

ORDINANCE NO. 23-213

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART ONE (ADMINISTRATIVE CODE), TITLE NINE (TAXATION), CHAPTER 192 (INCOME TAX), SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 192.03, 192.05, AND 192.18 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, IN THE MANNER AND WAY SPECIFICALLY SET FORTH HEREINBELOW; AND DECLARING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 14 OF THE CITY CHARTER.

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2023, Governor DeWine signed Ohio House Bill 33, the state's budget bill, into law and some of the provisions of the bill need to be adopted by the City Commission as amendments to our existing income tax ordinance by December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance should be passed as an emergency measure under suspension of the rules in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter to ensure the amendments are in place and effective on January 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, in that it is deemed necessary in order to provide for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, and safety of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, and its citizens, and to provide for the efficient daily operation of the Municipal Departments, including the Finance Department, of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, the City Commission of the City of Sandusky, Ohio finds that an emergency exists regarding the aforesaid, and that it is advisable that this **Ordinance** be declared an emergency measure which will take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter upon its adoption; and NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANDUSKY, OHIO, THAT:

**NEW LANGUAGE APPEARS IN BOLD PRINT
LANGUAGE TO BE STRICKEN APPEARS WITH A STRIKE THROUGH IT
LANGUAGE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED APPEARS IN REGULAR PRINT**

Section 1. Part One (Administrative Code), Title Nine (Taxation) Chapter 192 (Income Tax), Section 192.03 (Imposition of Tax) of the Codified Ordinances of the City be amended as follows:

192.03 IMPOSITION OF TAX.

Businesses.

(F) (1) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (F)(2) **and (G)** of this section, net profit from a business or profession conducted both within and without the boundaries of the City shall be considered as having a taxable situs in the City for purposes of municipal income taxation in the same proportion as the average ratio of the following:

~~(Ord. 15-165. Passed 11-23-15).~~

F (4) For the purposes of division (F)(1)(c) of this section, **and except as provided in division (G) of this section**, receipts from sales and rentals made and services performed shall be situated to a municipal corporation as follows:

~~(Ord. 15-165. Passed 11-23-15).~~

(G)(1) As used in this division:

(a) "Qualifying remote employee or owner" means an individual who is an employee of a taxpayer or who is a partner or member holding an ownership interest in a taxpayer that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, provided that the individual meets both of the following criteria:

(i) The taxpayer has assigned the individual to a qualifying reporting location.

(ii) The individual is permitted or required to perform services for the taxpayer at a qualifying remote work location.

(b) "Qualifying remote work location" means a permanent or temporary location at which an employee or owner chooses or is required to perform services for the taxpayer, other than a reporting location of the taxpayer or any other location owned or controlled by a customer or client of the taxpayer. "Qualifying remote work location" may include the residence of an employee or owner and may be located outside of a municipal corporation that imposes an income tax in accordance with this chapter. An employee or owner may have more than one qualifying remote work location during a taxable year.

(c) "Reporting location" means either of the following:

(i) A permanent or temporary place of doing business, such as an office, warehouse, storefront, construction site, or similar location, that is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the taxpayer;

(ii) Any location in this state owned or controlled by a customer or client of the taxpayer, provided that the taxpayer is required to withhold taxes under Section 4 of this Chapter, on qualifying wages paid to an employee for the performance of personal services at that location.

(d) "Qualifying reporting location" means one of the following:

(i) The reporting location in this state at which an employee or owner performs services for the taxpayer on a regular or periodic basis during the taxable year;

(ii) If no reporting location exists in this state for an employee or owner under division (G)(1)(d)(i) of this section, the reporting location in this state at which the employee's or owner's supervisor regularly or periodically reports during the taxable year;

(iii) If no reporting location exists in this state for an employee or owner under division (G)(1)(d)(i) or (ii) of this section, the location that the taxpayer otherwise assigns as the employee's or owner's qualifying reporting location, provided the assignment is made in good faith and is recorded and maintained in the taxpayer's business records. A taxpayer may change the qualifying reporting location designated for an employee or owner under this division at any time.

