

Rhode Island Department of Revenue Division of Taxation

Presentation to RISCPA National Tax Conference

January 16, 2025

Neena Savage Tax Administrator Rhode Island Division of Taxation

Agenda

- About Us: Division of Taxation
- CY 2024 Accomplishments
- Changes in Filing & Payment Requirements
- Changes to the Portal
- Changes to Improve the Taxpayer Experience
- Coming Soon
- Questions
- Closing Remarks

About Us

The Division of Taxation: One of six agencies in the Department of Revenue

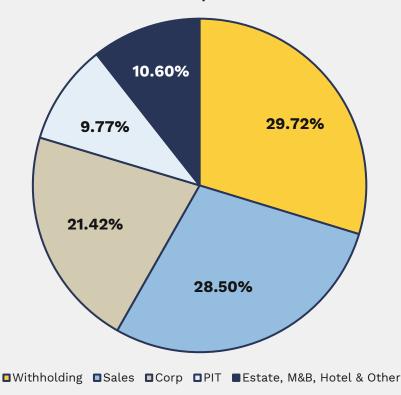
- The Rhode Island Division of Taxation employs **228 tax professionals**, administering more than **59 different taxes and fees**.
- Taxes represent **the most significant source of General Fund revenue** for Rhode Island funds used to help pay for vital services including public safety, education, transportation, and recreation for all Rhode Islanders.
- Each year, the Division **collects and distributes more than \$5.14 billion** in funds to the State, municipalities, and other agencies (as of FY 24).

Our Mission

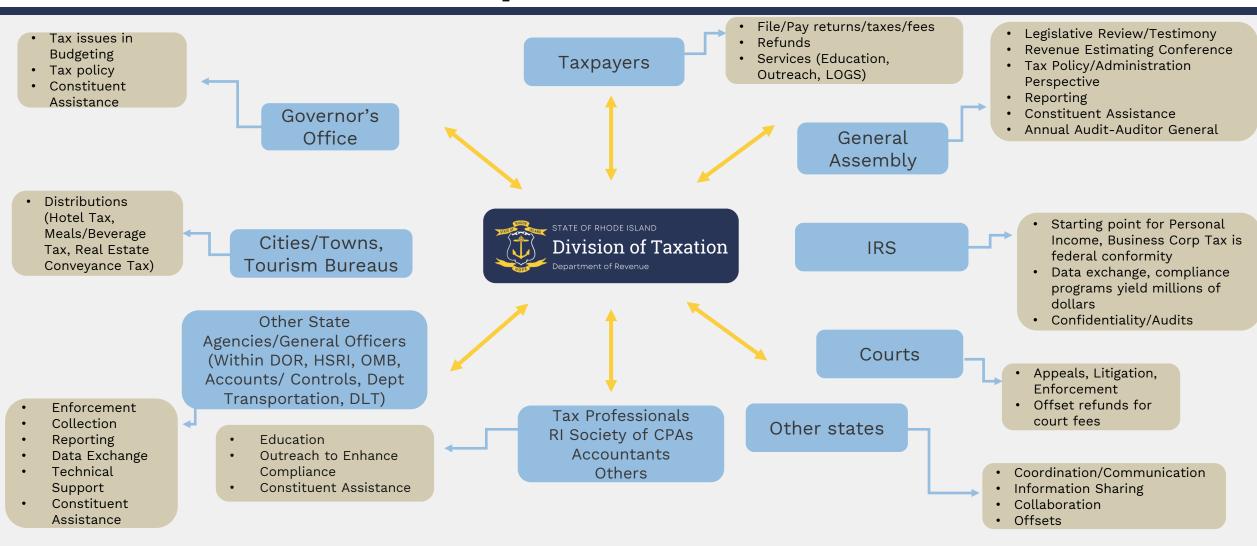
- To foster voluntary compliance with the Rhode Island tax laws and instill public confidence through professional, impartial and ethical conduct.
- To administer and collect all taxes as required by Rhode Island law in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.
- To assist taxpayers by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities.

