

Act No. 657
Public Acts of 2002
Approved by the Governor
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2002**

Introduced by Senator Emmons

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 1446

AN ACT to amend 1941 PA 122, entitled "An act to establish a revenue division of the department of treasury; to prescribe its powers and duties as the revenue collection agency of the state; to prescribe certain powers and duties of the state treasurer; to regulate the importation, stamping, and disposition of certain tobacco products; to create the position and to define the powers and duties of the state commissioner of revenue; to provide for the transfer of powers and duties now vested in certain other state boards, commissions, departments and offices; to prescribe certain duties of and require certain reports from the department of treasury; to provide procedures for the payment, administration, audit, assessment, levy of interests or penalties on, and appeals of taxes and tax liability; to prescribe its powers and duties if an agreement to act as agent for a city to administer, collect, and enforce the city income tax act on behalf of a city is entered into with any city; to provide an appropriation; to abolish the state board of tax administration; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to declare the effect of this act," by amending the title and sections 1, 3, 4, 12, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27a, 28, and 31 (MCL 205.1, 205.3, 205.4, 205.12, 205.19, 205.21, 205.24, 205.25, 205.26, 205.27a, 205.28, and 205.31), the title as amended by 1999 PA 182, sections 3, 12, 25, and 26 as amended by 1986 PA 58, section 4 as added and section 27a as amended by 1993 PA 14, section 19 as amended by 1996 PA 479, section 21 as amended by 1993 PA 13, sections 24 and 31 as amended by 2001 PA 168, and section 28 as amended by 2000 PA 308; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

TITLE

An act to establish the revenue collection duties of the department of treasury; to prescribe its powers and duties as the revenue collection agency of the state; to prescribe certain powers and duties of the state treasurer; to regulate the importation, stamping, and disposition of certain tobacco products; to provide for the transfer of powers and duties now vested in certain other state boards, commissions, departments and offices; to prescribe certain duties of and require certain reports from the department of treasury; to provide procedures for the payment, administration, audit, assessment, levy of interests or penalties on, and appeals of taxes and tax liability; to prescribe its powers and duties if an agreement to act as agent for a city to administer, collect, and enforce the city income tax act on behalf of a city is entered into with any city; to provide an appropriation; to abolish the state board of tax administration; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to declare the effect of this act.

Sec. 1. (1) The department of treasury is the agency of this state responsible for the collection of taxes and is responsible for all of the following:

- (a) Coordinated collection of state taxes, assessments, licenses, fees, and other money as may be designated by law.
- (b) Specialized service for tax enforcement, through establishment and maintenance of uniformity in definition, regulation, return, and payment.
- (c) Avoidance of duplication in state facilities for tax collections that involve seasonal or occasional increases of staff, duplication of audits, and wasteful travel expenses.

(d) Safeguarding tax and other collections wherever received until duly deposited in the state treasury.

(e) Providing an advisory service on fiscal status, processes, and needs of state government, including periodic reports on payments, receipts, and debts.

(f) Development of a state revenue enforcement service by means of a staff that is permanent, qualified by training and experience, protected by merit system procedure, and so organized as to serve the public with efficiency, economy, consistency, and equity.

(2) Any reference to the department of revenue in this act or any other act shall mean the state treasurer. Any reference to the state commissioner of revenue in this act or any other act shall mean the state treasurer.

(3) As used in this act, "department" means the department of treasury.

Sec. 3. The department shall have all the powers and perform the duties formerly vested in any department, board, commission, or other agency, in connection with taxes due to or claimed by the state and in connection with unpaid accounts or amounts due to the state or any of its departments, institutions, or agencies which may be made payable to or collectible by the department created by this act, and the power and authority incidental to the performance of the following acts, duties, and services:

(a) The state treasurer or any of the duly appointed agents of the state treasurer may examine the books, records, and papers touching the matter at issue of any person or taxpayer subject to any tax, unpaid account, or amount the collection of which is charged to the department. The state treasurer or any of the duly appointed agents of the state treasurer may issue a subpoena requiring a person to appear and be examined with reference to a matter within the scope of the inquiry or investigation being conducted by the department and to produce any books, records, or papers. The state treasurer or any of the duly appointed agents, referees, or examiners of the state treasurer may administer an oath to a witness in any matter before the department. The department may invoke the aid of the circuit court of this state in requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the producing of books, papers, and documents. The circuit court of the state within the jurisdiction of which an inquiry is carried on, in case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena, may issue an order requiring the person to appear before the department and produce books and papers if so ordered and any evidence touching the matter in question, and failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt. A person shall not be excused from testifying or from producing any books, papers, records, or memoranda in any investigation, or upon any hearing when ordered to do so by the state treasurer, upon the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, may tend to incriminate or subject him or her to a criminal penalty, however, a person shall not be prosecuted or subjected to any criminal penalty for or on account of any transaction made or thing concerning which he or she may testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, before the board or its agent. A person so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed while testifying.

(b) After reasonable notice and public hearing to promulgate rules consistent with this act in accordance with the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, as may be necessary to the enforcement of the provisions of tax and other revenue measures which are administered by the department.

(c) Consult with the governor and the legislature upon the subject of taxation, revenue, and the administration of the laws in relation to taxation and revenue, and the progress of the work of the department, including the furnishing of reports, information, and other assistance as the governor may require.

(d) Investigate and study all matters of taxation and revenue as the basis of recommending to the governor and the legislature those changes and alterations in the tax laws of the state as in the state treasurer's judgment may bring about a more adequate and just system of state and local taxation.

(e) Formulate a standard procedure whereby the departments, commissions, boards, institutions, and the agencies of this state which collect taxes, fees, or accounts for this state shall report all sums of money due and uncollected and those uncollected items as may be prescribed by law and by the state treasurer. The procedure prescribed in this subdivision shall include a standard practice for receiving, receipting, safeguarding, and periodically reporting all state revenue receipts, whether current, delinquent, penalty, interest, or otherwise, and the amounts, kinds, and terms of items either collected, compromised, or still outstanding, to be summarized, studied, and reported upon as the state treasurer considers advisable.

(f) The department may periodically issue bulletins that index and explain current department interpretations of current state tax laws. The department may charge a reasonable fee for subscriptions to this service not to exceed the cost of printing. The money received from the sale of such subscription shall revert to the department and be placed in the taxation manual revolving fund.

Sec. 4. (1) Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, the department of treasury shall submit rules for a public hearing pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, that provide for all of the following:

(a) Standards to be followed by department officers and employees for the fair and courteous treatment of the public, and a system for monitoring compliance with those standards.

(b) The procedures governing an informal conference held under section 21. These procedures shall include at least all of the following:

(i) A method by which the department attempts to schedule the informal conference at a mutually convenient time and place.

(ii) A requirement that the department include in the notice for the informal conference the scope and nature of the subject of the informal conference.

(iii) Authorization for the taxpayer at whose request the informal conference is being held to make a sound recording of the informal conference with prior notice to the department and for the department to do the same with prior notice to the taxpayer.

(2) Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, the department shall develop guidelines to govern departmental employee responses to inquiries from the public and standards for tax audit activities. The guidelines shall explicitly exclude the use of a collection goal or quota for evaluating an employee. The department shall assemble the guidelines required by this subsection into an employee handbook. However, the handbook shall not disclose information or parameters excluded from disclosure under section 28(1)(f). The department shall distribute the handbook to all departmental employees involved in the collection or auditing of taxes and shall make the handbook available to the public.

(3) The department shall publish a handbook for taxpayers and tax preparers. The handbook shall be made available at a reasonable cost, not to exceed the actual cost of publication, and shall contain all of the following:

(a) The audit and collection procedures used by the department.

(b) The procedures governing departmental communications with taxpayers in the audit and collection process.

Sec. 12. All orders, certificates, jeopardy assessments, and subpoenas made or issued by the department shall be signed by the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designee.

Sec. 19. (1) All remittances of taxes administered by this act shall be made to the department payable to the state of Michigan by bank draft, check, cashier's check, certified check, money order, cash, or electronic funds transfer. The money received shall be credited as provided by law. A remittance other than cash or electronic funds transfer shall not be a final discharge of liability for the tax assessed and levied until the instrument remitted has been honored.

(2) For reporting periods beginning after August 31, 1991, a taxpayer other than a city or a county who paid in the immediately preceding calendar year an average of \$40,000.00 or more per month in income tax withholding pursuant to the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.1 to 206.532, shall deposit Michigan income tax withholding either in the same manner and according to the same schedule as deposits of federal income tax withholding or in another manner that has been approved by the department.

