

REVENUE DEPARTMENT[701]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)"b."

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code chapter 17A and sections 421.14 and 422.68, the Department of Revenue hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 18, "Taxable and Exempt Sales Determined by Method of Transaction or Usage," and Chapter 212, "Elements Included In and Excluded From a Taxable Sale and Sales Price," Iowa Administrative Code.

Item 1 amends rule 701—18.20(422,423) by adopting new subrule 18.20(7). The proposed amendment provides definitions used in the taxation of communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service and other similar communication service and expands and clarifies provisions governing these services. The amendment is required for compliance with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

Item 2 amends Chapter 212 by adding new rule 701—212.8(423). This new rule deals with payments made by a third party, such as a reimbursement to a retailer from a manufacturer for a manufacturer's coupon.

The proposed amendments will not necessitate additional expenditures by political subdivisions or agencies and entities which contract with political subdivisions. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of these amendments would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

The Department has determined that these proposed amendments may have an impact on small business. The Department has considered the factors listed in Iowa Code section 17A.4A. The Department will issue a regulatory analysis as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4A if a written request is filed by delivery or by mailing postmarked no later than July 6, 2009, to the Policy Section, Taxpayer Service and Policy Division, Department of Revenue, Hoover State Office Building, P.O. Box 10457, Des Moines, Iowa 50306. The request may be made by the Administrative Rules Review Committee, the Administrative Rules Coordinator, at least 25 persons signing that request who each qualify as a small business, or an organization representing at least 25 such persons.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on these proposed amendments on or before June 23, 2009. Such written comments should be directed to the Policy Section, Taxpayer Service and Policy Division, Department of Revenue, Hoover State Office Building, P.O. Box 10457, Des Moines, Iowa 50306.

Persons who want to convey their views orally should contact the Policy Section, Taxpayer Service and Policy Division, Department of Revenue, at (515)281-8036 or at the Department of Revenue offices on the fourth floor of the Hoover State Office Building. Requests for a public hearing must be received by June 26, 2009.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 422 and 423.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** subrule 18.20(7):

18.20(7) Communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service, and other similar communication service.

a. Purpose. This subrule covers various provisions related to communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service, and other similar communication service.

b. Definitions.

(1) “*Air-to-ground radio telephone service*” means a radio service in which common carriers are authorized to offer and provide radio telecommunications service for hire to subscribers in aircraft.

(2) “*Ancillary services*” means services that are associated with or incidental to the provision of a telecommunications service. The term includes, but is not limited to, detailed communications billing service, directory assistance, vertical service, and voice mail services.

(3) “*Call-by-call basis*” means any method of charging for telecommunications services where the price is measured by individual calls.

(4) “*Communications channel*” means a physical or virtual path of communications over which signals are transmitted between or among customer channel termination points.

(5) “*Communication service*” means the act of communicating using any system or the act of transmission and receipt of information between two or more points. Each point must be capable of both transmitting and receiving information if communication is to occur. The term “communication service” includes, but is not limited to, the transmission and receipt of sound, printed materials (including letters and other materials), other images perceived visually and data encoded in computer languages. Communication service also includes telecommunications service, ancillary service and other similar communication service.

(6) “*Conference bridging service*” means an ancillary service that links two or more participants of an audio or video conference call and may include the provision of a telephone number. Conference bridging service does not include telecommunications services used to reach the conference bridge.

(7) “*Customer*” means the person or entity that contracts with the seller of telecommunications services. If the end user of telecommunications services is not the contracting party, the end user of the telecommunications service is the customer of the telecommunications service. For purposes of sourcing sales of telecommunications services, the end user of the telecommunications service is the customer of the telecommunications service when the end user is not also the contracting party. “Customer” does not include a reseller of telecommunications service or for mobile telecommunications service of a serving carrier under an agreement to serve the customer outside the home service provider’s licensed service area.

(8) “*Customer channel termination point*” means the location where the customer either inputs or receives the communications.

(9) “*Detailed telecommunications billing service*” means an ancillary service of separately stating information pertaining to individual calls on a customer’s billing statement.

(10) “*Directory assistance*” means an ancillary service of providing telephone number information and address information.

