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FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Finance and Tax

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

A bill to be entitled An act relating to tax administration; amending s. 197.222, F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing, tax collectors to accept late payments of prepaid property taxes within a certain timeframe; deleting a late payment penalty; amending s. 211.3106, F.S.; specifying the severance tax rate for a certain heavy mineral under certain circumstances; amending s. 212.06, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "dealer"; revising a condition for a sales tax exception for tangible personal property imported, produced, or manufactured in this state for export; defining terms; specifying application requirements and procedures for a forwarding agent to apply for a Florida Certificate of Forwarding Agent Address from the Department of Revenue; requiring forwarding agents receiving such certificate to register as dealers for purposes of the sales and use tax; specifying requirements for sales tax remittance and for recordkeeping; specifying the timeframe for expiration of certificates and procedures for renewal; requiring forwarding agents to update information; requiring the department to verify certain information; authorizing the department to suspend or revoke certificates under certain circumstances; requiring the department to provide a list on its website of forwarding agents who have received certificates; providing circumstances and requirements for and construction related to dealers accepting certificates or relying on the

department's website list in lieu of collecting certain taxes; providing criminal penalties for certain violations; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending s. 212.13, F.S.; revising recordkeeping requirements for dealers collecting the sales and use tax; amending s. 212.15, F.S.; providing that stolen sales tax revenue may be aggregated for the purposes of determining the grade of certain criminal offenses; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; authorizing the department to publish a list of forwarding agents who have received Florida Certificates of Forwarding Agent Address on its website; reenacting s. 192.0105(3)(a), F.S., relating to taxpayer rights, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 197.222, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 212.07(1)(c), F.S., relating to the sales, storage, and use tax, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 212.06, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 212.08(18)(f), F.S., relating to the sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 212.13, F.S., in a reference thereto; authorizing the department to adopt emergency rules; providing for expiration of that authority; providing effective dates.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Effective July 1, 2021, paragraph (a) of

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593-02038B-21 20217068pb

subsection (1) of section 197.222, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 197.222 Prepayment of estimated tax by installment method.-
- (1) Taxes collected pursuant to this chapter may be prepaid in installments as provided in this section. A taxpayer may elect to prepay by installments for each tax notice for taxes estimated to be more than \$100. A taxpayer who elects to prepay shall make payments based upon an estimated tax equal to the actual taxes levied upon the subject property in the prior year. In order to prepay by installments, the taxpayer must complete and file an application for each tax notice with the tax collector on or before April 30 of the year in which the taxpayer elects to prepay the taxes. After submission of an initial application, a taxpayer is not required to submit additional annual applications as long as he or she continues to elect to prepay taxes in installments. However, if in any year the taxpayer does not so elect, reapplication is required for a subsequent election. Installment payments shall be made according to the following schedule:
- (a) The first payment of one-quarter of the total amount of estimated taxes due must be made by June 30 of the year in which the taxes are assessed. A 6 percent discount applied against the amount of the installment shall be granted for such payment. The tax collector shall may accept a late payment of the first installment through July 31, and the late payment must be accompanied by a penalty of 5 percent of the amount of the installment due.
- Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 211.3106, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

211.3106 Levy of tax on severance of heavy minerals; rate, basis, and distribution of tax.—

(3)

(e) If In the event the producer price index for titanium dioxide is discontinued or can no longer be calculated, then a comparable index must shall be selected by the department and adopted by rule. If there is no comparable index, the tax rate for the immediately preceding year must be used.

Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 212.06, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (m) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

212.06 Sales, storage, use tax; collectible from dealers; "dealer" defined; dealers to collect from purchasers; legislative intent as to scope of tax.—

(2)

- (m) The term "dealer" also means a forwarding agent as defined in sub-subparagraph (5) (b) 1.c. who has applied for and received a Florida Certificate of Forwarding Agent Address from the department.
- (5) (a) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., it is not the intention of this chapter to levy a tax upon tangible personal property imported, produced, or manufactured in this state for export, provided that tangible personal property may not be considered as being imported, produced, or manufactured for export unless the importer, producer, or manufacturer delivers the same to a <u>forwarding agent licensed exporter</u> for exporting or to a common carrier for shipment outside <u>this the</u> state or mails the same by United States mail to a destination outside <u>this</u> the state; or, in the case of aircraft being

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

exported under their own power to a destination outside the continental limits of the United States, by submission to the department of a duly signed and validated United States customs declaration, showing the departure of the aircraft from the continental United States; and further with respect to aircraft, the canceled United States registry of said aircraft; or in the case of parts and equipment installed on aircraft of foreign registry, by submission to the department of documentation as 7 the extent of which shall be provided by rule, showing the departure of the aircraft from the continental United States; nor is it the intention of this chapter to levy a tax on any sale that which the state is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution or laws of the United States. Every retail sale made to a person physically present at the time of sale is shall be presumed to have been delivered in this state.

2.a. Notwithstanding subparagraph 1., a tax is levied on each sale of tangible personal property to be transported to a cooperating state as defined in sub-subparagraph c., at the rate specified in sub-subparagraph d. However, a Florida dealer is will be relieved from the requirements of collecting taxes pursuant to this subparagraph if the Florida dealer obtains from the purchaser an affidavit providing setting forth the purchaser's name, address, state taxpayer identification number, and a statement that the purchaser is aware of his or her state's use tax laws, is a registered dealer in Florida or another state, or is purchasing the tangible personal property for resale or is otherwise not required to pay the tax on the transaction. The department may, by rule, provide a form to be used for the purposes of this sub-subparagraph set forth herein.

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

b. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "a cooperating state" means a state is one determined by the executive director of the department to cooperate satisfactorily with this state in collecting taxes on mail order sales. To be determined a cooperating state, a No state must meet shall be so determined unless it meets all the following minimum requirements:

- (I) It levies and collects taxes on mail order sales of property transported from that state to persons in this state, as described in s. 212.0596, upon request of the department.
- (II) The tax so collected <u>must</u> shall be at the rate specified in s. 212.05, not including any local option or tourist or convention development taxes collected pursuant to s. 125.0104 or this chapter.
- (III) Such state agrees to remit to the department all taxes so collected no later than 30 days from the last day of the calendar quarter following their collection.
- (IV) Such state authorizes the department to audit dealers within its jurisdiction who make mail order sales that are the subject of s. 212.0596, or makes arrangements deemed adequate by the department for auditing them with its own personnel.
- (V) Such state agrees to provide to the department records obtained by it from retailers or dealers in such state showing delivery of tangible personal property into this state upon which no sales or use tax has been paid in a manner similar to that provided in sub-subparagraph g.
- c. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "sales of tangible personal property to be transported to a cooperating state" means mail order sales to a person who is in the

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

cooperating state at the time the order is executed, from a dealer who receives that order in this state.

- d. The tax levied by sub-subparagraph a. shall be at the rate at which such a sale would have been taxed pursuant to the cooperating state's tax laws if consummated in the cooperating state by a dealer and a purchaser, both of whom were physically present in that state at the time of the sale.
- e. The tax levied by sub-subparagraph a., when collected, shall be held in the State Treasury in trust for the benefit of the cooperating state and shall be paid to it at a time agreed upon between the department, acting for this state, and the cooperating state or the department or agency designated by it to act for it; however, such payment shall in no event be made later than 30 days from the last day of the calendar quarter after the tax was collected. Funds held in trust for the benefit of a cooperating state are shall not be subject to the service charges imposed by s. 215.20.
- f. The department is authorized to perform such acts and to provide such cooperation to a cooperating state with reference to the tax levied by sub-subparagraph a. as is required of the cooperating state by sub-subparagraph b.
- g. In furtherance of this act, dealers selling tangible personal property for delivery in another state shall make available to the department, upon request of the department, records of all tangible personal property so sold. Such records <u>must shall</u> include a description of the property, the name and address of the purchaser, the name and address of the person to whom the property was sent, the purchase price of the property, information regarding whether sales tax was paid in this state

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593-02038B-21 20217068pb

on the purchase price, and such other information as the department may by rule prescribe.