(3) For failure to remit a tax administered by this act with a negotiable remittance, the following penalty may be added in addition to any other penalties imposed by this act:

(a) For notices of intent to assess issued on or before February 28, 2003, 25% of the tax due.

(b) For notices of intent to assess issued after February 28, 2003, \$50.00.

(4) The department may require that all money collected by the taxpayer for taxes administered by this act that has not been paid to the department of treasury is public money and the property of this state, and shall be held in trust in a separate account and fund for the sole use and benefit of this state until paid over to the department of treasury.

(5) For tax years after the 1995 tax year for which taxes are collected under an agreement entered into pursuant to section 9 of the city income tax act, 1964 PA 284, MCL 141.509, if a taxpayer pays, when filing his or her annual return, an amount less than the sum of the declared tax liability under the city income tax act, 1964 PA 284, MCL 141.501 to 141.787, and the declared tax liability under the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.1 to 206.532, and if there is no indication of the allocation of payment between the tax liabilities against which the payment should be applied, the amount paid shall first be applied against the taxpayer's tax liability under the city income tax act, 1964 PA 284, MCL 141.501 to 141.787, and any remaining amount of the payment shall be applied to the taxpayer's tax liability under the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.1 to 206.532. The taxpayer's designation of a payee on a payment is not a dispositive determination of the allocation of that payment under this subsection.

Sec. 21. (1) If a taxpayer fails or refuses to make a return or payment as required, in whole or in part, or if the department has reason to believe that a return made or payment does not supply sufficient information for an accurate determination of the amount of tax due, the department may obtain information on which to base an assessment of the tax. By its duly authorized agents, the department may examine the books, records, and papers and audit the accounts of a person or any other records pertaining to the tax.

(2) In carrying out this section, the department and the taxpayer shall comply with the following procedure:

(a) The department shall send to the taxpayer a letter of inquiry stating, in a courteous and nonintimidating manner, the department's opinion that the taxpayer needs to furnish further information or owes taxes to the state, and the reason for that opinion. A letter of inquiry shall also explain the procedure by which the person may initiate communication with the department to resolve any dispute. This subdivision does not apply in any of the following circumstances:

- (i) The taxpayer files a return showing a tax due and fails to pay that tax.
- (ii) The deficiency resulted from an audit of the taxpayer's books and records by this state.
- (iii) The taxpayer otherwise affirmatively admits that a tax is due and owing.

(b) If the dispute is not resolved within 30 days after the department sends the taxpayer a letter of inquiry or if a letter of inquiry is not required pursuant to subdivision (a), the department, after determining the amount of tax due from a taxpayer, shall give notice to the taxpayer of its intent to assess the tax. The notice shall include the amount of the tax the department believes the taxpayer owes, the reason for that deficiency, and a statement advising the taxpayer of a right to an informal conference, the requirement of a written request by the taxpayer for the informal conference that includes the taxpayer's statement of the contested amounts and an explanation of the dispute, and the 30-day time limit for that request.

(c) If the taxpayer serves written notice upon the department within 30 days after the taxpayer receives a notice of intent to assess, remits the uncontested portion of the liability, and provides a statement of the contested amounts and an explanation of the dispute, the taxpayer is entitled to an informal conference on the question of liability for the assessment.

(d) Upon receipt of a taxpayer's written notice, the department shall set a mutually agreed upon or reasonable time and place for the informal conference and shall give the taxpayer reasonable written notice not less than 20 days before the informal conference. The notice shall specify the intent to assess, type of tax, and tax year that is the subject of the informal conference. The informal conference provided for by this subdivision is not subject to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, but is subject to the rules governing informal conferences as promulgated by the department in accordance with the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. The taxpayer may appear or be represented by any person before the department at an informal conference, and may present testimony and argument. At the party's own expense and with advance notice to the other party, a taxpayer or the department, or both, may make an audio recording of an informal conference.

(e) After the informal conference, the department shall render a decision and order in writing, setting forth the reasons and authority, and shall assess the tax, interest, and penalty found to be due and payable. The decision and order are limited to the subject of the informal conference as included in the notice under subdivision (d).