(11) “*End user*” means the person who utilizes the telecommunication service. In the case of an entity, “end user” means the individual who utilizes the service on behalf of the entity.

(12) “*Fixed wireless service*” means a telecommunications service that provides radio communication between fixed points.

(13) “*Home service provider*” means the same as defined in Section 124(5) of Public Law 106-252, 4 U.S.C. § 124(5) (Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act). The home service provider is the facilities-based carrier or reseller with which the customer contracts for the provision of mobile telecommunications services.

(14) “*Interstate*” means a telecommunications service that originates in one United States state or a United States territory or possession and terminates in a different United States state or a United States territory or possession.

(15) “*Intrastate*” means a telecommunications service that originates in one United States state or a United States territory or possession and terminates in the same United States state or a United States territory or possession.

(16) “*Mobile telecommunications service*” means commercial mobile radio service; that is, a radio communication service carried on between mobile stations or receivers and land stations and by mobile stations communicating among themselves.

(17) “*Mobile wireless service*” means a telecommunications service that is transmitted, conveyed, or routed regardless of the technology used, whereby the origination and/or termination points of the

transmission, conveyance, or routing are not fixed, including, by example only, telecommunications services that are provided by a commercial mobile radio service provider.

(18) "*Paging service*" means a telecommunications service that provides transmission of coded radio signals for the purpose of activating specific pagers. This transmission may include messages and sounds.

(19) "*Pay telephone service*" means a telecommunications service provided through any pay telephone. Pay telephone service also includes coin operated telephone service paid for by inserting money into a telephone accepting direct deposits of money to operate.

(20) "*Place of primary use*" means the street address representative of where the customer's use of the telecommunications service primarily occurs, which must be the residential street address or the primary business street address of the customer. In the case of mobile telecommunications services, the place of primary use must be within the licensed service area of the home service provider.

(21) "*Postpaid calling service*" means the telecommunications service obtained by making a payment on a call-by-call basis, either through use of a credit card or payment mechanism such as a bank card, travel card, credit card or debit card, or by charge made to a telephone number which is not associated with the origination or termination of the telecommunications service. A postpaid calling service includes a telecommunications service, except a prepaid wireless calling service, that would be a prepaid calling service except it is not exclusively a telecommunication service.

(22) "*Prepaid calling service*" means the right to access exclusively telecommunications services, which must be paid for in advance and which enable the origination of calls using an access number or authorization code, whether manually or electronically dialed, and that are sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(23) "*Prepaid wireless calling service*" means a telecommunications service that provides the right to utilize mobile wireless service as well as other non-telecommunications services, including the download of digital products delivered electronically, content and ancillary services, which must be paid for in advance that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(24) "*Private communication service*" means a telecommunication service that entitles the customer to exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of channels between or among termination points, regardless of the manner in which such channel or channels are connected, and includes switching capacity, extension lines, stations, and any other associated services that are provided in connection with the use of such channel or channels.

(25) "*Residential telecommunications service*" means a telecommunications service or ancillary services provided to an individual for personal use at a residential address, including an individual dwelling unit, such as an apartment. In the case of institutions where individuals reside, such as schools or nursing homes, telecommunications service is considered residential if it is provided to and paid for by an individual resident rather than the institution.

(26) "*Service address*" means:

1. The location of the telecommunications equipment to which a customer's call is charged and from which the call originates or terminates, regardless of where the call is billed or paid.

2. If the location in numbered paragraph "1" of this subparagraph is not known, "service address" means the origination point of the signal of the telecommunications services first identified by either the seller's telecommunications system or in information received by the seller from its service provider, where the system used to transport such signals is not that of the seller.

3. If the locations in numbered paragraphs "1" and "2" of this subparagraph are not known, the service address means the location of the customer's place of primary use.

