

**As Reported by the House Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban  
Development Committee**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**Am. H. B. No. 104**

**Representative Schaffer**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Henne, Bocchieri, Seitz, Becker, Riedel, Hood,  
Brinkman, Stein, Bishoff, Dever, Brenner**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 5739.121 of the Revised Code to  
allow vendors to receive a refund of sales tax  
remitted for bad debts on private label credit  
accounts when the debt is charged off as  
uncollectible by the credit account lender.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 5739.121 of the Revised Code be  
amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 5739.121.** (A) As used in this section, ~~"bad-:~~

(1) "Bad debt" means any debt that has become worthless or  
uncollectible in the time period between a vendor's preceding  
return and the present return, has been uncollected for at least  
six months, and that may be claimed as a deduction pursuant to  
the "Internal Revenue Code of 1954," 68A Stat. 50, 26 U.S.C.  
166, as amended, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, or  
that could be claimed as such a deduction if the vendor kept  
accounts on an accrual basis. "Bad debt" does not include any

interest or sales tax on the purchase price, uncollectible 17  
amounts on property that remains in the possession of the vendor 18  
until the full purchase price is paid, expenses incurred in 19  
attempting to collect any account receivable or for any portion 20  
of the debt recovered, and repossessed property. 21

(2) "Lender" means a person or an affiliate, assignee, or 22  
transferee of a person that owns a private label credit account, 23  
or an interest in a private label credit account receivable, 24  
provided that interest was any of the following: 25

(a) Transferred from a third party; 26

(b) Purchased directly from a vendor that remitted tax 27  
imposed under this chapter or from an affiliate of the vendor; 28

(c) Originated according to a written agreement between 29  
the person and a vendor that remitted tax imposed under this 30  
chapter or an affiliate of the vendor. 31

(3) "Private label credit account" means a credit account 32  
that carries, refers to, or is branded with the name of a 33  
vendor. 34

(4) "Accounts or receivables bad debt" means the unpaid 35  
balance on private label credit accounts or private label credit 36  
account receivables that are bad debt and are charged off as 37  
uncollectible on the books of a lender on or after January 1, 38  
2018, and against which a deduction or refund has not previously 39  
been taken or allowed, respectively, under this section. For the 40  
purposes of division (A) (4) of this section only, "bad debt" 41  
shall be determined without regard to when the debt has become 42  
worthless or uncollectible relative to the period between a 43  
vendor's returns, and the deductibility of the debt for federal 44  
income tax purposes shall be determined with respect to the 45

lender instead of the vendor. 46

(5) "Affiliate" means any person that is a member of an 47  
affiliated group or that would be a member of an affiliated 48  
group if the person was a corporation. 49

(6) "Affiliated group" has the same meaning as in section 50  
1504 of the Internal Revenue Code. 51

(B) In computing taxable receipts for purposes of this 52  
chapter, a vendor may deduct the amount of bad debts. ~~The~~ Except 53  
as provided in division (F) of this section, the amount deducted 54  
must be charged off as uncollectible on the books of the vendor. 55  
A deduction may be claimed only with respect to bad debts on 56  
which the taxes pursuant to sections 5739.10 and 5739.12 of the 57  
Revised Code were paid in a preceding tax period. If the 58  
vendor's business consists of taxable and nontaxable 59  
transactions, the deduction shall equal the full amount of the 60  
debt if the debt is documented as a taxable transaction in the 61  
vendor's records. If no such documentation is available, the 62  
maximum deduction on any bad debt shall equal the amount of the 63  
bad debt multiplied by the quotient obtained by dividing the 64  
sales taxed pursuant to this chapter during the preceding 65  
calendar year by all sales during the preceding calendar year, 66  
whether taxed or not. If a consumer or other person pays all or 67  
part of a bad debt with respect to which a vendor claimed a 68  
deduction under this section, the vendor shall be liable for the 69  
amount of taxes deducted in connection with that portion of the 70  
debt for which payment is received and shall remit such taxes in 71  
the vendor's next payment to the tax commissioner. 72

(C) Any claim for a bad debt deduction under this section 73  
shall be supported by such evidence as the tax commissioner by 74  
rule requires. The commissioner shall review any change in the 75

rate of taxation applicable to any taxable sales by a vendor 76  
claiming a deduction pursuant to this section and adopt rules 77  
for altering the deduction in the event of such a change in 78  
order to ensure that the deduction on any bad debt does not 79  
result in the vendor claiming the deduction recovering any more 80  
or less than the taxes imposed on the sale that constitutes the 81  
bad debt. 82

(D) In any reporting period in which the amount of bad 83  
debt exceeds the amount of taxable sales for the period, the 84  
vendor may file a refund claim for any tax collected on the bad 85  
debt in excess of the tax reported on the return. The refund 86  
claim shall be filed in the manner provided in section 5739.07 87  
of the Revised Code, except that the claim may be filed within 88  
four years of the due date of the return on which the bad debt 89  
first could have been claimed. 90

(E) When the filing responsibilities of a vendor have been 91  
assumed by a certified service provider, the certified service 92  
provider shall claim the bad debt allowance provided by this 93  
section on behalf of the vendor. The certified service provider 94  
shall credit or refund to the vendor the full amount of any bad 95  
debt allowance or refund. 96

~~(F) No person other than the vendor in the transaction~~ 97  
~~that generated the bad debt or, as provided in division (E) of~~ 98  
~~this section, a certified service provider, may claim the bad~~ 99  
~~debt allowance provided by this section.~~ (1) A vendor may deduct 100  
on a return or obtain a refund of tax remitted by the vendor on 101  
accounts or receivables bad debt. 102

A vendor taking a deduction or claiming a refund under 103  
division (F) (1) of this section shall include all credit sale 104  
transactions outstanding in the account or receivable at the 105

time the account or receivable is charged off as uncollectible 106  
on the books of a lender in calculating the deduction or refund, 107  
regardless of the date on which the credit sale transaction 108  
occurs. 109

(2) The deduction or refund authorized under division (F) 110  
(1) of this section may be taken or obtained by the vendor only 111  
on the basis of accounts or receivables bad debt from purchases 112  
from the vendor whose name is carried, referred to, or branded 113  
on the private label credit account or from purchases from any 114  
of the vendor's affiliates or franchisees. 115

(3) A vendor taking a deduction or receiving a refund 116  
under division (F) (1) of this section shall maintain books, 117  
records, or other documents verifying the accounts or 118  
receivables bad debt, which shall be open to inspection by the 119  
commissioner upon request. 120

(4) If the vendor collects in whole or part any accounts 121  
or receivables bad debt on the basis of which the vendor took a 122  
deduction or received a refund under division (F) of this 123  
section, the vendor shall include the amount collected in the 124  
vendor's first return filed after the collection and pay tax on 125  
the portion of that amount with respect to which the vendor took 126  
the deduction or received a refund. 127

(G) The tax commissioner may adopt rules necessary to 128  
administer this section. 129

**Section 2.** That existing section 5739.121 of the Revised 130  
Code is hereby repealed. 131