

2021 -- H 5213

LC000624

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION -- STATE TAX OFFICIALS

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Caldwell, Noret, O'Brien, Serpa, Hawkins, and S Lima

Date Introduced: January 27, 2021

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44-1-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-1 entitled "State Tax
2 Officials" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **44-1-7. Interest on delinquent payments.**

4 (a) Whenever the full amount of any state tax or any portion or deficiency, as finally
5 determined by the tax administrator, has not been paid on the date when it is due and payable,
6 whether the time has been extended or not, there shall be added as part of the tax or portion or
7 deficiency interest at the rate as determined in accordance with subsection (b) of this section,
8 notwithstanding any general or specific statute to the contrary. Interest to be assessed under this
9 section shall be limited to not more than four (4) calendar years prior to the earliest date the
10 administrator provides, mails or serves a tax notice, notice of deficiency, or deficiency
11 determination to the taxpayer.

12 (b) Each January 1 the tax administrator shall compute the rate of interest to be in effect
13 for that calendar year by adding ~~two percent (2%)~~ six percent (6%) to the prime rate, which was in
14 effect on ~~October~~ December 1 of the preceding year. In no event shall the rate of interest exceed
15 ~~twenty one percent (21%) per annum nor be less than~~ eighteen percent (18%) per annum.

16 (c) "Prime rate" as used in subsection (b) of this section means the predominant prime rate
17 quoted by commercial banks to large businesses as determined by the board of governors of the
18 Federal Reserve System.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would change the rate of interest for underpayments of tax to prime rate plus six
2 percent (6%). It would also limit the assessment of interest to four (4) calendar years prior to the
3 date on which notice of the delinquent payment is sent.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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