

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 475 Local Business Taxes
SPONSOR(S): Government Efficiency & Accountability Council, Gonzalez and others
TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1178

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Committee on Urban & Local Affairs</u>	<u>8 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Kruse</u>	<u>Kruse</u>
2) <u>Government Efficiency & Accountability Council</u>	<u>13 Y, 0 N, As CS</u>	<u>Kruse</u>	<u>Cooper</u>
3) <u>Policy & Budget Council</u>	<u></u>	<u>Diez-Arguelles</u>	<u>Hansen</u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill revises the time frame during which counties and municipalities may collect local business taxes by providing that a local government may start collections on July 1 instead of August 1.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state government and may have a small fiscal impact on counties and municipalities that have to revise their local business tax forms.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2007.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Ensure Lower Taxes

The bill provides a business an additional month to pay a local business tax levied either by a county or municipality.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The governing body of a county or a municipality may levy, by resolution or ordinance, a business tax for the privilege of engaging in or managing any business, profession, or occupation within its jurisdiction.¹

For a municipality, s. 205.042, F.S., establishes the conditions for when the tax applies to a business as the following:

- (1) Any person who maintains a permanent business location or branch office within the municipality, for the privilege of engaging in or managing any business within its jurisdiction.
- (2) Any person who maintains a permanent business location or branch office within the municipality, for the privilege of engaging in or managing any profession or occupation within its jurisdiction.
- (3) Any person who does not qualify under subsection (1) or subsection (2) and who transacts any business or engages in any occupation or profession in interstate commerce, if the business tax is not prohibited by s. 8, Art. I of the United States Constitution.

A county or municipality must base the tax upon reasonable classifications which must be uniform throughout any class.² A receipt of a local business tax is valid for 1 year in a county or municipality, and all receipts expire on September 30 of each year, unless otherwise provided by law.³

Section 205.053, F.S. establishes the time frame for the collection of a local business tax. A local business tax is due and payable between August 1 and September 30 of each year. A county or municipality may make provisions for partial receipts in a resolution or ordinance authorizing such receipts. A receipt received late is subject to a delinquency penalty of 10 percent for the month of October, plus an additional 5 percent penalty for each subsequent month of delinquency until paid. However, the total delinquency penalty may not exceed 25 percent of the business tax for the delinquent business.

Any person who engages in or manages any business, occupation, or profession without first obtaining a local business tax receipt, if required, is subject to a penalty of 25 percent of the tax due, in addition to any other penalty provided by law or ordinance. Additionally, any person who engages in any business, occupation, or profession who does not pay the required business tax within 150 days after the initial notice of tax due, and who does not obtain the required receipt is subject to civil actions and

¹ ss. 205.032 & 205.042, F.S.

² ss. 205.033(1)(a) & 205.043(1)(a), F.S.

³ ss. 205.033(1)(c) & 205.043(1)(c), F.S.

penalties, including court costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, additional administrative costs incurred as a result of collection efforts, and a penalty of up to \$250.⁴

Effect of Proposed Changes

This bill provides that a local government may start to collect a local business tax one month earlier, July 1 instead of August 1, and hence allow a business to submit a local business tax one month early.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2007.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends subsection (1) of section 205.053, F.S., to change the due date for a local business tax levied by a county or municipality.

Section 2: Provides an effective date.

II. 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:

A county or municipality may have some administrative costs associated with changing the forms for submission of a local business tax.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

A business subject to a local business tax will be able to submit the tax one month early to a county or municipality.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

⁴ Section 205.053(2) &(3), F.S.

Not applicable because this bill does not appear to: require cities or counties to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

On March 1, 2007, the Sponsor advised staff that no statement would be submitted.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

At its meeting on March 14, 2007, the Governmental Efficiency & Accountability Council adopted and amendment recommended by the Committee on Urban & Local Affairs. The analysis has been updated to reflect the issue in the amendment.