${\bf By}$ Senator Bogdanoff

	25-00495B-12 20121060
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to communications services taxes;
3	amending s. 202.105, F.S.; revising legislative
4	intent; amending s. 202.11, F.S.; modifying
5	definitions; removing the definitions of the terms
6	"cable service" and "enhanced zip code"; adding
7	definitions for the terms "digital good," "digital
8	service," "Internet access service," and "video
9	service"; amending ss. 202.125, 202.16, 202.20, and
10	202.24, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes in
11	terminology; amending s. 202.195, F.S.; clarifying
12	provisions exempting from the public records law
13	certain proprietary confidential business information
14	held by a local governmental entity for the purpose of
15	assessing the local communications services tax;
16	amending s. 202.22, F.S.; providing an exception to
17	the provision holding a dealer of communications
18	services harmless from liability when the dealer fails
19	to correct a customer's local taxing jurisdiction
20	following notice by the Department of Revenue;
21	eliminating provisions requiring that the department
22	provide a database for determining the local taxing
23	jurisdiction in which a service address is located;
24	amending s. 202.23, F.S.; removing a provision
25	relating to assigning a purchaser to a local taxing
26	jurisdiction, to conform to changes made by the act;
27	amending s. 202.231, F.S.; requiring the Department of
28	Revenue to aggregate monthly and make available to the
29	public on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis certain

Page 1 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
30	
31	F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; eliminating a
32	requirement that the department adopt a rule governing
33	certain databases; amending s. 202.28, F.S.; deleting
34	provisions imposing a penalty against a dealer of
35	communications services which incorrectly assigns a
36	service address, to conform to changes made by the
37	act; amending s. 212.05, F.S.; revising the definition
38	of the term "prepaid calling arrangement"; amending
39	ss. 203.01, 610.118, and 624.105, F.S.; conforming
40	cross-references; providing an effective date.
41	
42	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
43	
44	Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 202.105, Florida
45	Statutes, is amended to read:
46	202.105 Legislative findings and intent
47	(1) It is declared to be a specific legislative finding
48	that the creation of this chapter fulfills important state
49	interests by reforming the tax laws to provide a fair,
50	efficient, and uniform method for taxing communications services
51	sold in this state. This chapter is essential to the continued
52	economic vitality of this increasingly important industry
53	because it restructures state and local taxes and fees to
54	account for the impact of federal legislation, industry
55	deregulation, and the <u>multitude of</u> convergence of service
56	offerings that is now taking place among providers <u>offering</u>
57	functionally equivalent communications services in today's
58	marketplace. This chapter promotes the increased competition

Page 2 of 34

25-00495B-12 20121060 59 that accompanies deregulation by embracing a competitively 60 neutral tax policy that will free consumers to choose a provider based on tax-neutral considerations. This chapter further spurs 61 62 new competition by simplifying an extremely complicated state and local tax and fee system. Simplification will lower the cost 63 64 of collecting taxes and fees, increase service availability, and 65 place downward pressure on price. Newfound administrative 66 efficiency is demonstrated by a reduction in the number of returns that a provider must file each month. By restructuring 67 68 separate taxes and fees into a revenue-neutral communications services tax centrally administered by the department, this 69 70 chapter will ensure that the growth of the industry is 71 unimpaired by excessive governmental regulation. The tax imposed 72 pursuant to this chapter is a replacement for taxes and fees 73 previously imposed and is not a new tax. The taxes imposed and 74 administered pursuant to this chapter are of general application 75 and are imposed in a uniform, consistent, and nondiscriminatory 76 manner.

77 Section 2. Section 202.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to 78 read:

79

202.11 Definitions.-As used in this chapter:

80 (1) "Cable service" means the transmission of video, audio, 81 or other programming service to purchasers, and the purchaser interaction, if any, required for the selection or use of any 82 83 such programming service, regardless of whether the programming 84 is transmitted over facilities owned or operated by the cable 85 service provider or over facilities owned or operated by one or 86 more other dealers of communications services. The term includes 87 point-to-point and point-to-multipoint distribution services by

Page 3 of 34

94 conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or any 95 other information or signals, including video cable services, to a point, or between or among points, by or through any 96 97 electronic, radio, satellite, cable, optical, microwave, or other medium or method now in existence or hereafter devised, 98 99 regardless of the protocol used for such transmission or 100 conveyance. The term includes such transmission, conveyance, or 101 routing in which computer processing applications are used to 102 act on the form, code, or protocol of the content for purposes 103 of transmission, conveyance, or routing without regard to 104 whether such service is referred to as voice-over-Internet-105 protocol services or is classified by the Federal Communications Commission as enhanced or value-added. The term does not 106 107 include:

108

(a) Information services.

(b) Installation or maintenance of wiring or equipment on a customer's premises.

111

(c) The sale or rental of tangible personal property.

(d) The sale of advertising, including, but not limited to,directory advertising.

- (e) Bad check charges.
- (f) Late payment charges.
- 116 (g) Billing and collection services.