Total State Tax Revenue Collected by the Division of Taxation for Fiscal Year 2024 (\$, In Millions)

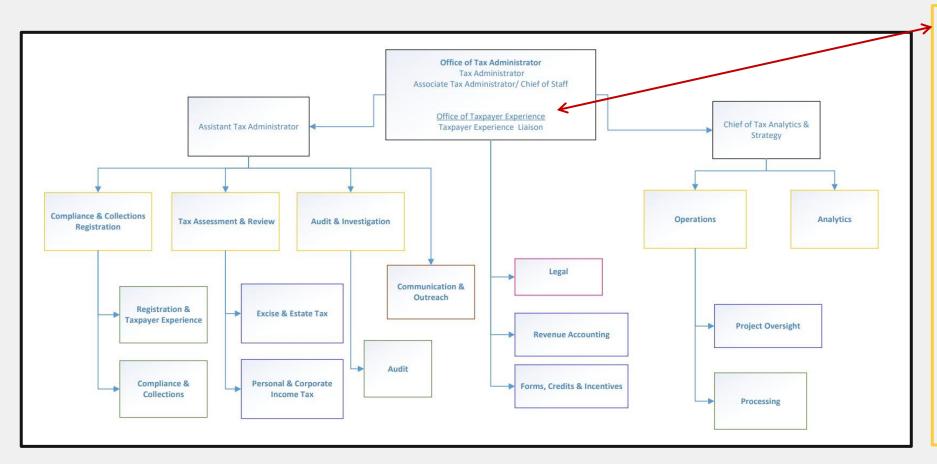
FY24 Receipts: \$5.14B



About Us: Key Stakeholders/Interactions



Taxpayer Experience Office/Team

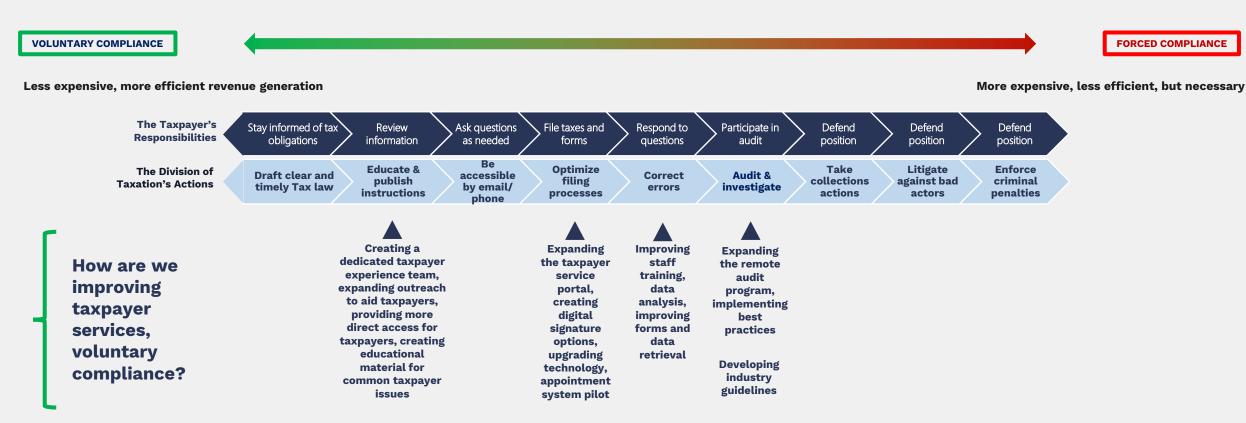


Taxpayer Experience Office Team

- Tax Administrator
- Asst Tax Administrator
- External Facing: Taxpayer Experience Liaison
- Internal Taxpayer
 Experience Team
 (With Initial Focus on Collections/Compliance)
- Continue Improvements
 Across Agency at all
 Taxpayer Contact Points

Division of Taxation: Mission

The Tax Administration Efficiency Continuum



Taxpayer Experience Office/Team



FY 2024

Snapshot



498,103 REFUNDS

We issued 498,103 refunds totaling \$427.04

an average of \$857.33 per personal income tax refund.

