HB 1459 2004 A bill to be entitled

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28 29 An act relating to transportation and sale of cigarettes; amending s. 210.01, F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s. 210.05, F.S.; providing stamp requirements for cigarettes in transport; providing stamp exceptions for certain cigarettes; requiring transporters of certain cigarettes to submit certain reports; amending s. 210.06, F.S.; revising requirements for and limitations on the affixation of stamps; providing requirements with respect to receipt, possession, storage, and transport of unstamped cigarette packages; creating s. 210.085, F.S.; requiring manufacturers, importers, distributing agents, dealers, and retail dealers to hold a current, valid permit to sell, distribute, or receive cigarettes; amending s. 210.09, F.S.; providing notice and filing quidelines for certain person shipping unstamped cigarette packages; authorizing certain law enforcement officials to inspect certain shipping vehicles; requiring wholesale dealers to submit certain reports; providing criteria for reports; authorizing the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco to adopt rules; providing for access to certain records; amending s. 210.12, F.S.; authorizing the state to claim certain property and materials from certain dealers and retailers who attempt to defraud the state; authorizing the destruction of certain cigarettes; amending s. 210.15, F.S.; providing criteria for permit application; prohibiting issuance, maintenance, or renewal of certain permits for certain applicants; providing guidelines for permit application denial; amending s.

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210.18, F.S.; expanding the group of violators subject to criminal liability; prohibiting the sale or possession for sale of counterfeit cigarettes; providing penalties; creating s. 210.181, F.S.; providing civil penalties for failure to comply with certain duties or pay certain taxes; providing an effective date.

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

- Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 210.01, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (19) through (23) are added to said section, to read:
- 210.01 Definitions.--When used in this part the following words shall have the meaning herein indicated:
- outside this state who sells cigarettes to retail dealers or other persons for purposes of resale only, or any person who operates more than one cigarette vending machine located in more than one place of business. Such term shall not include any cigarette manufacturer, export warehouse proprietor, or importer with a valid permit under 26 U.S.C. s. 5712 if such person sells or distributes cigarettes in this state only to dealers who are agents and who hold valid and current permits under s. 210.15 or to an export warehouse proprietor or another manufacturer.
- (7) "Retail dealer" means any person <u>located inside or</u> <u>outside this state</u> other than a wholesale dealer engaged in the business of selling cigarettes, <u>including persons licensed</u> <u>pursuant to s. 569.003</u>.
 - (19) "Stamp" or "stamps" means the indicia required to be

HB 1459 2004 59 placed on cigarette packages that evidences payment of the tax 60 on cigarettes under s. 210.02. (20) "Importer" means any person with a valid permit under 61 62 26 U.S.C. s. 5712 who imports into the United States, directly or indirectly, a finished cigarette for sale or distribution. 63 64 (21) "Manufacturer" means any person with a valid permit 65 under 26 U.S.C. s. 5712 who manufactures, fabricates, assembles, 66 processes, or labels a finished cigarette. 67 (22) "Counterfeit cigarettes" means cigarettes that have false manufacturing labels, tobacco product packs without tax 68 69 stamps or with counterfeit tax stamps, or any combination 70 thereof. 71 (23) "Brand family" means all styles of cigarettes sold 72 under the same trademark and differentiated from one another by 73 means of additional modifiers or descriptors, including, but not 74 limited to, "menthol," "lights," "kings," and "100s," and 75 includes any brand name used alone or in conjunction with any 76 other word, trademark, logo, symbol, motto, selling message, recognizable pattern of colors, or any other indicia of product 77 78 identification identical or similar to, or identifiable with, a 79 previously known brand of cigarettes. 80 Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 210.05, Florida Statutes, to read: 81 210.05 Preparation and sale of stamps; discount.--82 (6)(a) A person may not transport or cause to be 83 84 transported from this state cigarettes for sale in another state 85 without first affixing to the cigarettes the stamp required by

the state in which the cigarettes are to be sold or paying any

other excise tax on the cigarettes imposed by the state in which the cigarettes are to be sold.

