

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 880

Ordered by the Senate May 18
Including Senate Amendments dated May 18

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Department of Revenue to establish general tax amnesty program of limited duration. Waives penalties for [*personal income*] taxpayers who pay outstanding taxes. Increases penalties on taxpayers who fail to fully participate. [*Appropriates moneys to department to fund amnesty program.*] Sunsets amnesty program January 2, 2014.

Creates Tax Amnesty Fund in State Treasury. Directs department to deposit moneys collected under program in fund. Provides that specified amount of moneys in fund must be used to reimburse department for costs incurred in administering program.

[*Requires mandatory withholding of income tax from distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans.*]

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to tax compliance; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Revenue shall develop and administer a tax amnesty**
5 **program for taxpayers.**

6 **(2) The tax amnesty program shall be conducted during the period beginning on the ef-**
7 **fective date of this 2009 Act or October 1, 2009, whichever is later, and ending November 19,**
8 **2009.**

9 **(3) The tax amnesty program applies to tax years, reporting periods and estates for which**
10 **the department could issue a notice of deficiency under ORS 305.265 or 314.410, as amended**
11 **and in effect on the day before the effective date of this 2009 Act.**

12 **(4) The department shall publicize the tax amnesty program through appropriate out-**
13 **reach and media activities in order to maximize public awareness of and participation in the**
14 **program.**

15 **(5) The department may prescribe forms, issue instructions, conduct public meetings and**
16 **undertake any other action necessary to maximize public participation in and compliance**
17 **with the tax amnesty program and the collection of tax liabilities to which the program ap-**
18 **plies.**

19 **SECTION 2. (1) A taxpayer who meets all of the following requirements during the period**
20 **described in section 1 (2) of this 2009 Act may participate in the tax amnesty program:**

21 **(a) The taxpayer was required to:**

22 **(A) File a tax return under ORS chapter 314, 316, 317 or 318 for a tax year that begins**
23 **before January 1, 2008;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (B) Pay personal income tax imposed under ORS chapter 316 for a tax year or reporting
2 period that begins before January 1, 2008;

3 (C) Pay tax imposed under ORS chapter 317 or 318 for a tax year or reporting period that
4 begins before January 1, 2008;

5 (D) File a return under ORS chapter 118 and pay any required tax, if the return was due
6 prior to January 1, 2008; or

7 (E) Pay any tax imposed on net earnings from self-employment pursuant to ORS 267.385,
8 if required to do so prior to January 1, 2008;

9 (b) The taxpayer files a completed amnesty application with the department, signed under
10 penalty of perjury, to participate in the tax amnesty program; and

11 (c) Within 60 days after the conclusion of the tax amnesty program, the taxpayer does
12 all of the following:

13 (A) Files a completed tax return or report for all tax years or reporting periods described
14 in paragraph (a) of this subsection for which the taxpayer had not previously done so;

15 (B) Files a completed amended tax return or report for all tax years or reporting periods
16 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for which the taxpayer underreported or
17 underpaid the tax liability of the taxpayer; and

18 (C) Pays in full the taxes due, and 50 percent of the interest due, for all tax years or
19 reporting periods described in paragraph (a) of this subsection or applies for an installment
20 payment agreement under subsection (5) of this section that applies to the taxes and interest
21 due for all tax years or reporting periods described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for
22 which taxes remain unpaid.

23 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a taxpayer may not participate in the
24 tax amnesty program if, prior to the starting date of the period described in section 1 (2) of
25 this 2009 Act, the department has issued a notice of deficiency to the taxpayer or has as-
26 sessed a tax for a tax year for which the taxpayer could otherwise apply for amnesty under
27 this section.

28 (3) In addition to the other requirements in subsection (1) of this section, a taxpayer who
29 has filed a petition for bankruptcy protection under Title 11 of the United States Code may
30 participate in the tax amnesty program if the taxpayer submits an order from a United
31 States Bankruptcy Court allowing the taxpayer to participate in the tax amnesty program.

