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Friday, Sep 05, 2003

# Local/Region

Posted on Fri, Sep. 05, 2003

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## Sebelius indefinitely delays enforcement of new sales tax law

The Associated Press

**TOPEKA** - Faced with continuing criticism of a new Kansas sales tax law, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said Thursday she would delay enforcement of the statute indefinitely.

The law, which took effect July 1, changes the state's long-standing practice of having merchants collect sales taxes at the rate in effect where the seller is located. The revised law requires merchants to collect the tax at the rate in effect where goods are delivered.

The change was designed to put Kansas in position to collect taxes from Internet and catalog sales, which some officials think might amount to more than \$100 million a year.

The state imposes a 5.3 percent sales tax. Cities and counties can add local taxes, causing sales tax rates to vary from place to place. Some merchants have said that the change imposes burdensome record-keeping requirements.

In July, Sebelius and legislative leaders announced a grace period until Jan. 1, during which merchants would not face sanctions if they failed to comply with the law. In a letter to retailers dated Thursday, Sebelius said the period would be extended until further notice.

"You will be notified when this period will end," Sebelius wrote, adding that "Small business is the backbone of the Kansas economy. Those businesses are supposed to be the beneficiaries of these new rules. I will not rest until I am satisfied that purpose is fulfilled."



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