

CHAPTER 139.

BEVERAGE, CIGARETTE AND OLEOMARGARINE TAXES.

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Revisor's Note, 1963: This is a consolidation and revision of the sections of Ch. 139 dealing with the tax on fermented malt beverages and intoxicating liquors. Only a few minor substantive changes have been made; each one is indicated in a note after the section changed.

This revision was prompted by the enactment of ss. 139.11 and 139.12 (Ch. 178, Laws 1953) which provide for the payment of the occupational tax on fermented malt beverages on a monthly basis instead of by affixing tax stamps. The provisions of Ch.

139 providing for such tax stamps were not repealed, since s. 139.27 made those provisions applicable to the tax on intoxicating beverages.

This change in 1953 made the statute confusing to anyone but a very careful reader. The revision separates the taxing sections so as to make their applicability clear and combines a number of overlapping provisions.

This bill is sponsored jointly by the beverage and cigarette tax division and the revisor of statutes. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.01 Definitions. In ss. 139.01 to 139.25 unless the context or the subject matter otherwise requires:

(1) "Brewer" means any person who manufactures fermented malt beverages for sale or transportation.

(2) "Bottler" means any person other than a brewer who places fermented malt beverages in bottles or similar containers.

(3) "License," and "fermented malt beverages" have the same meaning as in s. 66.054, and "licensed premises" are premises described in licenses issued by cities, villages or towns under the authority of said section.

(4) "Intoxicating liquors" includes all ardent, spirituous, distilled or vinous liquors, liquids or compounds, whether medicated, proprietary, patented or not, and by whatever name called, containing one-half of one per cent or more of alcohol by volume, which are fit for use for beverage purposes, but does not include "fermented malt beverages" as defined in s. 66.054.

(5) A "manufacturer" is a person, other than a rectifier, who manufactures or distills intoxicating liquors, including selling at wholesale such intoxicating liquors manufactured or distilled by the licensee at the premises designated in the license.

(6) A "rectifier" is a person who rectifies, purifies or refines distilled spirits or wines by any process other than by original and continuous distillation from mash, wort or wash, through continuous closed vessels or pipes, until the manufacture thereof is complete, or who has in his possession any still or leach tub or keeps any other apparatus for the purpose of refining in any manner distilled spirits or the other liquors, or who after rectifying and purifying distilled spirits, by mixing such spirits or liquors with any materials, manufactures any spurious, imitation or compound liquors for sale, and any person who, without rectifying, purifying or refining distilled spirits, by mixing such spirits with any materials, manufactures any spurious, imitation or compound liquors for sale under the name of "whiskey," "brandy," "gin," "rum," "spirits," "cordials" or any other name, and who is also a distiller or is under substantially the same management or control as a distiller. A rectifier may sell at wholesale intoxicating liquors rectified by him without any other license than that of a rectifier.

(7) "Wholesaler" as applied to a seller of fermented malt beverages has the same meaning as in s. 66.054, and as applied to a seller of intoxicating liquors is any person other than a manufacturer or rectifier who sells such liquors to licensed retailers or other permittees for the purpose of resale.

(8) "Retailer" as applied to a seller of fermented malt beverages has the same meaning as in s. 66.054, and as applied to a seller of intoxicating liquors is any person who sells such liquors to consumers.

(9) "Sell" or "sold" or "sale" or "selling" includes the transfer, gift, barter, trade or exchange of intoxicating liquor or fermented malt beverages; offering or exposing intoxicating liquor or fermented malt beverages for transfer, gift, barter, trade or exchange; possession of intoxicating liquor or fermented malt beverages with intent to transfer, give, barter, trade or exchange the same; or any shift, device, scheme or transaction whatever whereby intoxicating liquor or fermented malt beverages may be obtained; but excludes the solicitation of orders for, or the sale for future delivery.

(10) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of taxation.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) and (2) are from 66.054 (see present 139.02). (3) is from 139.02. (4) to (6) are from 139.25 (1) to (3). (7) and (8) are from 139.02 and 139.25 (4) and (5). (9) and (10) are new definitions put in to allow shortening language in other sections. (9) is patterned after 139.26 (1) and 176.01 (4). There are 2 minor changes: The definition of "sales company" now in 139.02 is omitted as obsolete. The definition of "wholesaler" in (7) is changed to specify that a wholesaler is a person who sells to "licensed retailers and permittees" rather than simply one who sells for resale. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.02 Fermented malt beverages tax. (1) An occupational tax is imposed upon the removing for consumption or sale or selling of fermented malt beverages at the rate of \$1 per barrel of 31 gallons and at a proportionate rate for any other quantity or fractional parts thereof. Not more than one occupational tax shall be required to be paid on any one container of fermented malt beverages.

(2) All occupational taxes on fermented malt beverages paid pursuant to this section shall conclusively be presumed to be a direct tax on the retail consumer, advanced and prepaid for the purpose of convenience and facility only.

History: 1963 c. 19, 141, 459 ss. 33, 34.

Revisor's Note, 1963: The first sentence from tax. The second sentence is from 139.01; see new 139.04 for exclusions 139.03 (2) (last sentence). (Bill No. 218-S)

139.03 Liquor tax. An occupational tax is imposed upon the selling of intoxicating liquor as follows:

(1) Effective July 1, 1961 through August 14, 1963, the tax is at the rate of \$2 per wine gallon on intoxicating liquors containing one-half of one per cent or more of alcohol by volume and is computed in accordance with the following table:

Quantity in Wine Gallons	Quantity in Ounces	Tax when alcoholic content is 1/2% or more by volume
Up to and including 1/64 of a gallon	Up to and including 2	3 1/8 cents
More than 1/64 of a gallon to and including 1/32 of a gallon	More than 2 to and including 4	6 1/4 cents
More than 1/32 gallon to and including 1/16 of a gallon	More than 4 to and including 8	12 1/2 cents
More than 1/16 gallon and including 1/10 gallon	More than 8 to and including 12.8	20 cents
More than 1/10 gallon to and including 1 pint	More than 12.8 to and including 16	25 cents
More than 1 pint to and including 1/5 gallon	More than 16 to and including 25.6	40 cents
More than 1/5 gallon to and including 1 quart	More than 25.6 to and including 32	50 cents
More than 1 quart to and including 1/2 gallon	More than 32 to and including 64	\$1.00
More than 1/2 gallon to and including 1 gallon	More than 64 to and including 128	\$2.00

(2) Effective July 1, 1961 through August 14, 1963, the tax is at the rate of 15 cents per wine gallon on wine containing 14 per cent or less of alcohol by volume and 30 cents per wine gallon on wine containing more than 14 per cent but not in excess of 21 per cent of alcohol by volume, and is computed in accordance with the following table:

Quantity in Wine Gallons	Quantity in Ounces	Tax when alcoholic content is more than 14% but not in excess of 21%	Tax when alcoholic content is 14% or less by volume
Up to and including 1/16 of a gallon	Up to and including 8	\$.01875	\$.009375
More than 1/16 gallon and including 1/10 gallon	More than 8 to and including 12.8	.03	.015
More than 1/10 gallon to and including 1 pint	More than 12.8 to and including 16	.0375	.01875
More than 1 pint to and including 1/5 gallon	More than 16 to and including 25.6	.06	.03
More than 1/5 gallon to and including 1 quart	More than 25.6 to and including 32	.075	.0375
More than 1 quart and including 1/2 gallon	More than 32 to and including 64	.15	.075
More than 1/2 gallon to and including 1 gallon	More than 64 to and including 128	.30	.15

(2a) The rate of such tax, effective August 15, 1963, and thereafter, is \$2.25 per wine gallon on intoxicating liquor containing one-half of one per cent or more of alcohol by volume, and is computed in accordance with the following table:

Quantity in Wine Gallons	Quantity in Ounces	Tax when alcoholic content is 1/2% or more by volume
Up to and including 1/64 of a gallon	Up to and including 2	\$.03515625
More than 1/64 of a gallon to and including 1/32 of a gallon	More than 2 to and including 4	\$.0703125
More than 1/32 gallon to and including 1/16 of a gallon	More than 4 to and including 8	\$.140625
More than 1/16 gallon and including 1/10 gallon	More than 8 to and including 12.8	\$.225
More than 1/10 gallon to and including 1 pint	More than 12.8 to and including 16	\$.28125
More than 1 pint to and including 1/5 gallon	More than 16 to including 25.6	\$.45
More than 1/5 gallon to and including 1 quart	More than 25.6 to including 32	\$.5625
More than 1 quart to and including 1/2 gallon	More than 32 to and including 64	\$1.125
More than 1/2 gallon to and including 1 gallon	More than 64 to and including 128	\$2.25

(2b) The rate of such tax effective August 15, 1963, and thereafter is 16 $\frac{7}{8}$ cents per wine gallon on wine containing 14 percent or less of alcohol by volume, and 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per wine gallon on wine containing more than 14 per cent of alcohol by volume, but not in excess of 21 per cent of alcohol by volume, and is computed in accordance with the following table:

Quantity in Wine Gallons	Quantity in Ounces	Tax when alcoholic content is more than 14% but not in excess of 21%	Tax when alcoholic content is 14% or less by volume
Up to and including 1/16 of a gallon	Up to and including 8	\$.02109375	\$.010546875
More than 1/16 gallon and including 1/10 gal- lon	More than 8 to and in- cluding 12.8	.03375	.016875
More than 1/10 gallon to and including 1 pint	More than 12.8 to and including 16	.0421875	.02109375
More than 1 pint to and including 1/5 gallon	More than 16 to and in- cluding 25.6	.0675	.03375
More than 1/5 gallon to and including 1 quart	More than 25.6 to and including 32	.084375	.0421875
More than 1 quart and including 1/2 gallon	More than 32 to and in- cluding 64	.16875	.084375
More than 1/2 gallon to and including 1 gallon	More than 64 to and in- cluding 128	.3375	.16875

(3) Not more than one occupational tax shall be required to be paid on any one container of intoxicating liquor.