(27) "*Telecommunications service*" means the electronic transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals to a point, or between or among points. The term includes any transmission, conveyance, or routing in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, code, or protocol of the content for purposes of transmission, conveyance, or routing without regard to whether such service is referred to as voice-over Internet protocol

services or is classified by the Federal Communications Commission as enhanced or value-added. “Telecommunications service” does not include the following:

1. Data processing and information services that allow data to be generated, acquired, stored, processed, or retrieved and delivered by an electronic transmission to a purchaser where the purchaser’s primary purpose for the underlying transaction is the processed data or information;
2. Installation or maintenance of wiring or equipment on a customer’s premises;
3. Tangible personal property;
4. Advertising, including but not limited to directory advertising;
5. Billing and collection services provided to third parties;
6. Internet access service;
7. Radio and television audio and video programming services, regardless of the medium, including the furnishing of transmission, conveyance, or routing of the service by the programming service provider. Radio and television audio and video programming services shall include, but not be limited to, cable service and audio and video programming services delivered by a commercial mobile radio service provider;
8. Ancillary service;
9. Digital products delivered electronically, including but not limited to software, music, video, reading materials or ring tones.

(28) “*Value-added non-voice data service*” means a service that otherwise meets the definition of telecommunications services in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, content, code, or protocol of the information or data primarily for a purpose other than transmission, conveyance, or routing.

(29) “*Vertical service*” means an ancillary service that is offered in connection with one or more telecommunications services which offers advanced calling features that allow customers to identify callers and to manage multiple calls and call connections. Nonexclusive examples of vertical service include call forwarding, caller ID, three-way calling, and conference bridging services.

(30) “*Voice mail service*” means an ancillary service that enables the customer to store, send, or receive recorded messages. Voice mail service does not include any vertical services that the customer may be required to have in order to utilize the voice mail service.

c. Taxable communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service, and other similar communication service. The sales price from the sale of communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service, and other similar communication service is subject to the sales or use tax. The following is a nonexclusive list of services subject to the Iowa sales and use tax:

- (1) Air-to-ground radio telephone service;
- (2) Ancillary services except detailed communications billing service;
- (3) Conference bridging service;
- (4) Fixed wireless service;
- (5) Mobile wireless service;
- (6) Pay telephone service;
- (7) Postpaid calling service;
- (8) Prepaid calling service;
- (9) Prepaid wireless calling service;
- (10) Private communication service;
- (11) Residential telecommunications service.

d. Nontaxable communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service, and other similar communication service. The following services are not subject to the Iowa sales and use tax:

- (1) Detailed communications billing service;
- (2) Internet access fees or charges;
- (3) One-way paging services that only receive information and are not capable of transmitting information;
- (4) Value-added non-voice data service;

(5) Any charge necessary to secure only interstate communication service if the nature of the service is separately stated and the charge for the interstate service is separately billed.

e. Sourcing of telecommunications services.

(1) General sourcing principles apply to telecommunications services unless the service falls under one of the exceptions set out in paragraph “e.”

(2) Exceptions. The following telecommunications services and products are sourced in accordance with the principles set out in subparagraph (2):

1. Mobile telecommunications service is sourced to the place of primary use, unless the service is prepaid wireless calling service.

2. Prepaid calling service is sourced as provided under Iowa Code section 423.15. However, if the seller has sufficient information available, the sale of prepaid wireless calling service may be sourced to the location of the place of primary use.

3. A sale of a private telecommunications service is sourced as follows:

- Service for a separate charge related to a customer channel termination point is sourced to each level of jurisdiction in which the customer channel termination point is located.

- Service where all customer termination points are located entirely within one jurisdiction or levels of jurisdiction is sourced in the jurisdiction in which the customer channel termination points are located.

- Service for segments of a channel between two customer channel termination points located in different jurisdictions and which segments of channel are separately charged is sourced 50 percent in each level of jurisdiction in which the customer channel termination points are located.

- Service for segments of a channel located in more than one jurisdiction or levels of jurisdiction and which segments are not separately billed is sourced in each jurisdiction based on the percentage determined by dividing the number of customer channel termination points in the jurisdiction by the total number of customer channel termination points.

4. The sale of Internet access service is sourced to the customer’s place of primary use.

5. The sale of an ancillary service is sourced to the customer’s place of primary use.

6. A postpaid calling service is sourced to the origination point of the telecommunications signal as first identified by either (a) the seller’s telecommunications system or (b) information received by the seller from its service provider, where the system used to transport the signals is not that of the seller.

7. The sale of telecommunications service sold on a call-by-call basis is sourced to (a) each level of taxing jurisdiction where the call originates and terminates in that jurisdiction or (b) each level of taxing jurisdiction where the call either originates or terminates and in which the service address is also located.