Page 4 of 34

1	25-00495B-12 20121060
117	(h) Internet access service, electronic mail service,
118	electronic bulletin board service, or similar online computer
119	services.
120	(i) Digital goods.
121	(j) Digital services.
122	(2)(3) "Dealer" means a person registered with the
123	department as a provider of communications services in this
124	state.
125	(3)-(4) "Department" means the Department of Revenue.
126	(4) "Digital good" means any downloaded good or product
127	that is delivered or transferred by means other than tangible
128	storage media, including downloaded games, software, music, or
129	other digital content. The term does not include video service.
130	(5) "Digital service" means any service, other than video
131	service, which is provided electronically, including remotely
132	provided access to or use of software or another digital good,
133	and also includes the following services, if they are provided
134	remotely: monitoring, security, distance learning, energy
135	management, medical diagnostic, mechanical diagnostic, and
136	vehicle tracking services. If a digital service is bundled for
137	sale with the transmission, conveyance, or routing of any
138	information or signals, the bundled service is a digital service
139	unless the tax imposed under this chapter and chapter 203 has
140	not been paid with respect to such transmission, conveyance, or
141	routing.
142	<u>(6)(5) "Direct-to-home satellite service" has the meaning</u>
143	ascribed in the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. s. 303(v).
144	(7)-(6) "Information service" means the offering of a
145	capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming,

Page 5 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
146	processing, retrieving, using, or making available information
147	via communications services, including, but not limited to,
148	electronic publishing, web-hosting service, and end-user 900
149	number service. The term does not include any video , audio, or
150	other programming service that uses point-to-multipoint
151	distribution by which programming is delivered, transmitted, or
152	broadcast by any means, including any interaction that may be
153	necessary for selecting and using the service, regardless of
154	whether the programming is delivered, transmitted, or broadcast
155	over facilities owned or operated by the seller or another, or
156	whether denominated as cable service or as basic, extended,
157	premium, pay-per-view, digital, music, or two-way cable service.
158	(8) "Internet access service" has the same meaning as
159	ascribed to the term "Internet access" by s. 1105(5) of the
160	Internet Tax Freedom Act, 47 U.S.C. s. 151 note, as amended by
161	<u>Pub. L. No. 110-108.</u>
162	(9) (7) "Mobile communications service" means commercial
163	mobile radio service, as defined in 47 C.F.R. s. 20.3 as in
164	effect on June 1, 1999. The term does not include air-ground
165	radiotelephone service as defined in 47 C.F.R. s. 22.99 as in
166	effect on June 1, 1999.
167	(10) (8) "Person" has the meaning ascribed in s. 212.02.
168	(11) (9) "Prepaid calling arrangement" means the separately
169	stated retail sale by advance payment of communications services
170	that must be paid for in advance; that may be used to place or
171	receive consist exclusively of telephone calls originated; that
172	are enabled by using an access number, authorization code, or
173	other means that may be manually, electronically, or otherwise
174	entered $_{i au}$ and that are sold in predetermined units or dollars of

Page 6 of 34

25-00495B-12 20121060 175 which the number declines on a predetermined basis with use in a 176 known amount. 177 (12) (10) "Purchaser" means the person paying for or obligated to pay for communications services. 178 179 (13) (11) "Retail sale" means the sale of communications 180 services for any purpose other than for resale or for use as a 181 component part of or for integration into communications 182 services to be resold in the ordinary course of business. However, any sale for resale must comply with s. 202.16(2) and 183 184 the rules adopted thereunder. 185 (14) (12) "Sale" means the provision of communications 186 services for a consideration. 187 (15) (13) "Sales price" means the total amount charged in 188 money or other consideration by a dealer for the sale of the 189 right or privilege of using communications services in this 190 state, including any property or other service, not described in 191 paragraph (a), which is services that are part of the sale and 192 for which the charge is not separately itemized on a customer's bill or separately allocated under subparagraph (b)8. The sales 193 194 price of communications services may shall not be reduced by any 195 separately identified components of the charge which that 196 constitute expenses of the dealer, including, but not limited 197 to, sales taxes on goods or services purchased by the dealer, property taxes, taxes measured by net income, and universal-198 199 service fund fees.

(a) The sales price of communications services <u>includes</u>
 shall include, whether or not separately stated, charges for any
 of the following:

203

1. The connection, movement, change, or termination of

Page 7 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
204	communications services.
205	2. The detailed billing of communications services.
206	3. The sale of directory listings in connection with a
207	communications service.
208	4. Central office and custom calling features.
209	5. Voice mail and other messaging service.
210	6. Directory assistance.
211	7. The service of sending or receiving a document commonly
212	referred to as a facsimile or "fax," except when performed
213	during the course of providing professional or advertising
214	services.
215	(b) The sales price of communications services does not
216	include charges for any of the following:
217	1. <u>An</u> Any excise tax, sales tax, or similar tax levied by
218	the United States or any state or local government on the
219	purchase, sale, use, or consumption of any communications
220	service, including, but not limited to, <u>a</u> any tax imposed under
221	this chapter or chapter 203 which is permitted or required to be
222	added to the sales price of such service, if the tax is stated
223	separately.
224	2. <u>A</u> Any fee or assessment levied by the United States or
225	any state or local government, including, but not limited to,
226	regulatory fees and emergency telephone surcharges, which \underline{must}
227	is required to be added to the price of <u>the</u> such service if the
228	fee or assessment is separately stated.
229	3. Communications services paid for by inserting coins into
230	coin-operated communications devices available to the public.
231	4. The sale or recharge of a prepaid calling arrangement.

- 231 232
- 5. The provision of air-to-ground communications services,

Page 8 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

SB 1060

25-00495B-12 20121060 233 defined as a radio service provided to a purchaser purchasers 234 while on board an aircraft. 235 6. A dealer's internal use of communications services in connection with its business of providing communications 236 237 services. 7. Charges for property or other services that are not part 238 239 of the sale of communications services, if such charges are 240 stated separately from the charges for communications services. 8. To the extent required by federal law, Charges for goods 241 2.42 and services that are exempt from tax under this chapter, 243 including Internet access services but excluding any item 244 described in paragraph (a), that which are not separately 245 itemized on a customer's bill, but that which can be reasonably 246 identified from the selling dealer's books and records kept in 247 the regular course of business. The dealer may support the 248 allocation of charges with books and records kept in the regular 249 course of business covering the dealer's entire service area, 250 including territories outside this state. 251

252

(16) (14) "Service address" means:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section:

253 1. The location of the communications equipment from which 254 communications services originate or at which communications 255 services are received by the customer;

