

SB 1529 -1, -2, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

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Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals statutes related to interstate broadcasters and removes from statute references that become obsolete upon repeal. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the bill. Adds to statute definitions for broadcaster, commercial domicile, and customer. Removes from statute definitions of gross receipts from broadcasting and interstate broadcaster. Adjusts language to reference new definitions described above. Changes the calculation of the numerator of the sales factor to the greater of (1) the broadcaster's gross receipts from advertising, licensing, and individual customers using commercial domicile sourcing, or, (2) the broadcasters gross receipts from individual customers plus the domestic receipts from advertising and licensing multiplied by 0.4%. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

-2 Replaces the bill. Adds to statute definitions new definitions of broadcaster, commercial domicile, cable operator, direct broadcast satellite service, direct broadcast satellite service provider, multichannel video program service provider, platform distribution company, and customer. Removes from statute definitions of gross receipts from broadcasting and interstate broadcaster. Adjusts language to reference new definitions described above. Changes the calculation of the numerator of the sales factor to the greater of (1) the broadcaster's gross receipts from advertising, licensing, and individual customers using commercial domicile sourcing, or, (2) the broadcasters gross receipts from individual customers plus the domestic receipts from advertising and licensing multiplied by 0.4%. Provides platform broadcasting companies the option to elect to use the audience apportionment method for calculating the numerator of the apportionment ratio. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

-3 Changes the applicability date from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, due to the passing of HB 4138, Oregon changed its method of corporate income apportionment for interstate broadcasters. The legislation changed Oregon from an apportionment method based on the share of viewers in Oregon, called audience factor apportionment, to a method based on the state of domicile of customers of interstate broadcasters, called domicile factor apportionment. This temporary legislation was in place until 2016, after which the Legislative Revenue Office (LRO) was tasked with analyzing the policy. The LRO report in 2017 was inconclusive due to three main areas of uncertainty, which remain largely uncertain today.

First, disagreement exists over which companies are interstate broadcasters and thus should be apportioning as such. Second, there is uncertainty over the business activities that imply nexus for an interstate broadcaster in Oregon. Third, disagreement exists over whether all or part of an interstate broadcaster's income is subject to interstate broadcaster apportionment methods. The temporary apportionment provision was again extended for tax years 2017 and 2018 as part of SB 1523 during the 2018 legislative session. Ongoing litigation still exists in Oregon's court system regarding the three issues raised above.

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In 2019, SB 193 temporarily extended the domicile factor method of apportionment for tax year 2019 and required the Legislative Revenue Officer, in consultation with the Department of Revenue, to study broadcaster apportionment methods. The bill required the LRO to submit a report detailing the results of this study. The report had four key findings. First, LRO raised concerns about the breadth of the definition of broadcasting in Oregon statute. The report also highlighted the dynamic nature of the industry and its ongoing changes with an expectation of continued changes within the near future. Third, LRO described how key assumptions related to nexus affect the revenue impact estimates both in magnitude and direction. Finally, LRO suggested greater statutory direction on apportionment factor calculations for this industry.

The introduced version of the bill repeals the statutes related specifically to interstate broadcasters. The implicit effect of this is that broadcasters will be subject to Oregon's general method of apportionment for intangible property, market-based sourcing.