The Florida Senate BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

	Prepare	ed By: The Pro	ofessional S	taff of the Finance a	and Tax Committ	ee	
BILL:	SB 1590						
INTRODUCER:	Senator Altman						
SUBJECT:	Communica	tions Service	es Taxes				
DATE:	April 15, 20	09 F	REVISED:				
ANALYST 1. Caldwell		STAFF DIRECTOR Caldwell		REFERENCE CU	Favorable	ACTION	
2. Murphy		Yeatman		CA	Fav/1 amendment		
3. Fournier		McKee		FT	Favorable		
4.		-		WPSC			
5.							
5.							
				for Addition Statement of Subs			
A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE x B. AMENDMENTS				Technical amendary Amendments were Significant amend	nents were reco	ommended I	

I. Summary:

This bill allows dealers to net bad debt against the amount of tax due for reporting purposes so long as the resulting amount is not less than zero. It further allows a proportional allocation of the bad debt credits to specified jurisdictions. Finally, the bill provides for limited retroactive application.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined that this bill has no state or local revenue impact. Amendment 366780 traveling with the bill has an indeterminate negative impact on local government revenue.

This bill amends section 202.29 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 202.29, F. S., provides a credit for taxes paid by a communications services provider on worthless balances, or bad debt. It does not provide for netting the credit against the tax due to the state or to a local jurisdiction, and it does not provide a method for allocating the bad debt to the state or to a local jurisdiction.

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III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 of the bill amends section 202.29, F.S., by adding a new subsection (4). This subsection would allow dealers to apply credits for bad debts allowed under s. 202.29, F.S., against the amount of tax due for reporting purposes. However, the "netting" cannot result in an amount less than zero. It would also allow dealers to use a proportional allocation method to allocate its allowable bad debt credits to local jurisdictions or the state. This would allow dealers to allocate bad debt credits proportionally rather than having to specifically identify the jurisdiction from which the particular worthless account originated. Such allocations would be done separately for the state portion of communications services tax imposed under s. 202.12, F.S., and the local portion of communications services tax imposed under s. 202.19, F.S. Finally, the allocation method could be based upon current gross taxes due or another reasonable allocation method approved by the department for purposes of determining the amount of bad debt that is attributable to the state or to a local jurisdiction.

Section 2 of the bill provides for the act to operate retroactively to July 1, 2000, but only as a remedial measure and not to create a right to a refund or require a refund by any governmental entity of any tax, penalty, or interest remitted to the department before July 1, 2009.

Section 3 of the bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2009.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined that there will be no difference in the overall tax collected.

B. Private Sector Impact:

By allowing companies to net the bad debt from taxes due, the administrative and regulatory burden and the costs associated thereto should be reduced.

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C. Government Sector Impact:

This change could ease the administrative burden overseeing the treatment of bad debt against taxes due.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

Barcode 366780 by Community Affairs on March 24, 2009:

This amendment extends the date to begin collection of prepaid wireless E911 fee to July 1, 2011 so that a method can be determined for collection. This amendment has an indeterminate negative impact on local government revenue.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.