

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATION ACT; AMENDING AND ENACTING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 7-1-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-2. APPLICABILITY.--The Tax Administration Act applies to and governs:

A. the administration and enforcement of the following taxes or tax acts as they now exist or may hereafter be amended:

- (1) Income Tax Act;
- (2) Withholding Tax Act;
- (3) Venture Capital Investment Act;
- (4) Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act and any state gross receipts tax;
- (5) Liquor Excise Tax Act;
- (6) Local Liquor Excise Tax Act;
- (7) any municipal local option gross receipts tax;
- (8) any county local option gross receipts tax;
- (9) Special Fuels Supplier Tax Act;

- (10) Gasoline Tax Act;
- (11) petroleum products loading fee, which fee shall be considered a tax for the purpose of the Tax Administration Act;
- (12) Alternative Fuel Tax Act;
- (13) Cigarette Tax Act;
- (14) Estate Tax Act;
- (15) Railroad Car Company Tax Act;
- (16) Investment Credit Act;
- (17) Capital Equipment Tax Credit Act;
- (18) rural job tax credit;
- (19) Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act;
- (20) Uniform Division of Income for Tax Purposes Act;
- (21) Multistate Tax Compact;
- (22) Tobacco Products Tax Act; and
- (23) the telecommunications relay service surcharge imposed by Section 63-9F-11 NMSA 1978, which surcharge shall be considered a tax for the purposes of the Tax Administration Act;

B. the administration and enforcement of the following taxes, surtaxes, advanced payments or tax acts as they now exist or may hereafter be amended:

- (1) Resources Excise Tax Act;

- (2) Severance Tax Act;
- (3) any severance surtax;
- (4) Oil and Gas Severance Tax Act;
- (5) Oil and Gas Conservation Tax Act;
- (6) Oil and Gas Emergency School Tax Act;
- (7) Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Production Tax Act;
- (8) Natural Gas Processors Tax Act;
- (9) Oil and Gas Production Equipment Ad Valorem Tax Act;
- (10) Copper Production Ad Valorem Tax Act;
- (11) any advance payment required to be made by any act specified in this subsection, which advance payment shall be considered a tax for the purposes of the Tax Administration Act;
- (12) Enhanced Oil Recovery Act;
- (13) Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Incentive Act; and
- (14) intergovernmental production tax credit and intergovernmental production equipment tax credit;

C. the administration and enforcement of the following taxes, surcharges, fees or acts as they now exist or may hereafter be amended:

- (1) Weight Distance Tax Act;

(2) the workers' compensation fee authorized by Section 52-5-19 NMSA 1978, which fee shall be considered a tax for purposes of the Tax Administration Act;

(3) Uniform Unclaimed Property Act;

(4) 911 emergency surcharge and the network and database surcharge, which surcharges shall be considered taxes for purposes of the Tax Administration Act;

(5) the solid waste assessment fee authorized by the Solid Waste Act, which fee shall be considered a tax for purposes of the Tax Administration Act;

(6) the water conservation fee imposed by Section 74-1-13 NMSA 1978, which fee shall be considered a tax for the purposes of the Tax Administration Act; and

(7) the gaming tax imposed pursuant to the Gaming Control Act; and

D. the administration and enforcement of all other laws, with respect to which the department is charged with responsibilities pursuant to the Tax Administration Act, but only to the extent that the other laws do not conflict with the Tax Administration Act."

Section 2. Section 7-1-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-3. DEFINITIONS.--Unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning, the definitions of words and phrases as they are stated in this section are to be used,

and whenever in the Tax Administration Act these words and phrases appear, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular:

A. "automated clearinghouse transaction" means an electronic credit or debit transmitted through an automated clearinghouse payable to the state treasurer and deposited with the fiscal agent of New Mexico;

B. "department" means the taxation and revenue department, the secretary or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully delegated to that employee by the secretary;

C. "division" or "oil and gas accounting division" means the department;

D. "director" means the secretary;

E. "director or his delegate" means the secretary or the secretary's delegate;

F. "electronic payment" means a payment made by automated clearinghouse deposit, any funds wire transfer system or a credit card debit card or electronic cash transaction through the internet;

G. "employee of the department" means any employee of the department, including the secretary, or any person acting as agent or authorized to represent or perform services for the department in any capacity with respect to any law made subject to administration and enforcement under

the provisions of the Tax Administration Act;

H. "financial institution" means any state or federally chartered, federally insured depository institution;

I. "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

J. "levy" means the lawful power, hereby invested in the secretary, to take into possession or to require the present or future surrender to the secretary or the secretary's delegate of any property or rights to property belonging to a delinquent taxpayer;

K. "local option gross receipts tax" means a tax authorized to be imposed by a county or municipality upon the taxpayer's gross receipts, as that term is defined in the Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act, and required to be collected by the department at the same time and in the same manner as the gross receipts tax; "local option gross receipts tax" includes the taxes imposed pursuant to the Municipal Local Option Gross Receipts Taxes Act, Supplemental Municipal Gross Receipts Tax Act, County Local Option Gross Receipts Taxes Act, Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax Act, County Correctional Facility Gross Receipts Tax Act and such other acts as may be enacted authorizing counties or municipalities to impose taxes on gross receipts, which taxes are to be collected by the

department in the same time and in the same manner as it collects the gross receipts tax;

