

**NOTICE OF INTENT
Department of Revenue
Policy Services Division**

Mandatory Electronic Filing of Certain
Excise Tax Returns and Payment of Taxes
(LAC 61:III.1539-1546)

Under the authority of R.S. 26:354(F), 47:831, 47:1511, 47:1519, and 47:1520, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to adopt LAC 61.III.1539 through 1546, to provide mandatory electronic filing and payment requirements for the Alcoholic Beverage Tax Return, State and Parish and Municipal Beer Tax Return, Return for Wines Shipped Direct to Consumers, Hazardous Waste Disposal Tax Return, Transportation and Communication Utilities Tax Return, and Report of Inspection and Supervision Fee.

R.S. 47:1519(B)(1) authorizes the secretary to require payments by electronic funds transfer, and R.S. 47:1520(A)(2) authorizes the secretary the discretion to require electronic filing of tax returns or reports by administrative rule promulgated with legislative oversight in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. The purpose of this regulation is to mandate electronic filing of all Alcoholic Beverage, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Transportation and Communication Utilities, and Inspection and Supervision Fee returns and reports and electronic payment of all Alcoholic Beverage, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Transportation and Communication Utilities, and Inspection and Supervision taxes and fees.

Title 61

REVENUE AND TAXATION

Part III. Administrative and Miscellaneous Provisions

**Chapter 15. Mandatory Electronic Filing of Tax
Returns and Payment**

**§1539. Alcoholic Beverage Tax Returns—Electronic
Filing Requirements**

A. For taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, every manufacturer and wholesale dealer handling beverages of high and low alcoholic content and every out-of-state wine producer, manufacturer and retailer who sells and ships wine directly to a consumer in Louisiana shall be required to file all alcoholic beverage tax returns and reports electronically with the Department of Revenue using the electronic format prescribed by the department.

B. Manufacturers, wholesale dealers, and out-of-state wine producers, manufacturers, and retailers may not send paper versions of any returns or reports required to be filed.

C. 1. Failure to comply with the electronic filing requirement of this section will result in the assessment of a penalty as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

2. Waiver of the penalty provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall only be allowed as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 26:354(F), 47:1511, and 47:1520.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 46:

**§1540. Alcoholic Beverage Taxes—Electronic Payment
Required**

A. R.S. 47:1519(B)(1) allows the secretary to require payment of taxes on all alcoholic beverages by electronic funds transfer.

B. Effective for all reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, all payments of the tax on alcoholic beverages shall be electronically transferred to the Department of Revenue on or before the fifteenth of the month following the close of the reporting period for beverages of high alcoholic content, and the twentieth day of the month following the close of the reporting period for beverages of low alcoholic content and wine shipped directly to a consumer in Louisiana using the electronic format provided by the department.

C. For purposes of this Rule, specific requirements relating to the procedures for making payments by electronic funds transfer are set forth in R.S. 47:1519 and LAC 61.I.4910.

D. Failure to comply with the electronic funds transfer requirements shall result in the tax payment being considered delinquent and subject to penalties and interest as provided under R.S. 47:1601 and 1602.

E. If a taxpayer has made a good faith attempt and exercises due diligence in initiating a payment under the provisions of R.S. 47:1519, this Rule, and LAC 61.I.4910, but because of unexpected problems arising at financial institutions, Federal Reserve facilities, the automated clearinghouse system, or state agencies, the payment is not timely received, the delinquent penalty may be waived as provided by R.S. 47:1603. Before a waiver will be considered, taxpayers must furnish the department with documentation proving that due diligence was exercised and that the delay was clearly beyond their control.

F. In any case where the taxpayer can prove payment by electronic funds transfer would create an undue hardship, the secretary shall exempt the taxpayer from the requirement to transmit funds electronically.

G. The tax returns must be filed electronically separately from the electronic transmission of the remittance. Specific requirements relating to the mandatory electronic filing of the return required by the Department of Revenue are set forth in LAC 61.III.1539.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 26:354(F), 47:1511, and 47:1519.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 46:

**§1541. Hazardous Waste Disposal Tax Return—
Electronic Filing Requirements**

A. For taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, every generator and disposer of hazardous waste subject to the tax levied in Chapter 7-A of Subtitle II of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes shall be required to file all Hazardous Waste Disposal Tax Returns and Schedules electronically with the Department of Revenue using the electronic format prescribed by the department.

B. Generators and disposers of hazardous waste may not send paper versions of any returns or schedules required to be filed.