32 (4) A taxpayer who participates in the tax amnesty program described in this section
33 may not request a refund with respect to any tax paid under the tax amnesty program and
34 waives any right to appeal any tax reported on a tax return or report filed or paid under
35 subsection (1) of this section or pursuant to an installment payment agreement entered into
36 under subsection (5) of this section.

37 (5)(a) A taxpayer may apply for an installment payment agreement for the payment of
38 taxes reported and due under subsection (1) of this section. The application shall be made
39 on a form prescribed by the department and shall be due at the time the taxpayer applies for
40 amnesty under subsection (1) of this section.

41 (b) The department shall enter into an installment payment agreement with a taxpayer
42 who has applied under paragraph (a) of this subsection and shall establish a payment sched-
43 ule if the department concludes that the agreement will facilitate the efficient collection of
44 the outstanding tax liability.

45 (c) Any interest that remains unpaid upon a taxpayer's entering an installment payment

1 agreement shall be reduced by 50 percent.

2 (d) Under any installment payment agreement entered into under this subsection, all
3 outstanding taxes and interest must be paid on or before May 31, 2011.

4 **SECTION 3.** (1) For any taxpayer who fully complies with the tax amnesty program de-
5 scribed in section 2 of this 2009 Act, the Department of Revenue shall waive all applicable
6 penalties, including criminal penalties that would otherwise apply under ORS 314.075 and
7 314.991 (1), that would otherwise apply to the taxes being reported and paid under section 2
8 of this 2009 Act, and shall waive 50 percent of any interest otherwise due.

9 (2)(a) If the department has entered into an installment payment agreement with the
10 taxpayer, the failure of the taxpayer to fully comply with the terms of the installment pay-
11 ment agreement renders the waiver of penalties under subsection (1) of this section and the
12 installment payment agreement void. The total amount of tax, interest and all applicable
13 penalties becomes immediately due and payable. The reduced interest rate applicable under
14 section 2 (5)(c) of this 2009 Act is voided and replaced by the rate established under ORS
15 305.220, which is applicable to any amount that remains unpaid by the taxpayer.

16 (b) This subsection does not apply if the department determines that the failure to fully
17 comply with the terms of the installment payment agreement is due to reasonable causes.

18 **SECTION 4.** (1) For any tax that was due for a tax year or reporting period for which
19 amnesty could be sought under section 2 of this 2009 Act and for which the taxpayer failed
20 to file a return or report and failed to apply for amnesty, an amount equal to 25 percent of
21 the total amount of unpaid tax that is otherwise due is added to the amount of outstanding
22 tax liability.

23 (2) If, following the closure of the amnesty period specified in section 1 (2) of this 2009
24 Act, the Department of Revenue issues a notice of deficiency with respect to an unreported
25 or underreported tax liability, as shown on an original or amended tax return or report filed
26 in conjunction with an amnesty application filed under section 2 of this 2009 Act, an amount
27 equal to 25 percent of the total amount of unpaid tax that is otherwise due is added to the
28 amount of outstanding tax liability.

29 (3) The penalties imposed under this section are in addition to and not in lieu of any
30 other penalty.

31 **SECTION 5.** Sections 1 to 4 of this 2009 Act are repealed on January 2, 2014.

32 **SECTION 6.** Sections 1 to 4 of this 2009 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter
33 314.

34 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Tax Amnesty Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and
35 distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Tax Amnesty Fund shall be credited
36 to the fund.

37 (2) All moneys received by the Department of Revenue under sections 1 to 4 of this 2009
38 Act shall be deposited in the Tax Amnesty Fund. The department shall be reimbursed from
39 the fund for costs incurred under contracts established for purposes of sections 1 to 4 of this
40 2009 Act. The total amount of costs paid under this subsection may not exceed \$1 million.

41 (3) The department shall certify to the Emergency Board, or to the Legislative Assembly
42 if it is in session, the costs that are incurred by the department in carrying out the purposes
43 of sections 1 to 4 of this 2009 Act.

44 **SECTION 8.** This 2009 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the reg-
45 ular session of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