L. "net receipts" means the total amount of money paid by taxpayers to the department in a month pursuant to a tax or tax act less any refunds disbursed in that month with respect to that tax or tax act;

M. "overpayment" means an amount paid, pursuant to any law subject to administration and enforcement under the provisions of the Tax Administration Act, by a person to the department or withheld from the person in excess of tax due from the person to the state at the time of the payment or at the time the amount withheld is credited against tax due;

N. "paid" includes the term "paid over";

O. "pay" includes the term "pay over";

P. "payment" includes the term "payment over";

Q. "person" means any individual, estate, trust, receiver, cooperative association, club, corporation, company, firm, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, joint venture, syndicate, other association or gas, water or electric utility owned or operated by a county or municipality; "person" also means, to the extent permitted by law, a federal, state or other governmental unit or subdivision, or an agency, department or instrumentality thereof; and "person", as used in

Sections

7-1-72 through 7-1-74 NMSA 1978, also includes an officer or employee of a corporation, a member or employee of a partnership or any individual who, as such, is under a duty to perform any act in respect of which a violation occurs;

R. "property" means property or rights to property;

S. "property or rights to property" means any tangible property, real or personal, or any intangible property of a taxpayer;

T. "secretary" means the secretary of taxation and revenue and, except for purposes of Subsection B of Section 7-1-4 and Subsection E of Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978, also includes the deputy secretary or a division director or deputy division director delegated by the secretary;

U. "secretary or the secretary's delegate" means the secretary or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully delegated to that employee by the secretary;

V. "security" means money, property or rights to property or a surety bond;

W. "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico and any territory or possession of the United States;

X. "tax" means the total amount of each tax

imposed and required to be paid, withheld and paid or collected and paid under provision of any law made subject to administration and enforcement according to the provisions of the Tax Administration Act and, unless the context otherwise requires, includes the amount of any interest or civil penalty relating thereto; "tax" also means any amount of any abatement of tax made or any credit, rebate or refund paid or credited by the department under any law subject to administration and enforcement under the provisions of the Tax Administration Act to any person contrary to law and includes, unless the context requires otherwise, the amount of any interest or civil penalty relating thereto;

Y. "taxpayer" means a person liable for payment of any tax, a person responsible for withholding and payment or for collection and payment of any tax or a person to whom an assessment has been made, if the assessment remains unabated or the amount thereof has not been paid; and

Z. "tax return preparer" means a person who prepares for others for compensation or who employs one or more persons to prepare for others for compensation any return of income tax, a substantial portion of any return of income tax, any claim for refund with respect to income tax or a substantial portion of any claim for refund with respect to income tax; provided that a person shall not be a

"tax return preparer" merely because such person:

(1) furnishes typing, reproducing or other mechanical assistance;

(2) is an employee who prepares an income tax return or claim for refund with respect to an income tax return of the employer, or of an officer or employee of the employer, by whom the person is regularly and continuously employed; or

(3) prepares as a trustee or other fiduciary an income tax return or claim for refund with respect to income tax for any person."

Section 3. Section 7-1-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-8. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RETURNS AND OTHER INFORMATION.--It is unlawful for any employee of the department or any former employee of the department to reveal to any individual other than another employee of the department any information contained in the return of any taxpayer made pursuant to any law subject to administration and enforcement under the provisions of the Tax Administration Act or any other information about any taxpayer acquired as a result of his employment by the department, except:

A. to an authorized representative of another state; provided that the receiving state has entered into a

written agreement with the department to use the information for tax purposes only and that the receiving state has enacted a confidentiality statute similar to this section to which the representative is subject;

B. to a representative of the secretary of the treasury or the secretary's delegate pursuant to the terms of a reciprocal agreement entered into with the federal government for exchange of the information;

C. to the multistate tax commission or its authorized representative; provided that the information is used for tax purposes only and is disclosed by the multistate tax commission only to states that have met the requirements of Subsection A of this section;

D. to a district court or an appellate court or a federal court:

(1) in response to an order thereof in an action relating to taxes to which the state is a party and in which the information sought is about a taxpayer who is party to the action and is material to the inquiry, in which case only that information may be required to be produced in court and admitted in evidence subject to court order protecting the confidentiality of the information and no more;

(2) in any action in which the department is attempting to enforce an act with which the department is

charged or to collect a tax; or

(3) in any matter in which the department is a party and the taxpayer has put his own liability for taxes at issue, in which case only that information regarding the taxpayer who is party to the action may be produced, but this shall not prevent the disclosure of department policy or interpretation of law arising from circumstances of a taxpayer who is not a party;

E. to the taxpayer or to the taxpayer's authorized representative; provided, however, that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any employee to testify in a judicial proceeding except as provided in Subsection D of this section;

F. information obtained through the administration of any law not subject to administration and enforcement under the provisions of the Tax Administration Act to the extent that release of that information is not otherwise prohibited by law;

G. in such manner, for statistical purposes, that the information revealed is not identified as applicable to any individual taxpayer;

H. with reference to any information concerning the tax on tobacco imposed by Sections 7-12-1 through 7-12-13 and Sections 7-12-15 and 7-12-17 NMSA 1978 to a committee of the legislature for a valid legislative purpose or to the

attorney general for purposes of Section 6-4-13 NMSA 1978 and the master settlement agreement defined in Section 6-4-12 NMSA 1978;

