House Engrossed

FILED

JANICE K. BREWER
SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
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2008

CHAPTER 204

HOUSE BILL 2107

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 42-1125, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO INFORMATION TAX RETURNS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 42-1125, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

42-1125. Civil penalties; definition

A. If a taxpayer fails to make and file a return for a tax administered pursuant to this article on or before the due date of the return or the due date as extended by the department, then, unless it is shown that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect, four and one-half per cent of the tax required to be shown on such return shall be added to the tax for each month or fraction of a month elapsing between the due date of the return and the date on which it is filed. The total penalty shall not exceed twenty-five per cent of the tax found to be remaining due. The penalty so added to the tax is due and payable on notice and demand from the department. For the purpose of computing the penalty imposed under this subsection, the amount required to be shown as tax on a return shall be reduced by the amount of any part of the tax which is paid on or before the beginning of such month and by the amount of any credit against the tax which may be claimed on the return. If the amount required to be shown as tax on a return is less than the amount shown as tax on such return the penalty described in this subsection shall be applied by substituting such lower amount.

B. If a taxpayer fails or refuses to file a return on notice and demand by the department, the taxpayer shall pay a penalty of twenty-five per cent of the tax, which is due and payable on notice and demand by the department, in addition to any penalty prescribed by subsection A of this section, unless it is shown that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect. This penalty is payable on notice and demand from the department.

C. If a taxpayer fails or refuses to furnish any information requested in writing by the department, the department may add a penalty of twenty-five per cent of the amount of any deficiency tax assessed by the department concerning the assessment of which the information was required, unless it is shown that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect.

D. If a person fails to pay the amount shown as tax on any return within the time prescribed, a penalty of one-half of one per cent, not to exceed a total of ten per cent, shall be added to the amount shown as tax for each month or fraction of a month during which the failure continues, unless it is shown that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect. If the department determines that the person's failure to pay was due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect and that a payment agreement pursuant to section 42-2057 is appropriate, the department shall not impose the penalty unless the taxpayer fails to comply with the payment agreement. If the taxpayer is also subject to a penalty under subsection A of this section for the same tax period, the total penalties under subsection

A of this section and this subsection shall not exceed twenty-five per cent. For the purpose of computing the penalty imposed under this subsection:

1. The amount shown as tax on a return shall be reduced by the amount of any part of the tax that is paid on or before the beginning of that month and by the amount of any credit against the tax that may be claimed on the return.

2. If the amount shown as tax on a return is greater than the amount required to be shown as tax on that return, the penalty shall be applied by substituting the lower amount.

E. If a person fails to pay any amount required to be shown on any return that is not so shown within twenty-one calendar days after the date of notice and demand, a penalty of one-half of one per cent, not to exceed a total of ten per cent, shall be added to the amount of tax for each month or fraction of a month during which the failure continues, unless it is shown that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect. If the taxpayer is also subject to penalty under subsection A of this section for the same tax period, the total penalties under subsection A of this section and this subsection shall not exceed twenty-five per cent. For the purpose of computing the penalty imposed under this subsection, any amount required to be shown on any return shall be reduced by the amount of any part of the tax that is paid on or before the beginning of that month and by the amount of any credit against the tax that may be claimed on the return.

F. In the case of a deficiency, for which a determination is made of an additional amount due, which is due to negligence but without intent to defraud, the person shall pay a penalty of ten per cent of the amount of the deficiency.

G. If part of a deficiency is due to fraud with intent to evade tax, fifty per cent of the total amount of the tax, in addition to the deficiency, interest and other penalties provided in this section, shall be assessed, collected and paid as if it were a deficiency.

H. If the amount, whether determined by the department or the taxpayer, required to be withheld by the employer pursuant to title 43, chapter 4 is not paid to the department on or before the date prescribed for its remittance, the department may add a penalty of twenty-five per cent of the amount required to be withheld and paid, unless it is shown that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect.

I. A person who, with or without intent to evade any requirement of this article or any lawful administrative rule of the department of revenue under this article, fails to file a return or to supply information required under this article or who, with or without such intent, makes, prepares, renders, signs or verifies a false or fraudulent return or statement or supplies false or fraudulent information shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars. This penalty shall be recovered by the department of law in the name of this state by an action in any court of competent jurisdiction.

J. If the taxpayer files what purports to be a return of any tax administered pursuant to this article but which is frivolous or which is made with the intent to delay or impede the administration of the tax laws, that person shall pay a penalty of five hundred dollars.