C.1. Failure to comply with the electronic filing requirement of this section will result in the assessment of a penalty as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

2. Waiver of the penalty provided for in Paragraph 1 of this Subsection shall only be allowed as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:831, 47:1511, and 47:1520.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 46:

§1542. Hazardous Waste Disposal Tax—Electronic Payment Required

A. R.S. 47:1519(B)(1) allows the secretary to require payment of the tax on disposal and storage of hazardous waste by electronic funds transfer.

B. Effective for all taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, all payments of the tax on disposal and storage of hazardous waste shall be electronically transferred to the Department of Revenue on or before the twentieth day following the close of the reporting period using the electronic format provided by the department.

C. For purposes of this Rule, specific requirements relating to the procedures for making payments by electronic funds transfer are set forth in R.S. 47:1519 and LAC 61.I.4910.

D. Failure to comply with the electronic funds transfer requirements shall result in the tax payment being considered delinquent and subject to penalties and interest as provided under R.S. 47:1601 and 1602.

E. If a taxpayer has made a good faith attempt and exercises due diligence in initiating a payment under the provisions of R.S. 47:1519, this Rule, and LAC 61.I.4910, but because of unexpected problems arising at financial institutions, Federal Reserve facilities, the automated clearinghouse system, or state agencies, the payment is not timely received, the delinquent penalty may be waived as provided by R.S. 47:1603. Before a waiver will be considered, taxpayers must furnish the department with documentation proving that due diligence was exercised and that the delay was clearly beyond their control.

F. In any case where the taxpayer can prove payment by electronic funds transfer would create an undue hardship, the secretary shall exempt the taxpayer from the requirement to transmit funds electronically.

G. The tax returns must be filed electronically separately from the electronic transmission of the remittance. Specific requirements relating to the mandatory electronic filing of the return required by the Department of Revenue are set forth in LAC 61.III.1541.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:831, 47:1511, and 47:1519.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 46:

§1543. Transportation and Communication Utilities Tax Return—Electronic Filing Requirements

A. For taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, every public utility as defined by R.S. 47:1003 shall be required to file the Transportation and Communication Utilities Tax Return electronically with the Department of Revenue using the electronic format prescribed by the department.

B. Public utilities may not send paper versions of any returns required to be filed.

C.1. Failure to comply with the electronic filing requirement of this section will result in the assessment of a penalty as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

2. Waiver of the penalty provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall only be allowed as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:1511 and 47:1520.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 46:

§1544. Transportation and Communication Utilities Tax—Electronic Payment Required

A. R.S. 47:1519(B)(1) allows the secretary to require payment of the transportation and communication utilities tax by electronic funds transfer.

B. Effective for all taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, all payments of the transportation and communication utilities tax shall be electronically transferred to the Department of Revenue on or before the twentieth day following the close of the reporting period for monthly filers and the thirtieth day following the close of the reporting period for quarterly filers using the electronic format provided by the department.

C. For purposes of this Rule, specific requirements relating to the procedures for making payments by electronic funds transfer are set forth in R.S. 47:1519 and LAC 61.I.4910.

D. Failure to comply with the electronic funds transfer requirements shall result in the tax payment being considered delinquent and subject to penalties and interest as provided under R.S. 47:1601 and 1602.

E. If a taxpayer has made a good faith attempt and exercises due diligence in initiating a payment under the provisions of R.S. 47:1519, this Rule, and LAC 61.I.4910, but because of unexpected problems arising at financial institutions, Federal Reserve facilities, the automated clearinghouse system, or state agencies, the payment is not timely received, the delinquent penalty may be waived as provided by R.S. 47:1603. Before a waiver will be considered, taxpayers must furnish the department with documentation proving that due diligence was exercised and that the delay was clearly beyond their control.

F. In any case where the taxpayer can prove payment by electronic funds transfer would create an undue hardship, the secretary shall exempt the taxpayer from the requirement to transmit funds electronically.

G. The tax returns must be filed electronically separately from the electronic transmission of the remittance. Specific requirements relating to the mandatory electronic filing of the return required by the Department of Revenue are set forth in LAC 61.III.1543.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:1511 and 47:1519.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 46:

§1545. Report of Inspection and Supervision Fee—Electronic Filing Requirements

A. For fee periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, every common carrier and public utility required to file the quarterly report of inspection and supervision fee shall file the report electronically with the Department of Revenue using the electronic format prescribed by the department.

B. Common carriers and public utilities may not send paper versions of any reports required to be filed.

C.1. Failure to comply with the electronic filing requirement of this section will result in the assessment of a penalty as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

2. Waiver of the penalty provided for in Paragraph 1 of this Subsection shall only be allowed as provided for in R.S. 47:1520(B).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:1511, and 47:1520.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 46:

§1546. Inspection and Supervision Fee - Electronic Payment Required

A. R.S. 47:1519(B)(1) allows the secretary to require payment of the inspection and supervision fee by electronic funds transfer.

