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## DIGEST

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HB 561 Reengrossed

2020 Regular Session

Dwight

**Abstract:** Provides for the administration, enforcement, and adjudication of state and local taxes and for the jurisdiction of the Board of Tax Appeals.

Present law requires a local collector to furnish or make available the necessary forms for filing returns and instructions to ensure full tax collection from dealers and an accounting for the taxes due. Failure of any dealer to secure these forms shall not relieve the dealer from the payment of the tax at the time in the manner provided in present law.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that in the event of a presidential or gubernatorial declared disaster or emergency covering a local collector's jurisdiction, a local collector may elect to extend filing or payment deadlines until the extended date for the same period specified for state sales and use taxes for the same period. Proposed law prohibits interest and penalties from accruing on the tax during the period of the extension provided the return and payment are received by the extended due date.

Proposed law requires any decision to adopt an extension of the filing or payment deadline to be provided to the La. Uniform Local Sales Tax Board for publication on its website.

Present law authorizes the collector to take a rule on a taxpayer to show cause in not less than two nor more than 10 days, exclusive of holidays, why the taxpayer should not be ordered to cease from further business pursuits for failure to pay to the taxing authority sales and use tax amounts collected from others along with any interest, penalty, and costs related to the tax. Present law authorizes the Board of Tax Appeals (BTA) or a court to render a money judgment against the taxpayer in favor of the collector in the amount of any final and nonappealable assessment, together with all penalties, interest, attorney fees and costs.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law limits the rule to amounts due as a result of assessments or judgments which have become final and nonappealable.

Proposed law retains present law but extends authority for the rule to also apply to amounts shown to have been actually collected from others and not remitted to the collector.

Proposed law provides that neither the collector's consent to a continuance request nor the collector's failure to object to the date that any court or the BTA sets for the hearing date of a rule brought

pursuant to present law shall be considered a waiver of the collector's right to proceed nor be deemed to convert a summary proceeding into an ordinary proceeding.

Present law authorizes a collector to remit or waive payment of a specific penalty due, if the taxpayer's failure to timely file a return or the filing of a return without remittance of the full amount of tax due is attributable to a cause, other than the negligence of the taxpayer, that is submitted in writing and considered reasonable by the collector.

Proposed law retains present law but extends eligibility for the waiver of penalties if the taxpayer establishes that the failure to file a return during a presidential or gubernatorial declared disaster or emergency was due to the inaccessibility of funds to pay the tax, the unavailability of records or personnel necessary to prepare and file the return, or other related good cause stemming from the extension of related state sales and use tax filing deadlines.

Present law authorizes the establishment of the BTA, as an independent agency in the Dept. of State Civil Service, to hear and decide, at a minimum of expense to the taxpayer, questions of law and fact arising from disputes or controversies between a taxpayer and any state collector in the enforcement of any tax, excise, license, permit or any other tax, fee, penalty, receipt or other law administered by a collector, and to exercise other jurisdiction as provided by law.

Proposed law retains present law but extends jurisdiction of the BTA to controversies between a taxpayer and political subdivisions of the state and removes references to the BTA being an independent agency within the Dept. of State Civil Service.

Present law extends the jurisdiction of the BTA to all matters relating to appeals for the redetermination of assessments, the determination of overpayments, or payment under protest petitions. Additionally extends jurisdiction of the BTA to all matters related to state or local taxes or fees, or other jurisdiction provided by present law, including rules to seek uniformity of interpretation of common sales and use tax law or local sales and use tax law and petitions concerning the validity of a collector's rules, regulations, or private letter rulings.

Proposed law retains present law but specifically extends jurisdiction of the BTA to rules to cease business, ordinary collection suits, summary tax proceedings and other matters in accordance with present law.

Present law establishes a procedure for a taxpayer to appeal to the BTA including the filing of a payment under protest petition. Present law prohibits an aggrieved party from petitioning the BTA to declare a law unconstitutional on the basis of its failure to meet the constitutional requirements for the passage of laws by the legislature.

Proposed law retains present law but authorizes any collector, taxpayer, or other aggrieved party to file a petition or pleading with the BTA for any matter within the jurisdiction of the BTA. Further authorizes the La. Uniform Local Sales Tax Board to file an action for uniformity in the same manner as a local collector.

Present law authorizes any party to file a motion for the review of a decision of the BTA by the appropriate appellate court within 30 days of the signing of a decision or judgment by the BTA.

Proposed law retains present law but specifies that the 30-day period for appealing a decision of the BTA begins from the mailing of the notice of the judgment. Further provides that the date of actual receipt of a hand-delivered notice shall be deemed the date of mailing in the event the notice of judgment is hand delivered in lieu of mailing.

(Amends R.S. 47:337.33(A)(1) and (5), 337.71, 1401, 1407(1) and (3), 1408(D)(1), and 1434(A); Adds R.S. 47:337.22(E), 337.33(E) and 1431(E))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Ways and Means to the original bill:

1. Authorize a collector to extend filing or payment deadlines for the payment of local taxes until the extended date for the payment of state sales and use taxes in the event of a presidential or gubernatorial declared disaster or emergency covering a local collector's jurisdiction.
2. Prohibit interest and penalties from accruing on the tax during the period of the extension provided the return and payment are received by the extended due date.
3. Require decisions adopting an extension of the filing or payment deadline to be published on the La. Uniform Local Sales Tax Board's website.
4. Extend eligibility for the waiver of penalties if the taxpayer establishes that the failure to file a return during a presidential or gubernatorial declared disaster or emergency was due to the inaccessibility of funds to pay the tax, the unavailability of records or personnel to prepare and file the return, or confusion over the extension of related state sales and use tax filing deadlines.
5. Authorize the La. Uniform Local Sales Tax Board to file an action for uniformity in the same manner as a local collector.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Change eligibility for the waiver of penalties for a taxpayer failing to file a return during a declared disaster or emergency from confusion stemming from the extension of related state sales and use tax filing deadlines to other related good cause stemming from the extension of related state sales and use tax filing deadlines.