(4) All occupational taxes on intoxicating liquors paid pursuant to this section shall conclusively be presumed to be a direct tax on the retail consumer, advanced and prepaid for the purpose of convenience and facility only.

(5) (a) No person who enters this state from another state may have in his possession and bring into the state any intoxicating liquor unless the state tax thereon is paid.

(b) Any person, except a minor, who leaves a foreign country, after spending at least 48 hours in such foreign country, with the purpose of entering this state, may have in his possession and bring into the state intoxicating liquor in sealed original containers in amounts not to exceed, in the aggregate, one gallon (128 ounces) without payment of the tax herein imposed.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of pars. (a) and (b) by having in his possession more than the amount specified may be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 90 days or both. If any such person is convicted of a second or subsequent offense he may be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

(d) Any intoxicating liquor involved in a violation of this section is declared forfeit and upon confiscation by the department of taxation shall be disposed of in accordance with s. 176.62 (2) (b).

History: 1963 c. 19, 103, 141, 224, 459 ss. 35, 38, 39, 40.

Revisor's Note, 1963: Introductory para- for exclusions from tax. (3) is from 139.03 graph is from 139.26 (1). (1) is from 139.26 (2) (last sentence). (Bill No. 218-S) (1). (2) is from 139.26 (1b). See new 139.04

139.04 Exclusions. No tax is levied by ss. 139.02 and 139.03 in respect to:

(1) Making of wine, cider or fermented malt beverages at home solely for consumption therein and use thereof in such home by the family and guests without compensation.

(2) Furnishing by a brewer of fermented malt beverages to workmen employed in the brewery for consumption on the brewery premises without charge.

(3) Manufacture or sale of any beverage containing less than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by volume.

(4) Sale or shipment of fermented malt beverages by a brewer to a bottler or of intoxicating liquor in bulk between manufacturers, rectifiers and wineries.

(5) Sale, possession or removal of fermented malt beverages or intoxicating liquor for shipment in interstate or foreign commerce.

(6) Sale and use of wine for sacramental purposes.

(7) Sale of alcohol to industrial permittees to be used for industrial purposes.

(8) Sale of alcohol to medicinal permittees to be used for hospital or medicinal purposes.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) is from 139.26 (2); see also 176.45. (2) is from 139.03 (13). (3) is from 139.09 and 139.25 (1). (4) is from 139.01 and 139.26 (1). (5) is from 139.01 and 139.26 (1). (6), (7) and (8) are from 139.26 (1).

There are 4 minor changes: (1) No reference is made to exclusion from tax for sales of malt beverages to sales companies, since there are no such companies and since such sales were only for interstate commerce. (2) Old 139.26 (1) permitted tax free sales only by manufacturers to rectifiers; the new 139.04 (4) adds "wineries" and per-

mits tax free sales both ways between such persons; such sales must be "in bulk". (3) The new 139.04 (1) is perhaps slightly more restrictive than the old 139.26 (2) in that it makes it clear that home made wine is tax free only for use in the home where made; this corresponds with 176.45; cider is added to this provision. (4) The new 139.04 (7) and (8) make it clear that to be tax exempt the sales of alcohol must be to industrial and medicinal permittees; the present provision reads "for industrial, hospital purposes." (Bill No. 218-S)

139.05 Payment of malt beverages tax. (1) The tax imposed in s. 139.02 shall be paid to the commissioner on or before the fifteenth day of the month following the month in which such malt beverages are first sold in this state or shipped into this state.

(2) Each brewer and bottler in this state and each wholesaler of malt beverages within this state to whom malt beverages are shipped from outside this state shall on or before the fifteenth day of each month file with the commissioner on forms prescribed by him a verified return containing such information as may be required to compute and show the amount of occupational tax payable by him or by the shipper for the next preceding calendar month on malt beverages.

(2a) For the purposes of subs. (1) and (2), the payments, reports, and returns therein referred to shall be considered furnished, reported, filed or made on time, and payments therein referred to shall be considered timely made, if mailed in a properly addressed envelope, with first class postage duly prepaid, which envelope is officially post-marked before midnight on the date prescribed for such furnishing, reporting, filing or making of such payment, provided such statement, report, return or payment is actually received by the commissioner of taxation within 5 days of the prescribed date.

(3) The amount of the occupational tax disclosed by the return shall accompany the return and shall be paid to the commissioner.

(4) In order to insure the payment of all state occupational taxes imposed by law on malt beverages together with all interest and penalties thereon, all persons required to make returns and payment of such tax shall first enter into a surety bond with corporate surety, both bond and surety to be approved by the commissioner. Subject to the limitations hereinafter specified, the amount of the bond required of any taxpayer shall be fixed by the commissioner and may be increased or reduced by him at any time. In fixing the amount the commissioner shall require a bond in total amount equal to twice the taxpayer's estimated maximum monthly excise tax, ascertained in such manner as the commissioner deems proper. In any event the amount of such bond required of any one taxpayer shall not be less than \$1,000 nor more than \$100,000. These bonds shall be filed with the commissioner.

(5) No person shall receive malt beverages in this state which have been shipped directly to him from outside this state by any person other than a holder of a permit issued by the commissioner. The commissioner may issue such permits to out-of-state shippers which allow the permittee to ship malt beverages to and only to holders of a wholesaler's license issued under s. 66.054 (5) (b). Such permits shall be issued free of charge. The application for the permit and the permit shall be in such form and contain such provisions as to the commissioner seem proper and necessary to effectuate the purpose of ss. 139.01 to 139.25 and shall include, but without limitation by reason of this special mention, a provision that the permittee in consideration of the issuance of a permit agrees:

(a) To comply with and be bound by the provisions of this section pertaining to the making and filing of a bond and the making and filing of returns, the payment of taxes and the keeping of records;

(b) That he will permit and be subject to all of the powers granted by s. 139.08 (4) to the commissioner or his duly authorized employes for inspection and examination of his premises and his records; and

(c) To pay the expenses reasonably attributable to such inspections and examinations

made within the United States. If any such permittee violates any provision of his application or of ss. 139.01 to 139.25, the commissioner may revoke or suspend such permit for such period of time as he determines.

(6) If the occupational tax is not paid when due, there is added to the amount of the tax as a penalty a sum equal to 2 per cent thereof, and in addition thereto interest on the tax and penalty at the rate of one per cent per month or fraction of a month from the date the tax became due until paid. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to relieve any person otherwise liable from liability for payment of the occupational tax.

(7) (a) If any present or future law or regulation effective in any state prohibits a person from shipping into such state a fermented malt beverage produced outside thereof except upon condition that the person shipping such fermented malt beverage into such state first obtain a license therefor from such state and if such license or a renewal thereof may be refused for violation of any law of such state relating to fermented malt beverages, it is unlawful to ship into this state or to purchase or sell within this state any fermented malt beverage produced in such state, unless and until the brewer thereof is the holder of a valid subsisting license as provided in this subsection.

(b) Such license shall be issued by the commissioner for the period of one year and must be renewed annually. The application for such license shall be verified and shall contain an agreement on the part of the brewer that the brewer shall observe all laws of this state relating to fermented malt beverages, and such other information and statements as the commissioner may require. Any such brewer who has, directly or indirectly, violated any law of this state relating to fermented malt beverages shall not be entitled to such a license. No fee shall be required for any such license. The commissioner may require the applicant to furnish and file a bond to be approved by the commissioner payable to the state in an amount not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 conditioned upon the faithful compliance by the applicant with the undertakings set forth in the application for the license.

(c) The commissioner may suspend or revoke any such license for any false statement made in the application therefor and for any prior or subsequent violation by the licensee, directly or indirectly, or by any person affiliated with or in any way subject to the direction or control of the licensee, of any of the laws of this state relating to fermented malt beverages.

(d) Any such brewer and any other person who ships or causes or permits to be shipped into this state any such fermented malt beverage, and any person who knowingly receives within this state from outside this state any such fermented malt beverage, at a time when the brewer thereof is not the holder of a valid and subsisting license as herein provided, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(e) The conditions and requirements of this subsection are in addition to and not in lieu of the conditions and requirements of subs. (1) to (6).