(f) If the taxpayer does not protest the notice of intent to assess within the time provided in subdivision (c), the department may assess the tax and the interest and penalty on the tax that the department believes are due and payable. An assessment under this subdivision or subdivision (e) is final and subject to appeal as provided in section 22. The final notice of assessment shall include a statement advising the person of a right to appeal.

(3) If a protest to the notice of intent to assess the tax is determined by the department to be a frivolous protest or a desire by the taxpayer to delay or impede the administration of taxes administered under this act, a penalty of \$25.00 or 25% of the amount of tax under protest, whichever is greater, shall be added to the tax.

Sec. 24. (1) If a taxpayer fails or refuses to file a return or pay a tax administered under this act within the time specified, the department, as soon as possible, shall assess the tax against the taxpayer and notify the taxpayer of the amount of the tax. A liability for a tax administered under this act is subject to the interest and penalties prescribed in subsections (2) to (5).

(2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (6), if a taxpayer fails or refuses to file a return or pay a tax within the time specified for notices of intent to assess issued on or before February 28, 2003, a penalty of \$10.00 or 5% of the tax, whichever is greater, shall be added if the failure is for not more than 1 month, with an additional 5% penalty for each additional month or fraction of a month during which the failure continues or the tax and penalty is not paid, to a maximum of 50%. Except as provided in subsections (3) and (6), if a taxpayer fails or refuses to file a return or pay a tax within the time specified for notices of intent to assess issued after February 28, 2003, a penalty of 5% of the tax shall be added if the failure is for not more than 2 months, with an additional 5% penalty for each additional month or fraction of a month during which the failure continues or the tax and penalty is not paid, to a maximum of 25%. In addition to the penalty, interest at the rate provided in section 23 for deficiencies in tax payments shall be added on the tax from the time the tax was due, until paid. After June 30, 1994, the penalty prescribed by this subsection shall not be imposed until the department submits for public hearing pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, a rule defining what constitutes reasonable cause for waiver of the penalty under subsection (4), which definition shall include illustrative examples.

(3) If a person is required to remit tax due pursuant to section 19(2) and fails or refuses to pay the tax within the time specified, a penalty of 0.167% of the tax shall be added for each day during which the failure continues or the tax and penalty are not paid as follows:

(a) For notices of intent to assess issued on or before February 28, 2003, to a maximum of 50% of the tax.

(b) For notices of intent to assess issued after February 28, 2003, to a maximum of 25% of the tax.

(4) If a return is filed or remittance is paid after the time specified and it is shown to the satisfaction of the department that the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, the state treasurer or an authorized representative of the state treasurer shall waive the penalty prescribed by subsection (2).

(5) For failure or refusal to file an information return or other informational report required by a tax statute, within the time specified, a penalty of \$10.00 per day for each day for each separate failure or refusal may be added. The total penalty for each separate failure or refusal shall not exceed \$400.00.

(6) If a taxpayer fails to pay an estimated tax payment as may be required by the income tax act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.1 to 206.532, a penalty shall not be imposed if the taxpayer was not required to make estimated tax payments in the taxpayer's immediately preceding tax year.

Sec. 25. (1) The state treasurer, or an authorized representative of the state treasurer, may cause a demand to be made on a taxpayer for the payment of a tax, unpaid account, or amount due the state or any of its departments, institutions, or agencies, subject to administration under this act. If the liability remains unpaid for 10 days after the demand and proceedings are not taken to review the liability, the state treasurer or an authorized representative of the state treasurer may issue a warrant under the official seal of that office. Except as provided in subsection (5), the state treasurer or an authorized representative of the state treasurer, through any state officer authorized to serve process or through his or her authorized employees, may levy on all property and rights to property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, belonging to the taxpayer or on which a lien is provided by law for the amount of the deficiency, and sell the real and personal property of the taxpayer found within the state for the payment of the amount due, the cost of executing the warrant, and the additional penalties and interest. Except as provided in subsection (6), the officer or agent serving the warrant shall proceed upon the warrant in all respects and in the same manner as prescribed by law in respect to executions issued against property upon judgments by a court of record. The state, through the state treasurer or an authorized representative of the state treasurer, may bid for and purchase any property sold pursuant to this section.