Across all tax types, we issued 506,459 refunds totaling \$513.06 million

Compared to FY 2023's 506,721 personal income tax refunds, and 514,482 refunds across all tax types that resulted in \$506.03 million refunded

\$5.14 billion

We collected \$5.14 billion in revenue (through electronic payments and checks) for the year ending June 30, 2024. This represents a decrease of \$67 million over FY 2023.

Please note: Decrease due to tax due date extension.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 STATISTICS

Message from the Division of Taxation

At the RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF TAXATION, our mission involves assessing and collecting taxes, as well as fostering voluntary compliance.

We gather funds that the State of Rhode Island needs to help keep roads clear, schools in session, and courts in operation. It doesn't happen automatically; it is done by a team of dedicated State employees.

These are some examples of what our team accomplished in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024.



3.47 million tax documents processed

We processed more than 3.47 million tax returns, payments, and related documents for the year ending June 30, 2024; an increase of more than 70,000 over FY 2023.

TAXPAYER SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ 12,434 Walk-ins (other agency walk-ins not included)
- ▶ 95,229 Email communications
 - Personal Income Tax emails answered on average within 2 business days or fewer
- ▶ 209,097 Phone calls answered
 - FY 2024 Personal Income Tax calls: Average wait was under 3 min
 - FY 2024 vs FY 2023: Phone wait times reduced by more than 30 seconds



LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING

- ▶ Processed: 7,531
- ▶ Issued: 4,764
- ► On average, issued in 3.3 business days

HELPING BUSINESSES

- Continued improvement of the Taxpayer Portal
- Administered tax incentives and credits
- Expansion of musical and theatrical production tax credits
- Participated in small business workshops and presentations to increase understanding of tax requirements
- Collaborated with chambers of commerce to create more avenues of communication for business taxpayers
- Litter control participation permit eliminated
- Continued business outreach and support

Outreach

Taxpayer Experience Office launched "Tax Compliance Day" program:

- Received National FTA Award for Innovation and Excellence in Tax Administration
- Held two Tax Compliance Day events in FY 2024
- Assisted more than 100 taxpayers with complex multi-agency tax compliance issues
- Grew partnerships with IRS, IRS VITA, DLT, DMV, & RI Department of State

Helping Families

- Tax break on pensions, annuities, social security benefits, and military service pensions
- ✓ Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program established
- Temporary relief from gross earnings tax on electricity and gas
- ✓ Earned Income Tax Credit increase
- ✓ Medicaid exemption from individual mandate penalty

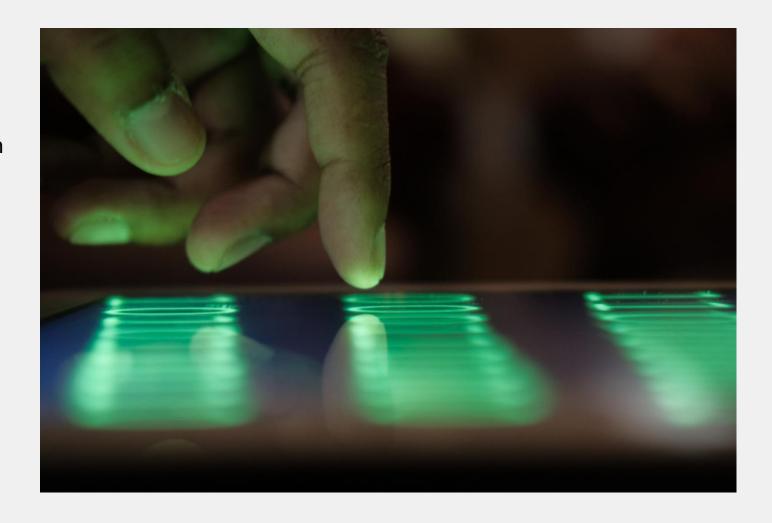


At the **RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF TAXATION**, we could not do what we do without the support of many honest and diligent taxpayers – and without the hard work and diligence of many tax preparers, software providers, and other stakeholders. To them, we say "**THANK YOU!**"



