Illinois Department of Revenue

For Immediate Release November 17, 2004 Contact: Geraldine Conrad (312) 814-0097 www.revenue.state.il.us

Electronic Sales Tax Filing - High Speed Convenience Ensures Accuracy and Immediate Credit of Payment ... Without Special Software

CHICAGO - The Illinois Department of Revenue has launched a free new service that allows businesses to file and pay their sales taxes through the department's web site at <u>www.lltax.com</u>

Revenue Director Brian Hamer urges businesses to take advantage of the newest online filing option, part of the department's effort to reduce errors and make compliance with tax laws simpler for businesses. "We are delighted to offer this convenience for businesses of all sizes. Electronic filing combines 24/7 convenience, accuracy checks, encrypted transmissions, and a confirmation number for businesses," Hamer notes.

Nearly all businesses that collect sales taxes can use the new option. All taxpayers except those with more than 160 locations and those who report prepaid sales tax on motor fuel or use the Temporary Storage or Direct Pay options - can file online. The online filing is identical to the paper returns that businesses are used to filing.

Taxpayers do not require special software to file online. They simply log onto the department's web site using the Personal Identification Number (PIN) assigned when they registered or that was mailed to them by the department. Once logged in, the business's locations are automatically listed with the correct state and local sales tax rates.

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Bars, restaurants and liquor stores that are required to TeleFile their sales tax returns can choose to file them online instead.

On the payment side, the department's new program allows taxpayers to have their payments directly debited from their checking or savings account. If a taxpayer files early, the debit can be scheduled on the due date.

Taxpayers can learn more about the program on the department's website at <u>www.ILtax.com</u> or they can call the department at (800) 732-8866, (217) 782-3336 or TDD at (800) 544-5304 to obtain their PIN and ask questions not answered on the website. The department will be working with the software industry to include an electronic filing option in their products for taxpayers who have more than 160 locations or are using tax preparation software. The department also has protocols for direct transfer of data. For more information, contact the Electronic Commerce Division at (217) 782-3664.

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