

# House Bill 3179

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON 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 **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Revenue to disclose corporate excise and income tax returns to chairpersons and vice chairpersons of legislative committees related to revenue.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to corporate tax returns; creating new provisions; amending ORS 314.840; and prescribing  
3 an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2017 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 314.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Department of Revenue shall disclose corporate excise and income**  
7 **tax returns to the chairpersons and vice chairpersons of each legislative committee related**  
8 **to revenue, for the purpose of assisting each member described in this subsection in pre-**  
9 **paring legislation.**

10 **(2) Prior to viewing returns disclosed under this section, each member of the Legislative**  
11 **Assembly shall complete a written agreement to keep all disclosed taxpayer information**  
12 **confidential.**

13 **SECTION 3. ORS 314.840 is amended to read:**

14 314.840. (1) The Department of Revenue may:

15 (a) Furnish any taxpayer, representative authorized to represent the taxpayer under ORS 305.230  
16 or person designated by the taxpayer under ORS 305.193, upon request of the taxpayer, represen-  
17 tative or designee, with a copy of the taxpayer's income tax return filed with the department for  
18 any year, or with a copy of any report filed by the taxpayer in connection with the return, or with  
19 any other information the department considers necessary.

20 (b) Publish lists of taxpayers who are entitled to unclaimed tax refunds.

21 (c) Publish statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of income or any particulars  
22 contained in any report or return.

23 (d) Disclose a taxpayer's name, address, telephone number, refund amount, amount due, Social  
24 Security number, employer identification number or other taxpayer identification number to the ex-  
25 tent necessary in connection with collection activities or the processing and mailing of correspond-  
26 ence or of forms for any report or return required in the administration of any local tax under ORS  
27 305.620 or any law imposing a tax upon or measured by net income.

28 (2) The department also may disclose and give access to information described in ORS 314.835  
29 to:

30 (a) The Governor of the State of Oregon or the authorized representative of the Governor with  
31 respect to an individual who is designated as being under consideration for appointment or reap-

**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 pointment to an office or for employment in the office of the Governor. The information disclosed  
 2 shall be confined to whether the individual:

3 (A) Has filed returns with respect to the taxes imposed by ORS chapter 316 for those of not  
 4 more than the three immediately preceding years for which the individual was required to file an  
 5 Oregon individual income tax return.

6 (B) Has failed to pay any tax within 30 days from the date of mailing of a deficiency notice or  
 7 otherwise respond to a deficiency notice within 30 days of its mailing.

8 (C) Has been assessed any penalty under the Oregon personal income tax laws and the nature  
 9 of the penalty.

10 (D) Has been or is under investigation for possible criminal offenses under the Oregon personal  
 11 income tax laws. Information disclosed pursuant to this paragraph shall be used only for the purpose  
 12 of making the appointment, reappointment or decision to employ or not to employ the individual in  
 13 the office of the Governor.

14 (b) An officer or employee of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services duly authorized  
 15 or employed to prepare revenue estimates, or a person contracting with the Oregon Department of  
 16 Administrative Services to prepare revenue estimates, in the preparation of revenue estimates re-  
 17 quired for the Governor's budget under ORS 291.201 to 291.226, or required for submission to the  
 18 Emergency Board or the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means, **or to the chairpersons and**  
 19 **vice chairpersons of legislative committees related to revenue, under section 2 of this 2017**  
 20 **Act**, or if the Legislative Assembly is in session, to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and  
 21 to the Legislative Revenue Officer or Legislative Fiscal Officer under ORS 291.342, 291.348 and  
 22 291.445 . The Department of Revenue shall disclose and give access to the information described in  
 23 ORS 314.835 for the purposes of this paragraph only if:

24 (A) The request for information is made in writing, specifies the purposes for which the request  
 25 is made and is signed by an authorized representative of the Oregon Department of Administrative  
 26 Services. The form for request for information shall be prescribed by the Oregon Department of  
 27 Administrative Services and approved by the Director of the Department of Revenue.

28 (B) The officer, employee or person receiving the information does not remove from the premises  
 29 of the Department of Revenue any materials that would reveal the identity of a personal or corpo-  
 30 rate taxpayer.

31 (c) The Commissioner of Internal Revenue or authorized representative, for tax administration  
 32 and compliance purposes only.

