

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 251 (Delegate Afzali, *et al.*)
 Ways and Means

Corporate Income Tax - Rate Reduction

This bill reduces the corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 6.00%.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015, and applies to tax year 2015 and beyond.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues decrease by \$286.8 million in FY 2016 as a result of reducing the corporate income tax rate. Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues decrease by \$61.3 million, of which \$55.4 million goes to the State, and Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF) revenues decrease by \$22.2 million in FY 2016. Future year revenue losses reflect the current revenue forecast. General fund expenditures increase by \$38,750 in FY 2016 at the Comptroller’s Office for notifying corporate income tax filers of the rate reduction.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
GF Revenue	(\$286.8)	(\$244.7)	(\$253.9)	(\$257.3)	(\$269.2)
SF Revenue	(\$83.5)	(\$63.5)	(\$65.8)	(\$66.7)	(\$69.8)
GF Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$370.3)	(\$308.1)	(\$319.7)	(\$324.0)	(\$339.1)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Local highway user revenues decrease by \$5.9 million in FY 2016 and by \$4.8 million in FY 2020. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. While many small businesses are pass-through entities or corporations with no corporate income tax liability, small businesses that have a corporate income tax liability will benefit.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: A corporate income tax rate of 8.25% is applied to a corporation's Maryland taxable income. In general, the Maryland corporate income tax is computed using federal provisions to determine income and deductions.

Every Maryland corporation and every corporation that conducts business within Maryland, including public service companies and financial institutions, are required to pay the corporate income tax. The tax base is the portion of federal taxable income, as determined for federal income tax purposes and adjusted for certain Maryland addition and subtraction modifications, that is allocable to Maryland. Federal taxable income for this purpose is the difference between total federal income and total federal deductions (including any special deductions). The next step is to calculate a corporation's Maryland taxable income. The Maryland taxable income of a corporation that operates wholly within the State is equal to its Maryland modified income. Corporations engaged in multistate operations are required to determine the portion of their modified income attributable to Maryland, based on the amount of their trade or business carried out in Maryland. Corporations are generally required to use either a three-factor apportionment formula of payroll, property, and sales, with sales double weighted or, in the case of a manufacturing corporation, a single sales factor formula. The apportionment factor is then multiplied by the corporation's modified income to determine Maryland taxable income. The Maryland tax liability of a corporation equals the Maryland taxable income multiplied by the tax rate, less any tax credits.

Chapter 3 of the 2007 special session increased the corporate income tax rate from 7.00% to 8.25%. Chapter 3 also created HEIF and distributed a portion of corporate income tax revenues to that fund. Net corporate income tax revenues are projected to total \$1.1 billion in fiscal 2016. Of this amount, \$822.1 million is general fund revenues, \$175.6 million is TTF revenues, and \$63.7 million is HEIF revenues. **Exhibit 1** shows the distribution of corporate income tax revenues for fiscal 2016 through 2020.

Exhibit 1
Corporate Income Tax Revenue Distribution
Fiscal 2016-2020

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
GF Share	77.45%	79.41%	79.41%	79.41%	79.41%
HEIF Share	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
TTF Share	16.55%	14.59%	14.59%	14.59%	14.59%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Exhibit 2 shows the corporate income tax rates in Maryland and the surrounding states, including the District of Columbia.

Exhibit 2
Corporate Income Tax Rates
in Maryland and Surrounding States
Tax Year 2014

Delaware	8.7%
District of Columbia	9.975%
Maryland	8.25%
Pennsylvania	9.99%
Virginia	6.0%
West Virginia	6.5%

Source: Federation of Tax Administrators

The Department of Legislative Services issued a [report](#) in October 2013 that estimates the economic impacts of reducing the corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 7.25%.

State Revenues: The bill reduces the corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 6.00% beginning in tax year 2015. Fiscal 2016 revenues will decrease by most of the decrease attributable to tax year 2015 and a little less than 30% of the tax year 2016 decrease. As a result, general fund revenues decrease by \$286.8 million in fiscal 2016. TTF revenues decrease by \$61.3 million, of which \$55.4 million goes to the State, and HEIF revenues decrease by \$22.2 million in fiscal 2016. **Exhibit 3** shows the impact of the bill in fiscal 2016 through 2020.

**Exhibit 3
Fiscal Impact
Fiscal 2016-2020
(\$ in Millions)**

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
General Fund	(\$286.8)	(\$244.7)	(\$253.9)	(\$257.3)	(\$269.2)
HEIF	(22.2)	(18.5)	(19.2)	(19.4)	(20.3)
TTF	(61.3)	(45.0)	(46.7)	(47.3)	(49.5)
<i>State</i>	(55.4)	(40.7)	(42.2)	(42.8)	(44.7)
<i>Local</i>	(5.9)	(4.3)	(4.5)	(4.5)	(4.8)
Total	(\$370.3)	(\$308.1)	(\$319.7)	(\$324.0)	(\$339.1)

This estimate is based on the current Board of Revenue Estimates corporate income tax forecast, adjusted for the estimated correlation between tax year and fiscal year revenues. To the extent that corporations adjust estimated payments before July 1, 2015, some revenue loss would occur in fiscal 2015.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures from printing and postage increase by \$38,750 for notifying approximately 62,000 corporate income tax filers of the rate reduction. Processing changes to the Comptroller’s tax system can be handled with existing resources.

Local Revenues: Local governments receive a portion of corporate income tax revenues (9.6% of TTF revenues) to support the construction and maintenance of local roads and other transportation facilities. Under this bill, local highway user revenues decrease by \$5.9 million in fiscal 2016 and by \$4.8 million in fiscal 2020, as shown in Exhibit 3.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 170 of 2014 and HB 261 of 2013 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken. The cross file of HB 170, SB 384, received an unfavorable report by the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. The cross file of HB 261, SB 34, received a hearing in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 855 of 2011 was withdrawn prior to receiving a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office, Maryland Department of Transportation,
Federation of Tax Administrators, Department of Legislative Services

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