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For information on all electronic filing and payment options available to businesses, please visit the department's Business Tax e-Services Center at www.doreservices.state.pa.us/BusinessTax

ADDITIONAL ELECTRONIC FILING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESS TAXPAYERS

The implementation of the integrated tax system (ITS) has expanded electronic filing and payment options to allow more business taxpayers to file and pay electronically using e-TIDES and TeleFile. Prior to the integration of miscellaneous taxes into the ITS, the department's processing systems could not support electronic returns and payments for vehicle rental tax and Public Transportation Assistance Fund taxes and fees. Now that miscellaneous taxes are on the new technology platform, additional e-filing and payment options are available.

E-TIDES

e-TIDES now includes real-time registration and allows users to electronically file returns and payments for Public Transportation Assistance Fund taxes and fees (PA-4) and vehicle rental tax (PA-5 and DAS-28).

Businesses customers can continue to make payments for sales/use tax; employer withholding; corporate taxes; and liquid fuels and fuels tax utilizing the e-TIDES application.

Taxpayers may also use e-TIDES to perform regular account maintenance for changes to bank account information, FEIN, address, legal/trade name and to cancel an account.

TELEFILE

Businesses without Internet access can now use a touch-tone phone to electronically file returns and make payments for Public Transportation Assistance Fund taxes and fees and quarterly vehicle rental tax through TeleFile, available by calling, toll-free, 1-800-748-8299.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

Payment for Public Transportation Assistance Fund taxes and fees, vehicle rental tax, unstampable little cigar tax, and malt beverage tax can now be paid by credit or debit card through Official Payments Corporation.

Businesses can use American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or Visa credit cards, and MasterCard and Visa debit cards are also accepted. Note that Official Payments Corporation charges a 2.49 percent convenience fee (\$1 minimum charge) per credit card transaction, and debit card convenience fees start at \$3.95 per transaction.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT ADDRESSES ELECTRONIC SALES SUPPRESSION TAX AVOIDANCE

The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue is implementing a program to address electronic sales suppression, which occurs when a business illegally hides sales transactions in order to avoid tax obligations. Electronic sales suppression is often achieved through the use of software known as zappers or phantomware, which falsifies point of sale records to evade taxes.

To combat unlawful tax evasion, the department is working with other states to explore electronic sales suppression.

Reporting anomalies indicative of sales suppression are currently being identified through data analytics, and audits will be employed to expose businesses' sales suppression efforts.

Taxpayers found to have concealed sales and underreported taxes may face criminal investigation in addition to the assessment of related tax, interest, and penalties.

BUDGET SECRETARY CERTIFIES MORE THAN \$783 MILLION FOR STATEWIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

In April, Budget Secretary Randy Albright certified that more than \$783 million in gaming revenue will be available for property tax relief in 2015.

The 2006 Taxpayer Relief Act established the Property Tax Relief Fund as a way to use gaming revenue to reduce property taxes for homeowners. The law requires the budget secretary to certify the actual balance in the fund by April 15 of each year and to project gaming revenue coming into the fund in the next six months.

Albright certified the balance in the Property Tax Relief Fund is more than \$372 million. Gaming revenue from now through October 15 is projected to add about \$414 million to the relief fund, bringing the total amount in the fund at that time to approximately \$786 million, which includes a projected balance of approximately \$3 million in the Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund.

The average statewide property tax reduction for each household is expected to be about \$200 this year. School districts will receive their share of property tax relief in two equal installments in August and October.

Homeowners in 66 counties will receive reductions in the school property tax bills they will receive this summer. In accordance with the Taxpayer Relief Act, Philadelphia's share of funding for broad-based tax relief – more than \$86 million – will be used to reduce the city's wage tax.

The amount of property tax relief will vary by school district, and the Department of Education will notify each school district of its specific level of property tax relief. Under the law, Pennsylvania homeowners will see the property tax reduction itemized on their tax bill, which most school districts will issue this summer.

The amount of property tax relief in each school district is available at the School District Property Tax Relief section of the Department of Education website at www.education.pa.gov.

Gaming revenue also supports the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program (PTRR), which offers rebates of property taxes and rent paid the prior year separate from and in addition to general property tax relief delivered through reductions on tax bills. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

Due to PTRR program changes enacted last year to ensure claimants aren't disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, homeowners and renters may be eligible for rebates even if their eligibility income is greater than these limits. Any homeowner who collected Social Security, received a property tax rebate in 2013 for claim year 2012 and had annual income last year –

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discounting half of Social Security – up to \$36,129, is encouraged to apply for a rebate for claim year 2014. Any renter who collected Social Security, received a rent rebate in 2013 for claim year 2012 and had annual income last year – discounting half of Social Security – up to \$15,484, is also encouraged to apply.

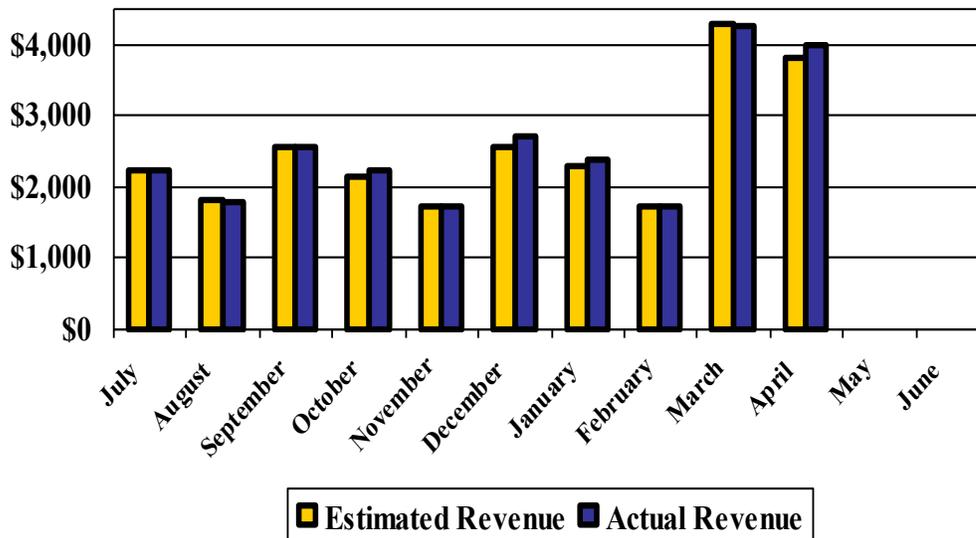
The maximum standard PTRR rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for certain qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

Information on PTRR is available at www.revenue.pa.gov or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

2014-2015 General Fund Revenues

Estimated versus Actual Revenue Collections (in millions)

Fiscal-year-to-date General Fund collections total \$25.7 billion, which is \$569.1 million, or 2.3 percent, above estimate.



The revenue surplus over estimate through April is due in part to unclaimed property revenues coming in significantly higher than estimated, which the Pennsylvania Treasury attributes to a law change that took effect April 15 and reduced how long banks and insurance companies hold on to abandoned assets before turning them over to the state. Additionally, strong corporate tax collections through April and an unexpected, one-time payment in inheritance tax contributed to the current surplus.

Since the state will not receive about \$125 million for casino licenses and a \$95 million transfer to the General Fund from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund that were assumed in the current fiscal year budget, any overage remaining at the end of June will be offset by that much.