

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do pass the A engrossed bill

Vote: 8-0-1

Yeas: Berger, Bruun, Butler, Gelser, Read, Rosenbaum, Witt, Barnhart

Nays:

Exc.: Olson

Prepared By: Mary Ayala, Economist

Meeting Dates: 6/15

WHAT THE BILL DOES: Clarifies who must file a tax return by adding the word 'business' to the list provided under current law. Permits a taxpayer who has not filed a personal and real property tax return to file an application for relief of tax penalties with the county assessor in which the property is located. Grants county assessors the discretion to grant or deny the applications for tax relief. Among the reasons for granting tax relief, the taxpayer must never have previously filed the appropriate property tax return in Oregon; and he must never have previously received property tax relief from having filed the required tax return late. Requires the Secretary of State to provide applicants for 'assumed business names' with certain tax information. Takes effect upon becoming law.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- That among 16 assessors that a taxpayer contacted, there was no standard procedure for informing taxpayers of the tax imposed on business-owned, personal property.
- An amendment to clarify language and exclude the proposed filing fee.
- Provides relief from penalties for up to 5 years for unpaid taxes. Under current law a taxpayer must appeal for relief from the Board of Property Tax Appeals; and this body may only approve relief from penalties for 1 year of unpaid taxes.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS: None

BACKGROUND: SB 959 amends ORS 308.290 which pertains to property tax returns that must be filed by owners of industrial property. Current law states that any person, managing officer of any firm, corporation or association owning real or personal property in Oregon must file a return with the assessor of the county in which the property is located.