SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1484

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES McCAHERTY (Sponsor) AND NOLTE (Co-sponsor).

5316L.01I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 32.057, 142.836, 142.842, 142.900, 143.571, 143.611, 144.100, and 144.210, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof eleven new sections relating to electronic notifications and forms from the department of revenue, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 32.057, 142.836, 142.842, 142.900, 143.571, 143.611, 144.100, and

- 2 144.210, RSMo, are repealed and eleven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as
- 3 sections 32.029, 32.057, 32.064, 32.081, 142.836, 142.842, 142.900, 143.571, 143.611, 144.100,
- 4 and 144.210, to read as follows:

32.029. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Paperless Documents and Forms Act".

- 2. Beginning no later than January 1, 2013, the department of revenue shall, by
- January 1, 2019, develop and implement a method by which all documents and forms
- 5 provided to the public by the department, as well as any records, reports, returns, or other
- 6 documents required by the department, relating to taxes imposed under chapters 142, 143,
- 7 144, and 149, and fees imposed under sections 260.262 and 260.273, are available in an
- 8 electronic format online and are capable of electronic submission to the department. This
- section shall not be construed to prohibit the submission of paper forms to the department
- or to require the department to allow electronic filing of a form that requires a notary or
- authorization by a third party in order to be effective, or when any other document
- 12 associated with the form, either expressly or by implication, requires a third party to
- 13 notarize, authorize, or issue the document. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to

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the contrary, no electronic form shall be invalid solely because a paper version of the form has been incorporated or otherwise referenced in a rule.

32.057. 1. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, it shall be unlawful for the director of revenue, any officer, employee, agent or deputy or former director, officer, employee, 2 agent or deputy of the department of revenue, any person engaged or retained by the department of revenue on an independent contract basis, any person to whom authorized or unauthorized disclosure is made by the department of revenue, or any person who lawfully or unlawfully inspects any report or return filed with the department of revenue or to whom a copy, an abstract or a portion of any report or return is furnished by the department of revenue to make known in any manner, to permit the inspection or use of or to divulge to anyone any information relative to any such report or return, any information obtained by an investigation conducted by the 10 department in the discharge of official duty, or any information received by the director in cooperation with the United States or other states in the enforcement of the revenue laws of this 11 12 state. Such confidential information is limited to information received by the department in 13 connection with the administration of the tax laws of this state.

- 2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit:
- (1) The disclosure of information, returns, reports, or facts shown thereby, as described in subsection 1 of this section, by any officer, clerk or other employee of the department of revenue charged with the custody of such information:
- (a) To a taxpayer or the taxpayer's duly authorized representative under regulations which the director of revenue may prescribe, including notification by electronic means if the taxpayer has consented to such notification;
- (b) In any action or proceeding, civil, criminal or mixed, brought to enforce the revenue laws of this state;
- (c) To the state auditor or the auditor's duly authorized employees as required by subsection 4 of this section;
- (d) To any city officer designated by ordinance of a city within this state to collect a city earnings tax, upon written request of such officer, which request states that the request is made for the purpose of determining or enforcing compliance with such city earnings tax ordinance and provided that such information disclosed shall be limited to that sufficient to identify the taxpayer, and further provided that in no event shall any information be disclosed that will result in the department of revenue being denied such information by the United States or any other state. The city officer requesting the identity of taxpayers filing state returns but not paying city earnings tax shall furnish to the director of revenue a list of taxpayers paying such earnings tax, and the director shall compare the list submitted with the director's records and return to such city official the name and address of any taxpayer who is a resident of such city who has filed

a state tax return but who does not appear on the list furnished by such city. The director of revenue may set a fee to reimburse the department for the costs reasonably incurred in providing this information;

