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NO CONSTITUTION CITATIONS FOUND FOR HOUSE BILL 2027.

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the tax on sales, use, and other transactions; creating the Sales Tax Exemption Review Commission; providing for the appointment and organization of the commission; specifying duties; providing for reports; providing for the expiration of the act; providing legislative findings; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

- Section 1. The Sales Tax Exemption Review Commission; membership; duties.--
- The Sales Tax Exemption Review Commission is created to examine the exemptions to the sales and use tax contained in chapter 212, Florida Statutes, and make recommendations to the Legislature on whether these exemptions should be retained, modified, or repealed. The Senate Finance and Taxation Committee and the House Fiscal Policy and Resources Committee shall provide administrative staff for the commission. The commission shall consist of the following members, who must be appointed by July 1, 2002:
- (a) Nine members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.
- (b) Nine members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (2) Each appointed member of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing official. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(3) The chair shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and the vice chair shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chair and vice chair shall serve from their appointments until December 31, 2003. On January 1, 2004, the former vice chair shall become the chair and the former chair shall become the vice chair and serve until June 30, 2005.

- (4) The commission shall hold its organizational meeting by August 1, 2002, and thereafter shall meet as necessary at the call of the chair at the time and place designated by the chair. A quorum is necessary for the purpose of conducting official business of the commission. The commission shall use accepted rules of procedure to conduct its meetings and shall keep a complete record of each meeting.
- (5) The commission shall examine all of the exemptions to the sales and use tax contained in chapter 212, Florida Statutes. For each exemption, the commission shall make findings of fact and a recommendation whether the exemption should be retained, modified, or repealed. A recommendation to repeal an exemption must be made by the vote of two-thirds of the membership of the commission; otherwise, the commission must recommend that the exemption be retained or modified. In reviewing the exemptions, the commission should consider the following principles of taxation:
- (a) Equity. -- The Florida tax system should treat individuals equitably. It should impose similar tax burdens on people in similar circumstances and should minimize regressivity.
- (b) Compliance. -- The Florida tax system should
   facilitate taxpayer compliance. It should be simple and easy

to understand so as to minimize compliance costs and increase the visibility and awareness of the taxes being paid.

Enforcement and collection of tax revenues should be done in a fair, consistent, professional, predictable, and cost-effective manner.

- (c) Pro-competitiveness. -- The Florida tax system should be responsive to interstate and international competition in order to encourage savings and investment in plant, equipment, people, and technology in Florida.
- (d) Neutrality.--The Florida tax system should affect competitors uniformly and not become a tool for "social engineering." It should minimize government involvement in investment decisions, making any such involvement explicit, and should minimize pyramiding.
- (e) Stability. -- The Florida tax system should produce revenues in a stable and reliable manner that is sufficient to fund appropriate governmental functions and expenditures.
- (f) Integration. -- The Florida tax system should balance the need for integration of federal, state, and local taxation.
- (g) Public purpose. -- Sales and use tax exemptions for businesses should promote an important state interest in either economic development, job creation and retention, economic diversification, or community revitalization.
- determining the order in which it reviews the exemptions; however, the commission should review approximately one-third of the exemptions each year. By February 1, 2003, the commission shall submit its first report, by February 1, 2004, the commission shall submit its second report, and by February 1, 2005, the commission shall submit its final report to the

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President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
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    Representatives.
          (7) This section expires June 30, 2005.
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           Section 2. Legislative Findings: Over the years the
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    Legislature has passed numerous exemptions from the sales and
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    use tax. Since the priorities of the state can change over
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    time, and the House and Senate have undertaken no
    comprehensive review of the exemptions, the Legislature finds
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    that it is in the best interest of the state to have such a
    review. The Sales Tax Exemption Review Commission is created
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    to provide this needed review of the sales and use tax
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    exemptions in chapter 212. This review will allow the
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   Legislature to examine the purpose and effects of all sales
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    and use tax exemptions to ensure that each exemption fulfills
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    an important state interest. This review will identify
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   exemptions that no longer concur with the present interests of
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    the state and provide the Legislature with a recommendation of
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   which exemptions should be repealed.
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           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
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    law.
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