



# State of Wisconsin

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STEPHEN R. MILLER  
CHIEF

January 30, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Senator Lasee

**From:** Joseph T. Kreye, Sr. Legislative Attorney, (608) 266-2263

**Subject:** Technical Memorandum to **2011 SB 408** (LRB-3342/1) by **DOR**

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We received the attached technical memorandum relating to your bill. This copy is for your information and your file.

If you wish to discuss this memorandum or the necessity of revising your bill or preparing an amendment, please contact me.

## MEMORANDUM

January 27, 2012

**TO:** Joe Kreye  
Legislative Reference Bureau

**FROM:** Paul Ziegler  
Department of Revenue

**SUBJECT:** Technical Memorandum on SB 408 – relating to the sales and use tax exemption for coins, currency, and commemorative medallions.

The Department has the following concerns with SB 408:

1. It is unclear whether the phrase "that are made from gold, silver, platinum, or palladium, or any combination of such metals" applies only to United States and sovereign coins or if it relates to all of the items listed under the proposed exemption. The inclusion of both "coins" and "coins of the United States and any sovereign government" in the exemption language may be the source of this ambiguity.
2. It is unclear whether "any combination of such metals" means that the item may be made only of any combination of gold, silver, platinum, or palladium or a combination of metals that includes any of the stated metals. For example, it is not clear whether a gold- or silver-plated commemorative medallion would be exempt under the bill.
3. Without statutory definitions for "currency," "commemorative medallions," and "coins," the exemption may include items that are not intended by the author.

If you have questions regarding this technical memorandum, please contact Bob Schmidt at (608) 267-9892 or [robertk1.schmidt@revenue.wi.gov](mailto:robertk1.schmidt@revenue.wi.gov).

cc: Senator Lasee