

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5284--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. RAMOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to excise taxes on premium cigars

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 12 of section 470 of the tax law, as added by  
2 chapter 61 of the laws of 1989, is amended to read as follows:

3 12. "Distributor." Any person who imports or causes to be imported  
4 into this state any tobacco product (in excess of fifty cigars or one  
5 pound of tobacco) for sale, or who manufactures any tobacco product in  
6 this state, and any person within or without the state who is authorized  
7 by the commissioner of taxation and finance to make returns and pay the  
8 tax on tobacco products sold, shipped or delivered by ~~[him]~~ such person  
9 to any person in the state. Provided, however, that a person who imports  
10 or causes to be imported into the state premium cigars pursuant to sales  
11 to consumers in the state shall not be deemed a "distributor", unless  
12 during the previous calendar year or the current calendar year:

13 (a) the person's gross sales receipts of premium cigars to consumers  
14 in the state exceeded one hundred thousand dollars; or

15 (b) the person sold premium cigars to consumers in the state in two  
16 hundred or more separate transactions.

17 § 2. Subdivision 19 of section 470 of the tax law, as amended by  
18 section 17 of part D of chapter 134 of the laws of 2010, is amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 19. "Cigar." Any roll of tobacco wrapped in leaf tobacco or in any  
21 substance containing tobacco (other than any roll of tobacco that is a

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 cigarette as defined in subdivision one of this section). "Cigar" shall  
2 include, except where expressly excluded, any little cigar or premium  
3 cigar.

4 § 3. Section 470 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivision  
5 22 to read as follows:

6 22. "Premium cigar." A cigar that:

7 (a) is wrapped in whole leaf tobacco; and

8 (b) contains a one hundred percent leaf tobacco binder; and

9 (c) is made by manually combining the wrapper, filler, and binder; and

10 (d) has no filter, tip, or non-tobacco mouthpiece and is capped by  
11 hand; and

12 (e) weighs more than six pounds per one thousand units.

13 § 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 471-b of the tax law,  
14 as amended by section 18 of part D of chapter 134 of the laws of 2010,  
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 (a) Such tax on tobacco products other than premium cigars, snuff and  
17 little cigars shall be at the rate of seventy-five percent of the whole-  
18 sale price, and is intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any  
19 tobacco products other than premium cigars, snuff and little cigars.

20 § 5. Subdivision 1 of section 471-b of the tax law is amended by  
21 adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

22 (d) Such tax on premium cigars shall be at the rate of seventy-five  
23 percent of the wholesale price or fifty cents, whichever is less, and is  
24 intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any premium cigars.

25 § 6. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivi-  
26 sion, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of  
27 competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect,  
28 impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in  
29 its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section  
30 or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judg-  
31 ment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of  
32 the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such  
33 invalid provisions had not been included herein.

34 § 7. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
35 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or  
36 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
37 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed  
38 on or before such effective date.