256 2. In the case of a communications service paid through a 257 credit or payment mechanism that does not relate to a service 258 address, such as a bank, travel, debit, or credit card, and in 259 the case of third-number and calling-card calls, the term 260 "service address" means the address of the central office, as 261 determined by the area code and the first three digits of the

Page 9 of 34

25-00495B-12 20121060 262 seven-digit originating telephone number; or 263 3. If the location of the equipment described in 264 subparagraph 1. is not known and subparagraph 2. is 265 inapplicable, the term "service address" means the location of 266 the customer's primary use of the communications service. For 267 purposes of this subparagraph, the location of the customer's 268 primary use of a communications service is the residential 269 street address or the business street address of the customer. 270 (b) In the case of video cable services and direct-to-home 271 satellite services, the location where the customer receives the 272 services in this state. 273 (c) In the case of mobile communications services, the 274 customer's place of primary use. 275 (17) (15) "Unbundled network element" means a network 276 element, as defined in 47 U.S.C. s. 153(29), to which access is 277 provided on an unbundled basis pursuant to 47 U.S.C. s. 278 251(c)(3). 279 (18) (16) "Private communications service" means a 280 communications service that entitles the subscriber or user to 281 exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group 282 of channels between or among channel termination points, 283 regardless of the manner in which such channel or channels are connected, and includes switching capacity, extension lines, 284 285 stations, and any other associated services that which are 286 provided in connection with the use of such channel or channels. 287 (19) (17) (a) "Customer" means: 288 1. The person or entity that contracts with the home 289 service provider for mobile communications services; or 290 2. If the end user of mobile communications services is not

Page 10 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
291	the contracting party, the end user of the mobile communications
292	service. This subparagraph only applies for the purpose of
293	determining the place of primary use.
294	(b) "Customer" does not include:
295	1. A reseller of mobile communications services; or
296	2. A serving carrier under an agreement to serve the
297	customer outside the home service provider's licensed service
298	area.
299	(18) "Enhanced zip code" means a United States postal zip
300	code of 9 or more digits.
301	(20) (19) "Home service provider" means the facilities-based
302	carrier or reseller with which the customer contracts for the
303	provision of mobile communications services.
304	(21) (20) "Licensed service area" means the geographic area
305	in which the home service provider is authorized by law or
306	contract to provide mobile communications service to the
307	customer.
308	(22)(21) "Place of primary use" means the street address
309	representative of where the customer's use of the mobile
310	communications service primarily occurs, which must be:
311	(a) The residential street address or the primary business
312	street address of the customer; and
313	(b) Within the licensed service area of the home service
314	provider.
315	(23) (22) (a) "Reseller" means a provider who purchases
316	communications services from another communications service
317	provider and then resells, uses as a component part of, or
318	integrates the purchased services into a mobile communications
319	service.

Page 11 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
320	
321	with which a home service provider arranges for the services to
322	its customers outside the home service provider's licensed
323	service area.
324	<u>(24)</u> "Serving carrier" means a facilities-based carrier
325	providing mobile communications service to a customer outside a
326	home service provider's or reseller's licensed service area.
327	(25) (24) "Video service" means the transmission of video,
328	audio, or other programming service to a purchaser, and the
329	purchaser interaction, if any, required for the selection or use
330	of a programming service, regardless of whether the programming
331	is transmitted over facilities owned or operated by the video
332	service provider or over facilities owned or operated by another
333	dealer of communications services. The term includes point-to-
334	point and point-to-multipoint distribution services through
335	which programming is transmitted or broadcast by microwave or
336	other equipment directly to the purchaser's premises, but does
337	not include direct-to-home satellite service. The term includes
338	basic, extended, premium, pay-per-view, digital video, two-way
339	cable, and music services has the same meaning as that provided
340	in s. 610.103 .
341	Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 202.125, Florida
342	Statutes, is amended to read:
343	202.125 Sales of communications services; specified
344	exemptions
345	(1) The separately stated sales price of communications
346	services sold to residential households is exempt from the tax
347	imposed by s. 202.12 and s. 203.01(1)(b)3. This exemption does
348	not apply to any residence that constitutes all or part of a
Ţ	

Page 12 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
349	transient public lodging establishment as defined in chapter
350	509, any mobile communications service, any <u>video</u> cable service,
351	or any direct-to-home satellite service.
352	Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
353	202.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
354	202.16 PaymentThe taxes imposed or administered under
355	this chapter and chapter 203 shall be collected from all dealers
356	of taxable communications services on the sale at retail in this
357	state of communications services taxable under this chapter and
358	chapter 203. The full amount of the taxes on a credit sale,
359	installment sale, or sale made on any kind of deferred payment
360	plan is due at the moment of the transaction in the same manner
361	as a cash sale.
362	(2)(a) A sale of communications services that are used as a
363	component part of or integrated into a communications service or
364	prepaid calling arrangement for resale, including, but not
365	limited to, carrier-access charges, interconnection charges paid
366	by providers of mobile communication services or other
367	communication services, charges paid by <u>a video</u> cable service
368	provider providers for the purchase of video programming or the
369	transmission of video or other programming by another dealer of
370	communications services, charges for the sale of unbundled
371	network elements, and any other intercompany charges for the use
372	of facilities for providing communications services for resale,
373	must be made in compliance with the rules of the department. \underline{A}
374	Any person who makes a sale for resale which is not in
375	compliance with these rules is liable for any tax, penalty, and
376	interest due for failing to comply, to be calculated pursuant to
377	s. 202.28(2)(a).