- (b) A person may not affix to cigarettes the stamp required by another state or pay any other excise tax on the cigarettes imposed by another state if the other state prohibits stamps from being affixed to the cigarettes, prohibits the payment of any other excise tax on the cigarettes, or prohibits the sale of the cigarettes.
- (c) On or before the 10th day of each month, a person who transports or causes to be transported from this state cigarettes for sale in another state shall submit to the division a report identifying the quantity and brand family of each brand of the cigarettes transported or caused to be transported in the preceding calendar quarter and the name and address of each recipient of the cigarettes.
- (d) For purposes of this section, the term "person" means an individual, partnership, committee, association, corporation, or any other organization or group of persons. Person does not include any common or contract carrier, or public warehouse that is not owned, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by such person.
- Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 210.06, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to said section, to read:
 - 210.06 Affixation of stamps; presumption. --
- (1) Every dealer within or without the state shall affix or cause to be affixed to such package or container of such cigarettes such, stamps as are required under this section within 10 days after receipt of such products. Dealers outside

this state shall affix such stamps before the shipment of cigarettes into this state, evidencing the payment of the tax imposed by virtue of this part before such cigarettes are offered for sale or use or consumed or before they are otherwise disposed of in the state.

- (a) A tax stamp shall be applied to all cigarette packages intended for sale or distribution to consumers subject to the tax imposed under s. 210.02, including cigarettes subject to reduced state tax under s. 210.04(4)(b).
- (b) No stamp shall be applied to any cigarette package exempt from tax under 26 U.S.C. s. 5704 that is distributed by a manufacturer pursuant to federal regulations.
- (c) Dealers may apply stamps only to cigarette packages received directly from a manufacturer or importer of cigarettes who possesses a valid and current permit under 26 U.S.C. s. 5712.
- (5) Except as provided in s. 210.09(1), no person, other than a dealer that receives unstamped cigarette packages directly from a cigarette manufacturer or importer in accordance with this section and s. 210.085, shall hold or possess an unstamped cigarette package. Dealers shall be permitted to set aside, without application of stamps, only such part of the dealer's stock that is identified for sale or distribution outside this state. If a dealer maintains stocks of unstamped cigarette packages, such unstamped packages shall be stored separately from stamped product packages. No unstamped cigarette packages shall be transferred by a dealer to another facility of the dealer within this state or to another person within this state.

Section 4. Section 210.085, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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210.085 Transactions only with permitted manufacturers, importers, distributing agents, dealers, and retail dealers.--A manufacturer, importer, or distributing agent may sell or distribute cigarettes to a person located or doing business within this state, including on any tribal lands located within the borders of this state, only if such person is a dealer with a valid, current permit under s. 210.15. A dealer may sell or distribute cigarettes to a person located or doing business within this state, including on any tribal lands located within the borders of this state, only if such person is a dealer or retail dealer with a valid, current permit under s. 569.003. A dealer may obtain cigarettes only from a manufacturer or importer who possesses a valid, current permit under 26 U.S.C. s. 5712 or from a distributing agent or dealer with a valid, current permit under s. 210.15. A retail dealer may obtain cigarettes only from a manufacturer or dealer with a valid, current permit under s. 210.15.

Section 5. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 210.09, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (6) is added to said section, to read:

210.09 Records to be kept; reports to be made; examination.--

(1)(a) Every person who shall possess or transport any unstamped cigarettes upon the public highways, roads, or streets of the state, shall be required to have in his or her actual possession invoices or delivery tickets for such cigarettes. The absence of such invoices or delivery tickets shall be prima

facie evidence that such person is a dealer in cigarettes in this state and subject to the provisions of this part.

- (b) Any person who ships unstamped cigarette packages into this state other than to a dealer holding a valid, current permit pursuant to s. 210.15 shall first file with the division a notice of such shipment. This paragraph shall not apply to any common or contract carrier that is transporting cigarettes through this state to another location outside this state under a proper bill of lading or freight bill that states the quantity, source, and destination of such cigarettes.
- (c) In any case in which the division or its duly authorized agent, or any law enforcement officer of this state, has knowledge or reasonable grounds to believe that any vehicle is transporting cigarettes in violation of this part, the division, such agent, or such law enforcement officer is authorized to stop such vehicle and inspect the vehicle for contraband cigarettes.
- (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the division is authorized to prescribe and promulgate by rules and regulations, which shall have the force and effect of the law, such records to be kept and reports to be made to the division by any distributing agent, wholesale dealer, retail dealer, common carrier, or any other person handling, transporting or possessing cigarettes for sale or distribution within the state as may be necessary to collect and properly distribute the taxes imposed by s. 210.02. All reports shall be made on or before the 10th day of the month following the month for which the report is made, unless the division by rule or regulation shall prescribe that reports be made more often.

