



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairman Jerome E. Horton

4th District – Los Angeles

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www.boe.ca.gov

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BOE Sponsors Legislation to Provide Tax Breaks to Pet Owners

Sacramento – California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman Jerome E. Horton announces that the BOE unanimously decided to sponsor legislation that will exempt qualified transactions involving drugs and medications used to treat animals from sales and use taxes.

“I am gratified that my colleagues on the Board have joined me in supporting this legislation that will encourage pet owners to purchase these medications directly from their veterinarians,” said Chairman Horton. “This exemption will negate any perceived deal pet owners believe they might be getting by purchasing prescriptions for their pets online, where the safety of their pets might be compromised.”

Currently, veterinarians are required to pay sales or use tax on their purchases of drugs and medicines they administer and prescribe for the treatment of animals. This cost might then be passed on to the pet owner. The proposed legislation would create a sales and use tax exemption for drugs and medicines used, supplied, or sold by licensed veterinarians, government-run animal shelters, or nonprofit animal welfare organizations.

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization’s Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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