(f) If any law or regulation of any state specifies uniform or substantially uniform requirements with respect to any ingredient of fermented malt beverages produced in such state and fermented malt beverages produced outside thereof but sold within such state and if such state or its officials or agencies enforce or give effect to such provisions as against any malt beverage produced outside of such state without concurrently and to the same extent enforcing and giving effect to such provisions as against all malt beverages produced and sold within such state, and if the foregoing is found and determined by the commissioner after a public hearing, it shall thereafter be a misdemeanor for any person with knowledge of such finding and determination to ship into or receive or sell within this state any malt beverage produced in such state unless and until the commissioner finds and determines, after a public hearing, that such discriminatory treatment has been discontinued.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: From 139.11. Old (4) omitted because covered by new 139.11 (1). Old (8) omitted because covered by new 139.10.

In (2) the return on which the malt bev-

erage tax is based must now include information as to shipments coming in from outside the state so that the department can be sure of collecting taxes from the shipper. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.06 Liquor tax stamps; exceptions. (1) The taxes imposed in s. 139.03 shall be paid, at or before the time of sale, delivery or gift of intoxicating liquor except as provided in sub. (2), by affixing, in such manner as the commissioner prescribes by rule, to each bottle in which intoxicating liquor is placed, received, stored, warehoused, shipped, delivered or sold, tax stamps of the proper amount purchased from the commissioner.

(2) It is not necessary to affix tax stamps to individual bottles of wine containing not in excess of 21 per cent of alcohol by volume, but such stamps shall be affixed to the

original container in which the bottles are packed as prescribed by the commissioner by rule.

(3) In shipping intoxicating liquor in bulk for the purpose of bottling or rectifying to a rectifier located within the state, the manufacturer shall not be required to place stamps upon the container in which shipment is made, but shall securely affix thereto a label or statement, in such form as is prescribed by the commissioner, reciting that the shipment is made for the purpose of bottling or rectifying. Each manufacturer making such shipments shall file with the commissioner on or before the fifteenth day of each calendar month a report for the preceding calendar month, in the form the commissioner prescribes, showing the dates and quantities of shipments and the name and address of each consignee. Stamps shall be affixed by said rectifier on all containers on which a tax is required before sale or delivery to any permittee or licensee within this state.

(4) When intoxicating liquor is stored in a public warehouse licensed as provided in ch. 176, by a Wisconsin manufacturer or rectifier as a pledge for the loan of money, it is not necessary to affix to the containers either front labels or tax stamps until the liquor is sold or removed from the warehouse. When it becomes necessary for a pledgee to sell such intoxicating liquor in good faith pursuant to the terms of the pledge, and not for the purpose of avoiding the provisions of ss. 139.01 to 139.25 or ch. 176, it shall be sold to a Wisconsin manufacturer, rectifier or wholesaler for the purpose of affixing front labels and tax stamps. All such sales shall be reported to the commissioner by the pledgee.

(5) Vendors of intoxicating liquor without this state having Wisconsin permits may purchase tax stamps from the commissioner and affix the proper amount thereof in the manner prescribed by him to containers of intoxicating liquor to be sold in this state and the affixing thereof shall constitute payment of such tax so that the recipient of such intoxicating liquor within this state and all persons who deal with the same thereafter shall not be required to affix stamps thereon.

(6) No retailer shall sell or remove any intoxicating liquor from any container, unless it has affixed thereto tax stamps of the proper amount. Every manufacturer, rectifier and wholesaler who is liable for the payment of the tax on sales made for resale or consumption within this state is required to affix stamps of the proper amount on every container containing intoxicating liquor, including intoxicating liquor imported from without the state, which is sold, delivered or given to any purchaser or consumer within this state, unless the proper amount of stamps has been previously affixed thereto.

(7) Except as otherwise herein provided, no person shall sell intoxicating liquor without having affixed to the container the stamps required. A manufacturer or rectifier may have upon his premises intoxicating liquor in unstamped containers, but the same shall not be removed from his premises except for shipment in interstate commerce or for shipment in bulk to a rectifier without stamps being affixed thereto.

(8) No person shall sell, give or lend any stamps; no person shall purchase, accept, receive or borrow any stamps from any person. Sales and transfers of stamps may be made only by the commissioner. He shall not sell or issue any stamps to any person other than a licensed manufacturer, rectifier or wholesaler. This subsection does not prevent the pledging of any stamps legally secured to any banking institution in Wisconsin as security for a loan.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) is from 139.03 (2) and 139.26 (3) (a), (c). (2) is from 139.03 (3) and 139.27 (2). (3) is from 139.03 (14); the last sentence is new. (4) is from 176.75. (5) is from 139.26 (3) (d). (6) is from 139.03 (5). (7) is from 139.03 (8) and (12). (8) is from 139.03 (1) and (6).

There are 3 changes: (1) In (4), which is taken from old 176.75, the reference to wholesalers is omitted; this means that wholesalers will not be permitted to store

unlabeled and unstamped liquor except as such liquor is tax exempt. (4) also requires reports of sales by pledgees. (2) (5) is changed to make it clear that only out-of-state vendors who have Wisconsin permits may buy stamps. (3) (6) is clarified in that it removes the implication in the old 139.03 (5) that retailers may affix stamps; retailers are not allowed to purchase unstamped liquor. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.07 Failure to pay liquor tax. If the tax imposed in s. 139.03 is not paid when due, a penalty of 2 per cent thereof shall immediately accrue and in addition thereto interest on the tax and penalty at the rate of one per cent per month or fraction of a month from the date the tax became due until paid.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: From last sentence of old 139.27 (3). (Bill No. 218-S)

139.08 Powers and duties of commissioner. (1) ADMINISTRATION; PERSONNEL, STAMPS. The commissioner shall enforce and administer ss. 139.01 to 139.25. He shall design, procure and sell the stamps herein provided for and shall prescribe the manner

in which stamps are affixed and canceled. He shall collect and keep a record of all taxes collected. He shall keep a record of the sale of all stamps which shall show the dates of the sale thereof and the names of the purchasers.

(2) **RULES.** The commissioner shall make rules necessary to carry out this chapter.

(3) **POLICE POWERS.** The duly authorized employes of the commissioner have all necessary police powers to prevent violations of ss. 66.054, 139.01 to 139.25 and ch. 176.

(4) **INSPECTION FOR ENFORCEMENT.** The commissioner or his duly authorized employes, and any sheriff, policeman, marshal or constable, within their respective jurisdictions, may at all reasonable hours enter in and upon any licensed premises, and examine the books, papers and records of any brewer, manufacturer, bottler, rectifier, wholesaler or retailer, for the purpose of inspecting the same and determining whether the tax imposed by ss. 139.01 to 139.25 has been fully paid, and have power to inspect and examine, according to law, any premises where fermented malt beverages or intoxicating liquors are manufactured, sold, exposed for sale, possessed or stored, for the purpose of inspecting the same and determining whether the tax imposed by said sections has been fully paid, and whether said sections are being complied with. Any refusal to permit such examination of such premises shall constitute sufficient reason for the refusal of the commissioner to furnish to such person so refusing any stamps. Such refusal shall automatically operate as a revocation of any license or permit granted for the sale of any fermented malt beverages or intoxicating liquors and in addition shall be deemed a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. 139.25 (5).

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) is from 139.03, 139.03 (11), (3) is from 139.27 (3), (4) is (7), (11) and 139.26 (3) (b), (c). (2) is from 139.06. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.09 Registration. Every brewer, bottler, manufacturer, rectifier, wholesaler or retailer liable for payment of the occupational tax imposed in ss. 139.01 to 139.25 shall upon making application therefor be assigned a registration number by the commissioner. The form of the application shall be prescribed by the commissioner.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: From 139.03 (1). (Bill No. 218-S)

139.10 Refunds by state treasurer. (1) On the certificate of the commissioner the state treasurer shall refund to any purchaser or any banking institution in Wisconsin the money paid for any unused stamps returned, the tax paid on intoxicating liquor or on whole cases or full kegs of fermented malt beverages which are spoiled or unfit to drink and the tax paid on fermented malt beverages sold to the armed forces of the United States, or the commissioner may make allowance of the amount of the tax.

(2) When the tax has been paid on intoxicating liquor supplied to hospitals (for hospital or medicinal purposes), or on alcohol supplied to institutions of learning or museums for non-beverage purposes, this purchaser shall, upon application to the commissioner, be entitled to a refund of the tax.

(3) The commissioner shall prescribe the method of proof and the forms of application for refund or allowance.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) is from 139.03, (3) is from 139.03 (7), 139.11 (8) and 139.26 (7) and 139.11 (8). (2) is from 139.26 (1a). (1a). (Bill No. 218-S)

139.11 Records and reports. (1) **PRESERVATION OF RECORDS.** Every person who manufactures, rectifies, distributes, imports, transports, stores, warehouses or sells intoxicating liquor or fermented malt beverages shall keep complete and accurate records of all such liquor or malt beverages purchased, sold, manufactured, rectified, brewed, fermented, distilled, produced, stored, warehoused, imported or transported within this state. Such records shall be of a kind and in the form prescribed by the commissioner and shall be safely preserved for 2 years in such manner as to insure permanency and accessibility for inspection by the commissioner.

(2) **REPORT.** Each brewer, bottler, manufacturer, rectifier and wholesaler shall on or before the fifteenth day of each calendar month make a verified return to the commissioner of all fermented malt beverages or intoxicating liquor manufactured, received, sold, delivered or shipped by him during the preceding calendar month. Such return shall be made upon forms furnished by the commissioner and shall contain such information as he deems necessary for the collection and enforcement of the tax.

