

DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVENUE

Information Bulletin #210
General Tax
September 2020
(Replaces Bulletin #210 dated December 2019)
Effective Date: Upon Publication

SUBJECT: Enhanced Prepaid Wireless Telecommunications Service Charge

REFERENCES: [IC 36-8-16.6](#); [IC 36-8-16.7](#)

DISCLAIMER: Information bulletins are intended to provide nontechnical assistance to the general public. Every attempt is made to provide information that is consistent with the appropriate statutes, rules, and court decisions. Any information that is not consistent with the law, regulations, or court decisions is not binding on either the department or the taxpayer. Therefore, the information provided herein should serve only as a foundation for further investigation and study of the current law and procedures related to the subject matter covered herein.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Aside from technical, nonsubstantive changes, this bulletin has been updated to include information pertaining to the department's new registration and filing system, INTIME.

I. INTRODUCTION

[IC 36-8-16.6](#) provides an enhanced prepaid wireless telecommunications service charge be collected from users of prepaid wireless telecommunications services by sellers and remitted to the Indiana Department of Revenue by the sellers.

II. DEFINITIONS

"Board" means the Statewide 9-1-1 Board established by [IC 36-8-16.7-24](#).

"Consumer" means a person who purchases prepaid wireless telecommunications service from a seller.

"Eligible telecommunications carrier" means a provider that is designated by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier for purposes of receiving Lifeline reimbursement from the universal service fund through the administrator designated by the Federal Communications Commission.

"Enhanced prepaid wireless charge" means the charge a seller is required to collect from a consumer.

"Fund" means the Statewide 9-1-1 Fund established by [IC 36-8-16.7-29](#).

"Prepaid user" means a user of prepaid wireless telecommunications service who is issued an Indiana telephone number or an Indiana identification number for the service or a user who purchases prepaid wireless telecommunications service in a retail transaction that is sourced to Indiana.

"Prepaid wireless telecommunications service" means a prepaid wireless calling service that allows a user of the service to reach emergency services by dialing the digits 911.

"Provider" means a person or an entity that offers prepaid wireless telecommunications service.

"Retail transaction" means the purchase of prepaid wireless telecommunications service from a seller for any purpose other than resale. A retail transaction does not include a transaction in which an eligible telecommunications carrier receives Lifeline reimbursement from the universal service fund.

"Seller" means a person who sells prepaid wireless telecommunications service to another person.

III. AMOUNT OF PREPAID CHARGE

The enhanced prepaid wireless charge on each retail transaction is \$1.00. The board may increase the charge to ensure adequate revenue for the board to fulfill its duties and obligations one time from July 1, 2015, to June 30,

2020. Any additional increase may only occur after review by the State Budget Committee and may only be for \$0.10 per retail transaction.

A telecommunications carrier eligible to receive reimbursement from the universal service fund is not considered an agency of the federal government and is liable for the enhanced prepaid wireless charge with respect to prepaid wireless telecommunications service offered by the provider.

The charge is not imposed on any consumer that is the federal government or an agency of the federal government.

IV. SELLER RESPONSIBILITIES

A seller is required to collect the charge from the consumer with respect to each retail transaction and to disclose to the consumer the amount of the charge. The seller may separately state the amount of the charge on an invoice, a receipt, or a similar document that the seller provides to the consumer. If the seller does not separately state the amount of the charge on an invoice, a receipt, or a similar document, the seller is still required to remit to the department the charges collected from the consumer.

A seller is required to remit the charges collected to the department on the same date the seller's sales tax return is due. A seller should register to collect the charge online through INBiz, which is Indiana's online registration portal, by visiting inbiz.in.gov. The seller shall then report and remit the charges collected using the department's online e-services portal, called the Indiana Taxpayer Information Management Engine (INTIME), which can be accessed at intime.dor.in.gov.

A seller can deduct 1% of the enhanced prepaid wireless charges collected from consumers if the seller reports and remits the charges collected in a timely manner.

A seller is not liable for damages to a person resulting from or incurred in connection with providing or failing to provide wireless 911 services or identifying or failing to identify the telephone number, address, or name associated with a person or device that accesses or attempts to access wireless 911 services.

The amount of the enhanced prepaid wireless charge collected by a seller from a consumer may not be included in the sales tax base or the utility receipts tax base.

V. DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE RESPONSIBILITIES

The department shall deposit all enhanced prepaid wireless charges in the Statewide 9-1-1 Fund. The board shall administer money deposited in the fund in the same manner as wireless emergency enhanced 911 fees under [IC 36-8-16.7-32](#).

The department may audit any seller in the same manner as with respect to the collection and remittance of the sales tax under [IC 6-2.5](#). An audit shall be conducted jointly by the department and the board.

The department shall allow a seller to document when a sale of a prepaid wireless telecommunications service is not a retail transaction. The established procedure is to require the seller to request a ruling from the Tax Policy Division, Indiana Department of Revenue, Indiana Government Center North, Room N248, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Robert J. Grennes, Jr.
Commissioner

Posted: 10/28/2020 by Legislative Services Agency
An [html](#) version of this document.