Fraud Trends

- IRS/States/Tax Software Industry collaborating on fraud detection and prevention and monitoring data/trends through the IDTTRF-ISAC and the Security Summit.
- How Do You Report Suspected
 Tax Fraud Activity? | Internal
 Revenue Service (irs.gov)
- <u>Dirty Dozen | Internal Revenue</u> <u>Service (irs.gov)</u>
- Criminals are becoming more creative, with better technology, and means to perpetrate fraud.



How to Mitigate Fraud

- Update software and operating systems with latest patches consistently—outdated applications and operating systems are the most targeted vulnerabilities for ransomware.
- Train your staff about phishing, cyber security and to look carefully at emails before responding. Check and double check.
- Use multifactor authentication and strong passwords.
- Back up data on a regular basis; maintain it on a separate device and store it offline.
- Implement a disaster recovery plan.
- Check the Taxpayer Portal: RI Taxpayer Portal.
- <u>How Do You Report Suspected Tax Fraud Activity? | Internal Revenue Service (irs.gov)</u>.
- Reach out to the RI Division of Taxation: <u>Contact Us | RI</u> Division of Taxation.

Taxpayer Experience Office

Calendar Year 2024 Focus:

- Streamline compliance requirements and procedures
- Improve upon tools and techniques offered to taxpayers to help ease their compliance burden
- Standardize how we do business and what we ask of taxpayers

Taxpayer Experience Office

A three-prong process to enact change



Changes to the Taxpayer Portal

- Bulk W-3 return filing
- Validate and submit W2s, W2Cs, and 1099s
- View issued bills for NOA, NOPA, and SOA
- Real-time "Where's My Refund?" tool

Changes to Improve the Taxpayer Experience

- Notice of Assessment (NOA) redesign
- · Income modifications expanded
- New Account Summary Notice
- Consolidated licenses

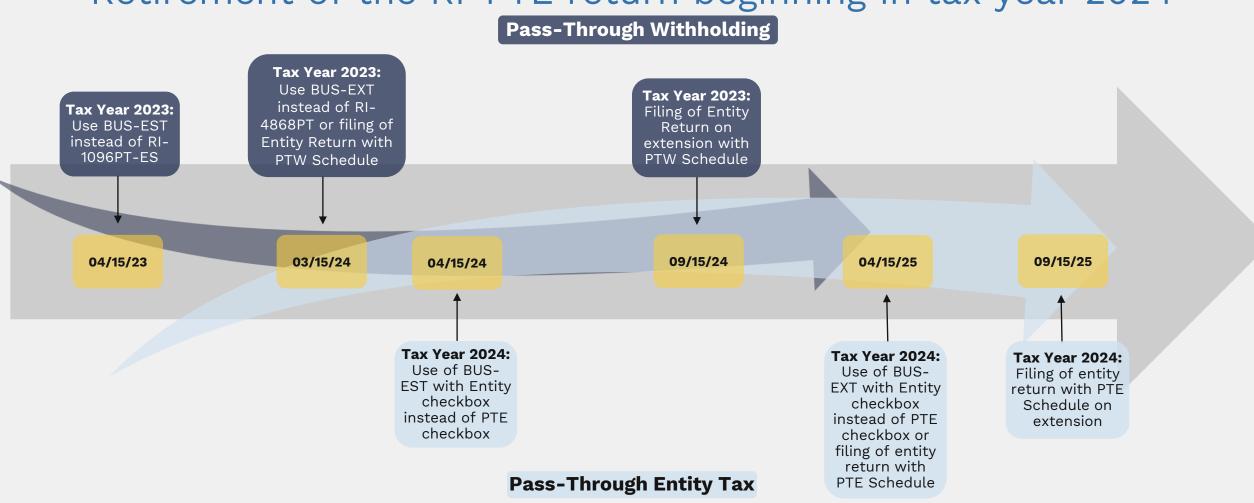
- Retirement of the RI-PTE return
- Update to tax software vendor requirements
- Removal of certain filing fees