- (e) To any employee of any county or other political subdivision imposing a sales tax which is administered by the state department of revenue whose office is authorized by the governing body of the county or other political subdivision to receive any and all records of the state director of revenue pertaining to the administration, collection and enforcement of its sales tax. The request for sales tax records and reports shall include a description of the type of report requested, the media form including electronic transfer, computer tape or disk, or printed form, and the frequency desired. The request shall be made by annual written application and shall be filed with the director of revenue. The director of revenue may set a fee to reimburse the department for the costs reasonably incurred in providing this information. Such city or county or any employee thereof shall be subject to the same standards for confidentiality as required for the department of revenue in using the information contained in the reports;
- (f) To the director of the department of economic development or the director's duly authorized employees in discharging the director's official duties to certify taxpayers eligibility to claim state tax credits as prescribed by statutes;
- (g) To any employee of any political subdivision, such records of the director of revenue pertaining to the administration, collection and enforcement of the tax imposed in chapter 149 as are necessary for ensuring compliance with any cigarette or tobacco tax imposed by such political subdivision. The request for such records shall be made in writing to the director of revenue, and shall include a description of the type of information requested and the desired frequency. The director of revenue may charge a fee to reimburse the department for costs reasonably incurred in providing such information;
- (2) The publication by the director of revenue or of the state auditor in the audit reports relating to the department of revenue of:
- (a) Statistics, statements or explanations so classified as to prevent the identification of any taxpayer or of any particular reports or returns and the items thereof;
- (b) The names and addresses without any additional information of persons who filed returns and of persons whose tax refund checks have been returned undelivered by the United States Post Office;
- (3) The director of revenue from permitting the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States or the Secretary's delegates, the proper officer of any state of the United States imposing a tax equivalent to any of the taxes administered by the department of revenue of the state of Missouri or the appropriate representative of the multistate tax commission to inspect any return or report required by the respective tax provision of this state, or may furnish to such officer an

abstract of the return or report or supply the officer with information contained in the return or disclosed by the report of any authorized investigation. Such permission, however, shall be granted on condition that the corresponding revenue statute of the United States or of such other state, as the case may be, grants substantially similar privileges to the director of revenue and on further condition that such corresponding statute gives confidential status to the material with which it is concerned;

- (4) The disclosure of information, returns, reports, or facts shown thereby, by any person on behalf of the director of revenue, in any action or proceeding to which the director is a party or on behalf of any party to any action or proceeding pursuant to the revenue laws of this state when such information is directly involved in the action or proceeding, in either of which events the court may require the production of, and may admit in evidence, so much of such information as is pertinent to the action or proceeding and no more;
- (5) The disclosure of information, returns, reports, or facts shown thereby, by any person to a state or federal prosecuting official, including, but not limited to, the state and federal attorneys general, or the official's designees involved in any criminal, quasi-criminal, or civil investigation, action or proceeding pursuant to the laws of this state or of the United States when such information is pertinent to an investigation, action or proceeding involving the administration of the revenue laws or duties of public office or employment connected therewith;
- (6) Any school district from obtaining the aggregate amount of the financial institution tax paid pursuant to chapter 148 by financial institutions located partially or exclusively within the school district's boundaries, provided that the school district request such disclosure in writing to the department of revenue;
- (7) The disclosure of records which identify all companies licensed by this state pursuant to the provisions of subsections 1 and 2 of section 149.035. The director of revenue may charge a fee to reimburse the department for the costs reasonably incurred in providing such records;
- (8) The disclosure to the commissioner of administration pursuant to section 34.040 of a list of vendors and their affiliates who meet the conditions of section 144.635, but refuse to collect the use tax levied pursuant to chapter 144 on their sales delivered to this state;
- (9) The disclosure to the public of any information, or facts shown thereby regarding the claiming of a state tax credit by a member of the Missouri general assembly or any statewide elected public official.
- 3. Any person violating any provision of subsection 1 or 2 of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a class D felony.
- 4. The state auditor or the auditor's duly authorized employees who have taken the oath of confidentiality required by section 29.070 shall have the right to inspect any report or return filed with the department of revenue if such inspection is related to and for the purpose of

auditing the department of revenue; except that, the state auditor or the auditor's duly authorized employees shall have no greater right of access to, use and publication of information, audit and related activities with respect to income tax information obtained by the department of revenue pursuant to chapter 143 or federal statute than specifically exists pursuant to the laws of the United States and of the income tax laws of the state of Missouri.

- 32.064. 1. The director of the department of revenue may use electronic means to fulfill the duties and functions of the department of revenue relating to the administration and collection of all taxes and fees payable to the state as provided by law. Any statutory requirements for the department of revenue to provide notification to any person shall be satisfied by electronic notification when the taxpayer has agreed to such notification and the electronic notification is sent.
- 2. The director of the department of revenue may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2012, shall be invalid and void.
- 32.081. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the director of the department of revenue may transmit any notification required under chapters 142, 143, 144, 147, 149, 211, 301, 302, 303, 304, 306, 454, 544, 571, and 577 by electronic mail if the intended recipient of the notice has provided an electronic mail address to the department and has consented to the receipt of notifications through the electronic mail address provided. Such electronic notification shall be in lieu of and in full satisfaction of any requirement to provide notification by ordinary mail.
- 2. The department of revenue may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2012, shall be invalid and void.