(2) For tax years ending on or after December 31, 2023, a taxpayer may elect to apply the provisions of this division to the apportionment of its net profit from a business or profession. For taxpayers that make this election, the provisions of division (F) of this section apply to such apportionment except as otherwise provided in this division.

A taxpayer shall make the election allowed under this division in writing on or

with the taxpayer's net profit return or, if applicable, a timely filed amended net profit return or a timely filed appeal of an assessment. The election applies to the taxable year for which that return or appeal is filed and for all subsequent taxable years, until the taxpayer revokes the election.

The taxpayer shall make the initial election with the tax administrator of each municipal corporation with which, after applying the apportionment provisions authorized in this division, the taxpayer is required to file a net profit tax return for that taxable year. A taxpayer shall not be required to notify the tax administrator of a municipal corporation in which a qualifying remote employee's or owner's qualifying remote work location is located, unless the taxpayer is otherwise required to file a net profit return with that municipal corporation due to business operations that are unrelated to the employee's or owner's activity at the qualifying remote work location.

After the taxpayer makes the initial election, the election applies to every municipal corporation in which the taxpayer conducts business. The taxpayer shall not be required to file a net profit return with a municipal corporation solely because a qualifying remote employee's or owner's qualifying remote work location is located in such municipal corporation.

Nothing in this division prohibits a taxpayer from making a new election under this division after properly revoking a prior election.

(3) For the purpose of calculating the ratios described in division (F)(1) of this section, all of the following apply to a taxpayer that has made the election described in division (G)(2):

(a) For the purpose of division (F)(1)(a) of this section, the average original cost of any tangible personal property used by a qualifying remote employee or owner at that individual's qualifying remote work location shall be situated to that individual's qualifying reporting location.

(b) For the purpose of division (F)(1)(b) of this section, any wages, salaries, and other compensation paid during the taxable period to a qualifying remote employee or owner for services performed at that individual's qualifying remote work location shall be situated to that individual's qualifying reporting location.

(c) For the purpose of division (F)(1)(c) of this section, and notwithstanding division (F)(4) of this section, any gross receipts of the business or profession from services performed during the taxable period by a qualifying remote employee or owner for services performed at that individual's qualifying remote work location shall be situated to that individual's qualifying reporting location.

(4) Nothing in this division prevents a taxpayer from requesting, or a tax administrator from requiring, that the taxpayer use, with respect to all or a portion of the income of the taxpayer, an alternative apportionment method as described in division (F)(2) of this section. However, a tax administrator shall not require an alternative apportionment method in such a manner that it would require a taxpayer to file a net profit return with a municipal corporation solely because a qualifying remote employee's or owner's qualifying remote work location is located in that municipal corporation.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this division, nothing in this division is intended to affect the withholding of taxes on qualifying wages pursuant to Section 4 of this Chapter.

REMAINDER OF SECTION IS UNCHANGED

Section 2. Part One (Administrative Code), Title Nine (Taxation) Chapter 192 (Income Tax), Section 192.05 (Annual Return; Filing) of the Codified Ordinances of the City be amended as follows:

192.05 ANNUAL RETURN; FILING.

(A) An annual City income tax return shall be completed and filed by every individual taxpayer ~~eighteen (18) years of age or older and any taxpayer that is not an individual~~ for each taxable year for which the taxpayer is subject to the tax, whether or not a tax is due thereon.

~~(Ord. 15-165, Passed 11-23-15).~~

(G)(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, each individual income tax return required to be filed under this section shall be completed and filed as required by the Tax Administrator on or before the date prescribed for the filing of state individual income tax returns under division (G) of Section 5747.08 of the ORC. The taxpayer shall complete and file the return or notice on forms prescribed by the Tax Administrator or on generic forms, together with remittance made payable to City. No remittance is required if the net amount due is ten dollars or less.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, each annual net profit return required to be filed under this section by a taxpayer that is not an individual shall be completed and filed as required by the Tax Administrator on or before the fifteenth day (15th) of the fourth month following the end of the taxpayer's taxable year. The taxpayer shall complete and file the return or notice on forms prescribed by the Tax Administrator or on generic forms, together with remittance made payable to the City. No remittance is required if the net amount due is ten dollars or less.

