

What Changed in the Tax Package

On Thursday (4/29), the Senate adopted an amendment to the House tax package (HB 7061). The bill is set for a vote in the Senate tomorrow and it will have to go back to the House. Here is what has changed from the original House and Senate tax bills.

Out:

- Reauthorization of the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program (Senate provision). Florida TaxWatch strongly supported the program's reauthorization.
- A property tax exemption for the Homestead-Miami Speedway. (Senate provision)
- A property tax exemption for structures and equipment used in aquaculture. (House provision)
- Expansion of the authorized use of Tourist Development and Convention Development taxes and a required that TDTs must be approved by the voters (House provision). Florida TaxWatch opposes expansion of the use of TDT revenue.

Added:

- A one-time increase in the annual cap on the corporate income tax credit for voluntary cleanup of contaminated sites from \$18.5 million to \$27.5 million.
- Implementing language for the proposed constitutional amendment (HJR 1377) that will, if approved by the voters, exempt improvements made to residential property to increase resistance to flood damage. The joint resolution has already passed both chambers, sending it to the November 2022 ballot.
- An increase in the distribution of cigarette tax revenues to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. For the next three years, Moffitt's share will increase from \$15.5 million to \$26.9 million. After that, and until 2054, the share will increase to \$38.4 million annually.

Changes in the Sales Tax Holidays:

Back to School – The holiday will last 10 days (July 31 to August 9). The House proposed seven days and the original Senate proposals was eight days.

Disaster Preparedness – The holiday will last ten days (May 28 to June 6). The House proposed seven days. The Senate amendment also increased the price limits for most of the exempt items and added one item. The exempt items and their old/new price limits: flashlights and portable light sources (\$20/\$40); portable radios, including two-way and weather radios (\$50/\$50), ground anchors or tie-down kits (\$50/\$100), fuel tanks (\$25/\$50), packages of batteries (\$30/\$50), nonelectric coolers (\$30/\$60), portable generators (\$75/\$1,000) and reusable ice (\$10/\$20). For the first time, portable power banks (\$60) will be exempt.

Freedom Sales tax Holiday – see next page

Freedom Week Sales Tax Holiday

(items/prices in blue were increased or added by Senate Amendment)

Original House Bill		Senate Amendment	
Admissions		Admissions	
live music event		Same as the House plus:	
live sporting event		museums, including annual passes	
movie in a theater		ballets, plays, musical theater, inc. season tickets)	
entry to state park, including annual passes		fairs, festivals, and cultural events	
use or access to physical fitness facilities			
Boating and Water Supplies		Boating and Water Supplies	
	Price Limit		Price Limit
life jackets	75	life jackets	75
coolers	75	coolers	75
safety flares	50	safety flares	50
tubes or floats	150	tubes or floats	150
snorkels goggles masks	25	snorkels goggles masks	25
		skis, wakeboards, kneeboards	150
		canoes, kayaks	500
		paddles and oars	75
Camping Activities		Camping Activities	
tents	100	tents	200
sleeping bags, hammocks	50	sleeping bags, hammocks	50
camping stoves	50	camping stoves	50
camping chairs	40	camping chairs	50
lanterns and flashlights	30	lanterns and flashlights	30
Fishing Supplies		Fishing Supplies	
rods and reels, sold seperately	75	rods and reels, sold seperately	75
rods and reels, sold together	150	rods and reels, sold together	150
bait and tackle, single item	5	bait and tackle, single item	5
bait and tackle, multi-pack	10	bait and tackle, multi-pack	10
		tackle boxes or bags	30
General Outdoor Supplies		General Outdoor Supplies	
sunscreen, insect repellent	15	sunscreen, insect repellent	15
sunglasses	75	sunglasses	100
binoculars	75	binoculars	200
water bottles	30	water bottles	30
hydration packs	50	hydration packs	50
		outdoor grills	250
		bikes	250
		bike helmets	50
Sports Equipment (excluding clothing and footwear)			
not included		any item	40

Note: The price limit in the House bill is for any item having a sales price equal to the limit or less. The limit in the Senate amendment the first amount equal to the limit, even if the sales price exceeds the limit.