

AN ACT  
RELATING TO TAXATION; AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TAX  
ADMINISTRATION ACT REGARDING DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS, CLAIMS FOR  
REFUND AND INTEREST ON OVERPAYMENTS.

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

Section 1. Section 7-1-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965,  
Chapter 248, Section 19, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-16. DELINQUENT TAXPAYER. --

A. Except as provided in Subsection D of this section, any taxpayer to whom taxes have been assessed as provided in Section 7-1-17 NMSA 1978 or upon whom demand for payment has been made as provided in Section 7-1-63 NMSA 1978 who does not within thirty days after the date of assessment or demand for payment make payment, protest the assessment or demand for payment as provided by Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978 or furnish security for payment as provided by Section 7-1-54 NMSA 1978 becomes a delinquent taxpayer and remains such until:

(1) payment of the total amount of all such taxes is made;

(2) a retroactive extension of time to file a protest is granted pursuant to Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978; provided, however, that the taxpayer again becomes a delinquent taxpayer if the assessment is not abated and the

taxpayer does not pay, protest or furnish security within the time allowed by the retroactive extension of time;

(3) security is furnished for payment; or

(4) no part of the assessment remains unabated.

B. Any taxpayer who fails to provide security as required by Subsection D of Section 7-1-54 NMSA 1978 shall be deemed to be a delinquent taxpayer.

C. If a taxpayer files a protest as provided in Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978, the taxpayer nevertheless becomes a delinquent taxpayer upon failure of the taxpayer to appear, in person or by authorized representative, at the hearing set or upon failure to perfect an appeal from any decision or part thereof adverse to the taxpayer to the next higher appellate level, as provided in that section, unless the taxpayer makes payment of the total amount of all taxes assessed and remaining unabated or furnishes security for payment.

D. If a taxpayer files for an extension of time to file a protest as provided in Section 7-1-24 NMSA 1978 within thirty days after the date of the assessment or demand for payment, the taxpayer does not become a delinquent taxpayer unless the assessment is not abated and the taxpayer does not pay, protest or furnish security within the time allowed by the extension of time."

Section 2. 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 C, D and E of this section, a written claim for refund. Except as provided in Subsection H 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. If the claim is denied in whole or in part in writing, the claim may not be refiled. If the claim is not granted in full, 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 Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection. 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 department may not approve or deny the claim but 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 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, 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.

C. Except as otherwise provided in Subsections D and E 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, the payment was made 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 Filmmaker's Credit Act;

(b) an assessment of tax is made; or

(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

(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.

D. 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 7-13-14 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.

E. 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 C 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.

F. 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.

G. 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.

H. 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 3. Section 7-1-27 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 248, Section 29, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-1-27. CONCLUSIVENESS OF COURT ORDER ON LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT OF TAX. -- Whenever the jurisdiction of the



district court of Santa Fe county or the court of appeals is invoked according to the provisions of Section 7-1-25, 7-1-26 or 7-1-59 NMSA 1978, or whenever the jurisdiction of any federal court is invoked or whenever the jurisdiction of any district court of this state is invoked according to the provisions of Section 7-1-58 NMSA 1978, a final decision of that court or of any higher court which reviews the matter and from which decision no appeal or review is successfully taken is conclusive as regards the liability or nonliability of any person for payment of any tax. "

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999. \_\_\_\_\_