Page 13 of 34

25-00495B-12 20121060 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 202.195, 378 379 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 380 202.195 Proprietary confidential business information; 381 public records exemption.-382 (1) Proprietary confidential business information obtained 383 from a telecommunications company or from a franchised or 384 certificated video service provider cable company for the 385 purposes of imposing fees for occupying the public rights-of-386 way, assessing the local communications services tax pursuant to 387 s. 202.19, or occupying or regulating the public rights-of-way, 388 held by a local governmental entity, is confidential and exempt 389 from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State 390 Constitution. Such proprietary confidential business information 391 held by a local governmental entity may be used only for the 392 purposes of imposing such fees, assessing such tax, or 393 regulating such rights-of-way, and may not be used for any other 394 purposes, including, but not limited to, commercial or 395 competitive purposes. 396 (3) Nothing in This exemption does not expand expands the 397 information or documentation that a local governmental entity 398 may properly request under applicable law pursuant to the 399 imposition of fees for occupying the rights-of-way, the local communication services tax, or the regulation of its public 400 401 rights-of-way. 402 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 403 202.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 404 202.20 Local communications services tax conversion rates.-405 (2)406 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the

Page 14 of 34

```
25-00495B-12
                                                             20121060
407
     term "replaced revenue sources," as used in this section, means
408
     the following taxes, charges, fees, or other impositions to the
409
     extent that the respective local taxing jurisdictions were
410
     authorized to impose them prior to July 1, 2000.
411
          1. With respect to municipalities and charter counties and
412
     the taxes authorized by s. 202.19(1):
413
          a. The public service tax on telecommunications authorized
     by former s. 166.231(9).
414
          b. Franchise fees on video cable service providers as
415
416
     authorized by 47 U.S.C. s. 542.
417
          c. The public service tax on prepaid calling arrangements.
418
          d. Franchise fees on dealers of communications services
419
     which use the public roads or rights-of-way, up to the limit set
420
     forth in s. 337.401. For purposes of calculating rates under
421
     this section, it is the legislative intent that charter counties
422
     be treated as having had the same authority as municipalities to
423
     impose franchise fees on recurring local telecommunication
424
     service revenues before prior to July 1, 2000. However, the
425
     Legislature recognizes that the authority of charter counties to
426
     impose such fees is in dispute, and the treatment provided in
427
     this section is not an expression of legislative intent that
428
     charter counties actually do or do not possess such authority.
429
          e. Actual permit fees relating to placing or maintaining
430
     facilities in or on public roads or rights-of-way, collected
431
     from providers of long-distance, cable, and mobile
432
     communications services for the fiscal year ending September 30,
433
     1999; however, if a municipality or charter county elects the
434
     option to charge permit fees pursuant to s. 337.401(3)(c)1.a.,
435
     such fees may shall not be included as a replaced revenue
```

Page 15 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
436	source.
437	2. With respect to all other counties and the taxes
438	authorized in s. 202.19(1), franchise fees on <u>video</u> cable
439	service providers as authorized by 47 U.S.C. s. 542.
440	Section 7. Section 202.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to
441	read:
442	202.22 Determination of local tax situs
443	(1) A dealer of communications services who is obligated to
444	collect and remit a local communications services tax imposed
445	under s. 202.19 shall be held harmless from any liability,
446	including tax, interest, and penalties, which would otherwise be
447	due solely as a result of an assignment of a service address to
448	an incorrect local taxing jurisdiction, <u>unless the liability</u>
449	arises from tax that is due with respect to taxable services
450	that are included on bills to a customer which are dated on or
451	after the first day of the fourth month after the dealer is
452	notified by the department that the customer has been
453	incorrectly assigned. if the dealer of communications services
454	exercises due diligence in applying one or more of the following
455	methods for determining the local taxing jurisdiction in which a
456	service address is located:
457	(a) Employing an electronic database provided by the
458	department under subsection (2).
459	(b) Employing a database developed by the dealer or
460	supplied by a vendor which has been certified by the department
461	under subsection (3).
462	(c)1. Employing enhanced zip codes to assign each street
463	address, address range, post office box, or post office box
464	range in the dealer's service area to a specific local taxing

Page 16 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
465	jurisdiction.
466	2. If an enhanced zip code overlaps boundaries of
467	municipalities or counties, or if an enhanced zip code cannot be
468	assigned to the service address because the service address is
469	in a rural area or a location without postal delivery, the
470	dealer of communications services or its database vendor shall
471	assign the affected service addresses to one specific local
472	taxing jurisdiction within such zip code based on a reasonable
473	methodology. A methodology satisfies this subparagraph if the
474	information used to assign service addresses is obtained by the
475	dealer or its database vendor from:
476	a. A database provided by the department;
477	b. A database certified by the department under subsection
478	(3);
479	c. Responsible representatives of the relevant local taxing
480	jurisdictions; or
481	d. The United States Census Bureau or the United States
482	Postal Service.
483	(d) Employing a database of street addresses or other
484	assignments that does not meet the requirements of paragraphs
485	(a)-(c), but meets the criteria set forth in paragraph (3)(a) at
486	the time of audit by the department.
487	(2)(a) The department shall, subject to legislative
488	appropriation, create as soon as practical and feasible, and
489	thereafter maintain, an electronic database that gives due and
490	proper regard to any format that is approved by the American
491	National Standards Institute's Accredited Standards Committee
492	X12 and that designates for each street address, address range,
493	post office box, or post office box range in the state,

Page 17 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
494	
495	street location, the local taxing jurisdiction in which the
496	street address, address range, post office box, or post office
497	box range is located and the appropriate code for each such
498	local taxing jurisdiction, identified by one nationwide standard
499	numeric code. The nationwide standard numeric code must contain
500	the same number of numeric digits, and each digit, or
501	combination of digits, must refer to the same level of taxing
502	jurisdiction throughout the United States using a format similar
503	to FIPS 55-3 or other appropriate standard approved by the
504	Federation of Tax Administrators and the Multistate Tax
505	Commission. Each address or address range or post office box or
506	post office box range must be provided in standard postal
507	format, including the street number, street number range, street
508	name, post office box number, post office box range, and zip
509	code. The department shall provide notice of the availability of
510	the database, and any subsequent revision thereof, by
511	publication in the Florida Administrative Weekly.
512	(b)1. Each local taxing jurisdiction shall furnish to the
513	department all information needed to create and update the
514	electronic database, including changes in service addresses,
515	annexations, incorporations, reorganizations, and any other
516	changes in jurisdictional boundaries. The information furnished
517	to the department must specify an effective date, which must be
518	the next ensuing January 1 or July 1, and such information must
519	be furnished to the department at least 120 days prior to the
520	effective date. However, the requirement that counties submit
521	information pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to
522	appropriation.