33 (d) For tax administration and compliance purposes, the proper officer or authorized represen-  
 34 tative of any of the following entities that has or is governed by a provision of law that meets the  
 35 requirements of any applicable provision of the Internal Revenue Code as to confidentiality:

36 (A) A state;

37 (B) A city, county or other political subdivision of a state;

38 (C) The District of Columbia; or

39 (D) An association established exclusively to provide services to federal, state or local taxing  
 40 authorities.

41 (e) The Multistate Tax Commission or its authorized representatives, for tax administration and  
 42 compliance purposes only. The Multistate Tax Commission may make the information available to  
 43 the Commissioner of Internal Revenue or the proper officer or authorized representative of any  
 44 governmental entity described in and meeting the qualifications of paragraph (d) of this subsection.

45 (f) The Attorney General, assistants and employees in the Department of Justice, or other legal

1 representative of the State of Oregon, to the extent the department deems disclosure or access  
 2 necessary for the performance of the duties of advising or representing the department pursuant to  
 3 ORS 180.010 to 180.240 and the tax laws of this state.

4 (g) Employees of the State of Oregon, other than of the Department of Revenue or Department  
 5 of Justice, to the extent the department deems disclosure or access necessary for such employees  
 6 to perform their duties under contracts or agreements between the department and any other de-  
 7 partment, agency or subdivision of the State of Oregon, in the department's administration of the  
 8 tax laws.

9 (h) Other persons, partnerships, corporations and other legal entities, and their employees, to  
 10 the extent the department deems disclosure or access necessary for the performance of such others'  
 11 duties under contracts or agreements between the department and such legal entities, in the  
 12 department's administration of the tax laws.

13 (i) The Legislative Revenue Officer or authorized representatives upon compliance with ORS  
 14 173.850. Such officer or representative shall not remove from the premises of the department any  
 15 materials that would reveal the identity of any taxpayer or any other person.

16 (j) The Department of Consumer and Business Services, to the extent the department requires  
 17 such information to determine whether it is appropriate to adjust those workers' compensation  
 18 benefits the amount of which is based pursuant to ORS chapter 656 on the amount of wages or  
 19 earned income received by an individual.

20 (k) Any agency of the State of Oregon, or any person, or any officer or employee of such agency  
 21 or person to whom disclosure or access is given by state law and not otherwise referred to in this  
 22 section, including but not limited to the Secretary of State as Auditor of Public Accounts under  
 23 Article VI, section 2, of the Oregon Constitution; the Department of Human Services pursuant to  
 24 ORS 412.094; the Division of Child Support of the Department of Justice and district attorney re-  
 25 garding cases for which they are providing support enforcement services under ORS 25.080; the  
 26 State Board of Tax Practitioners, pursuant to ORS 673.710; and the Oregon Board of Accountancy,  
 27 pursuant to ORS 673.415.

28 (L) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to determine that a  
 29 person complies with ORS chapter 656 and the Director of the Employment Department to determine  
 30 that a person complies with ORS chapter 657, the following employer information:

- 31 (A) Identification numbers.
- 32 (B) Names and addresses.
- 33 (C) Inception date as employer.
- 34 (D) Nature of business.
- 35 (E) Entity changes.
- 36 (F) Date of last payroll.

37 (m) The Director of the Oregon Health Authority to determine that a person has the ability to  
 38 pay for care that includes services provided by the Oregon State Hospital, or the Oregon Health  
 39 Authority to collect any unpaid cost of care as provided by ORS chapter 179.

40 (n) Employees of the Employment Department to the extent the Department of Revenue deems  
 41 disclosure or access to information on a combined tax report filed under ORS 316.168 is necessary  
 42 to performance of their duties in administering the tax imposed by ORS chapter 657.

43 (o) The State Fire Marshal to assist the State Fire Marshal in carrying out duties, functions and  
 44 powers under ORS 453.307 to 453.414, the employer or agent name, address, telephone number and  
 45 standard industrial classification, if available.

1 (p) Employees of the Department of State Lands for the purposes of identifying, locating and  
 2 publishing lists of taxpayers entitled to unclaimed refunds as required by the provisions of chapter  
 3 694, Oregon Laws 1993. The information shall be limited to the taxpayer's name, address and the  
 4 refund amount.

