

Tax Professional Liaison Meeting

Oregon Department of Revenue
Meeting Via Zoom

Friday, July 30, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Facilitator: Daron Prara, Oregon Department of Revenue, Personal Income Tax Policy Analyst

Agenda

Welcome – Daron Prara
Department News and Updates – Daron Prara
Legislative Updates – Marjorie Taylor
Estate Updates – Nicholas Odom
Taxpayer Advocate Office – Codi Trudell
Association Updates and Upcoming Events

Please remember:

- ✓ For questions about any topic, submit them through chat or email TaxProfessional.Meeting@oregon.gov We will post questions on a Q&A and upload PowerPoint presentations to the Tax Professional webpage on our website.
- ✓ The Department of Revenue (DOR) does not issue continuing education credits for this meeting. However, credits may be issued by the Oregon Association of Tax Consultants (OATC). Code words will be given throughout this presentation. You will need these when you complete a survey with OATC. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.oatc-oregon.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1514447>

Welcome – Daron Prara

Daron gave an overview of the meeting agenda and who the presenters would be for each agenda item.

Department News and Updates – Daron Prara

Daron said the main building in Salem and field offices are accepting walk-ins, except Portland. For Portland, you need to make an appointment. Walk-in services include making payments and answering questions on accounts.

For technical and other questions, call 503-378-4988 or email questions.dor@oregon.gov Taxpayers may also use Revenue Online (ROL). Tax practitioners also have a dedicated phone number and email box. Call 503-947-3541 or email prac.revenue@oregon.gov

Daron also presented, and gave steps for, a new feature on ROL that allows taxpayers or their representatives to electronically reply to department letters without having a ROL account or needing to login to ROL. To use this feature, you must be replying to a department letter from which you are expecting a response.

Legislative Updates – Marjorie Taylor, Legislative Director

Phone Contact: Marjorie Taylor, 503-476-7644

Email Contact: marjorie.taylor@oregon.gov

Marjorie discussed the bills that DOR followed this Legislative Session. She used a PowerPoint slide presentation highlighting some of the bills. It is not a comprehensive list.

Tax practitioners will be invited to a New Law Update in which they will hear more about the bills we are talking about today. This may include administrative rules and/or new policies and procedures, and how they will interact with existing statutes.

2021 was an unprecedented year but successful. It was unusual because of the online nature that we are all living in now. We are looking at the implementation of these bills now.

Marjorie presented some information in addition to what was on the slides. Not all bills discussed in the slides are highlighted below:

- ✚ SB 5537, 5505 and 5006. The reporting requirement as stated in the Agency Budget Package of SB 5537 on how to modernize and enhance customer call centers may include a chat box and reevaluation of call center hours. SB 5505 is the bonding mechanism associated with the ELVIS technical project. HB 5006 provides DOR \$22 million appropriated to distribute funds to counties impacted by wildfires. We are working with the counties on how to distribute the funds as proscribed, such as in the application process.
- ✚ SCR 18. Regarding Alfreda Bale's 60 years' service, the conference room at DOR formerly known as the Fishbowl will be renamed "The Alfreda Bales Conference Room".
- ✚ HB 3373. Taxpayer Advocate Office. The bill includes some history of how the office has come into fruition. The IRS has made their advocate office official. We see having an office as a way for DOR to interact with others. The office wants to network with community-based partners.
- ✚ HB 2178. Reduction in Court Fees. We are not sure of the impact to DOR of the change in fees for complaints or petitions with the Magistrate Court.
- ✚ SB 727. In reference to this bill that creates a new, voluntary entity-level income tax on qualified pass-through entities, we teed off from New Jersey's business alternative income tax, which is an elective.
- ✚ HB 2008. This Property Tax Exemption bill came from the Speaker of the House, Tina Kotek. We are partnering with the county assessors this interim and moving forward.
- ✚ SB 136. We are working with the legislature's office to ensure we meet the legislature's intent on the "Broadcaster's Bill" for corporations.
- ✚ SB 164. Implementation is new with the "CAT Fix Bill". We expect that in the 2022 or 2023 Legislative Session there might be additional changes associated with CAT.
- ✚ HB 3398. Delay of Implementation for Paid Family Leave. Due date extended to January 1, 2023. The Employment Development Department didn't meet the January 1, 2022, deadline because they had a busy year last year and weren't focusing on the implementation of the program. We are partnering with them to ensure deductions are applied appropriately.