- (b) 1. As used in this subsection, the term:
- <u>a. "Certificate" means a Florida Certificate of Forwarding</u>
 Agent Address.
- b. "Facilitating" means preparation for or arranging for export.
- c. "Forwarding agent" means a person or business whose principal business activity is facilitating for compensation the export of property owned by other persons.
- d. "NAICS" means those classifications contained in the North American Industry Classification System as published in 2007 by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.
- e. "Principal business activity" means the activity from which the person or business derives the highest percentage of its total receipts.
- 2. A forwarding agent engaged in international export may apply to the department for a certificate.
 - 3. Each application must include:
 - a. The designation of an address for the forwarding agent.
 - b. A certification that:
- (I) The tangible personal property delivered to the designated address for export originates with a United States vendor;
- (II) The tangible personal property delivered to the designated address for export is irrevocably committed to export out of the United States through a continuous and unbroken exportation process; and

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

(III) The designated address is used exclusively by the forwarding agent for such export.

- c. A copy of the forwarding agent's last filed federal income tax return showing the entity's principal business activity classified under NAICS code 488510, except as provided under subparagraph 4. or subparagraph 5.
- $\underline{\text{d. A statement of the total revenues of the forwarding}}$ agent.
- <u>e. A statement of the amount of revenues associated with</u> international export of the forwarding agent.
- f. A description of all business activity that occurs at the designated address.
- g. The name and contact information of a designated contact person of the forwarding agent.
 - h. The forwarding agent's website address.
- i. Any additional information the department requires by rule to demonstrate eligibility for the certificate and a signature attesting to the validity of the information provided.
- 4. An applicant that has not filed a federal return for the preceding tax year under NAICS code 488510 shall provide all of the following:
 - a. A statement of estimated total revenues.
- b. A statement of estimated revenues associated with international export.
- $\underline{\text{c. The NAICS code under which the forwarding agent intends}}$ to file a federal return.
- 5. If an applicant does not file a federal return identifying a NAICS code, the applicant shall provide documentation to support that its principal business activity is

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

that of a forwarding agent as defined in sub-subparagraph

(b) 1.c. and that the applicant is otherwise eligible for the certificate.

- <u>6. A forwarding agent that applies for and receives a</u> certificate shall register as a dealer with the department.
- 7. A forwarding agent shall remit the tax imposed under this chapter on any tangible personal property shipped to the designated forwarding agent address if no tax was collected and the tangible personal property remained in this state or when delivery to the purchaser or purchaser's representative occurs in this state. This subparagraph does not prohibit the forwarding agent from collecting such tax from the consumer of the tangible personal property.
 - 8. A forwarding agent shall maintain the following records:
- a. Copies of sales invoices or receipts between the vendor and the consumer when provided by the vendor to the forwarding agent. If sales invoices or receipts are not provided to the forwarding agent, the forwarding agent must maintain export documentation evidencing the value of the purchase consistent with the federal Export Administration Regulations, 15 C.F.R. parts 730-774.
- b. Copies of federal returns evidencing the forwarding agent's NAICS principal business activity code.
- c. Copies of invoices evidencing shipment to the forwarding agent.
- d. Invoices between the forwarding agent and the consumer or other documentation evidencing the ship-to destination outside the United States.
 - e. Invoices for foreign postal or transportation services.

f. Bills of lading.

g. Any other export documentation.

Such records must be kept in an electronic format and made available for the department's review pursuant to subparagraph 9. and ss. 212.13 and 213.35.