(b) Each wholesale dealer shall submit to the division monthly reports setting forth the following information, itemized or submitted separately for each place of business of such dealer:

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- 1. The quantities of cigarettes, by brand family, on hand both at the beginning and end of the reporting period.
- 2. The quantities of cigarettes, by brand family and transaction, that were received during the reporting period and the name and address of each person from whom those products were received.
- 3. The quantities of cigarettes, by brand family and transaction, distributed or shipped during the reporting period, other than sales directly to consumers, and the name and address of each person to whom those products were distributed or shipped.
- (c) Manufacturers and importers shipping cigarettes into or within this state shall file a monthly report with the division containing the information regarding such cigarettes set forth in paragraph (b).
- (d) The reports submitted pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) shall be further itemized to disclose the quantity of reported cigarettes bearing tax stamps of this state, stamps of another state, and unstamped cigarettes, itemized to show, if known, the portion of the unstamped cigarettes that are intended for sale or distribution in this state. Dealer reports shall include, if applicable, the quantity of tax stamps of this state that were not affixed to cigarettes and that were on hand at the beginning and end of the reporting period, the quantity of each type of stamp of this state received during the reporting

period, and the quantity of each type of stamp of this state applied during the reporting period.

- (e) The division may adopt rules requiring such additional information in the monthly reports as is necessary or appropriate for purposes of enforcing the provisions of this part.
- (6) The United States Secretary of the Treasury or his or her designee shall have access to records and reports required by this section. The division may share such records and reports with law enforcement officials of this state, the Federal Government, or other states.
- Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 210.12, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsections (2) through (6) of said section are renumbered as subsections (4) through (8), respectively, and new subsections (2) and (3) are added to said section, to read:
 - 210.12 Seizures; forfeiture proceedings.--
- (1) The state, acting by and through the division, shall be authorized and empowered to seize, confiscate, and forfeit for the use and benefit of the state, any cigarettes upon which taxes payable hereunder may be unpaid or that are otherwise held in violation of the requirements of this chapter, and also any vending machine or receptacle in which such cigarettes upon which taxes have not been paid are held for sale, or any vending machine that does not have affixed thereto the identification sticker required by the provisions of s. 210.07, or which does not display at all times at least one package of each brand of cigarettes located therein so the same is clearly visible and arranged in such a manner that the cigarette tax stamp or meter

HB 1459 2004 impression of the stamp affixed thereto is clearly visible. Such

seizure may be made by the division, its duly authorized

representative, any sheriff or deputy sheriff, or any police officer.

- (2) All fixtures, equipment, and other materials and personal property on the premises of any dealer or retail dealer who, with intent to defraud the state, fails to keep or make any record, return, report, or inventory required by this part; keeps or makes any false or fraudulent record, return, report, or inventory required by this part; refuses to pay any tax imposed by this part; or attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the requirements of this part shall be forfeited to the state.
- (3) All cigarettes seized, confiscated, and forfeited to the state under this part shall be destroyed.
- Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 210.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 210.15 Permits.--

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engage in business as a manufacturer, importer, exporter, distributing agent, or wholesale dealer of cigarettes deal in eigarettes as a distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or exporter within this state shall file with the division an application for a cigarette permit for each place of business located within this state or, in the absence of such place of business in this state, for wherever its principal place of business is located with the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco. Every application for a cigarette permit shall be made on forms furnished by the division and shall set forth the name

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under which the applicant transacts or intends to transact business, the location of the applicant's place of business within the state, if any, and such other information as the division may require. If the applicant has or intends to have more than one place of business dealing in cigarettes within this state, the application shall state the location of each place of business. If the applicant is an association, the application shall set forth the names and addresses of the persons constituting the association, and if a corporation, the names and addresses of the principal officers thereof and any other information prescribed by the division for the purpose of identification. The application shall be signed and verified by oath or affirmation by the owner, if a natural person, and in the case of an association or partnership, members or partners thereof, and in the case of a corporation, by an executive officer thereof or by any person specifically authorized by the corporation to sign the application, to which shall be attached the written evidence of this authority. The cigarette permit for a distributing agent shall be issued annually for which an annual fee of \$5 shall be charged.