I. to a transferee, assignee, buyer or lessor of a liquor license, the amount and basis of any unpaid assessment of tax for which his transferor, assignor, seller or lessee is liable;

J. to a purchaser of a business as provided in Sections 7-1-61 through 7-1-63 NMSA 1978, the amount and basis of any unpaid assessment of tax for which the purchaser's seller is liable;

K. to a municipality of this state upon its request for any period specified by that municipality within the twelve months preceding the request for the information by that municipality:

(1) the names, taxpayer identification numbers and addresses of registered gross receipts taxpayers reporting gross receipts for that municipality under the Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act or a local option gross receipts tax imposed by that municipality. The department may also release the information described in this paragraph quarterly or upon such other periodic basis as the secretary and the municipality may agree; and

(2) information indicating whether persons shown on any list of businesses located within that

municipality furnished by the municipality have reported gross receipts to the department but have not reported gross receipts for that municipality under the Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act or a local option gross receipts tax imposed by that municipality.

The employees of municipalities receiving information as provided in this subsection shall be subject to the penalty contained in Section 7-1-76 NMSA 1978 if that information is revealed to individuals other than other employees of the municipality in question or the department;

L. to the commissioner of public lands for use in auditing that pertains to rentals, royalties, fees and other payments due the state under land sale, land lease or other land use contracts; the commissioner of public lands and employees of the commissioner are subject to the same provisions regarding confidentiality of information as employees of the department;

M. the department shall furnish, upon request by the child support enforcement division of the human services department, the last known address with date of all names certified to the department as being absent parents of children receiving public financial assistance. The child support enforcement division personnel shall use such information only for the purpose of enforcing the support liability of the absent parents and shall not use the

information or disclose it for any other purpose; the child support enforcement division and its employees are subject to the provisions of this section with respect to any information acquired from the department;

N. with respect to the tax on gasoline imposed by the Gasoline Tax Act, the department shall make available for public inspection at monthly intervals a report covering the amount and gallonage of gasoline and ethanol blended fuels imported, exported, sold and used, including tax-exempt sales to the federal government reported or upon which the gasoline tax was paid and covering taxes received from each distributor in the state of New Mexico;

O. the identity of distributors and gallonage reported on returns required under the Gasoline Tax Act, Special Fuels Supplier Tax Act or Alternative Fuel Tax Act to any distributor or supplier, but only when it is necessary to enable the department to carry out its duties under the Gasoline Tax Act, the Special Fuels Supplier Tax Act or the Alternative Fuel Tax Act;

P. the department shall release upon request only the names and addresses of all gasoline or special fuel distributors, wholesalers and retailers to the New Mexico department of agriculture, the employees of which are thereby subject to the penalty contained in Section 7-1-76 NMSA 1978 if that information is revealed to individuals

other than employees of either the New Mexico department of agriculture or the department;

Q. the department shall answer all inquiries concerning whether a person is or is not a registered taxpayer;

R. upon request of a municipality or county of this state, the department shall permit officials or employees of the municipality or county to inspect the records of the department pertaining to an increase or decrease to a distribution or transfer made pursuant to Section 7-1-6.15 NMSA 1978 for the purpose of reviewing the basis for the increase or decrease. The municipal or county officials or employees receiving information provided in this subsection shall not reveal that information to any person other than another employee of the municipality or the county, the department or a district court, an appellate court or a federal court in a proceeding relating to a disputed distribution and in which both the state and the municipality or county are parties. Any information provided pursuant to provisions of this subsection that is revealed other than as provided in this subsection shall subject the person revealing the information to the penalties contained in Section 7-1-76 NMSA 1978;

S. to a county of this state that has in effect any local option gross receipts tax imposed by the county

upon its request for any period specified by that county within the twelve months preceding the request for the information by that county:

(1) the names, taxpayer identification numbers and addresses of registered gross receipts taxpayers reporting gross receipts either for that county in the case of a local option gross receipts tax imposed on a countywide basis or only for the areas of that county outside of any incorporated municipalities within that county in the case of a county local option gross receipts tax imposed only in areas of the county outside of any incorporated municipalities. The department may also release the information described in this paragraph quarterly or upon such other periodic basis as the secretary and the county may agree;

(2) in the case of a local option gross receipts tax imposed by a county on a countywide basis, information indicating whether persons shown on any list of businesses located within the county furnished by the county have reported gross receipts to the department but have not reported gross receipts for that county under the Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act or a local option gross receipts tax imposed by that county on a countywide basis; and

(3) in the case of a local option gross

receipts tax imposed by a county only on persons engaging in business in that area of the county outside of any incorporated municipalities, information indicating whether persons shown on any list of businesses located in the area of that county outside of any incorporated municipalities within that county furnished by the county have reported gross receipts to the department but have not reported gross receipts for the area of that county outside of any incorporated municipalities within that county under the Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act or any local option gross receipts tax imposed by the county only on persons engaging in business in that area of the county outside of any incorporated municipalities.