(2) Any taxpayer that has duly requested an automatic six-month extension for filing the taxpayer's federal income tax return shall automatically receive an extension for the filing of the City's income tax return. The extended due date of the City's income tax return shall be the 15th day of the tenth month after the last day of the taxable year to which the return relates. **For tax years ending on or after January 1, 2023, the extended due date of the City's income tax return for a taxpayer that is not an individual shall be the 15th day of the eleventh month after the last day of the taxable year to which the return relates.** An extension of time to file under this division is not an extension of the time to pay any tax due unless the Tax Administrator grants an extension of that date.

(a) A copy of the federal extension request shall be included with the filing of the City's income tax return.

(b) A taxpayer that has not requested or received a six-month extension for filing the taxpayer's federal income tax return may **submit a written** request that

the Tax Administrator grant the taxpayer a six-month extension of the date for filing the taxpayer's City income tax return. If the request is received by the Tax Administrator on or before the date the City income tax return is due, the Tax Administrator shall grant the taxpayer's requested extension.

(3) If the tax commissioner extends for all taxpayers the date for filing state income tax returns under division (G) of Section 5747.08 of the ORC, a taxpayer shall automatically receive an extension for the filing of the City's income tax return. The extended due date of the City's income tax return shall be the same as the extended due date of the state income tax return.

(4) If the Tax Administrator considers it necessary in order to ensure the payment of the tax imposed by the City, the Tax Administrator may require taxpayers to file returns and make payments otherwise than as provided in this division, including taxpayers not otherwise required to file annual returns.

(5) If a taxpayer receives an extension for the filing of a municipal income tax return under division (G)(2), (3), or (4) of this section, the tax administrator shall not make any inquiry or send any notice to the taxpayer with regard to the return on or before the date the taxpayer files the return or on or before the extended due date to file the return, whichever occurs first.

If a tax administrator violates division (G)(5) of this section, the municipal corporation shall reimburse the taxpayer for any reasonable costs incurred to respond to such inquiry or notice, up to \$150.

Division (G)(5) of this section does not apply to an extension received under division (G)(2) of this section if the tax administrator has actual knowledge that the taxpayer failed to file for a federal extension as required to receive the extension under division (G)(2) of this section or failed to file for an extension under division (G)(2)(b) of this section.

(56) To the extent that any provision in this division (G) of this section conflicts with any provision in divisions (N), (O), (P), or (Q) of this section, the provisions in divisions (N), (O), (P), or (Q) prevail.

~~(Ord. 15-165. Passed 11-23-15)~~

REMAINDER OF SECTION IS UNCHANGED

Section 3. Part One (Administrative Code), Title Nine (Taxation) Chapter 192 (Income Tax), Section 192.18 (Interest and Penalties) of the Codified Ordinances of the City be amended as follows:

192.18 INTEREST AND PENALTIES.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Applicable law" means this Chapter, the resolutions, ordinances, codes, directives, instructions, and rules adopted by the City provided they impose or directly or indirectly address the levy, payment, remittance, or filing requirements of the City.

(2) "Federal short-term rate" means the rate of the average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity of three years or less, as determined under Section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code, for July of the current year.

(3) "Income tax," "estimated income tax," and "withholding tax" means any income tax, estimated income tax, and withholding tax imposed by the City pursuant to applicable law, including at any time before January 1, 2016.

(4) "Interest rate as described in division (A) of this section" means the federal short-term rate, rounded to the nearest whole number percent, plus five percent. The rate shall apply for the calendar year next following the July of the year in which the federal short-term rate is determined in accordance with division (A)(2) of this section.