(3) **COMMISSIONER'S POWERS.** When the commissioner finds that the records kept by any brewer, bottler, manufacturer, rectifier, wholesaler or retailer are in such condition that an unusual amount of time is required to determine therefrom the amount of tax due, he may give notice of such fact to such person and may require the records to be

kept in such form as he prescribes. If such requirements are not complied with within 30 days after the date of the notice, the brewer, bottler, manufacturer, rectifier, wholesaler or retailer shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable to the determination of tax at the rate of \$30 per day for each auditor. The commissioner shall render a bill therefor by registered mail to the person charged with payment at the conclusion of the audit, which bill shall constitute notice of assessment and demand of payment thereof. The brewer, bottler, manufacturer, rectifier, wholesaler or retailer shall, within 10 days after the mailing of the bill, pay its amount, and such payment shall be credited to the appropriation made in s. 20.800 (1).

History: 1963 c. 134, 141, 459 s. 36.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) is from 139.295 (1). (2) is from 139.03 (15a). (3) is from 139.29.

There are 2 changes: (1) "Rectifiers" are added to the list of persons who must keep records under (1). (2) The reports made under (2) must show malt beverages and liquor received as well as that manufactured, etc. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.12 Collection not to be restrained. No suit shall be maintained in any court to restrain or delay the collection or payment of the tax levied in ss. 139.01 to 139.25. The aggrieved taxpayer shall pay the tax when due, and, if he pays under protest, may at any time within 90 days from the date of such payment, sue the state to recover the tax so paid, the summons and complaint to be served by delivering a copy to the attorney general or leaving it at his office in the capitol with one of his assistants or clerks. If it is determined that the tax, or any part thereof, was wrongfully collected, the department of administration shall issue a warrant on the state treasurer for the amount adjudged to have been wrongfully collected, and the treasurer shall pay the warrant out of the general fund. A separate suit need not be filed for each separate payment made by any taxpayer, but a recovery may be had in one suit for as many payments as may have been made.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: From 139.04. The provision for service of the summons on the attorney general is new to this chapter, but is a standard requirement of other chapters of the statutes. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.13 Distribution of revenues. After an amount equal to the sum of 70 per cent of the estimated costs to be incurred from the appropriation made by s. 20.800 (1) for beverage tax division administration and the estimated cost under s. 20.670 (1) for administering alcohol studies as certified July 1 for the current fiscal year by the commissioner and the director of the public welfare department, respectively, has been set aside, one-half of the balance of all revenues derived from the occupational tax on intoxicating liquors shall be distributed to the cities, towns and villages and shall be used by them to reduce the tax on general property. Such distribution to local units of government shall be made semiannually and all cities, towns and villages shall share therein in proportion to their population in the last federal census. The estimated costs of administering the liquor tax law from s. 20.800 (1) and of alcohol studies from s. 20.670 (1) shall be adjusted to actual costs on the cash basis per the records of the department of administration as of June 30 following, and such adjustment shall be reflected in the liquor tax apportionment made immediately after the close of the state's fiscal year pursuant to this section.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: From 139.28. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.18 Presumptions from possession. (1) The possession of any fermented malt beverages on any licensed premises, other than upon the premises of a brewer or bottler, shall be deemed prima facie evidence that such products are kept with intent to sell and that such products are subject to the tax herein imposed.

(2) The possession of unstamped intoxicating liquor, other than wine or unadulterated apple cider, except upon the premises of a manufacturer, rectifier or wholesaler, or any licensed public warehouse shall be deemed prima facie evidence that such liquor is possessed with the intent to sell the same contrary to law.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) is from 139.05. (2) is from 139.35. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.20 Compulsory testimony. Any person may be compelled to testify in regard to any violation of this chapter of which he may have knowledge, even though such testimony may tend to incriminate him, upon being granted immunity from prosecution in connection therewith, and upon the giving of such testimony, such person shall not be prosecuted for or because of the violation relative to which he has testified.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: From 139.07. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.22 Confiscation. Whenever the commissioner or any sheriff, policeman, marshal or constable, within his respective jurisdiction, discovers any fermented malt beverages upon any premises other than the premises of a brewer or bottler, or any intoxicating liquor upon any premises other than the premises of a manufacturer, rectifier, winery or wholesaler, and upon which the tax has not been paid or which was possessed, kept, stored, manufactured, sold, distributed or transported in violation of ss. 139.01 to 139.25 and chs. 66 and 176, the commissioner or any such officer may forthwith seize said fermented malt beverages or intoxicating liquors. Any such fermented malt beverages or intoxicating liquors so seized shall be held by the commissioner and disposed of through the department of administration as provided in s. 176.62 (2) (b).

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: From 139.03 (10). (Bill No. 218-S)

139.25 Penalties. (1) **COUNTERFEIT STAMP.** Any person who falsely or fraudulently makes, forges, alters or counterfeits any stamp prescribed by s. 139.06, or procures or causes to be falsely or fraudulently made, forged, altered or counterfeited any such stamp, or who knowingly possesses, utters, publishes, passes or tenders as true any false, altered, forged or counterfeited stamp, or affixes the same to any container, or uses any container upon which the stamp or stamps have been canceled, for the purpose of placing therein for sale, any intoxicating liquor without placing thereon stamps in the amount and of the kind and character herein provided, except for shipment in interstate commerce, or for shipment by a manufacturer to a rectifier shall be imprisoned in the state prison not less than one year nor more than 10 years.

(2) **FALSE REPORTS.** Any person required to make, render, sign or verify any report who makes any false or fraudulent return, or who attempts to evade the tax imposed by this chapter, or any person who aids or abets in the evasion or attempted evasion of such tax, shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 or imprisoned for not less than 90 days nor more than one year, or both.

(3) **FAILURE TO FILE REPORTS.** Failure to file a report when due shall subject the person to a \$10 late filing fee.

(4) **FAILURE TO KEEP RECORDS.** Failure to comply with s. 139.11 (1) shall carry a penalty of revocation by the commissioner of taxation of the license issued together with a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each offense.

(5) **MISCELLANEOUS.** Any person who violates any provision of ss. 139.01 to 139.22 for which specific penalty is not provided shall be fined not more than \$500 nor less than \$50, or imprisoned not more than 90 days nor less than 10 days, or both, and any license or permit issued to him shall be subject to revocation.

(6) **SECOND OFFENSES.** If any person is convicted of a second offense under the provisions of ss. 139.01 to 139.22, he shall, in addition to the penalties herein provided, forfeit the right to purchase any stamps from the commissioner, and all rights conferred upon him by any license issued to him by any city, village or town shall without notice be deemed forthwith forfeited.

History: 1963 c. 141.

Revisor's Note, 1963: (1) is from 139.03 provided a penalty for a failure to keep accurate records. This bill incorporates the (9). (2) and (3) are from 139.03 (16). (4) is from 139.295 (2). (5) and (6) are from 139.08. Under the old provisions there was a conflict between the last sentence of 139.03 (16) and 139.295 (2), both of which lighter penalty of 139.295 (2) for this offense, which is in accordance with the policy of the commissioner. (Bill No. 218-S)

139.50 Occupational tax on tobacco products; distribution. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Tobacco products" includes cigarettes.

(b) "Person" includes individuals, firms, corporations, associations, joint stock companies, copartnerships, trustees, receivers, or other legal representatives.

(c) "Manufacturer" means any person who shall manufacture tobacco products for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange.

(d) "Wholesaler" means any person holding a wholesaler, subjobber, cash and carry subjobber, vending machine operator or operator of 10 or more retail outlets permit.

(e) "Wholesaler" shall mean any person who shall:

1. Ship, transport or import into this state and sell, offer for sale or have in possession with intent to sell, stamped or unstamped tobacco products acquired and received by him directly from the manufacturer thereof.

2. Sell, offer for sale, or have in possession with intent to sell stamped or unstamped tobacco products acquired by him within the state directly from the manufacturer thereof.

3. Ship, transport or import into this state and sell, offer for sale or have in pos-

session with intent to sell, exclusively to retailers or other wholesale permittees from premises described in the permit or through their salesmen agents, stamped or unstamped tobacco products acquired by him other than directly from the manufacturer thereof.

4. Sell, offer for sale or have in possession with intent to sell exclusively to retailers or other wholesale permittees from premises described in the permit or through their salesmen agents tobacco products acquired within the state other than directly from the manufacturer thereof.

(f) "Subjobber" shall mean any person other than a foreign or Wisconsin wholesaler or cash and carry subjobber, who shall sell, barter, exchange, offer for sale, have in possession with intent to sell tobacco products for the purpose of resale to retailers only, and who, in addition, shall maintain a service delivery for tobacco products to retailers and shall render a true and correct invoice for each and every sale.

(g) The ownership and operation of a single retail outlet by a person otherwise within subdivisions 3 and 4 of paragraph (e) hereof shall not preclude him from a wholesale permit provided a substantial amount of the total volume of the business of such person in dealing in tobacco products consists of bona fide sales at wholesale to other retailers and wholesale permittees and separate accounts and records are kept by him of all such sales at wholesale.