The officers and employees of counties receiving information as provided in this subsection shall be subject to the penalty contained in Section 7-1-76 NMSA 1978 if such information is revealed to individuals other than other officers or employees of the county in question or the department;

T. to authorized representatives of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo, the territory of which is located wholly or partially within New Mexico, pursuant to the terms of a reciprocal agreement entered into with the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo for the exchange of that information for tax purposes only; provided that the Indian nation,

tribe or pueblo has enacted a confidentiality statute similar to this section;

U. information with respect to the taxes or tax acts administered pursuant to Subsection B of Section 7-1-2 NMSA 1978, except that:

(1) information for or relating to any period prior to July 1, 1985 with respect to Sections 7-25-1 through 7-25-9 and 7-26-1 through 7-26-8 NMSA 1978 may be released only to a committee of the legislature for a valid legislative purpose;

(2) except as provided in Paragraph (3) of this subsection, contracts and other agreements between the taxpayer and other parties and the proprietary information contained in such contracts and agreements shall not be released without the consent of all parties to the contract or agreement; and

(3) audit workpapers and the proprietary information contained in such workpapers shall not be released except to:

(a) the minerals management service of the United States department of the interior, if production occurred on federal land;

(b) a person having a legal interest in the property that is subject to the audit;

(c) a purchaser of products severed

from a property subject to the audit; or

(d) the authorized representative of any of the persons in Subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph. This paragraph does not prohibit the release of any proprietary information contained in the workpapers that is also available from returns or from other sources not subject to the provisions of this section;

V. information with respect to the taxes, surtaxes, advance payments or tax acts administered pursuant to Subsection C of Section 7-1-2 NMSA 1978;

W. to the public regulation commission, information with respect to the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act required to enable the commission to carry out its duties;

X. to the state racing commission, information with respect to the state, municipal and county gross receipts taxes paid by race tracks;

Y. upon request of a corporation authorized to be formed under the Educational Assistance Act, the department shall furnish the last known address and the date of that address of every person certified to the department as being an absent obligor of an educational debt that is due and owed to the corporation or that the corporation has lawfully contracted to collect. The corporation and its officers and employees shall use that information only for

the purpose of enforcing the educational debt obligation of such absent obligors and shall not disclose that information or use it for any other purpose;

Z. any decision and order made by a hearing officer pursuant to Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978 with respect to a protest filed with the secretary on or after July 1, 1993;

AA. information required by any provision of the Tax Administration Act to be made available to the public by the department;

BB. upon request by the Bernalillo county metropolitan court, the department shall furnish the last known address and the date of that address for every person certified to the department by the court as being a person who owes fines, fees or costs to the court or who has failed to appear pursuant to a court order or a promise to appear;

CC. upon request by a magistrate court, the department shall furnish the last known address and the date of that address for every person certified to the department by the court as being a person who owes fines, fees or costs to the court or who has failed to appear pursuant to a court order or a promise to appear; and

DD. to the national tax administration agencies of Mexico and Canada, provided the agency receiving the information has entered into a written agreement with the department to use the information for tax purposes only and

is subject to a confidentiality statute similar to this section.

Section 4. Section 7-1-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 17, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-12. IDENTIFICATION OF TAXPAYERS.--

A. The secretary by regulation shall establish a system for the registration and identification of taxpayers and shall require taxpayers to comply therewith.

B. The registration system shall be devised so as to facilitate the exchange of information with other states and the United States and to aid in statistical computations.

C. The secretary by regulation also shall provide for a system for the registration and identification of purchasers or lessees who, by reason of their status or the nature of their use of property or service purchased or leased, are ordinarily entitled to make nontaxable purchases or leases of some kinds of property or service and may require such purchasers or lessees to comply therewith.

D. Any document, issued by the department under authority of this section, which is required to be posted on the business premises of the taxpayer shall contain a brief reference to the requirements of Section 7-1-61 NMSA 1978."

Section 5. Section 7-1-13.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, Chapter 99, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-13.1. METHOD OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES DUE.--

A. Payment of the taxes, including any applicable penalties and interest, described in Paragraph (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection shall be made on or before the date due in accordance with Subsection B of this section if the taxpayer's average tax payment for the group of taxes during the preceding calendar year equaled or exceeded twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000):

(1) Group 1: all taxes due under the Withholding Tax Act, the Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act, local option gross receipts tax acts, the Interstate Telecommunications Gross Receipts Tax Act and the Leased Vehicle Gross Receipts Tax Act;

(2) Group 2: all taxes due under the Oil and Gas Severance Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Conservation Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Emergency School Tax Act and the Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Production Tax Act; or

(3) Group 3: the tax due under the Natural Gas Processors Tax Act.

For taxpayers who have more than one identification number issued by the department, the average tax payment shall be computed by combining the amounts paid under the several identification numbers.

B. Taxpayers who are required to make payment in accordance with the provisions of this section shall make

payment by one or more of the following means on or before the due date so that funds are immediately available to the state on or before the due date:

(1) electronic payment; provided that a result of the payment is that funds are immediately available to the state of New Mexico on or before the due date;

(2) currency of the United States;

(3) check drawn on and payable at any New Mexico financial institution provided that the check is received by the department at the place and time required by the department at least one banking day prior to the due date; or

(4) check drawn on and payable at any domestic non-New Mexico financial institution provided that the check is received by the department at the time and place required by the department at least two banking days prior to the due date.

C. If the taxes required to be paid under this section are not paid in accordance with Subsection B of this section, the payment is not timely and is subject to the provisions of Sections 7-1-67 and 7-1-69 NMSA 1978.

D. For the purposes of this section, "average tax payment" means the total amount of taxes paid with respect to a group of taxes listed under Subsection A of

this section during a calendar year divided by the number of months in that calendar year containing a due date on which the taxpayer was required to pay one or more taxes in the group."

