

Act No. 238  
Public Acts of 2005  
Approved by the Governor  
November 22, 2005  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
November 22, 2005  
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2006

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
93RD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2005**

**Introduced by Reps. Hoogendyk, Garfield, Vagnozzi, Virgil Smith, Gosselin, Palmer, Newell, Marleau, LaJoy, Jones, Drolet, Bieda, Meisner, Stewart, Lipsey, Kooiman, Vander Veen, Gaffney, Pastor, Brandenburg, Condino, Taub, Gleason, Ward, Gillard, Dillon, Ball, Booher, Clemente, Gonzales, Green, Hansen, Leland, Lemmons, III, Lemmons, Jr., Mayes, Mortimer, Pavlov, Pearce, Polidori, Schuitmaker and Sheltroun**

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5052**

AN ACT to amend 1993 PA 327, entitled "An act to provide for a tax upon the sale and distribution of tobacco products; to regulate and license manufacturers, wholesalers, secondary wholesalers, vending machine operators, unclassified acquirers, transportation companies, transporters, and retailers of tobacco products; to prescribe the powers and duties of the revenue division and the department of treasury in regard to tobacco products; to provide for the administration, collection, and disposition of the tax; to levy an assessment; to provide for the administration, collection, defense, and disposition of the assessment; to provide for the enforcement of this act; to provide for the appointment of special investigators as peace officers for the enforcement of this act; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies for the violation of this act; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 2 and 8 (MCL 205.422 and 205.428), as amended by 2004 PA 474.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Cigarette" means a roll for smoking made wholly or in part of tobacco, irrespective of size or shape and irrespective of the tobacco being flavored, adulterated, or mixed with any other ingredient, which roll has a wrapper or cover made of paper or any other material. Cigarette does not include cigars.

(b) "Commissioner" means the state treasurer.

(c) "Counterfeit cigarette" means a cigarette in an individual package of cigarettes or other container with a false manufacturing label or a cigarette in an individual package of cigarettes or other container with a counterfeit stamp.

(d) "Counterfeit cigarette paper" means a cigarette paper with a false manufacturing label or that has not been printed, manufactured, or made by authority of the trademark owner.

(e) "Counterfeit stamp" means any stamp, label, or print, indicium, or character, that evidences, or purports to evidence, the payment of any tax levied under this act and that has not been printed, manufactured, or made by authority of the department as provided in this act and has not been issued, sold, or circulated by the department.

(f) "Department" means the department of treasury.

(g) “Financially sound” means a determination by the department that the wholesaler or unclassified acquirer is able to pay for its stamps in the ordinary course of business based on criteria including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- (i) Past filing and payment history with the department.
- (ii) Outstanding liabilities.
- (iii) Review of current financial statements including, but not limited to, balance sheets and income statements.
- (iv) Duration that the wholesaler or unclassified acquirer has been licensed under this act.

(h) “Gray market cigarette” means any cigarette the package of which bears any statement, label, stamp, sticker, or notice indicating that the manufacturer did not intend the cigarettes to be sold, distributed, or used in the United States, including, but not limited to, a label stating “For Export Only”, “U.S. Tax Exempt”, “For Use Outside U.S.”, or similar wording.

(i) “Gray market cigarette paper” means any cigarette paper the package of which bears any statement, label, stamp, sticker, or notice indicating that the manufacturer did not intend the cigarette papers to be sold, distributed, or used in the United States, including, but not limited to, a label stating “For Export Only”, “U.S. Tax Exempt”, “For Use Outside U.S.”, “For Use in \_\_\_\_\_ (another country) Only”, or similar wording.

(j) “Individual package” means an individual packet or pack used to contain or to convey cigarettes to the consumer. Individual package does not include cartons, cases, or shipping or storage containers that contain smaller packaging units of cigarettes.

(k) “Licensee” means a person licensed under this act.

(l) “Manufacturer” means a person who manufactures or produces a tobacco product.

(m) “Noncigarette smoking tobacco” means tobacco sold in loose or bulk form that is intended for consumption by smoking and includes roll-your-own cigarette tobacco.