- (b) The holder of any duly issued, annual permit for a distributing agent shall be entitled to a renewal of his or her annual permit from year to year as a matter of course, on or before July 1, upon making application to the division and upon payment of this annual permit fee.
- (c) <u>Permits</u> The permit for a distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or exporter shall be issued only to persons of good moral character, who are not less than 18 years of age.

 Distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or exporter Permits to

319 corporations shall be issued only to corporations whose officers

- are of good moral character and not less than 18 years of age.
- 321 There shall be no exemptions from the permit fees herein
- provided to any persons, association of persons, or corporation,
- 323 any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

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- (d) No distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or exporter permit shall be issued, maintained, or renewed if the applicant, its officers, or any person or persons owning directly or indirectly, in the aggregate, more than 10 percent of the
- ownership interests in the applicant:
 - 1. Owes \$500 or more in delinquent cigarette taxes;
- 2. Had a cigarette importer, retail dealer, or dealer

 permit revoked by the division within the previous 2 years;
 - 3. Has been convicted of selling stolen or counterfeit cigarettes, receiving stolen cigarettes, or being involved in the counterfeiting of cigarettes; or
 - 4. Has been convicted in this state, any other state, or the United States of any offense designated as a felony by such state or the United States within 15 years prior to applying for a permit to any person who has been convicted within the past 5 years of any offense against the cigarette laws of this state or who has been convicted in this state, any other state, or the United States during the past 5 years of any offense designated as a felony by such state or the United States, or to a corporation, any of whose officers have been so convicted. The term "convicted" "conviction" shall include an adjudication of guilt on a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere, or the forfeiture of a bond when charged with a crime.

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(e)(d) The division shall may refuse to issue a distributing agent, wholesale, or exporter permit to any person, firm, or corporation whose permit under the cigarette law has been revoked or to any corporation, an officer of which has had his or her permit under the cigarette law revoked, or to any person who is or has been an officer of a corporation whose permit has been revoked under the cigarette law. Any permit issued to a firm or corporation prohibited from obtaining such permit under the cigarette law shall may be revoked by the division.

(f)(e) Prior to an application for a distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or exporter permit being approved, the applicant shall file a set of fingerprints on forms provided by the division. The applicant shall also file a set of fingerprints for any person or persons interested directly or indirectly with the applicant in the business for which the permit is being sought, when so required by the division. If the applicant or any person interested with the applicant, either directly or indirectly, in the business for which the permit is sought shall be such a person as is within the definition of persons to whom a distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or exporter permit shall be denied, then the application may be denied by the division. If the applicant is a partnership, all members of the partnership are required to file said fingerprints, or if a corporation, all principal officers of the corporation are required to file said fingerprints. The cigarette permit for a wholesale dealer or exporter shall be originally issued at a fee of \$100, which sum is to cover the cost of the investigation required before issuing such permit.

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(g)(f) The cigarette permits issued under this section permit for a wholesale dealer or exporter shall be renewed from year to year as a matter of course, at an annual cost of \$100, on or before July 1, upon making application to the division and upon payment of the annual renewal fee.

(h)(g) Permittees, by acceptance of their permits, agree that their places of business or vehicles transporting cigarettes shall always be subject to be inspected and searched without a search warrant for the purpose of ascertaining that all provisions of this part are complied with by authorized employees of the division and also by sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and police officers during business hours or during any other time such premises are occupied by the permittee or other persons. Retail cigarette dealers and manufacturers' representatives, by dealing in cigarettes, agree that their places of business or vehicles transporting cigarettes shall always be subject to inspection and search without a search warrant for the purpose of ascertaining that all provisions of this part are complied with by authorized employees of the division and also by sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and police officers during business hours or other times when the premises are occupied by the retail dealer or manufacturers' representatives or other persons.

(i)(h) No retail sales of cigarettes may be made at a location for which a wholesale dealer, distributing agent, or exporter permit has been issued. The excise tax on sales made to any traveling location, such as an itinerant store or industrial caterer, shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund unallocated. Cigarettes may be purchased for retail purposes

only from a person holding a wholesale dealer permit. The invoice for the purchase of cigarettes must show the place of business for which the purchase is made and the cigarettes cannot be transferred to any other place of business for the purpose of resale.

