Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Haridopolos

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26-873-07
                                                         See HB 307
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                        A bill to be entitled
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           An act relating to sales and use tax credits or
           refunds; amending s. 212.17, F.S.; authorizing
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           dealers to take certain credits or obtain
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           refund of taxes paid for worthless private
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           label credit card accounts; specifying
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           conditions; providing for remittances of taxes
           collected on such accounts; providing
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           definitions; requiring dealers and lenders to
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           file a joint election to receive the credit or
           refund; providing recordkeeping requirements;
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           authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt
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           rules; specifying nonapplication to certain
           claims for credits or refunds; providing an
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           effective date.
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   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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           Section 1. Section 212.17, Florida Statutes, is
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    amended to read:
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           212.17 Credits for returned goods, rentals, or
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    admissions; goods acquired for dealer's own use and
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    subsequently resold; worthless private label credit card
    accounts; additional powers of department .--
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           (1)(a) In the event purchases are returned to a dealer
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   by the purchaser or consumer after the tax imposed by this
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    chapter has been collected from or charged to the account of
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   the consumer or user, the dealer shall be entitled to
   reimbursement of the amount of tax collected or charged by the
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   dealer, in the manner prescribed by the department.
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SE 982 See HB 307

(b) A registered dealer that purchases property for
 the dealer's own use, pays tax on acquisition, and sells the
 property subsequent to acquisition without ever having used
 the property is entitled to reimbursement, in the manner
 prescribed by the department, of the amount of tax paid on the
 property's acquisition.

7 (c) If the tax has not been remitted by a dealer to 8 the department, the dealer may deduct the same in submitting his or her return upon receipt of a signed statement of the 9 dealer as to the gross amount of such refunds during the 10 period covered by said signed statement, which period shall 11 12 not be longer than 90 days. The department shall issue to the 13 dealer an official credit memorandum equal to the net amount remitted by the dealer for such tax collected or paid. Such 14 memorandum shall be accepted by the department at full face 15 value from the dealer to whom it is issued, in the remittance 16 17 for subsequent taxes accrued under the provisions of this 18 chapter. If a dealer has retired from business and has filed a final return, a refund of tax may be made if it can be 19 established to the satisfaction of the department that the tax 20 21 was not due.

22 (2) A dealer who has paid the tax imposed by this 23 chapter on tangible personal property sold under a retained title, conditional sale, or similar contract, or under a 2.4 contract wherein the dealer retains a security interest in the 25 26 property pursuant to chapter 679, may take credit or obtain a 27 refund for the tax paid by the dealer on the unpaid balance 2.8 due him or her when he or she repossesses (with or without 29 judicial process) the property within 12 months following the 30 month in which the property was repossessed. When such 31

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1 repossessed property is resold, the sale is subject in all 2 respects to the tax imposed by this chapter. 3 (3) A dealer who has paid the tax imposed by this 4 chapter on tangible personal property or services may take a credit or obtain a refund for any tax paid by the dealer on 5 6 the unpaid balance due on worthless accounts within 12 months 7 following the month in which the bad debt has been charged off 8 for federal income tax purposes. If any accounts so charged off for which a credit or refund has been obtained are 9 thereafter in whole or in part paid to the dealer, the amount 10 so paid shall be included in the first return filed after such 11 12 collection and the tax paid accordingly. 13 (4)(a) The department shall design, prepare, print and furnish to all dealers, except dealers filing through 14 electronic data interchange, or make available or prescribe to 15 the dealers, all necessary forms for filing returns and 16 17 instructions to ensure a full collection from dealers and an 18 accounting for the taxes due, but failure of any dealer to secure such forms does not relieve the dealer from the payment 19 of the tax at the time and in the manner provided. 20 21 (b) The department shall prescribe the format and 22 instructions necessary for filing returns in a manner that is 23 initiated through an electronic data interchange to ensure a full collection from dealers and an accounting for the taxes 2.4 due. The failure of any dealer to use such format does not 25 26 relieve the dealer from the payment of the tax at the time and 27 in the manner provided. 2.8 (5) The department and its assistants are hereby 29 authorized and empowered to administer the oath for the purpose of enforcing and administering the provisions of this 30 31 chapter.