8. The sale of telecommunications services sold on a basis other than a call-by-call basis is sourced to the customer’s place of primary use.

9. The sale of the following telecommunication services is sourced to each level of taxing jurisdiction as follows:

- A sale of mobile telecommunications services, other than prepaid calling service, is sourced to the customer’s place of primary use as required by the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act.

- A sale of postpaid calling service is sourced to the origination point of the telecommunications signal as first identified by either (a) the seller’s telecommunications system or (b) information received by the seller from its service provider, where the system used to transport such signals is not that of the seller.

f. Bundled transaction.

(1) A “bundled transaction” is the retail sale of two or more products where (a) the products are otherwise distinct and identifiable, and (b) the products are sold for one non-itemized price. A bundled transaction does not include the sale of any products in which the sales price varies or is negotiable based on the selection by the purchaser of the products included in the transaction.

(2) In the case of a bundled transaction that includes any of the following: telecommunications service, ancillary service, Internet access, or audio or video programming service:

1. If the price is attributable to products that are taxable and products that are nontaxable, the portion of the price attributable to the nontaxable products will be subject to tax unless the provider can identify by reasonable and verifiable standards such portion from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of business for other purposes, including, but not limited to, non-tax purposes.

2. If the price is attributable to products that are subject to tax at different tax rates, the total price may be treated as attributable to the products subject to tax at the highest tax rate unless the provider can identify by reasonable and verifiable standards the portion of the price attributable to the products subject to tax at the lower rate from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of business for other purposes, including but not limited to non-tax purposes.

3. The provisions of this subrule shall apply unless otherwise provided by federal law.

g. Direct pay permit. The department may issue a direct pay permit that allows the holder to purchase tangible personal property or taxable services without payment of the tax to the seller. The direct pay permit holder cannot use the direct pay permit for the purchase of communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary services, or other similar communication service. The seller should charge and collect the sales or use tax from the purchaser on the taxable sales of communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary services, and other similar communication service.

h. Credit. A taxpayer subject to sales or use tax on communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service or other similar communication service who has paid any legally imposed sales or use tax on such service to another jurisdiction outside the state of Iowa is allowed a credit against the sales or use tax imposed by the state of Iowa equal to the sales or use tax paid to the other taxing jurisdictions.

i. Sales of communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary service, or other similar communication service to the United States government or the state government of Iowa. Sales of communication service, telecommunications services, ancillary services, or other similar communication service to the United States government or its agencies or to the state of Iowa or its agencies are not subject to sales or use tax. In order to be a sale to the United States government or to the state government of Iowa, the government or agency involved must make the purchase of the services and pay directly to the vendor the purchase price of the services. Telecommunications service providers should obtain an exemption certificate from each agency for their records.

j. Retailers liable for collecting and remitting tax. Retailers that sell taxable communication service, telecommunications service, ancillary services, or other similar communication service are liable for collecting and remitting the state sales or use tax and any applicable local sales tax on the amounts of the sales.

ITEM 2. Adopt the following **new** rule 701—212.8(423):

701—212.8(423) Payment from a third party. The sales price from the sales of tangible personal property, services, or enumerated services includes consideration received by the seller from third parties. The following conditions shall apply:

212.8(1) The seller actually receives consideration from a party other than the purchaser, and the consideration is directly related to a price reduction or discount on the sale;

212.8(2) The seller has an obligation to pass the price reduction or discount through to the purchaser;

212.8(3) The amount of the consideration attributable to the sale is fixed and determinable by the seller at the time of the sale of the item to the purchaser; and

212.8(4) One of the following criteria is met:

a. The purchaser presents a coupon, certificate or other documentation to the seller to claim a price reduction or discount where the coupon, certificate or documentation is authorized, distributed or granted by a third party with the understanding that the third party will reimburse any seller to whom the coupon, certificate or documentation is presented;

b. The purchaser identifies himself or herself to the seller as a member of a group or organization entitled to a price reduction or discount (a “preferred customer” card that is available to any patron does not constitute membership in such a group); or

c. The price reduction or discount is identified as a third-party price reduction or discount on the invoice received by the purchaser or on a coupon, certificate or other documentation presented by the purchaser.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 423.