Section 6. A new section of the Tax Administration Act, Section 7-1-13.4 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"7-1-13.4. ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS--REVERSALS.--

A. The department is authorized to accept payment by automated clearinghouse transaction, federal reserve system wire transfer and such other means of electronic payment as the department, with the concurrence of the state board of finance, may choose.

B. With respect to automated clearinghouse transactions, federal reserve system wire transfers and electronic payments by means the department has chosen, neither the department nor the fiscal agent of New Mexico shall refuse to accept the funds or to reverse the transaction when funds have been received by the fiscal agent designating the department as the payee together with sufficient information to identify the name of the taxpayer. The department or the fiscal agent of New Mexico may refuse to accept such a payment or to cause the reversal of the transaction only when the transaction is not successful in making the funds to be transferred available or in identifying the taxpayer. The department and the fiscal

agent of New Mexico may refuse to accept electronic payments tendered by means other than automated clearinghouse deposit, federal reserve system wire transfer or those other means the department has chosen.

C. When an electronic payment transaction is reversed through the taxpayer's action or a check is dishonored by the taxpayer's financial institution, neither the department nor the fiscal agent of New Mexico is obligated to resubmit the transaction or check for payment. If the reversal or dishonoring causes the final payment of taxes to be not timely, then the provisions of Sections 7-1-67 and 7-1-69 NMSA 1978 apply."

Section 7. Section 7-1-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1971, Chapter 21, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-19. LIMITATION OF ACTIONS.--No action or proceeding shall be brought to collect taxes administered under the provisions of the Tax Administration Act and due under an assessment or notice of the assessment of taxes after the later of either ten years from the date of such assessment or notice or, with respect to undischarged amounts in a bankruptcy proceeding, one year after the later of the issuance of the final order or the date of the last scheduled payment."

Section 8. Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965,

Chapter 248, Section 26, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-24. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING--PROCEDURE.--

A. Any taxpayer may dispute the assessment to the taxpayer of any amount of tax, the application to the taxpayer of any provision of the Tax Administration Act or the denial of or failure to either allow or deny a claim for refund made in accordance with Section 7-1-26 NMSA 1978 by filing with the secretary a written protest against the assessment or against the application to the taxpayer of the provision or against the denial of or the failure to allow or deny the amount claimed to have been erroneously paid as tax. Every protest shall identify the taxpayer and the tax involved and state the grounds for the taxpayer's protest and the affirmative relief requested. The statement of grounds for protest shall specify individual grounds upon which the protest is based and a summary statement of the evidence expected to be produced supporting each ground asserted, if any; provided that the taxpayer may supplement the statement at any time prior to ten days before any hearing conducted on the protest pursuant to Subsection E of this section or, if a scheduling order has been issued, in accordance with the scheduling order. The secretary may, in appropriate cases, provide for an informal conference before setting a hearing of the protest or acting on any claim for refund.

B. Any protest by a taxpayer shall be filed within thirty days of the date of the mailing to the taxpayer by the department of the notice of assessment or mailing to, or service upon, the taxpayer of other peremptory notice or demand, or the date of mailing or filing a return. Upon written request of the taxpayer made within the time permitted for filing a protest, the secretary may grant an extension of time, not to exceed sixty days, within which to file the protest. If a protest is not filed within the time required for filing a protest or, if an extension has been granted, within the extended time, the secretary may proceed to enforce collection of any tax if the taxpayer is delinquent within the meaning of Section 7-1-16 NMSA 1978. Upon written request of the taxpayer made after the time for filing a protest but not more than sixty days after the expiration of the time for filing a protest, the secretary may grant a retroactive extension of time, not to exceed sixty days, within which to file the protest; provided that the taxpayer demonstrates to the secretary's satisfaction that the taxpayer was not able to file a protest or to request an extension within the time to file the protest and that the grounds for the protest have substantial merit. The fact that the department did not mail the assessment or other peremptory notice or demand by certified or registered mail or otherwise demand and

receive acknowledgment of receipt by the taxpayer shall not be deemed to demonstrate the taxpayer's inability to protest or request an extension within the time for filing a protest within the required time. The secretary shall not grant a retroactive extension if a levy has already been served under Section

7-1-31 or 7-1-33 NMSA 1978 or a jeopardy assessment has been made under Section 7-1-59 NMSA 1978. No proceedings other than those to enforce collection of any amount assessed as tax and to protect the interest of the state by injunction, as provided in Sections 7-1-31, 7-1-33, 7-1-34, 7-1-40, 7-1-53, 7-1-56 and 7-1-58 NMSA 1978, are stayed by timely filing of a protest under this section.

C. Claims for refund shall be filed as provided for in Section 7-1-26 NMSA 1978.

D. Upon timely receipt of a protest, the department or hearing officer shall promptly set a date for hearing and on that date hear the protest or claim.

E. A hearing officer shall be designated by the secretary to conduct the hearing. Taxpayers may appear at a hearing for themselves or be represented by a bona fide employee, an attorney, a certified public accountant or a registered public accountant. Hearings shall not be open to the public except upon request of the taxpayer and may be postponed or continued at the discretion of the hearing

officer.