Retirement of the RI-PTE return – beginning in tax year 2024

- Only a single corporate return with a RI-PTE schedule is needed.
- This schedule will be supported by vendor software, similar to the introduction of Schedule PTW for tax year 2023.
- Updated BUS-EST to allow for a taxpayer to make a single payment and indicate how much of the payment is allocated to Corp, PTW and/or PTE.

Retirement of the RI-PTE return beginning in tax year 2024



Update to tax software vendor requirements – provide correct K-1s

- Vendors are required to provide correctly mapped K-1s with corporate or partnership returns, allowing for K-1s to be cross-referenced to the Schedules for PTW and PTE.
- This will result in less returns needing that same documentation supplied by individuals in order for the individual to claim withholding credit.

Update to tax software vendor requirements – Extensions & Payments

All software vendors supporting the following tax types are required to support electronic filing of extensions and vouchers to be an approved vendor.

- Electronic filing of extensions for:
 - Form RI-1065
 - Form RI-1120S
 - Form RI-1120C

with or without a payment, using Form BUS-EXT

- Electronic filing & paying of return payments as part of submission included with:
 - Form RI-1065
 - Form RI-1120S
 - Form RI-1120C

using the existing elements within the MeF schema

Update to tax software vendor requirements - SMLLC RI-1065

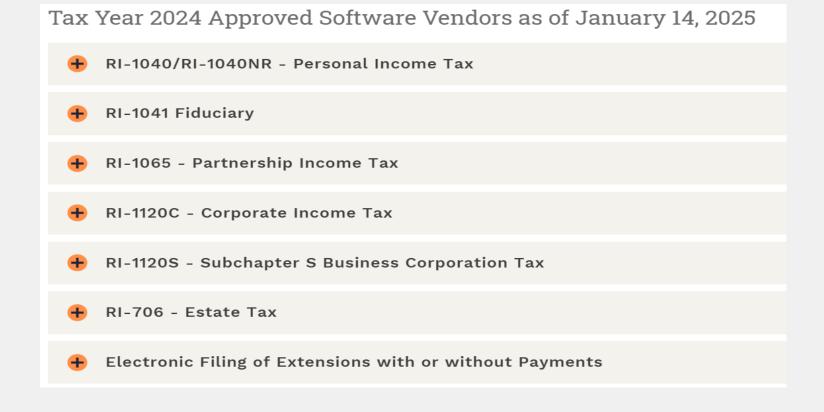
For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, all vendors supporting SMLLC filings on Form RI-1065 are required to properly support the filing to be an approved vendor.

The RI Division of Taxation expects that a SMLLC entity will be able to:

- File Form RI-1065 as an unlinked state return.
- File as a SMLLC without having to create an additional member for their entity.
- Be able to verify that the return does not have errors without having to disable error checking on the return in order to submit the return.

Update to tax software vendor requirements – Approved Software Vendors

The list of approved software vendors is posted on our website at Approved Software Vendors | RI Division of Taxation and updated throughout the season.



Removal of certain filing fees

Elimination of Fee for Obtaining or Renewing Exemption Certificate

- Beginning on or after January 1, 2025, no fee to apply for or renew Sales Tax Exemption Certificate for qualifying charitable organizations.
 - Exemption Certificate for qualifying charitable, educational, and religious organizations to make qualifying purchases at retail without paying sales tax.
 - In 2017, legislation established that Sales Tax Exemption Certificates are to be valid for four (4) years from the date of issuance.
 - The process for applications and renewals will remain unchanged, except there will no longer be a fee (\$25.00) for applications or renewals due on or after January 1, 2025.