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1 (6) The department has authority to adopt rules 2 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to enforce the provisions of this chapter. 3 4 (7) The department, where admissions, license fees, or 5 rental payments or payments for services are made and б thereafter returned to the payors after the taxes thereon have 7 been paid, shall return or credit the taxpayer for taxes so 8 paid on the moneys returned in the same manner as is provided for returns or credits of taxes where purchases or tangible 9 personal property are returnable to a dealer. 10 (8)(a) In the case of private label credit card 11 12 accounts found to be worthless and deductible as bad debts for 13 <u>federal income tax purposes, a dealer or lender may take a</u> credit or obtain a refund of the taxes previously paid by the 14 dealer under this chapter on the unpaid balance due on the 15 worthless accounts if a proper election is made by the dealer 16 17 and lender and the following conditions are met: 18 1. No credit or refund was previously claimed or allowed on any portion of the account. 19 20 2. The accounts have been found worthless and are 21 deductible as bad debts for federal income tax purposes by the 2.2 lender or any entity affiliated with the lender under 26 23 U.S.C. s. 1504. 3. The accounts are found to be worthless on or after 2.4 July 1, 2007, and the credit or refund is claimed not later 25 than 12 months following the date on which the federal income 26 27 tax return on which the accounts were deducted was filed. 2.8 (b) If a dealer or lender thereafter collects in whole or in part any account for which a credit or refund has been 29 30 obtained under this subsection, the dealer or the lender shall include the amount collected and account for tax on that 31

1 amount in the earlier of the dealer's or lender's first return 2 or refund claim filed after the collection or a statement filed with the department by the 20th day of the month 3 following the month in which the amount was collected. 4 (c) For purposes of this subsection, the term "lender" 5 б means any of the following: 7 1. Any person who owns or has owned a private label 8 credit card account that the person purchased directly from a dealer who remitted the tax imposed under this chapter; 9 10 2. Any person who owns or has owned a private label credit card account pursuant to that person's contract 11 12 directly with the dealer who remitted the tax imposed under 13 this chapter; or Any person who is an affiliated entity, under 26 14 3. U.S.C. s. 1504, of a person described in subparagraph 1. or 15 16 subparagraph 2. or an assignee or other transferee of a person 17 described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. (d) For purposes of this subsection, the term "private 18 label credit card means any charge card or credit card that 19 carries, refers to, or is branded with the name or logo of a 20 21 dealer and can be used for purchases from the dealer whose 2.2 name or logo appears on the card or for purchases from any of 23 the dealer's affiliates. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "dealer's affiliates" means all entities affiliated with 2.4 the dealer under 26 U.S.C. s. 1504. In the case of a private 25 label credit card that also may be used to make purchases from 26 27 persons other than the dealer whose name or logo appears on 2.8 the card or the dealer's affiliates, the sales receipts of the dealer and the dealer's affiliates must be capable of 29 identification apart from any receipts reflecting sales by 30 such unrelated persons. Nothing in this subsection authorizes 31

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1 any credit or refund with respect to sales by such unrelated 2 persons. (e) Before a dealer or lender may take a credit or 3 4 obtain a refund under this subsection, the lender and the 5 dealer shall file a joint election with the department, signed 6 by the dealer and lender, designating whether the dealer or 7 lender is entitled to claim the credit or refund. This 8 election may not be revoked unless a written notice, signed by the dealer and lender who signed the election being revoked, 9 10 is filed with the department. (f) The dealer or lender shall maintain adequate 11 books, records, or other documentation supporting the 12 13 deduction taken for the bad debts found to be worthless for which a credit was taken or a refund was claimed under this 14 subsection. If a dealer remits sales tax or use tax to this 15 state and one or more other states, the dealer or its lender 16 17 claiming any credits or refunds under this subsection may use 18 an apportionment method to substantiate the amount of tax imposed under this chapter included in the bad debts to which 19 the credit or refund applies. The apportionment method must 2.0 21 use the dealer's Florida and non-Florida sales, the dealer's 2.2 taxable and nontaxable sales, and the amount of tax the dealer 23 remitted to this state. Alternatively, the dealer or lender may treat a specified percentage of the private label credit 2.4 card accounts as giving rise to a credit or refund under this 25 subsection, which percentage is derived from a sampling of the 26 27 dealer's or lender's records in accordance with a methodology 2.8 agreed upon by the department and the dealer or lender. (g) A lender as defined in paragraph (c) may have its 29 credit for bad debts claimed on a consolidated sales and use 30 31 tax return.

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(h) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 governing the implementation of this subsection. (i) This subsection shall not apply to any credit or refund claim presented under subsection (2) or subsection (3), any assessment or refund denial pertaining to a credit or refund claim made under subsection (2) or subsection (3), or any audit or administrative or judicial proceeding relating to such credit or refund claims pending as of July 1, 2007. Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.