F. In hearings before the hearing officer, the technical rules of evidence shall not apply, but in ruling on the admissibility of evidence, the hearing officer may require reasonable substantiation of statements or records tendered, the accuracy or truth of which is in reasonable doubt.

G. In hearings before the hearing officer, the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts shall not apply, but the hearing shall be conducted so that both complaints and defenses are amply and fairly presented. To this end, the hearing officer shall hear arguments, permit discovery, entertain and dispose of motions, require written expositions of the case as the circumstances justify and render a decision in accordance with the law and the evidence presented and admitted.

H. In the case of the hearing of any protest, the hearing officer shall make and preserve a complete record of the proceedings. At the beginning of the hearing, the hearing officer shall inform the taxpayer of the taxpayer's right to representation. The hearing officer, within thirty days of the hearing, shall inform the protestant in writing of the decision, informing the protestant at the same time of the right to, and the requirements for perfection of, an appeal from the decision

to the court of appeals and of the consequences of a failure to appeal. The written decision shall embody an order granting or denying the relief requested or granting such part thereof as seems appropriate.

I. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any criminal proceedings hereunder or to authorize an administrative protest of the issuance of a subpoena or summons."

Section 9. Section 7-1-26 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 28, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-26. CLAIM FOR REFUND.--

A. Any person who believes that an amount of tax has been paid by or withheld from that person in excess of that for which the person was liable, who has been denied any credit or rebate claimed or who claims a prior right to property in the possession of the department pursuant to a levy made under authority of Sections 7-1-31 through 7-1-34 NMSA 1978 may claim a refund by directing to the secretary, within the time limited by the provisions of Subsections D, E and F of this section, a written claim for refund. Except as provided in Subsection I of this section, a refund claim shall include the taxpayer's name, address and identification number, the type of tax for which a refund is being claimed, the sum of money being claimed, the period for which overpayment was made and the basis for the refund.

B. The secretary or the secretary's delegate may allow the claim in whole or in part or may deny the claim.

(1) If the claim is denied in whole or in part in writing, no claim may be refiled with respect to that which was denied but the person, within ninety days after either the mailing or delivery of the denial of all or any part of the claim, may elect to pursue one, but not more than one, of the remedies in Subsection C of this section.

(2) If the department has neither granted nor denied any portion of a claim for refund within one hundred twenty days of the date the claim was mailed or delivered to the department, the person may refile it within the time limits set forth in Subsection C of this section or may within ninety days elect to pursue one, but only one, of the remedies in Subsection C of this section. After the expiration of the two hundred ten days from the date the claim was mailed or delivered to the department, the department may not approve or disapprove the claim unless the person has pursued one of the remedies under Subsection C of this section.

C. A person may elect to pursue one, but only one, of the remedies in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection. In any case, if a person does timely pursue more than one remedy, the person shall be deemed to have elected the first remedy invoked. The remedies are as

follows:

(1) the person may direct to the secretary a written protest against the denial of, or failure to either allow or deny the claim or portion thereof, which shall be set for hearing by a hearing officer designated by the secretary promptly after the receipt of the protest in accordance with the provisions of Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978, and pursue the remedies of appeal from decisions adverse to the protestant as provided in Section 7-1-25 NMSA 1978; or

(2) the person may commence a civil action in the district court for Santa Fe county by filing a complaint setting forth the circumstance of the claimed overpayment, alleging that on account thereof the state is indebted to the plaintiff in the amount stated, together with any interest allowable, demanding the refund to the plaintiff of that amount and reciting the facts of the claim for refund. The plaintiff or the secretary may appeal from any final decision or order of the district court to the court of appeals.

D. Except as otherwise provided in Subsections E and F of this section, no credit or refund of any amount may be allowed or made to any person unless as the result of a claim made by that person as provided in this section:

(1) within three years of the end of the calendar year in which:

(a) the payment was originally due or the overpayment resulted from an assessment by the department pursuant to Section 7-1-17 NMSA 1978, whichever is later;

(b) the final determination of value occurs with respect to any overpayment that resulted from a disapproval by any agency of the United States or the state of New Mexico or any court of increase in value of a product subject to taxation under the Oil and Gas Severance Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Conservation Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Emergency School Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Production Tax Act or the Natural Gas Processors Tax Act; or

(c) property was levied upon pursuant to the provisions of the Tax Administration Act;

(2) within one year of the date:

(a) of the denial of the claim for credit under the provisions of the Investment Credit Act or Capital Equipment Tax Credit Act or for the rural job tax credit pursuant to Sections 7-2E-1 and 7-2E-2 NMSA 1978;

(b) an assessment of tax is made;

(c) a proceeding begun in court by the department with respect to any period that is covered by a waiver signed on or after July 1, 1993 by the taxpayer pursuant to Subsection F of Section 7-1-18 NMSA 1978; or

(d) payment of tax was made if the

payment was not made within three years of the end of the calendar year in which the original due date of the tax or date of the assessment of the department occurred; or

(3) for assessments made on or after July 1, 1993, within one year of the date of an assessment of tax made under Subsection B, C or D of Section 7-1-18 NMSA 1978 when the assessment applies to a period ending at least three years prior to the beginning of the year in which the assessment was made, but the claim for refund shall not be made with respect to any period not covered by the assessment.

