

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1083

To regulate certain State taxation of interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Mr. BOUCHER (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mrs. BACHMANN, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. WEINER, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To regulate certain State taxation of interstate commerce,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Business Activity Tax
5 Simplification Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC LAW 86-272.**

7 (a) SOLICITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SALES AND
8 TRANSACTIONS OF OTHER THAN TANGIBLE PERSONAL
9 PROPERTY.—Section 101 of the Act entitled “An Act re-

1 relating to the power of the States to impose net income
2 taxes on income derived from interstate commerce, and
3 authorizing studies by congressional committees of mat-
4 ters pertaining thereto”, approved September 14, 1959
5 (15 U.S.C. 381 et seq.), is amended—

6 (1) in section (a), by striking “either, or both,”
7 and inserting “any one or more”;

8 (2) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “by such
9 person” and all that follows and inserting “(which
10 are sent outside the State for approval or rejection)
11 or customers by such person, or his representative,
12 in such State for sales or transactions, which are—

13 “(A) in the case of tangible personal prop-
14 erty, filled by shipment or delivery from a point
15 outside the State; and

16 “(B) in the case of all other forms of prop-
17 erty, services, and other transactions, fulfilled
18 or distributed from a point outside the State;”;

19 (3) in subsection (a)(2), by striking the period
20 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

21 (4) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
22 following new paragraphs:

23 “(3) the furnishing of information to customers
24 or affiliates in such State, or the coverage of events
25 or other gathering of information in such State by

1 such person, or his representative, which information
2 is used or disseminated from a point outside the
3 State; and

4 “(4) those business activities directly related to
5 such person’s potential or actual purchase of goods
6 or services within the State if the final decision to
7 purchase is made outside the State.”;

8 (5) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
9 following new subsection:

10 “(c) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section,
11 a person shall not be considered to have engaged in busi-
12 ness activities within a State during any taxable year
13 merely—

14 “(1) by reason of sales or transactions in such
15 State, the solicitation of orders for sales or trans-
16 actions in such State, the furnishing of information
17 to customers or affiliates in such State, or the cov-
18 erage of events or other gathering of information in
19 such State, on behalf of such person by one or more
20 independent contractors;

21 “(2) by reason of the maintenance of an office
22 in such State by one or more independent contrac-
23 tors whose activities on behalf of such person in
24 such State consist solely of making sales or fulfilling
25 transactions, soliciting order for sales or trans-

1 actions, the furnishing of information to customers
 2 or affiliates, or the coverage of events or other gath-
 3 ering of information; or

4 “(3) by reason of the furnishing of information
 5 to an independent contractor by such person ancil-
 6 lary to the solicitation of orders or transactions by
 7 the independent contractor on behalf of such per-
 8 son.”; and

9 (6) in subsection (d)(1)—

10 (A) by inserting “or fulfilling trans-
 11 actions,” after “selling”; and

12 (B) by striking “the sale of, tangible per-
 13 sonal property” and inserting “a sale or trans-
 14 action, furnishing information, or covering
 15 events, or otherwise gathering information”.

16 (b) APPLICATION OF PROHIBITIONS TO OTHER BUSI-
 17 NESS ACTIVITY TAXES.—Title I of the Act entitled “An
 18 Act relating to the power of the States to impose net in-
 19 come taxes on income derived from interstate commerce,
 20 and authorizing studies by congressional committees of
 21 matters pertaining thereto”, approved September 14,
 22 1959 (15 U.S.C. 381 et seq.), is amended by adding at
 23 the end the following:

24 “SEC. 105. For taxable periods beginning on or after
 25 January 1, 2010, the prohibitions of section 101 that

1 apply with respect to net income taxes shall also apply
 2 with respect to each other business activity tax, as defined
 3 in section 3(g) of the Business Activity Tax Simplification
 4 Act of 2009. A State or political subdivision thereof may
 5 not assess or collect any tax which by reason of this sec-
 6 tion the State or political subdivision may not impose.”.

7 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 8 this section shall apply with respect to the imposition, as-
 9 sessment, and collection of taxes for taxable periods begin-
 10 ning on or after January 1, 2010.

11 **SEC. 3. MINIMUM JURISDICTIONAL STANDARD FOR STATE**
 12 **AND LOCAL NET INCOME TAXES AND OTHER**
 13 **BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAXES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—No taxing authority of a State
 15 shall have power to impose, assess, or collect a net income
 16 tax or other business activity tax on any person relating
 17 to such person’s activities in interstate commerce unless
 18 such person has a physical presence in the State during
 19 the taxable period with respect to which the tax is im-
 20 posed.