142.836. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the tax imposed by section 142.803 on motor fuel measured by gallons imported from another state shall be precollected on behalf of the consumers and remitted to the state by the:

- (1) Licensed distributor who has imported the nonexempt motor fuel. The precollection shall be made and remitted within three business days after:
 - (a) The nonexempt motor fuel was entered into the state; or
- 7 (b) A valid import verification number required by this chapter was assigned by the 8 director; whichever occurred earlier. If the motor fuel was not subject to a precollection 9 agreement with the supplier, the precollection shall be remitted in the manner specified by the director; or
 - (2) Licensed distributor who has imported the nonexempt motor fuel which is subject to a precollection agreement with the supplier. The precollection shall be made and remitted on or before the last day of the following month unless such day falls upon a weekend or state holiday, in which case the liability would be due the next succeeding business day. If the supplier remits the tax in full electronically and files the monthly report required by subsection 6 of section 142.884 electronically in an approved format, the remittance of all amounts of tax due shall be paid on the basis of ninety-seven percent for gasoline, gasoline blends and gasoline blend stocks and ninety-eight percent for diesel, diesel blends and diesel blend stocks. If either the tax or the monthly report is not submitted electronically, the remittance of all amounts of tax due shall be paid on the basis of one hundred percent for gasoline, gasoline blends, gasoline blend stocks, diesel, diesel blends, and diesel blend stocks. The distributor shall remit the tax to the supplier, acting as trustee, who shall remit to the director on behalf of the distributor under the same terms as a supplier payment pursuant to section 142.842 and no import verification number shall be required; or
 - (3) Unlicensed importer at the time the fuel is entered into this state. However, if the supplier of the motor fuel, as shown on the records of the terminal operator, has made a blanket election to precollect tax in accordance with section 142.839, then the importer shall remit the tax to the supplier, acting as trustee, who shall remit to the director on behalf of the importer under the same terms as a supplier payment pursuant to section 142.842, and no import verification number shall be required.
 - 142.842. 1. The tax imposed by section 142.803, measured by motor fuel removed from a terminal or refinery in this state, other than a terminal bulk transfer, shall be precollected and remitted on behalf of the consumers to the state by the person removing the motor fuel from the facility through the supplier of the motor fuel, as shown in the records of the terminal operator, acting as a trustee.

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6 2. The supplier and each reseller shall list the amount of tax as a separate line item on 7 all invoices or billings.

- 3. All tax to be paid by a supplier with respect to gallons removed on the account of the supplier during a calendar month shall be due and payable on or before the second day of the second succeeding month unless such day falls upon a weekend or state holiday in which case the liability would be due the next succeeding business day.
- 4. A supplier shall remit any late taxes remitted to the supplier by an eligible purchaser and shall timely notify the director of any late remittances if that supplier has previously given notice to the director that the tax amount was not received pursuant to subsection 1 of section 142.857.
- 5. If the supplier remits the tax in full electronically and files the monthly report required by subsection 6 of section 142.884 electronically in an approved format, the remittance of all amounts of tax due shall be paid on the basis of [the amount invoiced to eligible purchasers or ninety-seven percent for gasoline, gasoline blends and gasoline blend stocks and ninety-eight percent for diesel fuel, diesel blends and diesel blend stocks [when the supplier removed the motor fuel for its own account or on sales to noneligible purchasers]. [At the director's discretion, payment may be made by electronic funds transfer If either the tax or the monthly report is not submitted electronically, the remittance of all amounts of tax due shall be paid on the basis of one hundred percent for gasoline, gasoline blends, gasoline blend stocks, diesel, diesel blends, and diesel blend stocks.

142.900. The director of the department of revenue may prescribe forms upon which reports are made to the director and all other forms and information the director deems necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter, and may require periodic submission of information from any person dealing in, transporting or storing motor fuel. The director may require that the forms and information necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter be submitted 5 electronically in an approved format after notifying all affected entities in writing at least six months before the effective date. For any person failing to file electronically under this section, there shall be added two percent to the amount required to be shown as tax on such return, unless the person can establish by a preponderance of evidence that the failure 10 to meet the requirements of this section was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect. It shall be presumed that a taxpayer failing to file electronically as provided in this section is due to willful neglect unless reasonable cause is established.