(h) "Vending machine operator" shall mean any person other than a foreign or Wisconsin wholesaler, subjobber, or cash and carry subjobber, who shall sell, barter, exchange, offer for sale, have in possession with intent to sell tobacco products exclusively to retailers through the medium of a vending machine or any mechanical device used for dispensing cigarettes and who shall own, operate or service vending machines or mechanical devices on 5 or more premises.

(i) "Operator of 10 or more retail outlets" shall mean any person who operates 10 or more retail outlets, whether within or without this state, and who shall purchase tobacco products which are to be sold at retail by such person from the premises occupied by such outlets.

(ia) "Retailer" means any person, firm or corporation that sells, exchanges, offers, or exposes for sale or exchange, or has in his possession with intent to sell or exchange to consumers, any tobacco products.

(j) The term "sell" or "sold" or "sale" includes the transfer, gift, barter, trade or exchange, or any shift, device, scheme or transaction whatever whereby tobacco products may be obtained, but does not include the solicitation of orders for, or the sale for future delivery of tobacco products.

(2) TAX IMPOSED. (a) To provide revenue for the rehabilitation of veterans of World War II, construction and improvements at state welfare and educational institutions and for the repair, remodeling and fireproofing, and for new construction of buildings in the public welfare department, and other state property, postwar public works projects to relieve postwar unemployment, an occupational tax is assessed, imposed and levied upon the sale, exchange, offering or exposing for sale, having in possession with intent to sell, or removal for consumption or sale of tobacco products, or other disposition for any purpose whatsoever other than for shipment in interstate or foreign commerce. Such tax is levied and shall be collected at the following rates:

1. On cigarettes weighing not more than 3 pounds per thousand, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mills on each such cigarette.

2. On cigarettes weighing more than 3 pounds per thousand, 7 mills on each such cigarette.

(b) To provide revenue for the preservation and development of Wisconsin's outdoor resources as provided in s. 15.60, an occupational tax is assessed, imposed and levied upon the sale, exchange, offering or exposing for sale, having in possession with intent to sell, or removal for consumption or sale of tobacco products, or other disposition for any purpose whatsoever other than for shipment in interstate or foreign commerce. Such tax is levied and shall be collected at the following rates and shall be paid into the general fund and appropriated to the state recreation committee under s. 20.703 (41) (a).

1. On cigarettes weighing not more than 3 pounds per thousand, one-half mill on each such cigarette.

2. On cigarettes weighing more than 3 pounds per thousand, one mill on each such cigarette.

(3) TAXES, HOW PAID; POLICE POWERS. (a) The payment of the taxes herein imposed shall be evidenced by the affixing of tobacco products tax stamps, to the containers in which the tobacco products are placed, received, stored, warehoused, shipped, or delivered for sale.

(b) The commissioner of taxation shall prescribe, prepare and have available for sale, stamps of such denominations and quantities as he deems necessary for the payment of the taxes imposed by this section. The taxes imposed by subs. (2) (a) and (2) (b) shall be combined for stamp affixing purposes.

(c) Stamps shall be affixed in such a manner as the commissioner of taxation promulgates by regulations.

(d) Manufacturers and wholesalers within or without this state and having permits from the commissioner may purchase stamps at a discount of 2.6 per cent of the amount of stamps purchased and affix them as prescribed by him to containers of tobacco products to be sold in this state, in which case the recipient of such tobacco products within this state, from sources without this state, shall not be required to purchase and affix stamps thereto.

(e) In lieu of stamps the commissioner may permit the use of meter machines and where used a 2.6 per cent discount of the total tax due shall be allowed. Such machines shall be used under rules prescribed by the commissioner.

(f) The duly authorized employes of the commissioner of taxation have all necessary police powers to prevent violations of the provisions of this section and s. 134.65. In case the tax imposed in this section is not paid when due, a penalty of 2 per cent thereof shall immediately accrue, and in addition thereto interest on the tax and penalty at the rate of one per cent per month or fraction of a month from the date the tax became due until paid.

(g) No portion of the discount provided for in pars. (d) and (e) shall be charged against the taxes collected under sub. (2) (b).

(h) Permittees shall be entitled to purchase tobacco tax stamps and tobacco tax meter settings on credit upon filing a payment guarantee bond in a suitable amount as the commissioner requires.

(i) All occupational taxes on tobacco products paid pursuant to this section shall conclusively be presumed to be a direct tax on the retail consumer, advanced and prepaid for the purpose of convenience and facility only.

(4) PERMITS. (a) No manufacturer or wholesaler shall sell or manufacture any tobacco products within the state without first obtaining a permit from the commissioner of taxation to purchase stamps as provided in this section. The application for such permit and the permit shall be in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe. Distinct types of permits shall be issued to each class of wholesalers in accordance with the definitions of such classes contained in paragraphs (e) to (i) of subsection (1) of this section. Each permit shall expire on July 1 of each year, and the annual fee therefor shall be \$50.

(b) If any manufacturer or wholesaler violates this section or s. 100.30 the commissioner of taxation may suspend or revoke such permit for such period of time as he may determine.

(c) A permit to purchase stamps issued to a manufacturer or wholesaler shall entitle the holder of such permit to sell, deal or traffic in tobacco products at wholesale.

(5) RETAILERS, STAMPS REQUIRED; EXCEPTION. (a) No retailer shall have in his possession tobacco products for the purpose of resale unless the proper tax stamps have been affixed thereto.

(e) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to tobacco products purchased by, in the possession of, or shipped or carried into the state, or consigned to any railroad company (including any trustee or receiver of any such company) for sale to bona fide passengers or other persons actually being transported.

(7) APPLICATION FOR PERMIT. Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or association desiring the permit required by subsection (4) shall file with the commissioner of taxation an application for such permit. The applicant, if a nonresident or foreign corporation shall file proof that he has appointed the secretary of state for service of process relating to any matter or issue arising under section 139.50. Any foreign corporation need not qualify as such but shall file the proof of appointment of the secretary of state for service of process as hereinbefore provided. Said application shall be in such form as shall be prescribed by the commissioner and shall set forth:

(a) The kind of permit desired;

(b) The name and address of the applicant; if the applicant be a firm, partnership or association, the name and address of each member thereof; if the applicant be a corporation, the name and address of each of its officers;

(c) The place or places where the business is to be conducted;

(d) The business or occupation, if any, theretofore engaged in by the applicant; or if a firm, partnership or association, by each member thereof, or if a corporation by each officer thereof for a period of at least 3 years immediately preceding the date of such application.

(e) Such further information as the commissioner of taxation may require to enable him to determine the trustworthiness of each applicant, including each member of the firm, partnership or association, or each officer of the corporation.

(f) Every permittee who uses vending machines or any similar device for resale purposes shall file with the commissioner of taxation a list giving the name and address of the person operating the same, its location, its capacity and any machine identification mark or number such machine or device may have. Any person who shall violate any provision of this paragraph shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days.

(8) REGULATIONS; PENALTIES. (a) The commissioner of taxation in furtherance of effective collections may promulgate rules and regulations consistent with this section.

(b) Any person who shall violate any rules and regulations of the commissioner of taxation shall be punished as provided in subsection (2a) of section 176.43.

(c) Any violation of any provision of this section shall be sufficient grounds for revocation by the commissioner of taxation of any permit issued by him to such violator.

(10) PENALTY. Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and shall, in addition thereto, have his or its permit automatically revoked. Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association having his or its permit so revoked shall not be granted another permit for a period of 2 years following such revocation.

(11) PERMIT. Every manufacturer and wholesaler, upon making application for a permit to purchase stamps shall be assigned a permit number by the commissioner of taxation. The form of such application shall be prescribed by the commissioner. Stamps pursuant to this section shall be sold and issued only to duly permitted manufacturers and wholesalers.

(12) STAMPS. The occupational taxes imposed in this section shall be paid by the purchase of stamps from the commissioner, of such design and denominations as shall be designated by him. Each manufacturer and wholesaler shall affix at the time of sale (unless previously affixed thereto) to each package or other container in which tobacco products are packed for sale within the state a stamp so purchased, which stamp shall be of proper denomination. The taxes shall be required to be paid but once on any one package or other container.

(13) INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS. The commissioner of taxation may require in all cases where tobacco products are shipped into this state by any person holding a permit to any retailer or consumer that they shall have such stamp affixed to the package or other container at the time the same enters this state. In case of sales by any manufacturer or wholesaler within this state, it shall not be necessary for any manufacturer or wholesaler to affix stamps, but said stamps shall be affixed and canceled by said manufacturer or wholesaler before sale or delivery to any purchaser within this state. Such stamps shall be canceled by the person affixing the same. No retailer shall sell or remove any tobacco products from any package or other container, unless the same shall have affixed thereto duly canceled stamps of proper denomination. Every manufacturer or wholesaler shall be liable for the payment of the tax provided in this section on sales made for resale or consumption within this state, and shall be required to affix stamps of the proper amount on every package or other container imported from without the state, sold, delivered or given to any purchaser within this state.

