By the Committee on Commerce; and Senator Haridopolos

577-2037-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to sales and use tax credits or
3	refunds; amending s. 212.17, F.S.; authorizing
4	dealers to take certain credits or obtain
5	refund of taxes paid for worthless private
6	label credit card accounts; specifying
7	conditions; providing for remittances of taxes
8	collected on such accounts; providing
9	definitions; requiring dealers and lenders to
10	file a joint election to receive the credit or
11	refund; providing recordkeeping requirements;
12	authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt
13	rules; specifying nonapplication to certain
14	claims for credits or refunds; providing an
15	effective date.
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17	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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19	Section 1. Section 212.17, Florida Statutes, is
20	amended to read:
21	212.17 Credits for returned goods, rentals, or
22	admissions; goods acquired for dealer's own use and
23	subsequently resold; worthless private label credit card
24	accounts; additional powers of department
25	(1)(a) In the event purchases are returned to a dealer
26	by the purchaser or consumer after the tax imposed by this
27	chapter has been collected from or charged to the account of
28	the consumer or user, the dealer shall be entitled to
29	reimbursement of the amount of tax collected or charged by the
30	dealer, in the manner prescribed by the department.
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- (b) A registered dealer that purchases property for the dealer's own use, pays tax on acquisition, and sells the property subsequent to acquisition without ever having used the property is entitled to reimbursement, in the manner prescribed by the department, of the amount of tax paid on the property's acquisition.
- (c) If the tax has not been remitted by a dealer to the department, the dealer may deduct the same in submitting his or her return upon receipt of a signed statement of the dealer as to the gross amount of such refunds during the period covered by said signed statement, which period shall not be longer than 90 days. The department shall issue to the dealer an official credit memorandum equal to the net amount remitted by the dealer for such tax collected or paid. Such memorandum shall be accepted by the department at full face value from the dealer to whom it is issued, in the remittance for subsequent taxes accrued under the provisions of this chapter. If a dealer has retired from business and has filed a final return, a refund of tax may be made if it can be established to the satisfaction of the department that the tax was not due.
- (2) A dealer who has paid the tax imposed by this chapter on tangible personal property sold under a retained title, conditional sale, or similar contract, or under a contract wherein the dealer retains a security interest in the property pursuant to chapter 679, may take credit or obtain a refund for the tax paid by the dealer on the unpaid balance due him or her when he or she repossesses (with or without judicial process) the property within 12 months following the month in which the property was repossessed. When such

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repossessed property is resold, the sale is subject in all respects to the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (3) A dealer who has paid the tax imposed by this chapter on tangible personal property or services may take a credit or obtain a refund for any tax paid by the dealer on the unpaid balance due on worthless accounts within 12 months following the month in which the bad debt has been charged off for federal income tax purposes. If any accounts so charged off for which a credit or refund has been obtained are thereafter in whole or in part paid to the dealer, the amount so paid shall be included in the first return filed after such collection and the tax paid accordingly.
- (4)(a) The department shall design, prepare, print and furnish to all dealers, except dealers filing through electronic data interchange, or make available or prescribe to the dealers, all necessary forms for filing returns and instructions to ensure a full collection from dealers and an accounting for the taxes due, but failure of any dealer to secure such forms does not relieve the dealer from the payment of the tax at the time and in the manner provided.
- (b) The department shall prescribe the format and instructions necessary for filing returns in a manner that is initiated through an electronic data interchange to ensure a full collection from dealers and an accounting for the taxes due. The failure of any dealer to use such format does not relieve the dealer from the payment of the tax at the time and in the manner provided.
- (5) The department and its assistants are hereby authorized and empowered to administer the oath for the purpose of enforcing and administering the provisions of this chapter.

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<u>U.S.C.</u> s. 1504.

2 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to enforce the provisions of this chapter. 3 4 (7) The department, where admissions, license fees, or 5 rental payments or payments for services are made and thereafter returned to the payors after the taxes thereon have 7 been paid, shall return or credit the taxpayer for taxes so 8 paid on the moneys returned in the same manner as is provided for returns or credits of taxes where purchases or tangible 9 personal property are returnable to a dealer. 10 (8)(a) In the case of private label credit card 11 12 accounts found to be worthless and deductible as bad debts for federal income tax purposes, a dealer or lender may take a 13 credit or obtain a refund of the taxes previously paid by the 14 dealer under this chapter on the unpaid balance due on the 15 worthless accounts if a proper election is made under 16 paragraph (e) by the dealer and lender and the following 18 conditions are met: 1. No credit or refund was previously claimed or 19 allowed on any portion of the account. 20 21 2. The accounts have been found worthless and are 2.2 deductible as bad debts for federal income tax purposes by the

