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Idaho Senate Backs Bid To Make Companies Collect Internet Tax

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BOISE, Idaho (AP) - Senators today voted 25-to-five in favor of a measure to prevent retailers, including outdoor sports giant Cabela's in Boise, from avoiding sales tax collections from Internet customers in Idaho.

Cabela's and others, including Sports Authority, charge sales taxes for purchases made in their stores in Idaho, but not on Internet or catalog sales to Idaho customers.

Senator Brad Little of Emmett says that's not fair to traditional businesses that must collect a six percent sales tax from customers but don't have an Internet outlet.

Little told other lawmakers, "Let's slam this loophole shut, so everybody knows what the rules are."

The House, however, still gets to weigh in, and the bill may not come to a vote because lawmakers there already killed an identical bill.