

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



Rep. Alonzo Takes Part in Senior Legislative Forum, Wed, July 17

The 2-hour forum which was hosted by the Senior Source of Dallas afforded Rep. Alonzo an excellent opportunity to mingle with senior citizens and give them an overview of key issues that were passed by the 83rd Legislature. Among the issues he addressed were Medicare and Medicaid, nursing home reforms, retirement and pension benefits, housing, as well as home health care reforms.



Rep. Alonzo Urges Parents, Schools & Students To Take Advantage of Annual Sales Tax-Free Holiday Coming Up a Month from Now Weekend of Fri, Sat, & Sun, Aug. 9-11, 2013 - Texas Families Save Millions during Break

Rep. Alonzo again reminds all Texas' families, including the thousands in Dallas and the surrounding DFW region, that the annual back-to-school **Sales Tax Holiday** is almost a month away, and not too late, to start planning for it; it is the weekend of **Friday, Saturday, and Saturday, August 9-11, 2013**, and extends from 12:01 am, on **Friday, August 9 and ends at midnight on Sunday, August 11**.

"The Sales Tax Holiday is a great way and a terrific financial opportunity for Texas families to save some money as they prepare for the new school year. And I support any type of tax breaks that Texas families can take advantage of in order to offset the increasing cost of living, especially during this time of the year when so many of our children are getting ready to go back to school and many coming from families that are having to struggle to put food on the table. Every year, it is becoming more expensive to purchase even the most basic pieces of clothing and standard school supplies simply to help our children start the school year. The problem is magnified when children come from families that earn minimum wage or live from paycheck to paycheck. While I agree that this annual tax-free holiday weekend may not be the cure all, it will go a long way in helping many Texas families with much needed tax breaks as they get ready to send their children back to school. I am pleased to have been part of the legislation and to do my part to make this tax-free holiday a successful one for all Texas families and children. I encourage everyone to take advantage of it as much as possible," Rep. Alonzo said.

Rep. Alonzo said that consumers will be able to buy most clothes and shoes priced under \$100 tax-free during the three-day weekend. Also, because of a 2007 change in the law, shoppers can also purchase school backpacks for elementary and secondary students tax-free this year. Also, as a result of 2009 legislation, there are a number of other items that have been added to the list. To help with that, this press release includes a couple of useful attachments from the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) state agency that outlines an all-inclusive list of all items that qualify for the tax-free exemptions. Texas families are expected to save tens of millions of dollars in sales tax during this year's Sales Tax Holiday. Rep. Alonzo explained that consumers will not be required to pay state or local sales tax on items less than \$100, no matter how much they buy. According to Rep. Alonzo, in addition to the relief of the state's sales tax of 6.25%, communities across Texas have also chosen to waive their local sales taxes, which will save taxpayers an additional 2% in most areas. This year, Comptroller Susan Combs predicts shoppers will save \$64.8 million in state and local sales taxes during the Sales Tax Holiday. The tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999. Currently, the Tax Code sets the holiday for the third Friday, Saturday and Sunday in August.

For further information on the Sales Tax Holiday weekend, one can call toll-free at (800) 252-5555 or (512) 463-4600, or visit the Comptroller's website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/taxholiday/d/> or you can also access the link at: http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/taxholiday/d/tx98_490_clothing.html