K. If a taxpayer who is required to file or provide an information return under this title or title 43 fails to file the return at the prescribed time or files a return which fails to show the information required, that taxpayer shall pay a penalty of ~~five~~ ONE hundred dollars FOR EACH MONTH OR FRACTION OF A MONTH DURING WHICH THE FAILURE CONTINUES unless it is shown that the failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect. THE TOTAL PENALTIES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

L. If it appears to the superior court that proceedings before it have been instituted or maintained by a taxpayer primarily for delay or that the taxpayer's position is frivolous or groundless, the court may award damages in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars to this state. Damages so awarded shall be collected as a part of the tax.

M. A person who is required under section 43-413 to furnish a statement to an employee and who wilfully furnishes a false or fraudulent statement, or who wilfully fails to furnish a statement required by section 43-413, is for each such failure subject to a penalty of fifty dollars.

N. A person who is required to collect or truthfully account for and pay a tax administered pursuant to this article, including any luxury privilege tax, and who wilfully fails to collect the tax or truthfully account for and pay the tax, or wilfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the tax or its payment, is, in addition to other penalties provided by law, liable for a penalty equal to the total amount of the tax evaded, not collected or not accounted for and paid. Except as provided in subsections S, T and U of this section, no other penalty under this section relating to failure to pay tax may be imposed for any offense to which this subsection applies.

O. Unless due to reasonable cause and not to wilful neglect:

1. A person who fails to provide ~~his~~ THAT PERSON'S taxpayer identification number in any return, statement or other document as required by section 42-1105, subsection A shall pay a penalty of five dollars for each such failure.

2. A person, when filing any return, statement or other document for compensation on behalf of a taxpayer, who fails to include that person's own taxpayer identification number and the taxpayer's identification number shall pay a penalty of fifty dollars for each such failure.

3. A person, when filing any return, statement or other document without compensation on behalf of a taxpayer, who fails to include that person's own taxpayer identification number and the taxpayer's identification number is not subject to a penalty.

No other penalty under this section may be imposed if the only violation is failure to provide taxpayer identification numbers.

P. If a taxpayer fails to pay the full amount of estimated tax required by title 43, chapter 5, article 6, a penalty is assessed equal to the amount of interest that would otherwise accrue under section 42-1123 on the amount not paid for the period of nonpayment, not exceeding ten per cent of the amount not paid. The penalty prescribed by this subsection is in lieu of any other penalty otherwise prescribed by this section and in lieu of interest prescribed by section 42-1123.

Q. The department of law, with the consent of the department of revenue, may compromise any penalty for which it may bring an action under this section.

R. Penalties shall not be assessed under subsection D of this section on additional amounts of tax paid by a taxpayer at the time the taxpayer voluntarily files an amended return. This subsection does not apply if:

1. The taxpayer is under audit by the department.

2. The amended return was filed on demand or request by the department.

3. The total additional tax paid and due for the tax period represents a substantial understatement of tax liability. For the purposes of this paragraph, there is a substantial understatement of tax for any tax period if the amount of the understatement for the tax period exceeds the greater of ten per cent of the actual tax liability for the tax period or two thousand dollars.

S. In addition to other penalties provided by law, a person who knowingly and intentionally does not comply with any requirement under chapter 3, article 5 of this title relating to cigarettes shall pay a penalty of one thousand dollars. A person who knowingly and intentionally does not pay any luxury tax that relates to cigarettes imposed by chapter 3 of this title shall pay a penalty that is equal to ten per cent of the amount of the unpaid tax.

T. A cigarette manufacturer, cigarette importer or cigarette distributor, as defined in section 42-3001, who knowingly and intentionally sells or possesses cigarettes with false manufacturing labels or cigarettes with counterfeit tax stamps, or who obtains cigarettes through the use of a counterfeit license, shall pay the following penalties:

1. For a first violation involving two thousand or more cigarettes, one thousand dollars.

2. For a subsequent violation involving two thousand or more cigarettes, five thousand dollars.

U. The civil penalties in this section are in addition to any civil penalty under chapter 3, article 5 of this title.

V. For the purposes of this section, and only as applied to the taxes imposed by chapter 5, articles 1 through 6 and chapter 6, articles 1, 2 and 3 of this title, "reasonable cause" means a reasonable basis for the taxpayer

1 to believe that the tax did not apply to the business activity or the
2 storage, use or consumption of the taxpayer's tangible personal property in
3 this state.
4 Sec. 2. Effective date
5 This act is effective, and applies to information returns that are
6 required to be filed, from and after December 31, 2008.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 15, 2008.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 15, 2008.