Elimination of Estate Tax Filing Fee

- For decedents with date of death on or after January 1, 2025, no fee to file a Rhode Island Estate Tax return.
 - For decedents with dates of death before January 1, 2025, the Estate Tax filing fee (\$50.00) is still required, including for Estate Tax returns that are filed on or after January 1, 2025.

Bulk W-3 return filing

Taxpayers now have the ability to upload W-3s for multiple taxpayers at once, and then submit a bulk return with that information, similar to the bulk filing for 941s.



See the <u>Withholding Filing Requirements Guide</u>.

Or click/tap the guide, right.

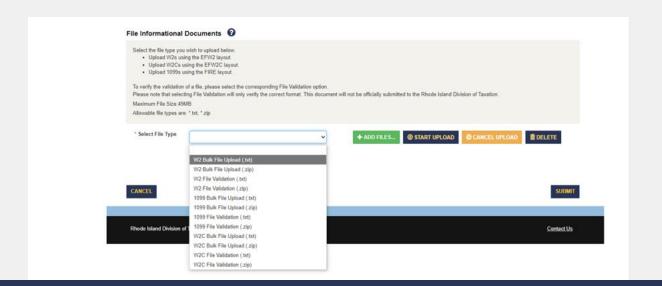


STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF TAXATION

WITHHOLDING
TAX FILING &
TRANSMITTAL
REQUIREMENTS

Validate and submit W2s, W2Cs, and 1099s

- Taxpayers may file W2s, W2Cs, and 1099s on the Portal, using the standard federal file formats.
- Taxpayers will receive upfront validation of their file, including which records are missing information or are not properly formatted. Validation and submission results are saved in the Portal for historical reference.



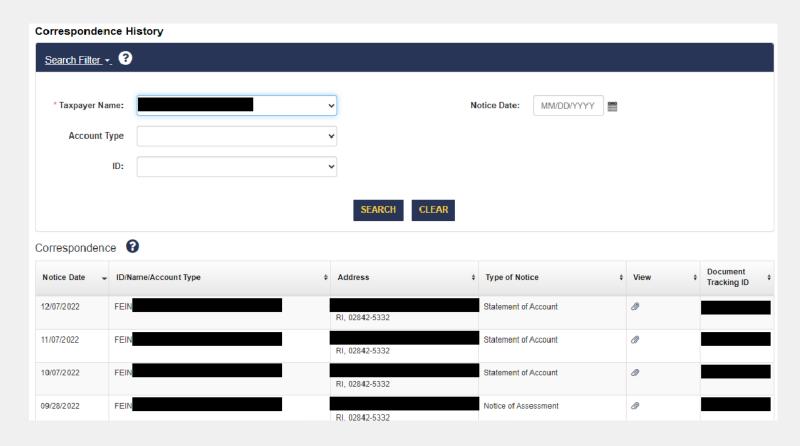
View issued bills for NOA, NOPA, and SOA

Taxpayers are able to view the following on the Portal:

- Notice of Assessment (NOA)
- Notice of Proposed Assessment (NOPA)
- Statement of Accounts (SOA)

Notices are available for the past 7 years.

This is the first phase in our long-term plan to make most notices available on the Portal.



View issued bills for NOA, NOPA, and SOA – What are the NOA, NOPA, and SOA?

Notice of Proposed Assessment

30 Days

- Issued if an adjustment is made to a filed return prior to due date; or
- Issued if an adjustment is made to a filed return after the due date.

Notice of Assessment

30 Days

- Issued after due date of return filed with a balance due matching the balance due on a filed return; or
- Issued 30 days after a Notice of Proposed Assessment.

