

April 15, 1999

**S 1163. DRY-CLEANING SOLVENT CLEANUP AMENDS.. TO REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF DRY-CLEANING FACILITIES ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEGAL LIABILITY FOR CONTAMINATION, TO PHASE IN A PRIVILEGE TAX ON DRY-CLEANING AND LAUNDRY BUSINESSES BASED ON GROSS RECEIPTS, TO PHASE OUT STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAXES ON DRY-CLEANING SERVICES, AND TO MAKE OTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE DRY-CLEANING SOLVENT CLEANUP ACT OF 1997.**

*Financial responsibility and revenue provisions.* Retroactively to April 1, 1998, repeals all provisions in the Dry-cleaning Solvent Cleanup Act of 1997 that required owners or operators of dry-cleaning facilities to maintain financial responsibility (insurance or a bond) for dry-cleaning solvent contamination. Retroactively to April 1, 1998, raises deductibles for cleanup of dry-cleaning solvent releases by \$5,000 for each category of facility other than abandoned facilities. Phases in a privilege tax on gross receipts to be used for dry-cleaning solvent contamination cleanup and phases out state and local sales taxes on dry-cleaning services, as follows: Beginning July 1, 2000, imposes a privilege tax on gross receipts of dry-cleaners and similar businesses of 2%, raised to 3% on July 1, 2002 and to 4% on July 1, 2002. Beginning July 1, 2000 imposes sales tax of 3%, lowered to 2% on July 1, 2001 and to 1% on July 1, 2002. Makes other technical and clarifying changes.

*Changes to the Dry-Cleaning Solvent Cleanup Act itself.* Adds requirement that persons seeking certification or cleanup agreements provide information to demonstrate that a release of dry-cleaning solvent has occurred and has resulted in contamination. Clarifies that the costs of providing qualifying information are not reimbursable from the fund. Clarifies that the deductibles set out in the statute represent the total amount for which a person or group seeking a cleanup agreement is required to accept written responsibility. Removes requirement that assessment agreements indicate the date on which remediation will begin. Extends date on which reimbursement may begin and prior to which any remediation of dry-cleaning solvent contamination may qualify for fund coverage to June 30, 2000 (was, January 1, 1999). Extends temporary rulemaking authority of the Environmental Management Commission under this act to June 30, 2000. Makes other clarifying and technical changes.

**Intro. by Clodfelter.**

Ref. to Finance

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