, expandable, pocket, plastic, and manila; glue, paste, and paste sticks; highlighters; index cards; index card boxes; legal pads; lunch boxes; markers; notebooks; paper, loose-leaf ruled notebook paper, copy paper, graph paper, tracing paper, manila paper, colored paper, poster board, and construction paper; pencil boxes and other school supply boxes; pencil sharpeners; pencils; pens; protractors; rulers; scissors; and writing tablets. "School supplies" does not include any item purchased for use in a trade or business.

(iii) "School instructional material" means written material commonly used by a student in a course of study as a reference and to learn the subject being taught. "School instructional material" includes only the following items: reference books, reference maps and globes, textbooks, and workbooks. "School instructional material" does not include any material purchased for use in a trade or business.

(56)(a) Sales of adult diapers or incontinence underpads sold pursuant to a prescription, for the benefit of a medicaid recipient with a diagnosis of incontinence, and by a medicaid provider that maintains a valid provider agreement under section 5164.30 of the Revised Code with the department of medicaid, provided that the medicaid program covers diapers or incontinence underpads as an incontinence garment.

(b) As used in division (B)(56)(a) of this section, "incontinence underpad" means an absorbent product, not worn on the body, designed to protect furniture or other tangible personal property from soiling or damage due to human incontinence.

(57) Sales of investment metal bullion and investment coins. "Investment metal bullion" means any bullion described in section 408(m)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code, regardless of whether that bullion is in the physical possession of a trustee. "Investment coin" means any coin composed primarily of gold, silver, platinum, or palladium.



(58) Sales of tangible personal property used primarily for any of the following purposes by a megaproject operator at the site of a megaproject that satisfies the criteria described in division (A)(11)(a)(ii) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code, provided that the sale occurs during the period that the megaproject operator has an agreement for such megaproject with the tax credit authority under division (D) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code that remains in effect and has not expired or been terminated:

(a) To store, transmit, convey, distribute, recycle, circulate, or clean water, steam, or other gases used in or produced as a result of manufacturing activity, including items that support or aid in the operation of such property;

(b) To clean or prepare inventory, at any stage of storage or production, or equipment used in a manufacturing activity, including chemicals, solvents, catalysts, soaps, and other items that support or aid in the operation of property;

(c) To regulate, treat, filter, condition, improve, clean, maintain, or monitor environmental conditions within areas where manufacturing activities take place;

(d) To handle, transport, or convey inventory during production or manufacturing.

(59) Documentary services charges imposed pursuant to section 4517.261 or 4781.24 of the Revised Code.

(60) Sales of children's diapers.

(61) Sales of therapeutic or preventative creams and wipes marketed primarily for use on the skin of children.

(62) Sales of a child restraint device or booster seat that meets the national highway traffic safety administration standard for child restraint systems under 49 C.F.R. 571.213.

(63) Sales of cribs intended to provide sleeping accommodations for children that comply with the



United States consumer product safety commission's safety standard for full-size baby cribs under 16 C.F.R. 1219 or the commission's safety standard for non-full-size baby cribs under 16 C.F.R. 1220.

(64) Sales of strollers meant for transporting children from infancy to about thirty-six months of age that meet the United States consumer product safety commission safety standard for carriages and strollers under 16 C.F.R. 1227.2.

(65) The fee imposed by section 3743.22 of the Revised Code, if it is separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale, or similar document given by the vendor to the consumer for a retail sale made in this state.

(66) Sales of eligible tangible personal property occurring during the period of a sales tax holiday held pursuant to section 5739.41 of the Revised Code.

(C) For the purpose of the proper administration of this chapter, and to prevent the evasion of the tax, it is presumed that all sales made in this state are subject to the tax until the contrary is established.

(D) The tax collected by the vendor from the consumer under this chapter is not part of the price, but is a tax collection for the benefit of the state, and of counties levying an additional sales tax pursuant to section 5739.021 or 5739.026 of the Revised Code and of transit authorities levying an additional sales tax pursuant to section 5739.023 of the Revised Code. Except for the discount authorized under section 5739.12 of the Revised Code and the effects of any rounding pursuant to section 5703.055 of the Revised Code, no person other than the state or such a county or transit authority shall derive any benefit from the collection or payment of the tax levied by this section or section 5739.021, 5739.023, or 5739.026 of the Revised Code.