(5) "Return" includes any tax return, report, reconciliation, schedule, and other document required to be filed with the Tax Administrator or the City by a taxpayer, employer, any agent of the employer, or any other payer pursuant to applicable law, including at any time before January 1, 2016.

(6) "Unpaid estimated income tax" means estimated income tax due but not paid by the date the tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(7) "Unpaid income tax" means income tax due but not paid by the date the income tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(8) "Unpaid withholding tax" means withholding tax due but not paid by the date the withholding tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(9) "Withholding tax" includes amounts an employer, any agent of an employer, or any other payer did not withhold in whole or in part from an employee's qualifying wages, but that, under applicable law, the employer, agent, or other payer is required to withhold from an employee's qualifying wages.

(B)(1) This section applies to the following:

(a) Any return required to be filed under applicable law for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016;

(b) Income tax, estimated income tax, and withholding tax required to be paid or remitted to the City on or after January 1, 2016.

(2) This section does not apply to returns required to be filed or payments required to be made before January 1, 2016, regardless of the filing or payment date. Returns required to be filed or payments required to be made before January 1, 2016, but filed or paid after that date shall be subject to the ordinances or rules and regulations, as adopted before January 1, 2016, of the City to which the return is to be filed or the payment is to be made.

(C) Should any taxpayer, employer, agent of the employer, or other payer for any reason fails, in whole or in part, to make timely and full payment or remittance of income tax, estimated income tax, or withholding tax or to file timely with the City any return required to be filed, the following penalties and interest shall apply:

(1) Interest shall be imposed at the rate described in division (A) of this section, per annum, on all unpaid income tax, unpaid estimated income tax, and unpaid withholding tax.

(2)(a) With respect to unpaid income tax and unpaid estimated income tax, the City may impose a penalty equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the amount not timely paid.

(b) With respect to any unpaid withholding tax, the City may impose a penalty not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the amount not timely paid.

(3) **(a) For tax years ending on or before December 31, 2022,** ~~with~~ with respect to returns other than estimated income tax returns, the City may impose a penalty of \$25 for each failure to timely file each return, regardless of the liability shown thereon for each month, or any fraction thereof, during which the return remains unfiled regardless of the liability shown thereon. The penalty shall not exceed \$150 for each failure.

(b) For tax years ending on or after January 1, 2023, with respect to returns other than estimated income tax returns, the City may impose a penalty not exceeding \$25 for each failure to timely file each return, regardless of the liability shown thereon, except that the City shall abate or refund the penalty assessed on a taxpayer's first failure to timely file a return after the taxpayer files that return.

(D) Nothing in this section requires the City to refund or credit any penalty, amount of interest, charges, or additional fees that the City has properly imposed or collected before January 1, 2016.

(E) Nothing in this section limits the authority of the City to abate or partially abate penalties or interest imposed under this section when the Tax Administrator determines, in the Tax Administrator's sole discretion, that such abatement is appropriate.

(F) By the 31st day of October of each year the City shall publish the rate described in division (A) of this section applicable to the next succeeding calendar year.

(G) The City may impose on the taxpayer, employer, any agent of the employer, or any other payer the City's post-judgment collection costs and fees, including attorney's fees.

~~(Ord. 18-023. Passed 1-22-18.)~~

Section 4. The passage of this Ordinance does not waive any rights of the City, including, but not limited to, the City reserving the right under its home rule powers to challenge Ohio House Bill 33, including the amendments to Chapter 718 of the Revised Code.

Section 5. If any section, phrase, sentence, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 6. This City Commission finds and determines that all formal actions of this City Commission concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this City Commission and that all deliberations of this City Commission and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal

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actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

Section 7. That for the reasons set forth in the preamble hereto, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure which shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter after its adoption and due authentication by the President and the Clerk of the City Commission of the City of Sandusky, Ohio.



RICHARD R. BRADY
PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION



ATTEST:

CATHLEEN A. MYERS
CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Passed: November 13, 2023