(14) EXEMPTION FROM TAX. Sales by a manufacturer or wholesaler for shipment outside the state in interstate commerce, as well as sales to post exchanges of the armed forces of the United States and to federally or state operated veterans hospitals in this state, shall not be subject to the payment of the tax or other requirements imposed by this section except as herein specifically provided.

(15) CANCELLATION. Every manufacturer or wholesaler who shall be liable for the payment of the stamp tax as herein imposed shall, at the time any tobacco products are sold within the state of Wisconsin, and before any of the contents shall be removed from the package or other container, affix thereto a stamp or stamps of the proper denomination, which shall be canceled by the person affixing the same thereto. The commissioner of taxation shall, by regulation, prescribe the manner in which said stamps shall be affixed and canceled.

(16) LENDING OF STAMPS. No person or corporation shall sell, give or lend any stamps, nor shall any person or corporation purchase, accept or receive, or borrow any stamps from any person or corporation, it being the intent hereof in order to prevent

fraud and deception and insure the collection of said tax to limit all sales and transfers of such stamps to the commissioner of taxation or his duly authorized representatives. The commissioner shall not sell or issue any stamps to any person or corporation other than a manufacturer or wholesaler, who shall have been assigned a permit number by the commissioner. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the pledging of any stamps legally secured to any banking institution located in Wisconsin as collateral security to a loan.

(17) RECORDS; REFUNDS. The commissioner shall keep a suitable record of the sale of all stamps which shall show the dates of the sale thereof and the names of the purchasers. He shall refund to any purchaser or any banking institution located in this state the money paid for any stamps returned unfit for use or otherwise unused, and shall prescribe the method of proof required for obtaining such refund. He shall also refund the tax paid on such tobacco products and shall prescribe the method of proof required for such refunds. Refunds of taxes collected and paid into the general fund under sub. (2) (b) and appropriated to the state recreation committee under s. 20.703 (41) shall be charged against such appropriation.

(18) SALE BY MANUFACTURERS. It shall be unlawful, except as otherwise herein provided, for any manufacturer, wholesaler or retailer, to sell, offer for sale, have in possession with intent to sell, offer or expose for sale, barter, exchange or give away tobacco products within this state, except for shipment in interstate commerce, or sale or shipment by a manufacturer to a wholesaler without having first affixed to the package or other container in which same shall be placed, the stamps required by this section.

(19) ALTERATION OF STAMPS. Any person who falsely or fraudulently makes, forges, alters or counterfeits any stamp prescribed by this section, or procures or causes to be falsely or fraudulently made, forged, altered or counterfeited any such stamp, or who knowingly utters, publishes, passes or tenders as true any false, altered, forged or counterfeited stamps, or affixes the same to any package or other container, or uses any package or container upon which the stamp or stamps have been canceled for the purpose of placing therein for sale, offering for sale, or having in possession with intent to sell, or selling, offering for sale, or exposing for sale, exchange or barter, any tobacco products, without placing thereon stamps in the amount and of the kind and character herein provided, except for shipment in interstate commerce, shall be guilty of a felony and imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not less than one year nor more than 10 years.

(20) WAREHOUSE PERMIT. No warehouse shall store tobacco products without a permit. Such permits shall be issued by the commissioner of taxation and the provisions of subsection (7) shall apply to applications, forms, service of process and requirements of the commissioner unless inapplicable. The annual fee for such permit shall be \$10 for each place licensed. The holder of such permit shall be entitled, subject to rules and regulations issued by the commissioner, to store and warehouse tobacco products in premises of the warehouse so licensed. Such permit, however, shall not authorize the sale of tobacco products.

(21) ADMINISTRATION. The commissioner of taxation shall enforce and administer the provisions of this section. The commissioner shall design, procure, furnish and sell the stamps herein provided for. He shall collect and keep a record of all taxes collected and stamps sold, and shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(22) REMOVAL OF UNSTAMPED PRODUCTS. A manufacturer or wholesaler may have in and upon his premises tobacco products in packages or other containers without having stamps affixed thereto, but the same shall not be removed from the premises of said manufacturer or wholesaler except for shipment in interstate commerce without such stamps being affixed thereto.

(23) SALESMEN'S REGISTRATION. (a) All persons to whom permits have been issued, as required by subsection (4), shall file with the commissioner of taxation a list of all representatives who shall sell or take orders for tobacco products, provided that nonresident manufacturers not holding permits may designate wholesale permittees, either foreign or domestic, to furnish the commissioner of taxation with the names of any representatives who from time to time shall represent any particular manufacturer of tobacco products. Notice of any additions to such representation or resignations or dismissal from such representation shall be furnished to the commissioner within 5 days after the event occurs. The commissioner shall issue permits, without the requirement of any fee, to such representatives if he is satisfied that they are such bona fide representatives. Any salesman who sells, offers for sale, has in possession for purposes of sale, exchange, barter or to give away tobacco products without first being registered and having obtained a permit

from the commissioner shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days. No person not registered as a salesman as herein required shall be permitted to sell or offer for sale tobacco products in this state.

(am) No representative of any manufacturer who deals in the tobacco products of such manufacturer and who is so registered as a salesman, shall sell more than 3 cartons of any one kind of cigarettes at any time to any one retailer.

(24) RECORDS; RETURNS. Each manufacturer or wholesaler holding a permit from the commissioner of taxation shall keep complete and accurate records of all sales of tobacco products. The commissioner may prescribe reasonable and uniform methods for keeping such records. Every such permittee shall on or before the 10th day of each calendar month make a verified return to the commissioner of all tobacco products sold, delivered or shipped by him during the preceding calendar month. Such return shall be made upon forms prescribed and furnished by the commissioner and shall contain such other information as he may deem necessary for the collection and enforcement of the tax imposed by this section.

(25) FALSE RETURNS; PENALTIES. Any manufacturer or wholesaler required by this section to make, render, sign or verify any report, who makes any false or fraudulent return, or who attempts to evade the tax imposed by this section, or any person who aids or abets in the evasion or attempted evasion of such tax, shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not less than 90 days nor more than one year, or both. Any manufacturer or wholesaler who fails to keep the records required by this section or who falsifies such records shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be subject to punishment in like manner. Failure to file a report when due shall subject the manufacturer or wholesaler to a \$10 late filing fee.

(26) ENFORCEMENT NOT TO BE RESTRAINED. No suit shall be maintained in any court to restrain or delay the collection or payment of the tax levied in this section. The aggrieved taxpayer shall pay the tax as and when due and, if paid under protest, may at any time within 90 days from the date of such payment, sue the state in an action at law to recover the tax so paid. If it is finally determined that said tax, or any part thereof, was wrongfully collected for any reason, it shall be the duty of the department of administration to issue a warrant on the state treasurer for the amount of such tax so adjudged to have been wrongfully collected, and the treasurer shall pay the same out of the general fund. A separate suit need not be filed for each separate payment made by any taxpayer, but a recovery may be had in one suit for as many payments as may have been made.

(28) INSPECTION FOR ENFORCEMENT. The commissioner of taxation or his duly authorized employes, and any sheriff, policeman, marshal or constable, within their respective jurisdictions, may at all reasonable hours enter in and upon any licensed premises, and examine the books, papers and records of any manufacturer or wholesaler for the purposes of inspecting the same and determining whether the tax imposed by this section has been fully paid, and shall have power to inspect and examine, according to law, any premises where tobacco products are manufactured, sold, exposed for sale, possessed or stored, for the purpose of determining whether the provisions of this section are being complied with. Any refusal to permit such examination of such premises shall constitute sufficient reason for the refusal of the commissioner to furnish to such person so refusing any stamps. Such refusal shall automatically operate as a revocation of any license or permit granted for the sale of any tobacco products and in addition shall be deemed a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in subsection (30).

(29) COMPULSORY TESTIMONY. Any person may be compelled to testify in regard to any violation of this section of which he may have knowledge, even though such testimony may tend to incriminate him, upon being granted immunity from prosecution in connection therewith, and upon the giving of such testimony, such person shall not be prosecuted for or because of the violation relative to which he has testified.

(30) PENALTIES. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section for which specific penalty is not herein provided shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and any permit issued to him shall be subject to revocation. In the event that any such person shall be convicted of a second offense, such offender, in addition to the penalties herein provided, shall forthwith forfeit the right to purchase any stamps from the commissioner of taxation, and any permit which may have been issued to him by the commissioner shall without notice be forthwith forfeited.

(31) POWERS OF COMMISSIONER. Whenever the commissioner of taxation in admin-

istering the provisions of this section finds that the records kept by any such manufacturer or wholesaler who shall hold a permit are in such condition that an unusual amount of time is required to determine therefrom the amount of tax due, or in the event the commissioner shall determine it necessary to inspect and audit the books of any such manufacturer or wholesaler located without the state, he may give notice of such fact to such manufacturer or wholesaler and may in such notice require said records to be kept in such form as he may prescribe. If such requirements are not complied with within 30 days after the date thereof, such manufacturer or wholesaler shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable to such determination of tax at the rate of \$15 per day for each auditor. The commissioner shall render a bill therefor by registered mail to the person charged with payment at the conclusion of the audit, which bill shall constitute notice of assessment and demand of payment thereof. Upon the bill so rendered such manufacturer or wholesaler shall, within 10 days after the mailing thereof, pay the amount of said bill.

