AN ACT to create 77.54 (63) of the statutes; relating to: a sales tax holiday in August.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, annually, for the two-day period beginning on the first Saturday in August and ending on the following Sunday, the sales of the following items are exempt from the sales tax and the use tax:

1. An item of clothing, not including clothing accessories, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $75.
2. A computer purchased by the consumer for the consumer’s personal use, if the sales price of the computer is no more than $2,000.
3. School computer supplies, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $250.
4. School instructional materials, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $300.
5. School supplies, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $75.

The bill provides, however, that the exemption does not apply in any year in which the Department of Revenue determines, by May 1, that the state’s financial situation would make implementation of the exemption imprudent.

Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill.
The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 77.54 (63) of the statutes is created to read:

77.54 (63) (a) In this subsection:

1. “Clothing” means any wearing apparel for humans that is suitable for general use, not including all of the following:

   a. Belt buckles sold separately.
   b. Costume masks sold separately.
   c. Patches and emblems sold separately.
   d. Sewing equipment and supplies, including knitting needles, patterns, pins, scissors, sewing machines, sewing needles, tape measures, and thimbles.
   e. Sewing materials that become part of clothing, including buttons, fabric, lace, thread, yarn, and zippers.

2. “Clothing accessories or equipment” means incidental items worn on a person or in conjunction with clothing, including all of the following:

   a. Briefcases.
   b. Cosmetics.
   c. Hair notions, including barrettes, hair bows, and hair nets.
   d. Handbags.
   e. Handkerchiefs.
   f. Jewelry.
   g. Nonprescription sunglasses.
   h. Umbrellas.
3. “School computer supply” means any of the following items that are commonly used by a student in a course of study in which a computer is used:
   a. Computer storage media, diskettes, and compact discs.
   b. Handheld electronic schedulers, not including cellular phones.
   c. Personal digital assistants, not including cellular phones.
   d. Computer printers.
   e. Printer supplies for computers, printer paper, and printer ink.

4. “School instructional material” means any of the following that is commonly used by a student in a course of study as a reference and to learn the subject being taught:
   a. Reference books.
   b. Reference maps and globes.
   c. Textbooks.
   d. Workbooks.

5. “School supply” means any of the following items that are commonly used by a student in a course of study:
   a. Binders.
   b. Book bags.
   c. Calculators.
   d. Cellophane tape.
   e. Blackboard chalk.
f. Compasses.
g. Composition books.
h. Crayons.
i. Erasers.
j. Folders.
k. Glue, paste, and paste sticks.
L. Highlighters.
m. Index cards.
n. Index card boxes.
o. Legal pads.
p. Lunch boxes.
q. Markers.
r. Notebooks.
t. Pencil boxes and other school supply boxes.
u. Pencil sharpeners.
v. Pencils.
w. Pens.
x. Protractors.
y. Rulers.
z. Scissors.
za. Writing tablets.
(b) Except as provided in par. (c), annually, beginning in August 2016, for the 2-day period beginning on the first Saturday in August and ending on the following
Sunday, the sales price from the sale of and the storage, use, or other consumption of the following:

1. Clothing, not including clothing accessories or equipment, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $75.

2. A computer purchased by the consumer for the consumer’s personal use, if the sales price of the computer is no more than $2,000.

3. School computer supplies purchased by the consumer for the consumer’s personal use, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $250.

4. School instructional materials, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $300.

5. School supplies, if the sales price of any single item is no more than $75.

(c) This subsection does not apply in any year in which the department determines, no later than May 1, that the state’s financial situation would make implementation of this subsection imprudent.

(END)