

News from State Senator Tim Golden

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SALES TAX HOLIDAY IS COMING

Valdosta, GA – **State Senator Tim Golden** (D-Valdosta) announced today that the sales tax holiday for Georgia will commence at 12:01 am on July 29th and conclude at midnight on August 1, 2004.

Senator Golden and **Representative Ron Borders** (D-Valdosta) were the originators of the idea for a sales tax holiday for the state of Georgia having first introduced the idea along with the enabling legislation in the 2000 session of the Georgia General Assembly. Golden passed a Senate Resolution that year and Borders introduced the bill in the House where all tax bills must originate.

Former Governor Roy Barnes embraced the idea in 2002 crediting Golden and Borders with the idea in his state of the state speech that year. This is the third straight year that Borders and Golden have prevailed upon the General Assembly to pass the legislation establishing a sales tax holiday. H. B. 1184 was introduced by Borders and passed on the last night of this year's session. The lead co-sponsors of the bill were **Representatives Ellis Black** (D-Clyattville) and **Jay Shaw** (D-Lakeland).

The sales tax holiday includes items of clothing and footwear with a sale price of \$100.00 or less. It includes computers and computer related items up to \$1,500.00. One in five employed individuals in Georgia work for a retail establishment.

“I am glad we were able to pass this significant bill that has such great impact on South Georgia,” said Golden, who continued, “Retailers will tell you that this is like having Christmas twice a year in terms of increased sales. It is good for our local economy, for working families and children as well as for South Georgia retail outlets.”

The Georgia Retail Association, along with other business groups, backed the legislation again this year. For additional information on the sales tax holiday, visit the Georgia Retail Association website at www.georgiaretail.com.

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