

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 525 (SB 237)

2018 Regular Session

Morrell

New law requires that any return, report, claim for refund or other claim prepared by a paid preparer be signed by the preparer and bear his preparer tax identification number, federal employer identification number, or Department of Revenue (DOR) account number.

Failure to sign the return, report, claim for refund, or other claim or provide one of the identification numbers required under new law subjects the preparer to a penalty of \$50 for each failure to sign and for each failure to provide one of the required identification numbers unless the failure is due to reasonable cause. Provides that this penalty not exceed \$25,000 during any calendar year and that the penalty is an obligation to be assessed, collected, and enforced against the paid preparer in the same manner as if it were a tax due.

New law applies to any return, report, claim for refund, or other claim prepared by a paid preparer as follows:

- (1) For income taxes, all taxable periods ending on or after June 30, 2018, and filed on or after January 1, 2019.
- (2) For corporation franchise tax, all taxable periods ending on or after June 30, 2018, and filed on or after June 30, 2019.
- (3) For taxes other than income and corporation franchise taxes, all taxable periods beginning on or after July 1, 2018.
- (4) For any return, report, claim, or other filing not included in items (1) through (3) above, all filed on or after July 1, 2018.

New law defines a "paid preparer" as any of the following:

- (1) Any person who prepares, for compensation, any return, report, claim for refund or other claim that is filed with the secretary of the DOR.
- (2) Any person who owns or operates a business, the primary activity of which is the preparation for compensation of any return, report, claim for refund, or other claim that is filed with the DOR, and employs one or more persons in such business.
- (3) Any person who prepares a substantial portion of a return, report, claim for refund, or other claim that is filed with DOR and does not sign as the preparer, but rather has the taxpayer sign as if the return, report, claim for refund, or other claim were self-prepared.

New law excludes from the definition of "paid preparer" any employee who prepares a return, report, claim for refund, or other claim for the employer by whom he is regularly and continuously employed or an attorney or other tax advisor whose association with a return, report, claim for refund, or other claim is limited to rendering advice and is not otherwise involved in preparing the return, report, claim for refund, or other claim for which the advice was rendered.

Effective July 1, 2018.

(Adds R.S. 47:1679)