143.571. 1. For all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, the director of revenue shall require any person acting as a practitioner or preparer who completed and filed more than ten individual income tax returns in the previous year to file such returns electronically or in a paper format, where the paper format contains a

two-dimensional barcode in a format approved by the director. Any practitioner or preparer failing to file electronically or using a two-dimensional barcode in accordance with this section is liable for a penalty in the amount of fifty dollars for each individual income tax return prepared and filed, unless the practitioner or preparer can establish by a preponderance of evidence the failure to meet the requirements of this section was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect. It shall be presumed that a tax preparer or practitioner failing to file electronically or by two-dimensional barcode in accordance with this section is due to willful neglect unless reasonable cause is established.

- 2. For all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, the director of revenue shall require any person acting as a practitioner or preparer and who completed and filed more than ten corporate income and franchise tax returns in the previous year to file such returns electronically in a format approved by the director. Any practitioner or preparer failing to file electronically in accordance with this section is liable for a penalty in the amount of fifty dollars for each corporate income and franchise tax return prepared and filed, unless the practitioner or preparer can establish by a preponderance of evidence the failure to meet the requirements of this section was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect. It shall be presumed that a tax preparer or practitioner failing to file electronically in accordance with this section is due to willful neglect unless reasonable cause is established.
- 3. For all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, the director of revenue shall require employer withholding tax returns to be submitted electronically in a format approved by the director and the use of an electronic funds payment system for the payment of employer withholding taxes where the aggregate amount withheld was four thousand dollars or more in each of at least six months during the prior calendar year. Any taxpayer failing to file electronically in accordance with this section is liable for a penalty in the amount of two percent of the tax, unless the taxpayer can establish by a preponderance of evidence the failure to meet the requirements of this section was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect. It shall be presumed that a taxpayer failing to file electronically in accordance with this section is due to willful neglect unless reasonable cause is established.
- 4. The director of revenue may prescribe regulations as to the keeping of records, the content and form of returns and statements, and the filing of copies of federal income returns and determinations. The director of revenue may require any person, by regulation or notice served on such person, to make such returns, render such statements, or keep such records as the director of revenue may deem sufficient to show whether or not such person is liable under sections 143.011 to 143.996 for tax or for the collection of tax.

5. No tax return preparer or software company shall charge a separate fee for the electronic filing of returns required under this section. No software company shall offer a version of the company's tax software that charges a fee for electronic filing of returns required under this section and a separate version with similar functionality that charges no fee. Any tax return preparer or software company violating this subsection shall be liable for a civil penalty of five hundred dollars for the first violation and one thousand dollars for each succeeding violation of this subsection, with each return prepared or software package sold constituting a separate violation. The penalties imposed in this subsection shall be paid directly to the director of revenue upon notice and demand, and shall be assessed, collected, and paid in the same manner as taxes are assessed, collected, and paid under this chapter.

143.611. 1. As soon as practical after the return is filed, the director of revenue shall examine it to determine the correct amount of tax. If the director of revenue finds that the amount of tax shown on the return is less than the correct amount, he shall notify the taxpayer of the amount of the deficiency proposed to be assessed. If the director of revenue finds that the tax paid is more than the correct amount, he shall credit the overpayment against any taxes due under sections 143.011 to 143.996 from the taxpayer and refund the difference. No deficiency shall be proposed and no refund shall be made pursuant to this or any section of sections 143.011 to 143.996 unless the amount exceeds one dollar.

- 2. If the taxpayer fails to file an income tax return, the director of revenue shall estimate the taxpayer's taxable income and the tax thereon from any available information and notify the taxpayer of the amount proposed to be assessed as in the case of a deficiency.
- 3. The notice required by subsections 1 and 2 of this section, hereafter referred to as a notice of deficiency, shall set forth the reason for the proposed assessment. The notice of deficiency shall be mailed by certified or registered mail to the taxpayer at his last known address. In the case of a combined return, the notice of deficiency may be a single combined notice except that if the director of revenue is notified by either spouse that separate residences have been established he shall mail notices to each spouse. If the taxpayer is deceased, is under a legal disability, or, in the case of a corporation, has terminated its existence, a notice of deficiency may be mailed to his last known address unless the director of revenue has received notice of the existence and address of a person to receive notices with respect to such taxpayer.
- 4. Certified or registered mailing under sections 143.611 to 143.773 may include electronic notification if the taxpayer has agreed to electronic notification under section 32.057.
- 144.100. 1. Every person making any taxable sales of property or service, except transactions provided for in sections 144.070 and 144.440, individually or by duly authorized

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officer or agent, shall make and file a written return with the director of revenue in such manner as he may prescribe.