(n) “Person” means an individual, partnership, fiduciary, association, limited liability company, corporation, or other legal entity.

(o) “Place of business” means a place where a tobacco product is sold or where a tobacco product is brought or kept for the purpose of sale or consumption, including a vessel, airplane, train, or vending machine.

(p) “Retailer” means a person other than a transportation company who operates a place of business for the purpose of making sales of a tobacco product at retail.

(q) “Sale” means a transaction by which the ownership of tangible personal property is transferred for consideration and applies also to use, gifts, exchanges, barter, and theft.

(r) “Secondary wholesaler” means a person who sells a tobacco product for resale, who purchases a tobacco product from a wholesaler or unclassified acquirer licensed under this act, and who maintains an established place of business in this state where a substantial portion of the business is the sale of tobacco products and related merchandise at wholesale, and where at all times a substantial stock of tobacco products and related merchandise is available to retailers for resale.

(s) “Smokeless tobacco” means snuff, chewing tobacco, and any other tobacco that is intended to be consumed by means other than smoking.

(t) “Stamp” means a distinctive character, indication, or mark, as determined by the department, attached or affixed to an individual package of cigarettes by mechanical device or other means authorized by the department to indicate that the tax imposed under this act has been paid.

(u) “Stamping agent” means a wholesaler or unclassified acquirer other than a manufacturer who is licensed and authorized by the department to affix stamps to individual packages of cigarettes on behalf of themselves and other wholesalers or unclassified acquirers other than manufacturers.

(v) “Tobacco product” means cigarettes, cigars, noncigarette smoking tobacco, or smokeless tobacco.

(w) “Transportation company” means a person operating, or supplying to common carriers, cars, boats, or other vehicles for the transportation or accommodation of passengers and engaged in the sale of a tobacco product at retail.

(x) “Transporter” means a person importing or transporting into this state, or transporting in this state, a tobacco product obtained from a source located outside this state, or from any person not duly licensed under this act. Transporter does not include an interstate commerce carrier licensed by the interstate commerce commission to carry commodities in interstate commerce, or a licensee maintaining a warehouse or place of business outside of this state if the warehouse or place of business is licensed under this act.

(y) “Unclassified acquirer” means a person, except a transportation company or a purchaser at retail from a retailer licensed under the general sales tax act, 1933 PA 167, MCL 205.51 to 205.78, who imports or acquires a tobacco product from a source other than a wholesaler or secondary wholesaler licensed under this act for use, sale, or distribution. Unclassified acquirer also means a person who receives cigars, noncigarette smoking tobacco, or smokeless tobacco

directly from a manufacturer licensed under this act or from another source outside this state, which source is not licensed under this act. An unclassified acquirer does not include a wholesaler.

(z) "Vending machine operator" means a person who operates 1 or more vending machines for the sale of a tobacco product and who purchases a tobacco product from a manufacturer, licensed wholesaler, or secondary wholesaler.

(aa) "Wholesale price" means the actual price paid for a tobacco product, including any tax, by a wholesaler or unclassified acquirer to a manufacturer, excluding any discounts or reductions.

(bb) "Wholesaler" means a person who purchases all or part of his or her tobacco products from a manufacturer, who sells 75% or more of those tobacco products to others for resale, and who maintains an established business where substantially all of the business is the sale of tobacco products or cigarettes and related merchandise at wholesale and where at all times a substantial stock of tobacco products and related merchandise is available to retailers for resale. Wholesaler includes a chain of stores retailing a tobacco product to the consumer if 75% of its stock of tobacco products is purchased directly from the manufacturer.

Sec. 8. (1) A person, other than a licensee, who is in control or in possession of a tobacco product contrary to this act, who after August 31, 1998 is in control or in possession of an individual package of cigarettes without a stamp in violation of this act, or who offers to sell or does sell a tobacco product to another for purposes of resale without being licensed to do so under this act, shall be personally liable for the tax imposed by this act, plus a penalty of 500% of the amount of tax due under this act.

