

No. R-94. Joint resolution urging Congress to approve a streamlined sales tax agreement that will authorize the national collection of sales tax from online sales.

(J.R.H.11)

Offered by: Representatives Condon of Colchester, Wilson of Manchester, Weston of Burlington, Stevens of Shoreham, Sharpe of Bristol, Olsen of Jamaica, Masland of Thetford, Hubert of Milton, Greshin of Warren, Clarkson of Woodstock, Branagan of Georgia and Ancel of Calais

Whereas, in the 21st century, an increasingly large percentage of retail sales are conducted online, and

Whereas, a large percentage of online sales involving Vermont purchasers are with companies that lack any regular nexus with Vermont and consequently do not collect the Vermont sales tax, and

Whereas, although Vermonters are legally required to pay the sales tax resulting from online purchases, this requirement is effectively unenforceable, and

Whereas, because of these online sales, Vermont retailers are losing a significant number of sales and the state of Vermont is deprived of much-needed sales tax revenue, and

Whereas, in 2004, the general assembly enacted No. 152 of the 2003 Adj. Sess. (2004) approving Vermont's entry into the national streamlined sales tax agreement, and

Whereas, while certain provisions of the agreement came into force once the requisite number of states approved the agreement, the initiation of a

national sales tax collection system is a matter of interstate commerce, which only Congress can authorize, and

Whereas, the inability of states to recoup the sales tax on their residents' online purchases is a problem seriously affecting the fiscal health of many other states and not just Vermont, and

Whereas, the sooner Congress authorizes a national sales tax collection system, the more quickly the states can begin to receive sales tax revenue that is being unfairly denied, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to enact a law consistent with the streamlined sales tax agreement that will authorize the national collection of sales tax from online sales, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.