Statement of Accounts

Annually

- Issued 30 days after a Notice of Assessment.
- Includes all outstanding liabilities across tax types.
- Continues issuance up to 3 times or until paid.

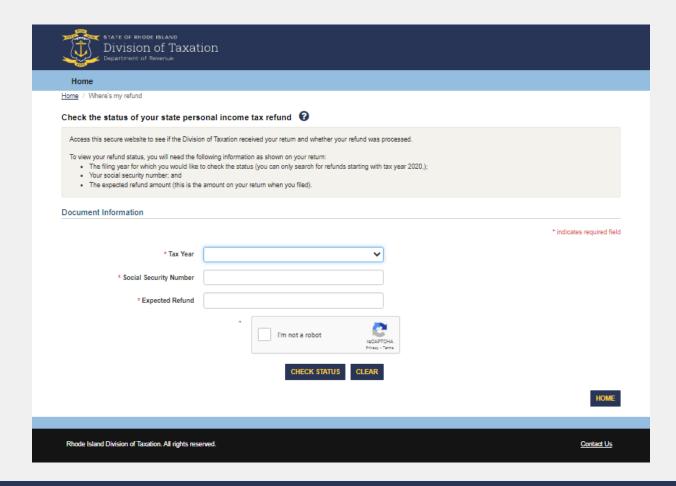
Annual Statement of Accounts

 Periodic reminder notice of outstanding across all taxes.



Real-time "Where's My Refund?" tool

- Our "Where's My Refund?" tool has been updated so taxpayers can view their refund status in real time.
- Tool has been expanded to include prior years.



Notice of Assessment (NOA) redesign

- QR code to make payments easier
 - Use the invoice number and account ID number
- Language updates for clarity
- Hearing language separated to own section





Phone: (401) 574-8935 TTY Via 711 (401) 574-8932

Email: tax.corporate@tax.ri.gov

09/03/2024

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

1 CAPITOL HL PROVIDENCE, RI 02908-5816 Tax Type: Notice ID: Bill Due Date:



Dear Taxpayer,

This is a bill for an overdue balance of \$39,928.66. The filing and/or payment for your CORPORATE account was due on 07/15/2024. A breakdown of how the balance was determined for the tax period ending 12/31/2023 is on the back of this notice. Please make full payment of the balance due on or before 10/03/2024. If the balance is not paid on or before this date, additional interest and penalties will continue to accrue.

How to Make a Payment: use



or https://taxportal.ri.gov to pay online.

Detach and return the bill voucher below with your check made payable Division of Taxation - include your Account ID

Request For Hearing

You may request a hearing under R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-1-32. All requests for hearing must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice. Please attach a copy of this notice and your request for hearing including the best phone number and/or email address to contact you. Mail all documents to: The Division of Taxation—ATTN: Tax Administrator, One Capitol Hill Providence, RI, 02908-5800.

Interest and penalties will continue to accrue on any unpaid tax balance during the hearing period. If you fail to submit your written request for a hearing within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice, the assessment, including interest and penalties, will become final and collection activities will commence

DIVISION OF TAXATION

State of Rhode Island

DIVISION OF TAXATION NOA Voucher

Return this voucher with your payment

Make check(s) payable to: Rhode Island Division of Taxation

Include Account ID on the check

Date: 09/03/2024

Rhode Island Division of Taxation One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908-5800

Tax Type:

CORPORATE

TEST BUSINESS

Invoice Number: Due Date: Balance Due:

\$39,928.66

Amount Enclosed:

Division of Taxation

Page 1

Notice of Assessment (NOA) redesign

- New updated table
 - Breakdown of liabilities
 - Breakdown of credits and payments
- QR code to website for explanations of billing content (removing need for 3rd page)



Phone: (401) 574-8935 TTY Via 711 Fax: (401) 574-8932

Email: tax.corporate@tax.ri.gov

otice ID:

Account ID:

Period: 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

Return/Payment Due Date: 10/03/2024

Liabilities	Amount
Tax/Fees	\$34,958.00
Underestimating Interest	\$2,241.79
Late Payment Interest	\$548.49
Late Payment Penalty	\$334.58
Late Filing Penalty	\$3,345.80
Total Liabilities	\$41,428.66
Payments/Credits	
Credits	(\$750.00)
Payments	(\$750.00)
Total Payments/Credits	\$1,500.00
Balance Due	\$39,928.66

CORPORATE

Interest is calculated through the date of this notice. A bill less than thirty (30) days old may not be included in the above total.