Section 8. Subsections (2), (3), and (6) of section 210.18, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (9) is added to said section, to read:

- 210.18 Penalties for tax evasion; reports by sheriffs.--
- person wholesale or retail dealer who fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with, or violates the provisions of, this part or the rules adopted and regulations promulgated by the division under this part commits is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Any person wholesale or retail dealer who has been convicted of a violation of any provision of the cigarette tax law and who is thereafter convicted of a further violation of the cigarette tax law is, upon conviction of such further offense, guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (3) Any person who falsely or fraudulently makes, forges, alters, or counterfeits any stamp or impression die used in meter machines prescribed by the division under the provisions of this part; or, with intent to evade taxes, jams, tampers with, or alters such a machine; or causes or procures to be falsely or fraudulently made, forged, altered, or counterfeited any such stamp or die; or knowingly and willfully utters, purchases, passes or tenders as true any such false, altered, or

HB 1459 counterfeited stamp or die impression; or with the intent to

defraud the state, fails to comply with any other requirement of this chapter commits is guilty of a felony of the third degree,

437 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(6)(a) Every person, firm, or corporation, other than a licensee under the provisions of this part, who possesses, removes, deposits, or conceals, or aids in the possessing, removing, depositing, or concealing of, any unstamped cigarettes not in excess of 50 cartons is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. In lieu of the penalties provided in those sections, however, the person, firm, or corporation may pay the tax plus a penalty equal to the amount of the tax authorized under s. 210.02 on the unstamped cigarettes.

(a)(b) Every person, firm, or corporation, other than a licensee under the provisions of this part, who possesses, removes, deposits, or conceals, or aids in the possessing, removing, depositing, or concealing of, any unstamped cigarettes in excess of 50 cartons is presumed to have knowledge that they have not been taxed and commits is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(b)(e) This section does not apply to a person possessing not in excess of three cartons of such cigarettes purchased by such possessor outside the state in accordance with the laws of the place where purchased and brought into this state by such possessor. The burden of proof that such cigarettes were purchased outside the state and in accordance with the laws of

the place where purchased shall in all cases be upon the possessor of such cigarettes.

- or possession for sale of counterfeit cigarettes by any person or by a manufacturer, importer, distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or retail dealer shall result in the seizure of the product and related machinery by the division or any law enforcement agency and shall be punishable as follows:
- (a)1. A first violation with a total quantity of less than two cartons of cigarettes or the equivalent amount of other cigarettes shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or five times the retail value of the cigarettes involved, whichever is greater, or imprisonment not to exceed 5 years, or both.
- 2. A subsequent violation with a total quantity of less than two cartons of cigarettes or the equivalent amount of other cigarettes shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or five times the retail value of the cigarettes involved, whichever is greater, or imprisonment not to exceed 5 years, or both, and shall also result in the revocation by the division of the permit of the manufacturer, importer, distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or retail dealer.
- (b)1. A first violation with a total quantity of two or more cartons of cigarettes or the equivalent amount of other cigarettes shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000 or five times the retail value of the cigarettes involved, whichever is greater, or imprisonment not to exceed 5 years, or both.

2. A subsequent violation with a quantity of two cartons of cigarettes or more or the equivalent amount of other cigarettes shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$50,000 or five times the retail value of the cigarettes involved, whichever is greater, or imprisonment not to exceed 5 years, or both, and shall also result in the revocation by the division of the permit of the manufacturer, importer, distributing agent, wholesale dealer, or retail dealer.

- For purposes of this subsection, any counterfeit cigarettes seized by the division shall be destroyed.
- Section 9. Section 210.181, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

210.181 Civil penalties.--

- (1) Whoever knowingly omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with any duty imposed upon him or her by this part, or to do or cause to be done any of the things required by this part, or does anything prohibited by this part shall, in addition to any other penalty provided in this part, be liable for a fine of \$1,000 or five times the retail value of the cigarettes involved, whichever is greater.
- (2) Whoever fails to pay any tax imposed by this part at the time prescribed by law or rules shall, in addition to any other penalty provided in this part, be liable for a penalty of five times the unpaid tax due.
- Section 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.