

Panel OKs tax-free back-to-school shopping bill

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Parents will be able to buy back-to-school supplies without paying sales tax under a bill that cleared a Senate committee Wednesday. Senate Bill 2 by Sen. Gunner DeLay, R-Fort Smith, was recommended by the Revenue and Taxation Committee and now goes to the Senate for a vote. The bill would provide for the first Saturday in August to have no sales tax on specific back-to-school items, such as clothes and shoes. No one item may exceed \$75 in price. The Department of Finance and Administration estimates it will cost the state \$1.3 million and local governments \$500,000. DeLay described the bill as an economic development tool that would lead to more retail purchases in addition to back-to-school items. This would raise more sales tax revenue, he argued. Slug Line: yxgr-clothesfreeth [6A](#)