

House Bill 566

By: Representatives Franklin of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup> and Kaye of the 37<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 48-8-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 exemptions from state sales and use tax, so as to change the exemption regarding certain  
3 sales of eligible food and beverages; to provide for revised conditions and limitations; to  
4 provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 48-8-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to exemptions from  
8 state sales and use tax, is amended by striking paragraph (57) and inserting in its place a new  
9 paragraph (57), to read as follows:

10 ~~"(57)(A) The sale for off-premises human consumption or use of eligible foods and~~  
11 ~~beverages, to the extent provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.~~

12 ~~(B) A transaction described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be exempt~~  
13 ~~from sales and use tax only if occurring on or after October 1, 1996, and only to the~~  
14 ~~extent set forth in divisions (i) through (iii) of this subparagraph as follows:~~

15 ~~(i) For a transaction occurring during the period from October 1, 1996, through~~  
16 ~~September 30, 1997, to the extent of 50 percent of that amount on which, but for this~~  
17 ~~paragraph, sales and use tax would be levied or imposed;~~

18 ~~(ii) For a transaction occurring during the period from October 1, 1997, through~~  
19 ~~September 30, 1998, to the extent of 75 percent of that amount on which, but for this~~  
20 ~~paragraph, sales and use tax would be levied or imposed; and~~

21 ~~(iii) For a transaction occurring on or after October 1, 1998, to the extent of 100~~  
22 ~~percent of that amount on which, but for this paragraph, sales and use tax would be~~  
23 ~~levied or imposed.~~

24 ~~(C)~~ For the purposes of this paragraph, 'eligible food and beverages' means any food  
25 as defined in Section 3 of the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-113), as  
26 amended, 7 U.S.C.A. 2012(g), as such Act existed on January 1, 1996, except that

1 eligible food and beverages shall not include seeds or plants to grow food and shall not  
2 include food or drink dispensed by or through vending machines or related operations.

3 ~~(D)(i) The exemption provided for in this paragraph shall not apply to any local sales  
4 and use tax levied or imposed at any time by or pursuant to Article 3 of this chapter.~~

5 ~~(ii) Except as otherwise provided in division (i) of this subparagraph, the exemption  
6 provided for in this paragraph shall not apply to any local sales and use tax which is  
7 effective before October 1, 1996, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in  
8 the law authorizing or imposing such tax.~~

9 ~~(iii) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (i) and (iv) of this subparagraph, the  
10 exemption provided for in this paragraph shall apply with respect to any local sales  
11 and use tax which becomes effective on or after October 1, 1996, but such exemption  
12 shall apply only as to transactions occurring on or after October 1, 1998,  
13 notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the law authorizing or imposing such  
14 tax.~~

15 ~~(iv) The exemption provided for in this paragraph shall apply to any local sales and  
16 use tax levied or imposed at any time by or pursuant to Article 2A of this chapter.~~

17 ~~(v) For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'local sales and use tax' shall mean  
18 any sales tax, use tax, or local sales and use tax which is levied and imposed in an  
19 area consisting of less than the entire state, however authorized, including, but not  
20 limited to, such taxes authorized by or pursuant to constitutional amendment; by or  
21 pursuant to Section 25 of an Act approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as  
22 amended, the 'Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965'; by or  
23 pursuant to Article 2 of this chapter; by or pursuant to Article 2A of this chapter; or  
24 by or pursuant to Article 3 of this chapter.~~

25 ~~(E) (C)~~ The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions  
26 of this paragraph;".

## 27 SECTION 2.

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.