(2) A person who refuses or fails to surrender any property or rights to property subject to levy, upon demand by the state treasurer or an authorized representative of the state treasurer, is personally liable to the state in a sum equal to the value of the property or rights not surrendered, but not exceeding the amount due for which the levy was made, together with costs and interest on the sum at the rate provided in section 23(2) from the date of the levy. Any amount, other than costs, recovered under this subsection shall be credited against the liability for the collection of which the levy was made.

(3) In addition to the personal liability imposed by subsection (2), if a person required to surrender property or rights to property fails or refuses to surrender the property or rights to property without reasonable cause, the person shall be liable for a penalty equal to 50% of the amount recoverable under subsection (2), none of which penalty shall be credited against the liability for the collection of which the levy was made.

(4) A person in possession of, or obligated with respect to, property or property rights subject to levy and upon which a levy has been made who, upon demand of the state treasurer or an authorized representative of the state treasurer, surrenders the property or rights to property or discharges the obligation to the state treasurer or an authorized representative of the state treasurer or who pays a liability under subsection (1) shall have his or her obligation to a person delinquent in payment of a tax or other account reduced in an amount equal to the property or rights to property surrendered or amounts paid to the state.

(5) There shall be exempt from levy under this section:

(a) For an unpaid tax, the type of property and the amount of that property as provided in section 6334 of the internal revenue code of 1986.

(b) For an unpaid account, or amount due the state or any of its departments other than an unpaid tax, disposable earnings to the extent provided in section 303 of title III of the consumer credit protection act, 82 Stat. 163, 15 U.S.C. 1673.

(c) The effect of a levy on salary or wages shall be continuous from the date the levy is first made until the liability out of which the levy arose is satisfied.

(6) A warrant-notice of levy may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, on any person in possession of, or obligated with respect to, property and rights to property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, belonging to the taxpayer or on which a lien is provided by law. The date of delivery on the receipt shall be the date the levy is made. A person may, upon written notice to the state treasurer, have all notices of levy by mail sent to 1 designated office.

Sec. 26. If the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designated representative finds that a person liable for a tax administered under this act intends quickly to depart from the state or to remove property from this state, to conceal the person or the person's property in this state, or to do any other act tending to render wholly or partly ineffectual proceedings to collect the tax unless proceedings are brought without delay, the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designated representative shall give notice of the findings to the person, together with a demand for an immediate return and immediate payment of the tax. A warrant or warrant-notice of levy may issue immediately upon issuance of a jeopardy assessment. In that instance, the tax shall become immediately due and payable. If the person is not in default in making a return or paying a tax prescribed by this act, and furnishes evidence satisfactory to the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designated representative under rules promulgated by the department that the return will be filed and the tax to which the state treasurer's or the state treasurer's designated representative's finding relates will be paid, then the tax shall not be payable before the time otherwise fixed for payment.

Sec. 27a. (1) If a person liable for a tax administered under this act sells out his or her business or its stock of goods or quits the business, the person shall make a final return within 15 days after the date of selling or quitting the business. The purchaser or succeeding purchasers, if any, who purchase a going or closed business or its stock of goods shall escrow sufficient money to cover the amount of taxes, interest, and penalties as may be due and unpaid until the former owner produces a receipt from the state treasurer or the state treasurer's designated representative showing that the taxes due are paid, or a certificate stating that taxes are not due. Upon the owner's written waiver of confidentiality, the department may release to a purchaser a business's known tax liability for the purposes of establishing an escrow account for the payment of taxes. If the purchaser or succeeding purchasers of a business or its stock of goods fail to comply with the escrow requirements of this subsection, the purchaser is personally liable for the payment of the taxes, interest, and penalties accrued and unpaid by the business of the former owner. The purchaser's or succeeding purchaser's personal liability is limited to the fair market value of the business less the amount of any proceeds that are applied to balances due on secured interests that are superior to the lien provided for in section 29(1).

(2) A deficiency, interest, or penalty shall not be assessed after the expiration of 4 years after the date set for the filing of the required return or after the date the return was filed, whichever is later. The taxpayer shall not claim a refund of any amount paid to the department after the expiration of 4 years after the date set for the filing of the original return. A person who has failed to file a return is liable for all taxes due for the entire period for which the person would be subject to the taxes. If a person subject to tax fraudulently conceals any liability for the tax or a part of the tax, or fails to notify the department of any alteration in or modification of federal tax liability, the department, within 2 years after discovery of the fraud or the failure to notify, shall assess the tax with penalties and interest as provided by this act, computed from the date on which the tax liability originally accrued. The tax, penalties, and interest are due and payable after notice and hearing as provided by this act.