Page 18 of 34

25-00495B-12 20121060 523 2. The department shall update the electronic database in 524 accordance with the information furnished by local taxing 525 jurisdictions under subparagraph 1. Each update must specify the 526 effective date as the next ensuing January 1 or July 1 and must 527 be posted by the department on a website not less than 90 days 528 prior to the effective date. A substantially affected person may 529 provide notice to the database administrator of an objection to 530 information contained in the electronic database. If an 531 objection is supported by competent evidence, the department 532 shall forward the evidence to the affected local taxing 533 jurisdictions and update the electronic database in accordance 534 with the determination furnished by local taxing jurisdictions to the department. The department shall also furnish the update 535 536 on magnetic or electronic media to any dealer of communications 537 services or vendor who requests the update on such media. However, the department may collect a fee from the dealer of 538 539 communications services which does not exceed the actual cost of 540 furnishing the update on magnetic or electronic media. Information contained in the electronic database is conclusive 541 542 for purposes of this chapter. The electronic database is not an 543 order, a rule, or a policy of general applicability. 544 3. Each update must identify the additions, deletions, and 545 other changes to the preceding version of the database. 546 (3) For purposes of this section, a database must be 547 certified by the department pursuant to rules that implement the following criteria and procedures: 548 549 (a) The database must assign street addresses, address 550 ranges, post office boxes, or post office box ranges to the 551 proper jurisdiction with an overall accuracy rate of 95 percent

Page 19 of 34

25-00495B-12 20121060 552 at a 95 percent level of confidence, as determined through a 553 statistically reliable sample. The accuracy must be measured 554 based on the entire geographic area within the state covered by 555 such database. 556 (b) Upon receipt of an application for certification or 557 recertification of a database, the provisions of s. 120.60 shall 558 apply, except that the department shall examine the application 559 and, within 90 days after receipt, notify the applicant of any 560 apparent errors or omissions and request any additional 561 information determined necessary. The applicant shall designate 562 an individual responsible for providing access to all records, 563 facilities, and processes the department determines are reasonably necessary to review, inspect, or test to make a 564 565 determination regarding the application. Such access must be provided within 10 working days after notification. 566 567 (c) The application must be in the form prescribed by rule 568 and must include the applicant's name, federal employer 569 identification number, mailing address, business address, and 570 any other information required by the department. The 571 application may request that the applicant identify the 572 applicant's proposal for testing the database. 573 (d) Each application for certification must be approved or denied upon written notice within 180 days after receipt of a 574 completed application. The notice must specify the grounds for 575 576 denial, inform the applicant of any remedy that is available, 577 and indicate the procedure that must be followed. Filing of a 578 petition under chapter 120 does not preclude the department from 579 certifying the database upon a demonstration that the deficiencies have been corrected. 580

Page 20 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060_
581	(e) Certification or recertification of a database under
582	this subsection is effective from the date of the department's
583	notice approving the application until the expiration of 3 or 4
584	years following such date, as set forth in the notice, except as
585	provided in paragraph (f).
586	(f) An application for recertification of a database must
587	be received by the department not more than 3 years after the
588	date of any prior certification. The application and procedures
589	relating thereto shall be governed by this subsection, except as
590	otherwise provided in this paragraph. When an application for
591	recertification has been timely submitted, the existing
592	certification shall not expire but shall remain effective until
593	the application has received final action by the department, or
594	if the application is denied, until the denial is no longer
595	subject to administrative or judicial review or such later date
596	as may be fixed by order of the reviewing court.
597	(g) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
598	if a dealer submits an application for certification on or
599	before the later of October 1, 2001, or the date that is 30 days
600	after the date on which the applicable department rule becomes
601	effective, the 180-day time limit set forth in paragraph (d)
602	does not apply. During the time the application is under
603	consideration by the department or, if the application is
604	denied, until the denial is no longer subject to administrative
605	or judicial review or until a later date fixed by order of the
606	reviewing court:
607	1. For purposes of computing the amount of the deduction to
608	which such dealer is entitled under s. 202.28, the dealer shall
609	be deemed to have used a certified database pursuant to

Page 21 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
610	paragraph (1)(b).
611	2. In the event that such application is approved, such
612	approval shall be deemed to have been effective on the date of
613	the application or October 1, 2001, whichever is later.
614	(4) (a) As used in this section, "due diligence" means the
615	care and attention that is expected from, and ordinarily
616	exercised by, a reasonable and prudent person under the
617	circumstances.
618	(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a dealer of
619	communications services is exercising due diligence in applying
620	one or more of the methods set forth in subsection (1) if the
621	dealer:
622	1. Expends reasonable resources to accurately and reliably
623	implement such method. However, the employment of enhanced zip
624	codes pursuant to paragraph (1)(c) satisfies the requirements of
625	this subparagraph; and
626	2. Maintains adequate internal controls in assigning street
627	addresses, address ranges, post offices boxes, and post office
628	box ranges to taxing jurisdictions. Internal controls are
629	adequate if the dealer of communications services:
630	a. Maintains and follows procedures to obtain and implement
631	periodic and consistent updates to the database at least once
632	every 6 months; and
633	b. Corrects errors in the assignments of service addresses
634	to local taxing jurisdictions within 120 days after the dealer
635	discovers such errors.
636	(5) If a dealer of communications services does not use one
637	or more of the methods specified in subsection (1) for
638	determining the local taxing jurisdiction in which a service