- 2. The returns shall be on blanks designed and furnished by the director of the department of revenue and shall be filed at the times provided in sections 144.080 and 144.090. The returns shall show the amount of gross receipts from sales of taxable property and services by the person and the amount of tax due thereon by that person during and for the period covered by the return. With each return, the person shall remit to the director of revenue the full amount of the tax due. Beginning on or after January 1, 2014, the director of revenue shall require returns to be submitted electronically in a format approved by the director and the use of an electronic funds payment system for the payment of sales taxes where the seller's aggregate state sales tax was four thousand dollars or more in each of at least six months during the prior calendar year. As used in this section, the term "state sales tax" means the tax imposed by sections 144.010 to 144.510 and the additional sales tax imposed by sections 43(a) to 43(c) and 47(a) to 47(c) of article IV of the Missouri Constitution, and does not include any sales taxes imposed by political subdivisions of the state under other provisions of law. For any seller failing to file electronically and make payment according to this section, there shall be added two percent to the amount required to be shown as tax on such return, unless the seller can establish by a preponderance of evidence that the failure to meet the requirements of this section was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect. It shall be presumed that a taxpayer's failure to file electronically in accordance with this section is due to willful neglect unless reasonable cause is established.
- 3. In case of charge and time sales the gross receipts thereof shall be included as sales in the returns as and when payments are received by the person, without any deduction therefrom whatsoever.
- 4. If an error or omission is discovered in a return or a change be necessary to show the true facts, the error may be corrected, the omission supplied, or the change made in the return next filed with the director for the filing period immediately following the filing period in which the error was made or the omission occurred, as prescribed by law, except that no refund under this chapter shall be allowed for any amount of tax paid by a seller which is based upon charges incident to credit card discounts. Any other omission or error must be corrected by filing an amended return for the erroneously reported period if the amount of tax is less than that originally reported, or an additional return if the amount of tax is greater than that originally reported. An additional return shall be deemed filed on the date the envelope in which it is mailed is postmarked or the date it is received by the director, whichever is earlier. Any payment of tax, interest, penalty or additions to tax shall be deemed filed on the date the envelope containing the payment is postmarked or the date the payment is received by the director,

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whichever is earlier. If a refund or credit results from the filing of an amended return, no refund or credit shall be allowed unless an application for refund or credit is properly completed and submitted to the director pursuant to section 144.190.

- 5. The amount of gross receipts from sales and the amount of tax due returned by the person, as well as all matters contained in the return, is subject to review and revision in the manner herein provided for the correction of the returns.
- 144.210. 1. The burden of proving that a sale of tangible personal property, services, substances or things was not a sale at retail shall be upon the person who made the sale, except that with respect to sales, services, or transactions provided for in section 144.070. The seller shall obtain and maintain exemption certificates signed by the purchaser or his agent as evidence for any exempt sales claimed; provided, however, that before any administrative tribunal of this 5 state, a seller may prove that sale is exempt from tax under this chapter in accordance with proof admissible under the applicable rules of evidence; except that when a purchaser has purchased tangible personal property or services sales tax free under a claim of exemption which is found 8 to be improper, the director of revenue may collect the proper amount of tax, interest, additions 10 to tax and penalty from the purchaser directly. Any tax, interest, additions to tax or penalty 11 collected by the director from the purchaser shall be credited against the amount otherwise due 12 from the seller on the purchases or sales where the exemption was claimed.
 - 2. If the director of revenue is not satisfied with the return and payment of the tax made by any person, he is hereby authorized and empowered to make an additional assessment of tax due from such person, based upon the facts contained in the return or upon any information within his possession or that shall come into his possession.
 - 3. The director of revenue shall give to the person written notice of such additional or revised assessment by certified or registered mail to the person at his or its last known address.
 - 4. Certified or registered mailing under sections 144.210 to 144.761 may include electronic notification if the taxpayer has agreed to electronic notification under section 32.057.

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