E. No credit or refund shall be allowed or made to any person claiming a refund of gasoline tax under Section 7-13-11 NMSA 1978 unless notice of the destruction of the gasoline was given the department within thirty days of the actual destruction and the claim for refund is made within six months of the date of destruction. No credit or refund shall be allowed or made to any person claiming a refund of gasoline tax under Section 7-13-17 NMSA 1978 unless the refund is claimed within six months of the date of purchase of the gasoline and the gasoline has been used at the time the claim for refund is made.

F. If, as a result of an audit by the internal revenue service or the filing of an amended federal return

changing a prior election or making any other change for which federal approval is required by the Internal Revenue Code, any adjustment of federal tax is made with the result that there would have been an overpayment of tax if the adjustment to federal tax had been applied to the taxable period to which it relates, claim for credit or refund of only that amount based on the adjustment may be made as provided in this section within one year of the date of the internal revenue service audit adjustment or payment of the federal refund or within the period limited by Subsection D of this section, whichever expires later. Interest computed at the rate specified in Subsection B of Section 7-1-68 NMSA 1978 shall be allowed on any such claim for refund from the date one hundred twenty days after the claim is made until the date the final decision to grant the credit or refund is made.

G. Any refund of tax paid under any tax or tax act administered under Subsection B of Section 7-1-2 NMSA 1978 may be made, at the discretion of the department, in the form of credit against future tax payments if future tax liabilities in an amount at least equal to the credit amount reasonably may be expected to become due.

H. For the purposes of this section, the term "oil and gas tax return" means a return reporting tax due with respect to oil, natural gas, liquid hydrocarbons or

carbon dioxide pursuant to the Oil and Gas Severance Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Conservation Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Emergency School Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Production Tax Act, the Natural Gas Processors Tax Act or the Oil and Gas Production Equipment Ad Valorem Tax Act.

I. The filing of a fully completed original income tax return, corporate income tax return, corporate income and franchise tax return, estate tax return or special fuel excise tax return that shows a balance due the taxpayer or a fully completed amended income tax return, an amended corporate income tax return, an amended corporate income and franchise tax return, an amended estate tax return, an amended special fuel excise tax return or an amended oil and gas tax return that shows a lesser tax liability than the original return constitutes the filing of a claim for refund for the difference in tax due shown on the original and amended returns."

Section 10. Section 7-1-28 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 30, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-28. AUTHORITY FOR ABATEMENTS OF ASSESSMENTS OF TAX.--

A. In response to a written protest against an assessment, submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978, but before any court acquires jurisdiction of the matter, or when a "notice of assessment

of taxes" is found to be incorrect, the secretary or the secretary's delegate, with the prior written approval of the attorney general, may abate any part of an assessment determined by the secretary or the secretary's delegate to have been incorrectly, erroneously or illegally made, except that:

(1) abatements with respect to the Oil and Gas Severance Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Conservation Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Emergency School Tax Act, the Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Production Tax Act, the Natural Gas Processors Tax Act or the Oil and Gas Production Equipment Ad Valorem Tax Act, abatements of gasoline tax made under Section 7-13-17 NMSA 1978 and abatements of cigarette tax made under the Cigarette Tax Act may be made without the prior approval of the attorney general regardless of the amount;

(2) abatements with respect to the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act amounting to less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) may be made without prior approval of the attorney general; and

(3) abatements amounting to less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) may be made without the prior written approval of the attorney general.

B. Pursuant to the final order of the district court for Santa Fe county, the court of appeals, the supreme court of New Mexico or any federal court, from which order,

appeal or review is not successfully taken by the department, adjudging that any person is not required to pay any portion of tax assessed to that person, the secretary or the secretary's delegate shall cause that amount of the assessment to be abated.

C. Pursuant to a compromise of taxes agreed to by the secretary and according to the terms of the closing agreement formalizing the compromise, the secretary or the secretary's delegate shall cause the abatement of the appropriate amount of any assessment of tax.

D. The secretary or the secretary's delegate shall cause the abatement of the amount of an assessment of tax that is equal to the amount of fee paid to or retained by an out-of-state attorney or collection agency from a judgment or the amount collected by the attorney or collection agency pursuant to Section 7-1-58 NMSA 1978.

E. Records of abatements made in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall be available for inspection by the public. The department shall keep such records for a minimum of three years from the date of the abatement."

Section 11. Section 7-1-67 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 68, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-67. INTEREST ON DEFICIENCIES.--

A. If any tax imposed is not paid on or before the day on which it becomes due, interest shall be paid to

the state on such amount from the first day following the day on which the tax becomes due, without regard to any extension of time or installment agreement, until it is paid, except that:

(1) for any income tax imposed on a member of the armed services of the United States serving in a combat zone under orders of the president of the United States, interest shall accrue only for the period beginning the day after any applicable extended due date if the tax is not paid;

(2) if the amount of interest due at the time payment is made is less than one dollar (\$1.00), then no interest shall be due; and

(3) if demand is made for payment of any tax, including accrued interest, and if such tax is paid within ten days after the date of such demand, no interest on the amount so paid shall be imposed for the period after the date of the demand.

B. Interest due to the state under Subsection A or D of this section shall be at the rate of fifteen percent a year, computed on a daily basis; provided that if a different rate is specified by a compact or other interstate agreement to which New Mexico is a party, that rate shall be applied to amounts due under the compact or other agreement.

C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose interest on interest or interest on the amount of any penalty.

