

NEWS

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Senator Hinojosa Files Legislation to Create Tax Free Holiday for Emergency Items

AUSTIN—Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa filed legislation last week to establish a tax free weekend for emergency supplies and hurricane-proofing materials. The purpose of the program is to encourage Texans to reinforce their property and prepare for the upcoming storm season. The program is similar to tax free weekends in Alabama and Virginia. The Office of Public Insurance Counsel's Executive Director, Deeia Beck, whose office helped Senator Hinojosa with the bill, said "Virginia's 2012 program saved consumers about \$2.7 million in sales taxes alone."

If passed into law, consumers could purchase items such as generators, portable radios, flashlights, tarps, ladders, storm shutters, and hurricane straps tax free over a weekend in late April. "We've talked a lot about mitigation, especially on the coast and we know that every dollar spent on mitigation saves four to five dollars," Beck said. "This is an opportunity for folks to have a time to get prepared for the upcoming storm season and also an opportunity for the state to raise public awareness about the importance of mitigation."

For additional information, contact the Office of Public Insurance Counsel at 512-322-4143.

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