(3) The running of the statute of limitations is suspended for the following:

(a) The period pending a final determination of tax, including audit, conference, hearing, and litigation of liability for federal income tax or a tax administered by the department and for 1 year after that period.

(b) The period for which the taxpayer and the state treasurer have consented to in writing that the period be extended.

(4) The running of the statute of limitations is suspended only as to those items that were the subject of the audit, conference, hearing, or litigation for federal income tax or a tax administered by the department.

(5) If a corporation liable for taxes administered under this act fails for any reason to file the required returns or to pay the tax due, any of its officers having control or supervision of, or charged with the responsibility for, making the returns or payments is personally liable for the failure. The signature of any corporate officers on returns or negotiable instruments submitted in payment of taxes is prima facie evidence of their responsibility for making the returns and payments. The dissolution of a corporation does not discharge an officer's liability for a prior failure of the corporation to make a return or remit the tax due. The sum due for a liability may be assessed and collected under the related sections of this act.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), a claim for refund based upon the validity of a tax law based on the laws or constitution of the United States or the state constitution of 1963 shall not be paid unless the claim is filed within 90 days after the date set for filing a return.

(7) Subsection (6) does not apply to a claim for the refund of a tax paid for the 1984 tax year or a tax year after the 1984 tax year on income received as retirement or pension benefits from a public retirement system of the United States government if the claimant waives any claim for the refund of such a tax paid for a tax year before 1984. Claims for refunds to which this subsection applies shall be paid in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Refunds for tax year:</u>	<u>Payable on or after:</u>
1988 and 1987	July 1, 1990
1986	July 1, 1991
1985	July 1, 1992
1984	July 1, 1993

Sec. 28. (1) The following conditions apply to all taxes administered under this act unless otherwise provided for in the specific tax statute:

(a) Notice, if required, shall be given either by personal service or by certified mail addressed to the last known address of the taxpayer. Service upon the department may be made in the same manner.

(b) An injunction shall not issue to stay proceedings for the assessment and collection of a tax.

(c) In addition to the mode of collection provided in this act, the department may institute an action at law in any county in which the taxpayer resides or transacts business.

(d) The state treasurer may request in writing information or records in the possession of any other department, institution, or agency of state government for the performance of duties under this act. Departments, institutions, or agencies of state government shall furnish the information and records upon receipt of the state treasurer's request. Upon request of the state treasurer, any department, institution, or agency of state government shall hold a hearing under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, to consider withholding a license or permit of a person for nonpayment of taxes or accounts collected under this act.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in section 30c, the state treasurer or an employee of the department shall not compromise or reduce in any manner the taxes due to or claimed by this state or unpaid accounts or amounts due to any department, institution, or agency of state government. This subdivision does not prevent a compromise of interest or penalties, or both.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, an employee, authorized representative, or former employee or authorized representative of the department or anyone connected with the department shall not divulge any facts or information obtained in connection with the administration of a tax or information or parameters that would enable a person to ascertain the audit selection or processing criteria of the department for a tax administered by the department. An employee or authorized representative shall not willfully inspect any return or information contained in a return unless it is appropriate for the proper administration of a tax law administered under this act. A person may disclose information described in this subdivision if the disclosure is required for the proper administration of a tax law administered under this act, pursuant to a judicial order sought by an agency charged with the duty of enforcing or investigating support obligations pursuant to an order of a court in a domestic relations matter as that term is defined in section 2 of the friend of the court act, 1982 PA 294, 552.502, or pursuant to a judicial order sought by an agency of the federal, state, or local government charged with the responsibility for the administration or enforcement of criminal law for purposes of investigating or prosecuting criminal matters or for federal or state grand jury proceedings or a judicial order if the taxpayer's liability for a tax administered under this act is to be adjudicated by the court that issued the judicial order. A person may disclose the adjusted gross receipts and the wagering tax paid by a casino licensee licensed under the Michigan gaming control and revenue act, the Initiated Law of 1996, MCL 432.201 to 432.226, pursuant to section 18, sections 341, 342, and 386 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1341, 18.1342, and 18.1386, or authorization by the executive director of the gaming control board. However, the state treasurer or a person designated by the state treasurer may divulge information set forth or disclosed in a return or report or by an investigation or audit to any department, institution, or agency of state government upon receipt of a written request from a head of the department, institution, or agency of state government if it is required for the effective administration or enforcement of the laws of this state, to a proper officer of the United States department of treasury, and to a proper officer of another state reciprocating in this privilege. The state treasurer may enter into reciprocal agreements with other departments of state government, the United States department of treasury, local governmental units within this state, or taxing officials of other states for the enforcement, collection, and exchange of data after ascertaining that any information provided will be subject to confidentiality restrictions substantially the same as the provisions of this act.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1)(e) or (1)(f) is guilty of a felony, punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution. In addition, if the offense is committed by an employee of this state, the person shall be dismissed from office or discharged from employment upon conviction.