(6) The department has authority to adopt rules

charged off for federal income tax purposes.
(b) If a dealer or lender thereafter collects in whole
or in part any account for which a credit or refund has been
obtained under this subsection, the dealer or the lender shall

3. The accounts are found to be worthless on or after

lender or any entity affiliated with the lender under 26

July 1, 2007, and the credit or refund is claimed not later

than 12 months following the date on which the accounts are

1	include the amount collected and account for tax on that
2	amount in the earlier of the dealer's or lender's first return
3	or refund claim filed after the collection or a statement
4	filed with the department by the 20th day of the month
5	following the month in which the amount was collected.
6	(c) For purposes of this subsection, the term "lender"
7	means any of the following:
8	1. Any person who owns or has owned a private label
9	credit card account that the person purchased directly from a
10	dealer who remitted the tax imposed under this chapter;
11	2. Any person who owns or has owned a private label
12	credit card account pursuant to that person's contract
13	directly with the dealer who remitted the tax imposed under
14	this chapter; or
15	3. Any person who is an affiliated entity, under 26
16	U.S.C. s. 1504, of a person described in subparagraph 1. or
17	subparagraph 2. or an assignee or other transferee of a person
18	described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.
19	(d) For purposes of this subsection, the term "private
20	label credit card" means any charge card or credit card that
21	carries, refers to, or is branded with the name or logo of a
22	dealer and can be used for purchases from the dealer whose
23	name or logo appears on the card or for purchases from any of
24	the dealer's affiliates. For purposes of this paragraph, the
25	term "dealer's affiliates" means all entities affiliated with
26	the dealer under 26 U.S.C. s. 1504. In the case of a private
27	label credit card that also may be used to make purchases from
28	persons other than the dealer whose name or logo appears on
29	the card or the dealer's affiliates, the sales receipts of the
30	dealer and the dealer's affiliates must be capable of
31	identification apart from any receipts reflecting sales by

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such unrelated persons. Nothing in this subsection authorizes any credit or refund with respect to sales by such unrelated persons.

(e) Before a dealer or lender may take a credit or obtain a refund under this subsection, the lender and the dealer shall file a joint election with the department, signed by the dealer and lender, designating whether the dealer or lender is entitled to claim the credit or refund. This election may not be revoked unless a written notice, signed by the dealer and lender who signed the election being revoked, is filed with the department.

(f) The dealer or lender shall maintain adequate books, records, or other documentation supporting the deduction taken for the bad debts found to be worthless for which a credit was taken or a refund was claimed under this subsection. If a dealer remits sales tax or use tax to this state and one or more other states, the dealer or its lender claiming any credits or refunds under this subsection may use an apportionment method to substantiate the amount of tax imposed under this chapter included in the bad debts to which the credit or refund applies. The apportionment method must use the dealer's Florida and non-Florida sales, the dealer's taxable and nontaxable sales, and the amount of tax the dealer remitted to this state. Alternatively, the dealer or lender may treat a specified percentage of the private label credit card accounts as giving rise to a credit or refund under this subsection, which percentage is derived from a sampling of the dealer's or lender's records in accordance with a methodology agreed upon by the department and the dealer or lender.

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1	(q) A lender as defined in paragraph (c) may have its
2	credit for bad debts claimed on a consolidated sales and use
3	tax return.
4	(h) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss.
5	120.536(1) and 120.54 governing the implementation of this
6	subsection.
7	(i) This subsection shall not apply to any credit or
8	refund claim presented under subsection (2) or subsection (3),
9	any assessment or refund denial pertaining to a credit or
10	refund claim made under subsection (2) or subsection (3), or
11	any audit or administrative or judicial proceeding relating to
12	such credit or refund claims pending as of July 1, 2007.
13	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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15	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
16	Senate Bill 982
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18	The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 982 differs from the bill as filed in the following ways:
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20	- A dealer or lender may claim a sales tax refund or sales tax credit no later than 12 months from the date a worthless account was written off for federal income tax
21	purposes, rather than 12 months from the filing date of
22	the federal income tax return on which the charge-off was taken.
23	- For clarity, an early reference to the process by which a
24	dealer or lender elects to take the tax credit or tax refund is cross-referenced to a description of the
25	process later in the bill.
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