Need Help Understanding Your Bill?

For more information about your bill, please visit our website at: https://tax.ri.gov/about-us/taxpayer-experience-office or by using the QR code below:



Bankruptcy

If you are presently in bankruptcy, you may have received this bill in error. Please call the Collections section at 401-574-8941 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 3:30pm.

Page 2

Income modifications expanded - Tax Year 2025

Net Operating Loss (NOL) Carryforward

 Increases the number of years that a business may use a NOL carryforward from 5 to 20 years.

Pension Income Modification Increase

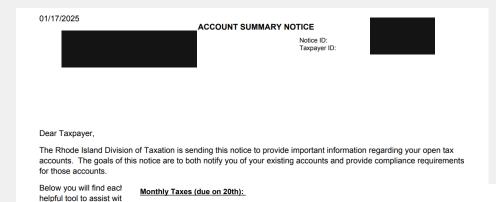
• This change increases the Pension and Annuity Income Modification from \$20,000 to \$50,000 (or \$100,000 for filers married filing jointly). It does not change the qualifying income thresholds.

New Account Summary Notice

The Division's new Account Summary Notice will be sent each December and to new business registrants.

The Notice informs taxpayers of required due dates for payment of taxes and filing of returns for each of their accounts and licenses for the upcoming calendar year.





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as required by Rhode Is

is updated and in accor

The Division of Taxation are already registered t

https://taxportal.ri.gov/. taxportal@tax.ri.gov or Number (PIN).

DIVISION OF TAXATIC

Account Type Filing Account ID SALES - FILING

OALLO - HILINO

Tax Period	Due Date		Tax Period	Due Date
January 2025	02/20/2025		July 2025	08/20/2025
February 2025	03/20/2025		August 2025	09/22/2025
March 2025	04/21/2025		September 2025	10/20/2025
April 2025	05/20/2025		October 2025	11/20/2025
May 2025	06/20/2025		November 2025	12/22/2025
June 2025	07/21/2025		December 2025	01/20/2026

Monthly Filing Frequency (Due the 20th day of the next month)

Consolidation of licenses

All required taxation licenses for Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products (OTP) and Electronic Nicotine-Delivery Systems (ENDS) have been combined:

- DOH ENDS licenses have been merged into Taxation's license
- A single unified license for dealers
- A single unified license for manufacturers, importers, or distributors.

Coming Soon

A new, modernized Business Application & Registration (BAR) Form - Launching January 23

New webpage dedicated to educating and protecting Rhode Island taxpayers relative to fraud

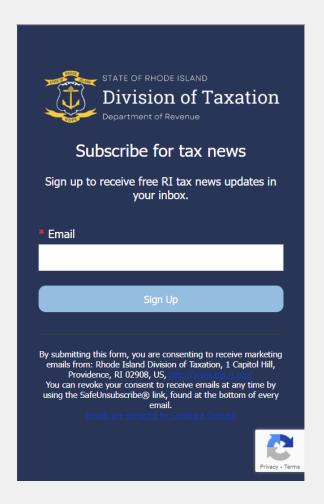
Continued enhancements to the Notice of Assessment detail

Stay tuned for details!



Connect

- Sign up for our emails
 - Tax news delivered to your inbox
 - Quarterly newsletters
 - Important updates



Questions



Thank you



Contact Us

401-574-8829

<u>Taxpayer.Experience@tax.ri.gov</u>

One Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02908