Page 22 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
639	
640	held liable to the department for any tax, including interest
641	and penalties, which is due as a result of assigning the service
642	address to an incorrect local taxing jurisdiction. However, the
643	dealer of communications services is not liable for any tax,
644	interest, or penalty to the extent that such amount was
645	collected and remitted by the dealer of communications services
646	with respect to a tax imposed by another local taxing
647	jurisdiction. Upon determining that an amount was collected and
648	remitted by a dealer of communications services with respect to
649	a tax imposed by another local taxing jurisdiction, the
650	department shall adjust the respective amounts of the proceeds
651	paid to each such taxing jurisdiction under s. 202.18 in the
652	month immediately following such determination.
653	(6)(a) Pursuant to rules adopted by the department, each
654	dealer of communications services must notify the department of
655	the methods it intends to employ for determining the local
656	taxing jurisdiction in which service addresses are located.
657	(b) Notwithstanding s. 202.28, if a dealer of
658	communications services employs a method of assigning service
659	addresses other than as set forth in paragraph (1)(a), paragraph
660	(1)(b), or paragraph (1)(c), the deduction allowed to the dealer
661	of communications services as compensation under s. 202.28 shall
662	be 0.25 percent of that portion of the tax due and accounted for
663	and remitted to the department which is attributable to such
664	method of assigning service addresses other than as set forth in
665	paragraph (1)(a), paragraph (1)(b), or paragraph (1)(c).
666	(7) As used in this section, "enhanced zip code" means a
667	United States postal zip code of 9 or more digits.

Page 23 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
668	(8) All local communications services taxes collected by a
669	dealer are subject to the provisions of s. 213.756. The hold
670	harmless protection provided by subsection (1) does not entitle
671	a dealer to retain or take credits for taxes collected from any
672	customers that are assigned to an incorrect local taxing
673	jurisdiction in excess of the taxes due to the correct local
674	taxing jurisdiction for that customer. Dealers are entitled to
675	refunds of or credits for such excess collections only upon
676	making refunds or providing credits to the customer.
677	Section 8. Subsections (2) and (5) of section 202.23,
678	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
679	202.23 Procedure on purchaser's request for refund or
680	credit of communications services taxes
681	(2) This section provides the sole and exclusive procedure
682	and remedy for a purchaser who claims that a dealer has
683	collected communications services taxes imposed or administered
684	under this chapter which were not due. An action that arises as
685	a result of the claimed collection of taxes that were not due
686	may not be commenced or maintained by or on behalf of a
687	purchaser against a dealer, a municipality, a county, or the
688	state unless the purchaser pleads and proves that the purchaser
689	has exhausted the procedures in subsection (1) and that the
690	defendant has failed to comply with subsection (1). However, \underline{a}
691	dealer who does not make a determination no determination by a
692	dealer under paragraph (1)(c) shall be deemed a failure to
693	comply with subsection (1) if the dealer has complied with the
694	obligations imposed on the dealer by paragraphs (1)(d), (e), and
695	(f). In any such action, it is a complete defense <u>if</u> that the
696	dealer, a municipality, a county, or the state has refunded the

Page 24 of 34

25-00495B-12

SB 1060

20121060 697 taxes claimed or credited the purchaser's account. In such an 698 action against a dealer, it is also a complete defense that, in 699 collecting the tax, the dealer used one or more of the methods 700 set forth in s. 202.22 for assigning the purchaser to a local 701 taxing jurisdiction. An Such action is barred unless it is 702 commenced within 180 days following the date of the dealer's 703 written response under paragraph (1)(f), or within 1 year 704 following submission of the purchaser's request to the dealer if 705 the dealer failed to issue a timely written response. The relief 706 available to a purchaser as a result of collection of 707 communications services taxes that were not due is limited to a 708 refund of or credit for such taxes.

709 (5) A dealer who has collected and remitted amounts that 710 were not due, as determined by the department under paragraph 711 (1) (e), who has issued a refund or credit to the purchaser for 712 such amounts, and who takes a credit or receives a refund from 713 the department for such amounts as provided in subsection (3) is 714 not subject to assessment for any of the tax that was refunded 715 or credited or for any interest or penalty with respect to the 716 tax. In addition, a dealer who modifies his or her tax 717 compliance practices to conform to a department determination under paragraph (1)(e) is not subject to assessment as a result 718 of such modification, absent a subsequent change in law or 719 720 update to a database pursuant to s. 202.22.

721 Section 9. Subsection (3) is added to section 202.231, 722 Florida Statutes, to read:

723 202.231 Provision of information to local taxing 724 jurisdictions.-

725

(3) The gross taxable sales and net tax information

Page 25 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
726	contained in the monthly reports required by this section shall
727	be aggregated on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis, and the
728	aggregate jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction information shall be made
729	available by the department to the public through the
730	department's website for each fiscal year this chapter has been
731	in effect.
732	Section 10. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of
733	section 202.24, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
734	202.24 Limitations on local taxes and fees imposed on
735	dealers of communications services
736	(2)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c), each public
737	body is prohibited from:
738	1. Levying on or collecting from dealers or purchasers of
739	communications services any tax, charge, fee, or other
740	imposition on or with respect to the provision or purchase of
741	communications services.
742	2. Requiring any dealer of communications services to enter
743	into or extend the term of a franchise or other agreement that
744	requires the payment of a tax, charge, fee, or other imposition.
745	3. Adopting or enforcing any provision of any ordinance or
746	agreement to the extent that such provision obligates a dealer
747	of communications services to charge, collect, or pay to the
748	public body a tax, charge, fee, or other imposition.
749	
750	Municipalities and counties may not negotiate those terms and
751	conditions related to franchise fees or the definition of gross
752	revenues or other definitions or methodologies related to the
753	payment or assessment of franchise fees on providers of cable or
754	video services.
	Dage 26 of 24

