

STORAGE NAME: h1009a.frc.doc
DATE: April 5, 2001

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY COUNCIL
ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1009
RELATING TO: Excise Tax on Documents
SPONSOR(S): Representative Baxley
TIED BILL(S): None

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT YEAS 7 NAYS 0
 - (2) FISCAL POLICY AND RESOURCES YEAS 13 NAYS 0
 - (3) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY COUNCIL YEAS 16 NAYS 0
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

HB 1009 provides that the documentary stamp tax shall not exceed \$2,450 on promissory notes, nonnegotiable notes, written obligations to pay money, and assignments of salaries, wages, or other compensation made, which are executed, delivered, sold, transferred, or assigned in the state, including those documents made in connection with sales made under retail charge account services. Under present law, \$2,450 is the amount of documentary stamp tax that would be owned on a promissory note or other unsecured obligation in the amount of \$700,000.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has estimated that the bill will have no impact on state or local revenues.

The bill shall take effect July 1, 2001.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

This bill supports the principle of "lower taxes" to the extent that any document evidencing an unsecured transaction over \$700,000 will be subject to documentary stamp taxes of no more than \$2,450. Documentary stamp taxes at the rate of 35 cents per \$100 of the indebtedness evidenced by the document will be applied to the first \$700,000. No documentary stamp taxes will be due on the amount in excess of \$700,000. Thus, lower taxes will apply to a document evidencing an amount greater than \$700,000. However, the Revenue Estimating Conference has estimated that this bill has no fiscal impact on state and local revenues; this estimate assumes that taxpayers legally avoid the documentary stamp taxes on these documents under the current law.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Chapter 201, F.S., imposes an excise tax (documentary stamp tax) on promissory notes, nonnegotiable notes, written obligations to pay money, and assignments of salaries, wages, or other compensation made, which are executed, delivered, sold, transferred, or assigned in the state, including those documents made in connection with sales made under retail charge account services. Mortgages, including those mortgages executed outside the state and recorded in the state, which incorporate the certificate of indebtedness, not otherwise shown in separate instruments, are subject to the same tax. When there is a mortgage, trust deed, or security agreement and a note, certificate of indebtedness, or obligation, the tax shall be paid on the mortgage, trust deed, or security agreement at the time of recordation. A notation shall be made on the note, certificate of indebtedness, or obligation that the tax has been paid on the mortgage, trust deed, or security agreement. Section 201.08, F.S., provides that the tax rate shall be 35 cents on each \$100 or fraction thereof of the amount of indebtedness or obligation evidenced by the document.

Florida residents and companies can execute outside of the state of Florida promissory notes, nonnegotiable notes, and other unsecured obligations to pay money. When executed outside of Florida, these instruments are not subject to Florida documentary stamp tax. When the amount of tax that would be due on a Florida transaction is significantly greater than the cost of closing a business transaction outside of Florida, the parties to the transaction sometimes leave the state to conduct the transaction.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

HB 1009 amends section 201.08, F.S., to provide that the documentary stamp tax shall not exceed \$2,450 on promissory notes, nonnegotiable notes, written obligations to pay money, and assignments of salaries, wages, or other compensation made, which are executed, delivered, sold, transferred, or assigned in the state, including those documents made in connection with sales made under retail charge account services.

Under present law, \$2,450 is the amount of documentary stamp tax that would be due on a promissory note or other unsecured obligation in the amount of \$700,000.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

See Effect of Proposed Changes.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Individuals and businesses may conduct in Florida more financial transactions involving unsecured obligations in amounts larger than \$700,000 if the amount of documentary stamp tax due on a transaction is capped at \$2,450. Thirty-nine other states impose some form of documentary stamp tax.¹ Therefore, individuals and businesses may chose to come to Florida to conduct financial transactions involving unsecured obligations in amounts larger than \$700,000.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) reviewed the bill on February 9, 2001. The REC determined that the bill would have no fiscal impact to state or local funds.

¹ 2001 Florida Tax Handbook, Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, et. al.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT:

Prepared by:

Lynne Overton

Staff Director:

Lynne Overton

AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FISCAL POLICY AND RESOURCES:

Prepared by:

Adam Shamy

Staff Director:

Greg Turbeville

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AS FURTHER REVISED BY THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY COUNCIL:

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