5 (q) In addition to the disclosure allowed under ORS 305.225, state or local law enforcement  
 6 agencies to assist in the investigation or prosecution of the following criminal activities:

7 (A) Mail theft of a check, in which case the information that may be disclosed shall be limited  
 8 to the stolen document, the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the payee, the  
 9 amount of the check and the date printed on the check.

10 (B) The counterfeiting, forging or altering of a check submitted by a taxpayer to the Department  
 11 of Revenue or issued by the Department of Revenue to a taxpayer, in which case the information  
 12 that may be disclosed shall be limited to the counterfeit, forged or altered document, the name, ad-  
 13 dress and taxpayer identification number of the payee, the amount of the check, the date printed  
 14 on the check and the altered name and address.

15 (r) The United States Postal Inspection Service or a federal law enforcement agency, including  
 16 but not limited to the United States Department of Justice, to assist in the investigation of the fol-  
 17 lowing criminal activities:

18 (A) Mail theft of a check, in which case the information that may be disclosed shall be limited  
 19 to the stolen document, the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the payee, the  
 20 amount of the check and the date printed on the check.

21 (B) The counterfeiting, forging or altering of a check submitted by a taxpayer to the Department  
 22 of Revenue or issued by the Department of Revenue to a taxpayer, in which case the information  
 23 that may be disclosed shall be limited to the counterfeit, forged or altered document, the name, ad-  
 24 dress and taxpayer identification number of the payee, the amount of the check, the date printed  
 25 on the check and the altered name and address.

26 (s) The United States Financial Management Service, for purposes of facilitating the offsets de-  
 27 scribed in ORS 305.612.

28 (t) A municipal corporation of this state for purposes of assisting the municipal corporation in  
 29 the administration of a tax of the municipal corporation that is imposed on or measured by income,  
 30 wages or net earnings from self-employment. Any disclosure under this paragraph may be made only  
 31 pursuant to a written agreement between the Department of Revenue and the municipal corporation  
 32 that ensures the confidentiality of the information disclosed.

33 (u) A consumer reporting agency, to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of ORS  
 34 314.843.

35 (v) The Public Employees Retirement Board, to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes  
 36 of ORS 238.372 to 238.384, and to any public employer, to the extent necessary to carry out the  
 37 purposes of ORS 237.635 (3) and 237.637 (2).

38 (3)(a) Each officer or employee of the department and each person described or referred to in  
 39 subsection (2)(a), (b), (f) to (L) or (n) to (q) of this section to whom disclosure or access to the tax  
 40 information is given under subsection (2) of this section or any other provision of state law, prior  
 41 to beginning employment or the performance of duties involving such disclosure or access, shall be  
 42 advised in writing of the provisions of ORS 314.835 and 314.991, relating to penalties for the vio-  
 43 lation of ORS 314.835, and shall as a condition of employment or performance of duties execute a  
 44 certificate for the department, in a form prescribed by the department, stating in substance that the  
 45 person has read these provisions of law, that the person has had them explained and that the person

1 is aware of the penalties for the violation of ORS 314.835.

2 (b) The disclosure authorized in subsection (2)(r) of this section shall be made only after a  
3 written agreement has been entered into between the Department of Revenue and the person de-  
4 scribed in subsection (2)(r) of this section to whom disclosure or access to the tax information is  
5 given, providing that:

6 (A) Any information described in ORS 314.835 that is received by the person pursuant to sub-  
7 section (2)(r) of this section is confidential information that may not be disclosed, except to the ex-  
8 tent necessary to investigate or prosecute the criminal activities described in subsection (2)(r) of  
9 this section;

10 (B) The information shall be protected as confidential under applicable federal and state laws;  
11 and

12 (C) The United States Postal Inspection Service or the federal law enforcement agency shall  
13 give notice to the Department of Revenue of any request received under the federal Freedom of In-  
14 formation Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, or other federal law relating to the disclosure of information.

15 (4) The Department of Revenue may recover the costs of furnishing the information described  
16 in subsection (2)(L), (m) and (o) to (q) of this section from the respective agencies.

17 **SECTION 4. This 2017 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2017**  
18 **regular session of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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