Page 26 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
755	(c) This subsection does not apply to:
756	1. Local communications services taxes levied under this
757	chapter.
758	2. Ad valorem taxes levied pursuant to chapter 200.
759	3. Business taxes levied under chapter 205.
760	4. "911" service charges levied under chapter 365.
761	5. Amounts charged for the rental or other use of property
762	owned by a public body which is not in the public rights-of-way
763	to a dealer of communications services for any purpose,
764	including, but not limited to, the placement or attachment of
765	equipment used in the provision of communications services.
766	6. Permit fees of general applicability which are not
767	related to placing or maintaining facilities in or on public
768	roads or rights-of-way.
769	7. Permit fees related to placing or maintaining facilities
770	in or on public roads or rights-of-way pursuant to s. 337.401.
771	8. Any in-kind requirements, institutional networks, or
772	contributions for, or in support of, the use or construction of
773	public, educational, or governmental access facilities allowed
774	under federal law and imposed on providers of cable or video
775	service pursuant to any existing ordinance or an existing
776	franchise agreement granted by each municipality or county,
777	under which ordinance or franchise agreement service is provided
778	before prior to July 1, 2007, or as permitted under chapter 610.
779	Nothing in This subparagraph <u>does not</u> shall prohibit the ability
780	of providers of cable or video service <u>from recovering the</u> to
781	recover such expenses as allowed under federal law.
782	9. Special assessments and impact fees.
783	10. Pole attachment fees that are charged by a local

Page 27 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

SB 1060

25-00495B-12 20121060 784 government for attachments to utility poles owned by the local 785 government. 786 11. Utility service fees or other similar user fees for 787 utility services. 788 12. Any other generally applicable tax, fee, charge, or 789 imposition authorized by general law on July 1, 2000, which is 790 not specifically prohibited by this subsection or included as a 791 replaced revenue source in s. 202.20. 792 Section 11. Paragraphs (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of 793 subsection (3) of section 202.26, Florida Statutes, are amended 794 to read: 795 202.26 Department powers.-(3) To administer the tax imposed by this chapter, the 796 797 department may adopt rules relating to: 798 (f) The records and methods necessary for a dealer to 799 demonstrate the exercise of due diligence as defined by s. 800 202.22 202.22(4)(b). 801 (g) The creation of the database described in s. 202.22(2) and the certification and recertification of the databases as 802 described in s. 202.22(3). 803 804 (g) (h) The registration of dealers. 805 (h) (i) The review of applications for, and the issuance of, 806 direct-pay permits, and the returns required to be filed by 807 holders thereof. 808 (i) (j) The types of books and records kept in the regular 809 course of business which must be available during an audit of a 810 dealer's books and records when the dealer has made an 811 allocation or attribution pursuant to the definition of sales prices in s. 202.11(15)(b)8. 202.11(13)(b)8. and examples of 812

Page 28 of 34

25-00495B-12 20121060 813 methods for determining the reasonableness thereof. Books and 814 records kept in the regular course of business include, but are 815 not limited to, general ledgers, price lists, cost records, 816 customer billings, billing system reports, tariffs, and other regulatory filings and rules of regulatory authorities. The Such 817 records may be required to be made available to the department 818 819 in an electronic format when so kept by the dealer. The dealer 820 may support the allocation of charges with books and records 821 kept in the regular course of business covering the dealer's entire service area, including territories outside this state. 822 823 During an audit, the department may reasonably require 824 production of any additional books and records found necessary 825 to assist in its determination. Section 12. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 826 827 202.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 828 202.28 Credit for collecting tax; penalties.-829 (2)830 (c) If a dealer of communications services does not use one 831 or more of the methods specified in s. 202.22(1) for assigning 832 service addresses to local jurisdictions and assigns one or more 833 service addresses to an incorrect local jurisdiction in 834 collecting and remitting local communications services taxes imposed under s. 202.19, the dealer shall be subject to a 835 836 specific penalty of 10 percent of any tax collected but reported 837 to the incorrect jurisdiction as a result of incorrect 838 assignment, except that the penalty imposed under this paragraph 839 with respect to a single return may not exceed \$10,000. 840 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 841 203.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

Page 29 of 34

 25-00495B-12
 20121060_____

 842
 203.01 Tax on gross receipts for utility and communications

 843
 services.

844 (1) (a)1. A tax is imposed on gross receipts from utility
845 services that are delivered to a retail consumer in this state.
846 <u>The Such</u> tax shall be levied as provided in paragraphs (b)-(j).

847 2. A tax is levied on communications services as defined in 848 s. $202.11(1) \frac{202.11(2)}{202.11(2)}$. The Such tax shall be applied to the 849 same services and transactions as are subject to taxation under 850 chapter 202, and to communications services that are subject to 851 the exemption provided in s. 202.125(1). The Such tax shall be 852 applied to the sales price of communications services when sold 853 at retail, as the such terms are defined in s. 202.11, shall be 854 due and payable at the same time as the taxes imposed pursuant 855 to chapter 202, and shall be administered and collected pursuant 856 to the provisions of chapter 202.

857 Section 14. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 858 212.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

859 212.05 Sales, storage, use tax.-It is hereby declared to be 860 the legislative intent that every person is exercising a taxable 861 privilege who engages in the business of selling tangible 862 personal property at retail in this state, including the 863 business of making mail order sales, or who rents or furnishes 864 any of the things or services taxable under this chapter, or who 865 stores for use or consumption in this state any item or article 866 of tangible personal property as defined herein and who leases 867 or rents such property within the state.