(3) A person liable for any tax administered under this act shall keep accurate and complete records necessary for the proper determination of tax liability as required by law or rule of the department.

(4) As used in subsection (1), "adjusted gross receipts" and "wagering tax" mean those terms as described in the Michigan gaming control and revenue act, the Initiated Law of 1996, MCL 432.201 to 432.226.

Sec. 31. (1) If a taxpayer does not satisfy a tax liability or makes an excessive claim for a refund as a result of reliance on erroneous current written information provided by the department, the state treasurer shall waive all criminal and civil penalties provided by law for failing or refusing to file a return, for failing to pay a tax, or for making an excessive claim for a refund for a tax administered by the department of treasury pursuant to this act if the taxpayer makes a written request for a waiver, files a return or an amended return, and makes full payment of the tax and interest.

(2) For a period to be designated by the state treasurer of not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days, and ending before September 30, 2002, there shall be an amnesty period during which the state treasurer shall waive all criminal and civil penalties provided by law for failing or refusing to file a return, for failing to pay a tax, or for making an excessive claim for a refund for a tax administered by the revenue division of the department of treasury under this act if the taxpayer makes a written request for a waiver, files a return or an amended return, and makes full payment in either a lump sum or installments as provided under subsection (9), of the tax and interest due for any prior tax year.

(3) This section applies to the nonreporting and underreporting of tax liabilities and to the nonpayment of taxes previously determined to be due, but only to the extent of the penalties attributable to the taxes that were previously due and that are paid during the amnesty period provided for in subsection (2).

(4) The department shall administer this section.

(5) Subsection (2) does not apply to taxes due after June 1, 2001.

(6) There is appropriated from the revenues generated by taxes paid under subsection (2) the sum of \$1,500,000.00 to the department of treasury for administration of the amnesty program created by the amendatory act that added this subsection. This appropriation is allotted for expenditure on and after October 1, 2001. Only general purpose revenue generated by the amendatory act that added this subsection may be used to finance this appropriation.

(7) The state treasurer shall not waive criminal and civil penalties applicable to a tax under subsection (2) if 1 or more of the following circumstances apply:

(a) If the taxpayer is eligible to enter into a voluntary disclosure agreement under section 30c for that tax.

(b) If the tax is attributable to income derived from a criminal act, if the taxpayer is under criminal investigation or involved in a civil action or criminal prosecution for that tax, or if the taxpayer has been convicted of a felony under this act or the internal revenue code of 1986.

(8) The department shall provide reasonable notice to taxpayers that may be eligible for the amnesty program at least 30 days before the start of the designated amnesty period. Notification shall include, but is not limited to, a description of the amnesty program on appropriate tax instruction forms and on the internet.

(9) Under the amnesty program described in subsection (2), a taxpayer may pay tax and interest due in installments if the taxpayer meets 1 of the following:

(a) The taxpayer is an individual and submits the greater of \$10,000.00 or 50% of the tax and interest due with the request for waiver under subsection (2) and pays the remaining tax and interest due in 2 equal installments, the first installment due no later than August 15, 2002 and the second installment due no later than September 15, 2002.

(b) A taxpayer that is not an individual submits the greater of \$100,000.00 or 50% of the tax and interest due with the request for waiver under subsection (2) and pays the remaining tax and interest due in 2 equal installments, the first installment due no later than August 15, 2002 and the second installment due no later than September 15, 2002.

Enacting section 1. Section 2 of 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.2, is repealed.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate.

Ray E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved

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Governor.