

Senate shows support for Internet sales taxes

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(AP)—Advocates of a move to help states collect sales taxes on Internet transactions have won a Senate victory.

In a nonbinding, 75-24 vote, the Senate signaled its support Friday for legislation giving states the power to collect taxes on purchases consumers make from Internet companies.

The vote was a symbolic expression of lawmakers' views on the issue. But it showed that supporters of enforcing existing [sales taxes](#) on Internet purchases would have enough strength should the Senate consider the proposal later this year.

An estimated \$20 billion in sales taxes go uncollected every year by out-of-state online merchants.

Supporters say collecting the tax would restore competitive balance between Internet companies and [retail stores](#) that already charge sales taxes. Opponents say the system would be too complicated.

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