- 9. Each certificate expires 5 years after the date of issuance, except as specified in this subparagraph.
- a. At least 30 days before expiration, a new application must be submitted to renew the certificate, and the application must contain the information required in subparagraph 3. Upon application for renewal, the certificate is subject to the review and reissuance procedures prescribed by this chapter and department rule.
- b. Each forwarding agent shall update its application information annually or within 30 days of any material change.
- c. The department shall verify that the forwarding agent is actively engaged in facilitating the international export of tangible personal property.
- d. The department may suspend or revoke the certificate of any forwarding agent that fails to respond within 30 days to a written request for information regarding its business transactions.
- 10. The department shall provide a list on its website of forwarding agents that have applied for and received a certificate from the department. The list must include a forwarding agent's entity name, address, and expiration date as provided on the certificate.
 - 11. A dealer may accept a copy of the forwarding agent's

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

certificate or rely on the list of forwarding agents' names and addresses on the department's website in lieu of collecting the tax imposed under this chapter when the property is required by terms of the sale to be shipped to the designated address on the certificate. A dealer who accepts a valid copy of a certificate in good faith and ships purchased tangible personal property to the address on the certificate is not liable for any tax due on sales made during the effective dates indicated on the certificate.

- 12. The department may revoke a forwarding agent's certificate for noncompliance with this paragraph. Any person found to fraudulently use the address on the certificate for the purpose of evading tax is subject to the penalties provided in s. 212.085.
- 13. The department may adopt rules to administer this paragraph, including rules relating to procedures, application and eligibility requirements, and forms.
- (c)1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), it is not the intention of this chapter to levy a tax on the sale of tangible personal property to a nonresident dealer who does not hold a Florida sales tax registration, provided such nonresident dealer furnishes the seller a statement declaring that the tangible personal property will be transported outside this state by the nonresident dealer for resale and for no other purpose. The statement <u>must shall</u> include, but not be limited to, the nonresident dealer's name, address, applicable passport or visa number, arrival-departure card number, and evidence of authority to do business in the nonresident dealer's home state or country, such as his or her business name and address,

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

occupational license number, if applicable, or any other suitable requirement. The statement <u>must shall</u> be signed by the nonresident dealer and <u>must shall</u> include the following sentence: "Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing, and the facts alleged are true to the best of my knowledge and belief."

- 2. The burden of proof of subparagraph 1. rests with the seller, who must retain the proper documentation to support the exempt sale. The exempt transaction is subject to verification by the department.
- (d) (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), it is not the intention of this chapter to levy a tax on the sale by a printer to a nonresident print purchaser of material printed by that printer for that nonresident print purchaser when the print purchaser does not furnish the printer a resale certificate containing a sales tax registration number but does furnish to the printer a statement declaring that such material will be resold by the nonresident print purchaser.

Section 4. Effective July 1, 2021, subsection (2) of section 212.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 212.13 Records required to be kept; power to inspect; audit procedure.—
- (2) Each dealer, as defined in this chapter, shall secure, maintain, and keep as long as required by s. 213.35 a complete record of tangible personal property or services received, used, sold at retail, distributed or stored, leased or rented by said dealer, together with invoices, bills of lading, gross receipts from such sales, and other pertinent records and papers as may be required by the department for the reasonable administration

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593-02038B-21 20217068pb

of this chapter. + All such records must be made available to the department at reasonable times and places and by reasonable means, including in an electronic format when so kept by the dealer which are located or maintained in this state shall be open for inspection by the department at all reasonable hours at such dealer's store, sales office, general office, warehouse, or place of business located in this state. Any dealer who maintains such books and records at a point outside this state must make such books and records available for inspection by the department where the general records are kept. Any dealer subject to the provisions of this chapter who violates this subsection commits these provisions is quilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. If, however, any subsequent offense involves intentional destruction of such records with an intent to evade payment of or deprive the state of any tax revenues, such subsequent offense is shall be a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 5. Effective July 1, 2021, subsection (2) of section 212.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 212.15 Taxes declared state funds; penalties for failure to remit taxes; due and delinquent dates; judicial review.—
- (2) Any person who, with intent to unlawfully deprive or defraud the state of its moneys or the use or benefit thereof, fails to remit taxes collected under this chapter commits theft of state funds, punishable as follows:
- (a) If the total amount of stolen revenue is less than \$1,000, the offense is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a

second conviction, the offender commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Upon a third or subsequent conviction, the offender commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- (b) If the total amount of stolen revenue is \$1,000 or more, but less than \$20,000, the offense is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (c) If the total amount of stolen revenue is \$20,000 or more, but less than \$100,000, the offense is a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (d) If the total amount of stolen revenue is \$100,000 or more, the offense is a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

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The amount of stolen revenue may be aggregated in determining the grade of the offense.

Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 213.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.-
- (5) This section does not prevent the department from <u>doing</u> any of the following:
- (a) Publishing statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of particular accounts, reports, declarations, or returns; $\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial t}$
- (b) Publishing a list of forwarding agents who have received a Florida Certificate of Forwarding Agent Address,

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

which list shall include the forwarding agent's entity name, address, and certificate expiration date on the department's website pursuant to s. 212.06(5)(b)10.; or

(c) (b) Using telephones, e-mail, facsimile machines, or other electronic means to do any of the following:

- 1. Distribute information relating to changes in law, tax rates, interest rates, or other information that is not specific to a particular taxpayer;
 - 2. Remind taxpayers of due dates;
- 3. Respond to a taxpayer to an electronic mail address that does not support encryption if the use of that address is authorized by the taxpayer; or
 - 4. Notify taxpayers to contact the department.

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 197.222, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 192.0105, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

192.0105 Taxpayer rights.—There is created a Florida
Taxpayer's Bill of Rights for property taxes and assessments to
guarantee that the rights, privacy, and property of the
taxpayers of this state are adequately safeguarded and protected
during tax levy, assessment, collection, and enforcement
processes administered under the revenue laws of this state. The
Taxpayer's Bill of Rights compiles, in one document, brief but
comprehensive statements that summarize the rights and
obligations of the property appraisers, tax collectors, clerks
of the court, local governing boards, the Department of Revenue,
and taxpayers. Additional rights afforded to payors of taxes and
assessments imposed under the revenue laws of this state are

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

provided in s. 213.015. The rights afforded taxpayers to assure that their privacy and property are safeguarded and protected during tax levy, assessment, and collection are available only insofar as they are implemented in other parts of the Florida Statutes or rules of the Department of Revenue. The rights so guaranteed to state taxpayers in the Florida Statutes and the departmental rules include:

- (3) THE RIGHT TO REDRESS.
- (a) The right to discounts for early payment on all taxes and non-ad valorem assessments collected by the tax collector, except for partial payments as defined in s. 197.374, the right to pay installment payments with discounts, and the right to pay delinquent personal property taxes under a payment program when implemented by the county tax collector (see ss. 197.162, 197.3632(8) and (10)(b)3., 197.222(1), and 197.4155).

Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 212.06, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 212.07, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

212.07 Sales, storage, use tax; tax added to purchase price; dealer not to absorb; liability of purchasers who cannot prove payment of the tax; penalties; general exemptions.—

(1)

(c) Unless the purchaser of tangible personal property that is incorporated into tangible personal property manufactured, produced, compounded, processed, or fabricated for one's own use and subject to the tax imposed under s. 212.06(1)(b) or is purchased for export under s. 212.06(5)(a)1. extends a certificate in compliance with the rules of the department, the

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

dealer shall himself or herself be liable for and pay the tax.

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 212.13, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (f) of subsection (18) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (18) MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT USED PREDOMINANTLY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
- (f) Purchasers shall maintain all documentation necessary to prove the exempt status of purchases and fabrication activity and make such documentation available for inspection pursuant to the requirements of $s.\ 212.13(2)$.

Section 10. (1) The Department of Revenue is authorized, and all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing the amendment made by this act to s. 212.06, Florida Statutes.

- (2) Notwithstanding any other law, emergency rules adopted pursuant to subsection (1) are effective for 6 months after adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of the emergency rules.
- (3) This section shall take effect upon becoming a law and expires January 1, 2025.

593-02038B-21 20217068pb

523 Section 11. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this

524 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon

becoming a law, this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

Page 19 of 19