(2) The department may permit a representative of a licensed manufacturer of tobacco products whose duties require travel in this state to transport up to 138,000 cigarettes, of which not more than 36,000 cigarettes may bear no tax indicia or the tax indicia of another state. All 138,000 cigarettes must bear the stamp approved by the department or the tax indicia of another state, if any. The total value of tobacco products, excluding cigarettes, carried by a representative shall not exceed a wholesale value of \$5,000.00. A manufacturer shall notify the department of the manufacturer's representatives that it currently employs who carry cigarettes or tobacco products other than cigarettes in performing work duties in this state. The manufacturer shall maintain a record of each transaction by the manufacturer's representative for a period of 4 years immediately following the transaction and shall produce the records upon request of the state treasurer or the state treasurer's authorized agent. Each record shall identify the quantity and identity of the tobacco products, detail whether exchanged, received, removed, or otherwise disposed of and the identity of the retailer, wholesaler, secondary wholesaler, vending machine operator, or unclassified acquirer involved. The representative of the manufacturer shall provide a copy of the record to the retailer, wholesaler, secondary wholesaler, vending machine operator, or unclassified acquirer at the time of the exchange or disposal. The retailer, wholesaler, secondary wholesaler, vending machine operator, or unclassified acquirer shall retain the copy of the record in the same place and for the same time period as other records required by this section. A representative shall not exchange, or otherwise dispose of, within this state tobacco products bearing the tax indicia of another state or receive tobacco products bearing the tax indicia of another state from retailers located within this state. A representative who sells, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of cigarettes or tobacco products other than cigarettes that do not bear the stamp or other marking required by the department or sells, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of cigarettes or tobacco products other than cigarettes bearing the tax indicia of another state is guilty of a felony, punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

(3) A person who possesses, acquires, transports, or offers for sale contrary to this act 3,000 or more cigarettes, tobacco products other than cigarettes with an aggregate wholesale price of \$250.00 or more, 3,000 or more counterfeit cigarettes, 3,000 or more counterfeit cigarette papers, 3,000 or more gray market cigarettes, or 3,000 or more gray market cigarette papers is guilty of a felony, punishable by a fine of not more than \$50,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

(4) A person who possesses, acquires, transports, or offers for sale contrary to this act 1,200 or more, but not more than 2,999, cigarettes, tobacco products other than cigarettes with an aggregate wholesale value of \$100.00 or more but less than \$250.00, or 1,200 or more, but not more than 2,999, counterfeit cigarettes, counterfeit cigarette papers, gray market cigarettes, or gray market cigarette papers is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.

(5) A person who violates a provision of this act for which a criminal punishment is not otherwise provided is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or 5 times the retail value of the tobacco products involved, whichever is greater, or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both.

(6) A person who manufactures, possesses, or uses a stamp or manufactures, possesses, or uses a counterfeit stamp or writing or device intended to replicate a stamp without authorization of the department, a licensee who purchases or obtains a stamp from any person other than the department, or who falsifies a manufacturer's label on cigarettes, counterfeit cigarettes, gray market cigarette papers, or counterfeit cigarette papers is guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 1 year or more than 10 years and may be punished by a fine of not more than \$50,000.00.

(7) A person who falsely makes, counterfeits, or alters a license, vending machine disc, or marker, or who purchases or receives a false or altered license, vending machine disc, or marker, or who assists in or causes to be made a false or altered license, vending machine disc, or marker, or who possesses a device used to forge, alter, or counterfeit a license, vending machine disc, or marker is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both. A person who alters or falsifies records or markings required under this act is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

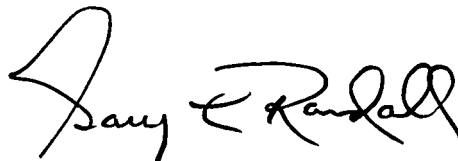
(8) The attorney general has concurrent power with the prosecuting attorneys of the state to enforce this act.

(9) At the request of the department or its duly authorized agent, the state police and all local police authorities shall enforce the provisions of this act.

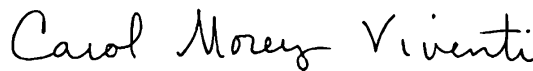
(10) The department does not have the authority to enforce the provisions of this section regarding gray market cigarette papers or counterfeit cigarette papers.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect January 1, 2006.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

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Governor