(32) PRESERVATION OF RECORDS. Every person who shall manufacture, distribute, transport, store, warehouse or sell tobacco products, or import the same shall keep complete and accurate records of all such tobacco products purchased, sold, manufactured, improved, produced, stored, warehoused, imported or transported within this state. Such records shall be of a kind and in the form prescribed by the commissioner of taxation and shall be safely preserved for 2 years in such a manner as to insure permanency and accessibility for inspection by the commissioner or any duly authorized employe of the commissioner. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall carry a penalty of revocation by the commissioner of the permit issued together with a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each and every offense.

(33) SEIZURE. Whenever the commissioner of taxation or his duly authorized employes, and any sheriff, policeman, marshal or constable, within their respective jurisdictions, shall discover tobacco products in or upon any premises other than the premises of a manufacturer or wholesaler upon which the tax has not been paid, said commissioner, his employes, or any such officer of said city, village or town, may forthwith seize and take possession of said tobacco products and shall, at the end of 5 days after such seizure, advertise such seized goods for sale for the purpose of collecting the tax thereon. Such advertisement may be had by posting a notice of the time and place of sale upon the premises where such goods are seized, or by publication in any newspaper having a circulation within the county wherein such seizure is made. The sales shall not be had until 3 days after the posting of such notice or the publication thereof. The provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (35) relative to expenses, costs of sale, disposition of proceeds and liens shall apply to the proceeds of sales derived under this subsection unless inapplicable. In case such tobacco products so seized shall have deteriorated or become for any reason unfit for sale, such tobacco products shall be destroyed in the presence of 3 reputable witnesses, and a report of such destruction, signed by such witnesses, shall be filed with the commissioner.

(34) STATE-WIDE CONCERN. The provisions of this section shall be construed as an enactment of state-wide concern for the purpose of providing a uniform regulation of the sale of tobacco products.

(35) CONFISCATION. (a) All tobacco products owned, possessed, kept, stored, manufactured, sold, distributed or transported in violation of this section, and all personal property used in connection therewith is declared to be unlawful property and subject to seizure by the commissioner of taxation or any peace officer.

(b) The court, upon the conviction of any person for owning, possessing, keeping, storing, manufacturing, selling, distributing or transporting tobacco products in violation of this section, shall, in case the person convicted be the owner thereof, order such tobacco products which were seized in connection with such violation to be destroyed, and in such case, shall order the personal property which was seized in connection with the violation to be sold at public auction, or if a sale is not practicable, to be destroyed by the commissioner of taxation or his duly authorized agents. The commissioner or such agent, after deducting the expense of keeping the property and the costs of the sale, shall pay, out of the proceeds of such sale, all liens according to their priorities, which are established, by intervention or otherwise, in the proceedings for conviction as being bona fide and as having been created without the lienor having notice that such property was being used or was to be used in connection with such violation. All such liens against property sold under the provisions of this subsection shall be transferred from the property to the proceeds of the sale of the property. No tobacco products confiscated pursuant to this section shall be sold within a period of 30 days after the date of seizure.

(c) If tobacco products be seized in connection with such a violation of this section,

and there be no one in possession thereof at the time of seizure, or if in such case there be a person in possession who does not claim ownership thereof, or if there be a person in possession and he be convicted for such violation and it be found at the time of his conviction that he is not the owner thereof, the taking of the same, with a description thereof, may be advertised by the commissioner of taxation in the official state paper once a week for 2 weeks, and, if no claimant, either of a lien or ownership, shall have notified the commissioner in writing within 10 days after the last publication of the advertisement, the property shall be sold and the proceeds, after deducting the expenses and costs, shall be paid into the state treasury, or, if a sale is not practicable, the property shall be destroyed. If a claimant of a lien or of ownership notifies the commissioner within the prescribed period, the commissioner or the peace officer seizing the property shall apply to a court of record in the county where the property was seized for an order requiring such claimant to show cause why such property should not be confiscated. If, upon the hearing of the order, a claimant of a lien, but no claimant of ownership, has appeared, or if a claimant of ownership has appeared and fails to establish his title to the seized property, and the court shall find that the property was used in connection with such violation, it shall order the same to be sold, or destroyed, if a sale is not practicable, as provided in paragraph (b). If such claimant of ownership shall establish title, the court shall likewise order the property to be sold or destroyed unless the claimant shall establish also that the property was not used in connection with such violation or that it was so used without his knowledge or consent and without his knowledge of such facts as should have given him reason to believe that it would be put to such use. If the court shall order the property sold, the person making the sale, after deducting the expenses of keeping the property and the costs of the sale, shall pay, out of the proceeds of such sale, all liens according to their priorities which are established at the hearing upon the order as being bona fide and as having been created without the lienor having notice that such property was being used or was to be used in connection with such violation. In case of all sales, the net proceeds remaining after payment of expenses and costs and the payment of liens, if any be paid, shall be paid into the state treasury. All such liens against property sold under the provisions of this subsection shall be transferred from the property to the proceeds of the sale of the property.

(d) The term "lienor" or "lien claimant" as herein used shall include the vendor under a conditional sales agreement and the mortgagee under a chattel mortgage.

(e) The provisions of this section relating to confiscation shall not exclude resort to the provisions of chapter 288 and the commissioner of taxation or the peace officer seizing property may in any case proceed under the provisions of that chapter.

(36) ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT. Any peace officer may arrest without warrant any person committing in his presence violations of any provisions of this section, and may without a search warrant seize any personal property used in connection with such violation.

(37) IMPERSONATION. (a) Any person who shall impersonate an inspector, agent or other accredited employe of the commissioner of taxation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) Any person violating this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 6 months nor more than a year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(38) PLACE TO PLACE DELIVERY. No person shall peddle any tobacco products from house to house by means of a truck or otherwise, where the sale is consummated and delivery made concurrently.

(39) NUISANCE. Any building or place of any kind where tobacco products are sold, possessed, stored or manufactured without a lawful permit or license as provided in this section or where persons are permitted to resort, in violation of law is declared a public nuisance and may be closed and abated as such.

(40) TOBACCO IN WAREHOUSES. Whenever tobacco products are stored in a licensed warehouse, by a manufacturer or wholesaler as a pledge for the loan of money, it shall not be necessary to affix to such tobacco products state stamps until such tobacco products are sold or removed from such public warehouse. Whenever it shall become necessary for a pledgee to sell such tobacco products, in good faith pursuant to the terms of the pledge, and not for the purpose of avoiding the provisions of this section, such tobacco products shall be sold to a Wisconsin manufacturer or wholesaler for the purpose of affixing state revenue stamps.

History: 1961 c. 251, 352, 427, 622; 1963 c. 6, 19, 74, 224.

139.51 Tax on the use of tobacco products. (1) DEFINITIONS. As used in this

section, the expressions "tobacco products," "person" and "sell," "sold" or "sale" shall have the definition as provided in section 139.50 (1).

(2) IMPOSITION OF TAX. (a) To provide revenue for the rehabilitation of veterans of World War II, construction and improvements at state welfare and educational institutions and for the repair, remodeling and fireproofing, and for new construction of buildings in the public welfare department and other state property, and postwar public works projects to relieve postwar unemployment, a tax is assessed, imposed and levied upon the use in this state by any person, whether the owner or otherwise, of tobacco products for any purpose whatsoever. Such tax shall be imposed but once with respect to the same tobacco products whether the possession thereof continues with the person paying the tax or is transferred to another. Such tax is levied and shall be collected at the following rates, with respect to tobacco products not exempted under sub. (4):

1. On cigarettes weighing not more than 3 pounds per thousand, 3½ mills on each such cigarette.

2. On cigarettes weighing more than 3 pounds per thousand, 7 mills on each such cigarette.

(b) To provide revenue for the preservation and development of Wisconsin's outdoor resources as provided in s. 15.60 a tax is assessed, imposed and levied upon the use in this state by any person, whether the owner or otherwise, of tobacco products for any purpose whatsoever. Such tax shall be imposed but once with respect to the same tobacco products whether the possession thereof continues with the person paying the tax or is transferred to another. Such tax is levied and shall be collected at the following rates, with respect to tobacco products not exempted under sub. (4), and shall be paid into the general fund and appropriated to the state recreation committee under s. 20.703 (41) (a):

1. On cigarettes weighing not more than 3 pounds per thousand, one-half mill on each such cigarette.

2. On cigarettes weighing more than 3 pounds per thousand, one mill on each such cigarette.

(4) EXEMPTIONS. The tax imposed by this section shall not be applicable to the following:

(a) Tobacco products subject to the tax imposed by section 139.50;

(b) Tobacco products for purposes of shipment in interstate or foreign commerce;

(c) Tobacco products by or consigned to any railroad company (including any trustee or receiver of any such company) for sale to bona fide passengers or other persons actually being transported.

(5) DECLARATION AND PAYMENT. (a) Any person subject to the tax imposed by this section shall, within 3 days after acquiring possession of the tobacco products involved or within 3 days after July 14, 1945 whichever occurs last, file with the commissioner of taxation a declaration of the possession of such tobacco products and shall transmit with the declaration to the commissioner the tax imposed by this section.