868 (1) For the exercise of such privilege, a tax is levied on
869 each taxable transaction or incident, which tax is due and
870 payable as follows:

Page 30 of 34

	25-00495B-12 20121060
871	(e)1. At the rate of 6 percent on charges for:
872	a. Prepaid calling arrangements. The tax on charges for
873	prepaid calling arrangements shall be collected at the time of
874	sale and remitted by the selling dealer.
875	(I) "Prepaid calling arrangement" means the separately
876	stated retail sale by advance payment of communications services
877	that must be paid for in advance; that may be used to place or
878	receive consist exclusively of telephone calls; that are enabled
879	originated by using an access number, authorization code, or
880	other means that may be manually, electronically, or otherwise
881	entered; and that are sold in predetermined units or dollars
882	whose number declines <u>on a predetermined basis</u> with use in a
883	known amount.
884	(II) If the sale or recharge of the prepaid calling
885	arrangement does not take place at the dealer's place of
886	business, it shall be deemed to take place at the customer's
887	shipping address or, if no item is shipped, at the customer's
888	address or the location associated with the customer's mobile
889	telephone number.
890	(III) The sale or recharge of a prepaid calling arrangement
891	shall be treated as a sale of tangible personal property for
892	purposes of this chapter, whether or not a tangible item
893	evidencing such arrangement is furnished to the purchaser, and
894	such sale within this state subjects the selling dealer to the
895	jurisdiction of this state for purposes of this subsection.

b. The installation of telecommunication and telegraphicequipment.

c. Electrical power or energy, except that the tax rate forcharges for electrical power or energy is 7 percent.

Page 31 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

SB 1060

25-00495B-12 20121060 900 2. The provisions of s. 212.17(3), regarding credit for tax 901 paid on charges subsequently found to be worthless, shall be 902 equally applicable to any tax paid under the provisions of this 903 section on charges for prepaid calling arrangements, 904 telecommunication or telegraph services, or electric power 905 subsequently found to be uncollectible. The word "charges" in 906 this paragraph does not include any excise or similar tax levied 907 by the Federal Government, any political subdivision of the 908 state, or any municipality upon the purchase, sale, or recharge 909 of prepaid calling arrangements or upon the purchase or sale of 910 telecommunication, television system program, or telegraph 911 service or electric power, which tax is collected by the seller 912 from the purchaser.

913 Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 914 610.118, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

915

610.118 Impairment; court-ordered operations.-

916 (1) If an incumbent cable or video service provider is 917 required to operate under its existing franchise and is legally 918 prevented by a lawfully issued order of a court of competent 919 jurisdiction from exercising its right to terminate its existing franchise pursuant to the terms of s. 610.105, any 920 921 certificateholder providing cable service or video service in 922 whole or in part within the service area that is the subject of 923 the incumbent cable or video service provider's franchise shall, 924 for as long as the court order remains in effect, comply with 925 the following franchise terms and conditions as applicable to 926 the incumbent cable or video service provider in the service 927 area:

928

(a) The certificateholder shall pay to the municipality or

Page 32 of 34

25-00495B-12

929 county:

930 1. Any prospective lump-sum or recurring per-subscriber 931 funding obligations to support public, educational, and 932 governmental access channels or other prospective franchise-933 required monetary grants related to public, educational, or 934 governmental access facilities equipment and capital costs. 935 Prospective lump-sum payments shall be made on an equivalent 936 per-subscriber basis calculated as follows: the amount of the 937 prospective funding obligations divided by the number of 938 subscribers being served by the incumbent cable service provider 939 at the time of payment, divided by the number of months 940 remaining in the incumbent cable or video service provider's 941 franchise equals the monthly per subscriber amount to be paid by 942 the certificateholder until the expiration or termination of the 943 incumbent cable or video service provider's franchise; and

944 2. If the incumbent cable or video service provider is 945 required to make payments for the funding of an institutional 946 network, the certificateholder shall pay an amount equal to the 947 incumbent's funding obligations but not to exceed 1 percent of 948 the sales price, as defined in s. 202.11(15) 202.11(13), for the 949 taxable monthly retail sales of cable or video programming 950 services the certificateholder received from subscribers in the 951 affected municipality or county. All definitions and exemptions 952 under chapter 202 apply in the determination of taxable monthly 953 retail sales of cable or video programming services.

954 Section 16. Section 624.105, Florida Statutes, is amended 955 to read:

956 624.105 Waiver of customer liability.—Any regulated company 957 as defined in s. 350.111, any electric utility as defined in s.

Page 33 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

20121060

	25-00495B-12 20121060
958	366.02(2), any utility as defined in s. 367.021(12) or s.
959	367.022(2) and (7), and any provider of communications services
960	as defined in s. <u>202.11(1)</u> 202.11(2) may charge for and include
961	an optional waiver of liability provision in their customer
962	contracts under which the entity agrees to waive all or a
963	portion of the customer's liability for service from the entity
964	for a defined period in the event of the customer's call to
965	active military service, death, disability, involuntary
966	unemployment, qualification for family leave, or similar
967	qualifying event or condition. Such provisions may not be
968	effective in the customer's contract with the entity unless
969	affirmatively elected by the customer. No such provision shall
970	constitute insurance so long as the provision is a contract
971	between the entity and its customer.
972	Section 17. The following changes made in this act are
973	intended to be remedial in nature and apply retroactively, but
974	do not provide a basis for an assessment of any tax not paid or
975	create a right to a refund or credit of any tax paid before the
976	general effective date of this act:
977	(a) The changes made in section 2 of this act to
978	subsections (9), (11), and (15) of s. 202.11, Florida Statutes;
979	(b) The changes made in section 7 of this act to s. 202.22,
980	Florida Statutes; and
981	(c) The changes made in section 14 of this act to paragraph
982	(e) of subsection (1) of s. 212.05, Florida Statutes.
983	Section 18. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Page 34 of 34