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NEWS

Mass. sales tax goes up from 5% to 6.25% on Saturday

Posted Jul 31, 2009

By The Republican Newsroom

Associated Press

BOSTON - Massachusetts shoppers will have to dig just a little bit deeper in their pockets.

A new law increasing the state sales tax from 5 percent to 6¼ percent takes effect on Saturday.

With the sales tax increase, comes a new 6¼ percent tax on the sale of liquor at package stores.

Lawmakers included the increase in their budget plan, saying the extra revenue was needed to stave off even deeper cuts.

Gov. Deval L. Patrick signed the budget after pressing lawmakers to pass three bills overhauling the state's pension, ethics and transportation systems.

Retailers oppose the increase, particularly those near the border of New Hampshire, which has no sales tax.

The tax increase is already becoming an issue in next year's governor's race with Republican candidate Charles D. Baker pledging to try to roll it back if elected.

More details in The Republican tomorrow.

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