(b) On receipt of the declaration and payment of the tax as required by paragraph (a), the commissioner of taxation shall issue a receipt to the person paying the tax and furnish said person with a suitable tax stamp to be affixed to the package of tobacco products upon which the tax has been paid.

(c) The declaration and receipt referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) shall contain the name and address of the person possessing the tobacco products involved, the location of such tobacco products, and the quantity, brand name, place of purchase and date of purchase of such tobacco products.

(6) PRESUMPTION FROM POSSESSION. The possession of any tobacco products which do not bear the stamp required by section 139.50 shall be prima facie evidence that the possession of such tobacco products is subject to the tax imposed by section 139.51 and that this latter tax has not been paid.

(7) PENALTIES, ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. To the extent consistent with this section, all provisions of section 139.50 relative to penalties, enforcement administration and review shall be applicable to the tax imposed under section 139.51.

History: 1961 c. 427; 1963 c. 224.

139.60 Oleomargarine regulations. (1) (a) An occupational tax is hereby assessed, imposed and levied, as hereinafter provided, upon the sale, offering or exposing for sale, or giving or delivering or use of oleomargarine, butterine and similar substances, in this state. The purpose of this section is declared to be the raising of revenue, and the regulations herein imposed are for the purpose of securing the full collection of such revenue, and punishing evasion or attempted evasion of the payment thereof. Oleomargarine, butterine and similar substances include all fats and fat compounds sufficiently adaptable

to the ordinary uses of butter, to lead readily to use as an alternative to butter, but this section shall not apply to lard as defined in s. 97.02 (4), cream cheese, cheese food compounds as defined in s. 97.50, nor to any other dairy product made exclusively of milk solids, with or without added vitamins, if such product is sold or distributed in such manner and form as will clearly distinguish it from butter. Nor shall this section apply to shortenings not churned or emulsified in milk or cream and having a melting point of 112 degrees Fahrenheit or more as determined by the capillary tube method unless there is sold or given away with such shortening any compound which when mixed with such shortening makes oleomargarine, butterine or similar substances as defined by this section.

(b) No person shall by himself, or by his servant or agent, manufacture, sell, exchange, offer or expose for sale, have in possession with intent to sell, or serve to guests, patrons or boarders for compensation in a hotel, restaurant or boarding house, or use in the preparation of food to be sold or offered for sale or to be served or to be offered to guests, patrons or boarders for compensation in a hotel, restaurant or boarding house oleomargarine, butterine, or similar substance, without first securing a license from the commissioner of taxation.

(2) Application for such license shall be made in such form as may be prescribed by the commissioner of taxation. Such application shall contain an accurate description of the place where the proposed business is intended to be carried on, the name and style under which it is proposed to conduct the said business, and such other information as the commissioner of taxation may require. If from such application the commissioner of taxation is satisfied that the name and style of the business is not calculated to deceive or mislead the public, and upon payment of the tax specified in sub. (3), the commissioner of taxation shall issue to the applicant an annual license authorizing him to manufacture, sell, or serve, as the case may be, oleomargarine, butterine, and similar substances. A separate license shall be required for each separate place of business.

(3) The tax for an annual license issued pursuant to this section shall be as follows:

- (a) To a manufacturer, \$1,000;
- (b) To a wholesale dealer, \$500;
- (c) To a retail dealer, \$25;
- (d) To a proprietor of a hotel or restaurant, \$25;
- (e) To a proprietor of a boarding house having 3 or more boarders at any time during the license period, \$5;
- (f) To a proprietor of a bakery, \$5;
- (g) To a proprietor of a confectionery, \$5.

(4) All licenses issued under this section shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of each year, but licenses may be granted to commence on the first day of July for the remainder of the license year, upon payment of one-half the annual license fee. Such licenses shall be transferable upon application in writing to the commissioner of taxation.

(5) A license issued under this section shall not authorize the manufacture, sale, offering or exposing for sale, having in possession with intent to sell, or serving to guests or patrons or boarders for compensation, any oleomargarine, butterine or similar substance at any other place than that designated in the application and license.

(6) Every licensee shall display his license or duplicate thereof in a conspicuous place on the walls of each room in which oleomargarine, butterine, or other substance is manufactured, sold, exposed for sale, or served to guests, patrons or boarders. Duplicate licenses shall be furnished by the commissioner of taxation for 50 cents.

(7) Every licensed manufacturer, and every licensed wholesale dealer in oleomargarine, butterine or other similar products shall file with the commissioner of taxation the name and address of each person to whom such products are sold. Such information shall be filed not later than January 20, May 20 and September 20 and shall in each case cover sales made during the preceding 4 months' period.

(8) (a) An occupational tax to be collected as a stamp tax is assessed, imposed and levied upon the sale, exchange, offering or exposing for sale or exchange, having in possession with intent to sell or exchange, or removal for consumption, exchange or sale other than for shipment in interstate or foreign commerce, of oleomargarine, butterine and other similar substances. The rate of such tax shall be 15 cents per pound on such oleomargarine, butterine or other similar substance.

(b) The payment of the tax herein imposed shall be evidenced by the affixing of oleomargarine tax stamps to the containers in which all oleomargarine, butterine or other similar substances are placed, received, stored, warehoused, shipped or delivered for sale.

(c) The commissioner of taxation shall prescribe, prepare and have available for sale, stamps of such denominations and quantities as it may deem necessary for the payment of the tax imposed by this subsection.

(d) Stamps shall be affixed in such a manner as the commissioner of taxation promulgates by order. Manufacturers and wholesalers within or without this state may be permitted to purchase stamps and affix them, in the manner prescribed by the commissioner of taxation, to containers for oleomargarine to be sold in this state.

(e) No manufacturer or wholesaler shall sell any oleomargarine within this state to any person, except a licensed wholesaler, unless the proper tax stamps have been affixed thereto. No licensee under this section, except a wholesaler or manufacturer, shall purchase, sell, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale or use within this state, any oleomargarine unless the proper tax stamps have been affixed thereto.

(9) (a) In order to prevent evasion of the per pound tax imposed by this section, a tax is hereby assessed, imposed and levied, as hereinafter in this subsection provided, upon the use of oleomargarine, butterine, and similar substances in this state. No person shall in any manner use any oleomargarine, butterine, or similar substances not purchased from a retail dealer in this state, unless he be licensed as hereinbefore provided, without first securing a license from the commissioner of taxation. Applications for such license shall be made in the form to be prescribed by the commissioner of taxation and shall designate the place at which such oleomargarine, butterine or similar substance is to be used. Such license shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of each year and shall not be transferable. The tax for such annual license shall be one dollar. Upon the receipt of the application and the payment of such tax, the commissioner of taxation shall issue to the applicant an annual license authorizing said applicant to use oleomargarine, butterine, or similar substances. On all oleomargarine, butterine or similar substances so used the licensee shall pay a tax in the amount of 6 cents per pound.

(b) All licensees under this section shall keep records, upon forms to be prescribed by the commissioner of taxation, stating the date of the receipt of all oleomargarine, butterine or similar substances so used, and from whom purchased. Not later than the tenth day of January, April, July and October, each such licensee shall file such records for the quarter year ending on the last day of the preceding month, verified, with the commissioner of taxation, retaining a copy thereof, open to inspection by the commissioner of taxation. Mailing by registered mail shall be equivalent to filing.

(c) With the filing of such records, the licensee shall pay the tax levied and required herein, to the commissioner of taxation, by mail order, certified check, or draft. Payments not made at the time required shall be increased by one cent per pound.

(10) The commissioner of taxation or any of his authorized agents may at all reasonable times inspect the premises and examine the records of any licensee.

(11) The doing of any act herein forbidden to be done without license, if done without such license in full force and effect, or the keeping, making or filing of any false record under this section shall subject the person to a forfeiture of \$100 for each quarter year or part thereof during which any such act shall be done. Such forfeiture shall be recoverable at the suit of the state as for a debt.

(12) Conviction of any licensee for any violation of this section shall operate automatically as a revocation of his license issued under this section, and no new license shall be issued to such person for one year thereafter.

(13) No suit shall be maintained in any court to restrain or delay the collection or payment of any tax herein levied at the suit of the person required to pay such tax, but the aggrieved taxpayer shall pay the tax as and when due, and if paid under protest may at any time within 2 years from the date of such payment sue the state in an action at law to recover the tax so paid, with legal interest thereon from the date of payment. If it is finally determined that said tax, or any part thereof, was wrongfully collected for any reason, it shall be the duty of the department of administration to issue its warrant on the treasurer for the amount of such tax so adjudged to have been wrongfully collected, together with interest thereon, and the treasurer shall pay same out of the general fund. A separate suit need not be filed for each separate payment made by any taxpayer, but a recovery may be had in one suit for as many payments as may have been made, and which are not barred by the limitation of 2 years herein imposed.

(14) As used in this section:

(a) "Wholesale dealer" means any person, firm or corporation who sells or offers for sale to a retail dealer.

(b) "Retail dealer" means any person, firm or corporation who sells or offers for sale to a user or consumer.

(c) "Hotel" or "restaurant" includes all places wherein meals or lunches are served transients for compensation.

(d) "Boarding house" includes places where meals are furnished as part compensation for services other than domestic labor.

