1999 DRAFTING REQUEST

Assembly Amendment (AA-ASA1-AJR104)

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1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1, TO 1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 104

March 14, 2000 - Offered by Representatives Stone and Suder.

1	Relating to: urging a study of whether electronic commerce should be taxed and the				
2	extension of the federal moratorium on the taxation.				
3	Whereas, America's current unprecedented economic expansion is being				
4	driven, in large part, by the explosive growth of Internet companies and electronic				
5	commerce; and				
6	Whereas, the robust development of electronic commerce has attracted the				
7	attention of government officials committed to establishing tax authority over				
8	Internet transactions; and				
9	Whereas, in 1998 Congress, in a move to protect the further development of this				
10	emerging technology and marketplace, instituted a 3-year moratorium on state				
11	taxation of charges for Internet access and discriminatory taxes on electronic				
12	commerce; and				
13	Whereas, electronic commerce is considered an engine for future economic				
14	prosperity; and				

1 Whereas, electronic commerce provides entrepreneurs and small businesses 2 the ability to expand their markets and reach out to customers across the globe; and 3 Whereas, current tax policy could subject electronic commerce transactions to multiple taxation from multiple jurisdictions; and 4 5 Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently ruled that the U.S. Constitution places strict limits on the ability of state and local governments to 6 require a seller to collect sales and use taxes on goods sold in the state unless the 7 seller has nexus in the state; and 8 Whereas, absent these constitutional limitations, the ability of entrepreneurs 9 and small businesses to compete in the global marketplace would be severely limited; 10 11 and Whereas, significant amounts of electronic commerce transactions would be 12 exempt under traditional existing sales tax policy, such as transactions for services 13 14 or business-to-business transactions; and Whereas, state and local governments are currently experiencing a period of 15 strong revenue growth and record budget surpluses; and 16 Whereas, businesses operating in the global electronic marketplace are 17 currently subject to a number of other state and local taxes; and 18 Whereas, independent studies have concluded that the current revenue loss to 19 state governments from the nontaxation of the Internet is less than one-half of 1%; 20 21 and Whereas, the average working American family already faces the highest tax 22 burden in our nation's history, paying close to 40% of its income in local, state and 23 federal taxes; and 24

1	Whereas, the Internet Tax Freedom Act has laid the foundation for the
2	explosive and revolutionary growth of a vital sector of the economy; and
3	Whereas, the Internet Tax Freedom Act will expire in 2001; and
4	Whereas, Congress has empaneled the Advisory Commission on Electronic
5	Commerce to study all aspects of electronic commerce and the Internet; now,
6	therefore, be it
7	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Internet Tax
8	Freedom Act should be extended to allow a thorough examination of all aspects of
9	electronic commerce; and, be it further
10	$\emph{Resolved}, \emph{That}$ the members of the senate and assembly support study by the
11	Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce on the issues of tax and technological
12	neutrality among all forms of commerce; and, be it further
13	Resolved, That members of the senate and assembly support efforts geared
14	toward tax simplification and comprehensive tax reduction wherever possible,
15	including the extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act; and be it further
- 16	Resolved, That all state governments refrain from imposing new taxes on
17	electronic commerce and allow it to continue to grow in an unfettered environment;
18	and, be it further
19	Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
20	resolution to the president and secretary of the U.S. senate, to the speaker and clerk
21	of the U.S. house of representatives, to each member of the congressional delegation
22	from this state, to the chief clerk of each state legislative body in this country and to
23	governor of each state attesting the adoption of this joint resolution by the 1999
24	legislature of the state of Wisconsin.
25	(END)

Date (time)

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LRB a 1864/

AMENDMENT

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[rev: 6/2/98 1999DF04(fm)]

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