- ✚ What Comes Next with DOR. We're partnering with the Legislature Office to help them with their plan for what they want to propose for the February 2022 session. We anticipate they'll take all six bills and introduce them in 2022.
- ✚ What Comes Next with the Legislature. The Legislative Session that's meeting in September 2021 will also meet in November 2021.

Estate and Fiduciary Updates – Nicholas Odom, Tax Auditor

Phone Contact: Tax Services. 503-378-4988 for Salem or outside Oregon, or 1-800-356-4222, Toll free from an Oregon prefix.

Email Contact: estate.help.dor@dor.oregon.gov

Nick Odom provided an overview of Estate and Fiduciary updates. He used a PowerPoint slide presentation to discuss updates. Nick presented some information in addition to what was on the slides:

- ✚ Staff Updates - John Koehnke had been helping the Estate Unit for approximately the last two years, but John has transitioned back to Corporation Audit. The Estate team greatly thanks him for his phenomenal work!
- ✚ Form Updates - Using the wrong form year causes processing issues and delays. We hold the processing of current year returns (like 2021), until they are available on our website. The 2021 Estate Transfer Tax forms are now available on our website.
- ✚ Discharge Requests - You don't need to use a year-specific form, such as for a past filing year. Please only use the newest available form. The non-year specific form is now available on our website.

Taxpayer Advocate Office – Codi Trudell, Director's Office

Phone Contact: Codi Trudell, 503-985-2793

Email Contact: codi.trudell@dor.oregon.gov

Codi Trudell provided a self-introduction, description of HB 3373 establishing the Taxpayer's Advocate Office with DOR, and a history of how HB 3373 came into fruition. She used a PowerPoint slide presentation to relay information about this office.

Codi presented some information in addition to what was on the slides:

- ✚ In January 2021, Director Imholt had a vision on how a Taxpayer Advocate Office would work with DOR by implementing diversity and inclusion. I investigated how other states and the IRS ran their offices and reported back to the Director.
- ✚ Representative Fahey, the sponsor of the bill, contacted DOR with a list of recommendations. She took the same language from a previous attempt to establish the office. There were two previous attempts that didn't materialize.
- ✚ When Nina Olson from the IRS, the leader of this movement, became involved in establishing an IRS Tax Advocate Office, there was an uptick for states to do something similar. DOR is following suit.
- ✚ Some states established the Taxpayer Advocate Office with a third party, but confidentiality and disclosure became a concern.
- ✚ The Taxpayer Advocate Office is not there to replace anything that already exists; the office is there to help when normal channels haven't worked.
- ✚ A Taxpayer's Advocate Office may be effective because, when others know there's someone who can fast track an issue up the chain of command, it can motivate them to think twice about how they are responding to an issue.
- ✚ The reporting requirement includes delivering a biannual report to the legislative body. The report will be independent and include systematic problems the office has observed. Research on the report should be coming out soon.
- ✚ Community partnerships are a priority. The premise is for community partners working with DOR to identify best practices and systemic issues. The hope is to increase voluntary compliance. Workgroups with community partners will continue to be ongoing.
- ✚ Implementation goals include how we are going to collect data and metrics and keep apprised of what is going on. To ensure everyone gets their concerns and questions equally answered, we recommend tracking and capturing who is calling, and their concerns, as well as our fluency in addressing them.
- ✚ Funding for the office was included in bill.

Association Updates and Upcoming Events

You don't need to be an Oregon Association of Tax Consultants (OATC) member to get the continuing education credit today. OATC usually has a conference in June in which there are 20 hours of CPE credits available, but because of the pandemic and other challenges, it hasn't yet taken place. This year there will be an online component. One can sign up for the whole series, but OATC will also be offering it as a classified class. There will be several speakers. If you have additional questions, please reference the OATC website.

<https://www.oatc-oregon.org/>