B. Effective for all reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021, all payments of the inspection and supervision fee shall be electronically transferred to the Department of Revenue on or before the last day of the third month following the close of the reporting period using the electronic format provided by the department.

C. For purposes of this Rule, specific requirements relating to the procedures for making payments by electronic funds transfer are set forth in R.S. 47:1519 and LAC 61.I.4910.

D. Failure to comply with the electronic funds transfer requirements shall result in the fee payment being considered delinquent and subject to penalties and interest as provided under R.S. 47:1601 and 1602.

E. If a fee-payer has made a good faith attempt and exercises due diligence in initiating a payment under the provisions of R.S. 47:1519, this Rule, and LAC 61.I.4910, but because of unexpected problems arising at financial institutions, Federal Reserve facilities, the automated clearinghouse system, or state agencies, the payment is not timely received, the delinquent penalty may be waived as provided by R.S. 47:1603. Before a waiver will be considered, taxpayers must furnish the department with documentation proving that due diligence was exercised and that the delay was clearly beyond their control.

F. In any case where the fee-payer can prove payment by electronic funds transfer would create an undue hardship, the secretary shall exempt the fee-payer from the requirement to transmit funds electronically.

G. The reports must be filed electronically separately from the electronic transmission of the remittance. Specific requirements relating to the mandatory electronic filing of the report required by the Department of Revenue are set forth in LAC 61.III.1545.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:1511 and 47:1519.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR

Family Impact Statement

The proposed adoption of this Rule should have no known or foreseeable impact on any family as defined by R.S. 49:972(D) or on family formation, stability and autonomy. Specifically, the implementation of this proposed Rule has no known or foreseeable effect on:

1. the stability of the family.
2. the authority and rights of parents regarding the education and supervision of their children.
3. the functioning of the family.

4. family earnings and family budget.
5. the behavior and personal responsibility of children.
6. the ability of the family or a local government to perform this function.

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed Rule has no known impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

Small Business Impact Analysis

The proposed Rule has no known measurable impact on small businesses as described in R.S. 49:965.6.

Provider Impact Statement

The proposed Rule has no known or foreseeable effect on:

1. The staffing levels requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service.
2. The total direct and indirect effect on the cost to the provider to provide the same level of service.
3. The overall effect on the ability of the provider to provide the same level of service.

Public Comments

All interested persons may submit written data, views, arguments or comments regarding this proposed rule to Brandea Averett, Attorney, Policy Services Division, Office of Legal Affairs, P.O. Box 44098, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4098. Written comments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., September 25, 2020.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on September 28, 2020 at 9:00AM in the LaBelle Room, located on the 1st floor of the LaSalle Building, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Masks are required in the LaSalle Building.

Kimberly Lewis Robinson
Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: Mandatory Electronic Filing of Certain Excise Tax Returns and Payment of Taxes

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rules require electronic filing of the returns and reports of all alcoholic beverage taxes, Hazardous Waste Disposal Tax, Transportation and Communication Utilities Tax, and Inspection and Supervision Fee, and electronic funds transfer of all related tax and fee payments. The proposed rules also provide for the assessment and waiver of penalties for non-compliance.

Implementation of this proposal will not result in material additional costs or cost savings to governmental units. LDR is implementing electronic filing of these returns and reports through LDR's LaTAP system as an ongoing enhancement of its collection efforts. Accounting for non-compliance penalties will not result in material additional costs.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rules may increase SGR collections from penalties by an indeterminable amount in FY 21 and FY 22 and SGF collections in FY 23 (see note below). A modest and temporary increase in revenue from penalties may occur as the proposed rules are implemented, although LDR cannot predict non-compliant behavior. For informational purposes, on returns that are currently required to be filed electronically, LDR collected approximately \$7,000 in FY 17, \$1,000 in FY 18, \$6,000 in FY 19, and \$45,000 in FY 20. However, any actual

collections in penalties are dependent upon non-compliant behavior associated with the filing types included in the proposed rules. Therefore, any increase in revenue is indeterminable.

Note: Pursuant to Act 348 of the 2020 Regular Session, penalties and fees except compensatory fees levied by LDR will accrue to the state general fund, rather than to SGR for the department.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

LDR does not have the information necessary to determine the additional costs to comply with the proposed rules, but these costs are expected to be minimal, as online access and activity has largely become a business standard. To the extent non-compliance penalties are collected, affected taxpayers will incur penalty costs. LDR cannot estimate the additional penalty amount as it is dependent upon taxpayer violations and liabilities.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rules are not anticipated to affect competition or employment.

Kimberly Lewis Robinson
Secretary
2008#049

Gregory V. Albrecht
Chief Economist
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