



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Flanagan

Senate Gives Final Passage To Legislation That Would Eliminate The Tax On Feminine Hygiene Products

JOHN J. FLANAGAN May 25, 2016

| ISSUE: **TAXES**



Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan (2nd Senate District) today announced that the New York State Senate has passed legislation that would exempt many basic and necessary women's items from being unfairly taxed. The bill (S7838), sponsored by Senator Susan Serino (41st Senate District), passed unanimously in the Senate and would exempt feminine hygiene products such as sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners from New York's sales and compensating use tax.

“Exempting these type products from state tax is the right thing to do to so that women across our state will finally be able to purchase these necessities without facing an unnecessary tax. I applaud Senator Serino for taking the lead on this and for fighting for the New York State consumers,” stated Senator Flanagan.

Senator Serino said, “It’s about time. Repealing this out-of-touch tax has been decades in the making and I am incredibly proud to announce that the infamous ‘Tampon Tax’ will finally be a thing of the past. There are many issues that simply transcend politics and a unanimous vote in both houses tells you that this is certainly one of them. Moving this legislation forward is a win for consumers and it’s a win for women who have largely shouldered the burden of the tax for generations. With the Governor publicly signaling support for this move, it is my hope that it will be signed into law as soon as possible -- New York’s women have waited long enough.”

Currently, medicine, medical equipment, supplies to correct or alleviate physical incapacity, and products consumed by humans for the preservation of health are included in the list of items exempt from the sales and use tax. However cosmetics and toiletry items are explicitly excluded from the list unless they contain medicinal ingredients. Feminine hygiene products are among those items considered taxable under state law, despite being a necessity for women.

This bill would add sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners to the items exempt from retail taxes to make the existing law fairer, especially for women. New York will join several states including Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania who have already passed similar legislation to end the so-called “Tampon Tax.”

The bill will be sent to the Governor.

2015-S7838

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to exempting certain basic necessities from sales and use taxes

May 13, 2016

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Susan Serino**

Do you support this bill?