21 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection

23 (a), a person has a physical presence in a State only
 24 if such person’s business activities in the State in-

1 clude any of the following during such person’s tax-
2 able year:

3 (A) Being an individual physically in the
4 State, or assigning one or more employees to be
5 in the State.

6 (B) Using the services of an agent (exclud-
7 ing an employee) to establish or maintain the
8 market in the State, if such agent does not per-
9 form business services in the State for any
10 other person during such taxable year.

11 (C) The leasing or owning of tangible per-
12 sonal property or of real property in the State.

13 (2) DE MINIMIS PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—For
14 purposes of this section, the term “physical pres-
15 ence” shall not include—

16 (A) presence in a State for less than 15
17 days in a taxable year (or a greater number of
18 days if provided by State law); or

19 (B) presence in a State to conduct limited
20 or transient business activity.

21 (c) TAXABLE PERIODS NOT CONSISTING OF A
22 YEAR.—If the taxable period for which the tax is imposed
23 is not a year, then any requirements expressed in days
24 for establishing physical presence under this Act shall be
25 adjusted pro rata accordingly.

1 (d) MINIMUM JURISDICTIONAL STANDARD.—This
2 section provides for minimum jurisdictional standards and
3 shall not be construed to modify, affect, or supersede the
4 authority of a State or any other provision of Federal law
5 allowing persons to conduct greater activities without the
6 imposition of tax jurisdiction.

7 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—

8 (1) DOMESTIC BUSINESS ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS
9 DOMICILED IN, OR RESIDENTS OF, THE
10 STATE.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect
11 to—

12 (A) a person (other than an individual)
13 that is incorporated or formed under the laws
14 of the State (or domiciled in the State) in which
15 the tax is imposed; or

16 (B) an individual who is domiciled in, or a
17 resident of, the State in which the tax is im-
18 posed.

19 (2) TAXATION OF PARTNERS AND SIMILAR PER-
20 SONS.—This section shall not be construed to modify
21 or affect any State business activity tax liability of
22 an owner or beneficiary of an entity that is a part-
23 nership, an S corporation (as defined in section
24 1361 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), a lim-
25 ited liability company (classified as a partnership for

1 Federal income tax purposes), a trust, an estate, or
 2 any other similar entity, if the entity has a physical
 3 presence in the State in which the tax is imposed.

4 (3) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—This sec-
 5 tion shall not be construed to modify, affect, or su-
 6 persede the authority of a State to bring an enforce-
 7 ment action against a person or entity that may be
 8 engaged in an illegal activity, a sham transaction, or
 9 any perceived or actual abuse in its business activi-
 10 ties if such enforcement action does not modify, af-
 11 fect, or supersede the operation of any provision of
 12 this section or of any other Federal law.

13 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not
 14 be construed to modify, affect, or supersede the operation
 15 of title I of the Act entitled “An Act relating to the power
 16 of the States to impose net income taxes on income derived
 17 from interstate commerce, and authorizing studies by con-
 18 gressional committees of matters pertaining thereto”, ap-
 19 proved September 14, 1959 (15 U.S.C. 381 et seq.).

20 (g) DEFINITIONS, ETC.—For purposes of this section:

21 (1) NET INCOME TAX.—The term “net income
 22 tax” has the meaning given that term for the pur-
 23 poses of the Act entitled “An Act relating to the
 24 power of the States to impose net income taxes on
 25 income derived from interstate commerce, and au-

1 thorizing studies by congressional committees of
2 matters pertaining thereto”, approved September
3 14, 1959 (15 U.S.C. 381 et seq.).

4 (2) OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAX.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “other busi-
6 ness activity tax” means any tax in the nature
7 of a net income tax or tax measured by the
8 amount of, or economic results of, business or
9 related activity conducted in the State.

10 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “other busi-
11 ness activity tax” does not include a sales tax,
12 a use tax, or a similar transaction tax, imposed
13 on the sale or acquisition of goods or services,
14 whether or not denominated a tax imposed on
15 the privilege of doing business.

16 (3) PERSON.—The term “person” has the
17 meaning given such term by section 1 of title 1 of
18 the United States Code.

19 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
20 the several States, the District of Columbia, or any
21 territory or possession of the United States, or any
22 political subdivision of any of the foregoing.

23 (5) TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.—For pur-
24 poses of subsection (b)(1)(C), the leasing or owning

1 of tangible personal property does not include the
2 leasing or licensing of computer software.

3 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with
4 respect to taxable periods beginning on or after January
5 1, 2009.