D. If any tax required to be paid in accordance with Section 7-1-13.1 NMSA 1978 is not paid in the manner required by that section, interest shall be paid to the state on the amount required to be paid in accordance with Section 7-1-13.1 NMSA 1978. If interest is due under this subsection and is also due under Subsection A of this section, interest shall be due and collected only pursuant to Subsection A of this section."

Section 12. Section 7-1-68 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 69, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-68. INTEREST ON OVERPAYMENTS.--

A. As provided in this section, interest shall be allowed and paid on the amount of tax overpaid by a person that is subsequently refunded or credited to that person.

B. Interest payable on overpayments of tax shall be paid at the rate of fifteen percent a year, computed on a daily basis; provided that if a different rate is specified by a compact or other interstate agreement to which New Mexico is a party, that rate shall be applied to amounts due under the compact or other agreement.

C. Unless otherwise provided by this section,

interest on an overpayment not arising from an assessment by the department shall be paid from the date the claim for refund was made until a date preceding by not more than thirty days the date on which the amount thereof is credited or refunded to any person; interest on an overpayment arising from an assessment by the department shall be paid from the date overpayment was made until a date preceding by not more than thirty days the date on which the amount thereof is credited or refunded to any person.

D. No interest shall be allowed or paid with respect to an amount credited or refunded if:

(1) the amount of interest due is less than one dollar (\$1.00);

(2) the credit or refund is made within seventy-five days of the date of the claim for refund of income tax, pursuant to either the Income Tax Act or the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act, for the tax year immediately preceding the tax year in which the claim is made;

(3) the credit or refund is made within one hundred twenty days of the date of the claim for refund of income tax, pursuant to the Income Tax Act or the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act, for any tax year more than one year prior to the year in which the claim is made;

(4) Sections 6611(f) and 6611(g) of the

Internal Revenue Code, as those sections may be amended or renumbered, prohibit payment of interest for federal income tax purposes;

(5) the credit or refund is made within sixty days of the date of the claim for refund of any tax other than income tax; or

(6) gasoline tax is refunded or credited under the Gasoline Tax Act to users of gasoline off the highways.

E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the payment of interest upon interest."

Section 13. Section 7-1-69 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 70, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-69. CIVIL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PAY TAX OR FILE A RETURN.--

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, in the case of failure due to negligence or disregard of rules and regulations, but without intent to evade or defeat any tax, to pay when due any amount of tax required to be paid, to pay in accordance with the provisions of Section 7-1-13.1 NMSA 1978 when required to do so or to file by the date required a return regardless of whether any tax is due, there shall be added to the amount as penalty the greater of:

(1) two percent per month or any fraction

of a month from the date the tax was due multiplied by the amount of tax due but not paid, not to exceed ten percent of the tax due but not paid;

(2) two percent per month or any fraction of a month from the date the return was required to be filed multiplied by the tax liability established in the late return, not to exceed ten percent of the tax liability established in the late return; or

(3) a minimum of five dollars (\$5.00), but the five-dollar (\$5.00) minimum penalty shall not apply to taxes levied under the Income Tax Act or taxes administered by the department pursuant to Subsection B of Section 7-1-2 NMSA 1978.

B. If a different penalty is specified in a compact or other interstate agreement to which New Mexico is a party, the penalty provided in the compact or other interstate agreement shall be applied to amounts due under the compact or other interstate agreement at the rate and in the manner prescribed by the compact or other interstate agreement.

C. In the case of failure, with willful intent to evade or defeat any tax, to pay when due any amount of tax required to be paid, there shall be added to the amount fifty percent of the tax or a minimum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), whichever is greater, as penalty.

D. If demand is made for payment of any tax, including penalty imposed pursuant to this section, and if such tax is paid within ten days after the date of such demand, no penalty shall be imposed for the period after the date of the demand with respect to the amount paid.

E. If a taxpayer makes electronic payment of any tax but the payment does not include all of the information required by the department pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-1-13.1 NMSA 1978 and if the department does not receive the required information within five business days from the later of the date a request by the department for that information is received by the taxpayer or the due date, the taxpayer shall be subject to a penalty of two percent per month or any fraction of a month from the fifth day following the date the request is received. If a penalty is imposed under Subsection A of this section with respect to the same transaction for the same period, no penalty shall be imposed under this subsection."

Section 14. TEMPORARY PROVISION--PAYMENT OF CLAIMS FOR REFUND.--Any claim for refund paid in the period July 1, 1997 through June 30, 2000 by the department pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-1-26 NMSA 1978 that complied with all provisions of the Tax Administration Act except for the one-hundred-twenty-day restriction in Subsection B of that section is hereby approved.

Section 15. APPLICABILITY.--

A. The rate of interest applicable under Sections 7-1-67 and 7-1-68 NMSA 1978 for periods ending on or prior to January 1, 2001 shall be the rate in effect under the provisions of those sections immediately prior to January 1, 2001. For periods beginning on or after January 1, 2001 or beginning prior to that date but ending after January 1, 2001, the applicable rate shall be the rate provided in Sections 11 and 12 of this act.

B. The provisions of Section 8 of this act apply to protests filed on or after July 1, 2000.

Section 16. EFFECTIVE DATES.--

A. The effective date of the provisions of Sections 1 through 10 and 13 of this act is July 1, 2000.

B. The effective date of the provisions of Sections 11 and 12 of this act is January 1, 2001.=====