

Chapter 3. Corporation Franchise Tax

§301. Imposition of Tax

A. Except as specifically exempted by R.S. 47:608, R.S. 47:601 imposes a corporation franchise tax, in addition to all other taxes levied by any other statute, on all corporations, joint stock companies or associations, or other business organizations organized under the laws of the state of Louisiana which have privileges, powers, rights, or immunities not possessed by individuals or partnerships, all of which are hereinafter designated as domestic corporations, for the right granted by the laws of this state to exist as such an organization and on both domestic and foreign corporations for the enjoyment under the protection of the laws of this state of the powers, rights, privileges, and immunities derived by reason of the corporate form of existence and operation. Liability for the tax is created whenever any such organization qualifies to do business in this state, exercises its charter or continues its charter within this state, owns or uses any part of its capital, plant, or any other property in this state, through the buying, selling, or procuring of services in this state, or actually does business in this state through exercising or enjoying each and every act, power, right, privilege, or immunity as an incident to or by virtue of the powers and privileges acquired by the nature of such organizations.

B. With respect to foreign corporations, R.S. 12:306 generally grants such organizations authority to transact business in this state subject to and limited by any restrictions recited in the certificate of authorization, and in addition thereto provides that they shall enjoy the same, but no greater, rights and privileges as a business or nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Louisiana to transact the business which such corporation is authorized to contract, and are subject to the same duties, restrictions, penalties, and liabilities (including the payment of taxes) as are imposed on a business or nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of this state. In view of the grant of such rights, privileges, immunities, and the imposition of the same duties, restrictions, penalties, and liabilities on foreign corporations as are imposed on domestic corporations, the exercise of any right, privilege, or the enjoyment of any immunity within this state by a foreign corporation which might be exercised or enjoyed by a domestic business or nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of this state renders the foreign corporation liable for the same

taxes, penalties, and interest, where applicable, which would be imposed on a domestic corporation.

C. Thus, both domestic and foreign corporations which enjoy or exercise within this state any of the powers, privileges, or immunities granted to business corporations organized under the provisions of R.S. 12:41 are subject to and liable for the payment of the franchise tax imposed by this Section. R.S. 12:41 recites those privileges to be as follows:

1. the power to perform any acts which are necessary or proper to accomplish its purposes as expressed or implied in the articles of incorporation, or which may be incidental thereto and which are not repugnant to law;

2. without limiting the grant of power contained in §301.C.1, every corporation shall have the authority to:

a. have a corporate seal which may be altered at pleasure, and to use the same by causing it or a facsimile thereof to be impressed or affixed or in any manner reproduced; but failure to affix a seal shall not affect the validity of any instrument;

b. have perpetual existence, unless a limited period of duration is stated in its articles of incorporation;

c. sue and be sued in its corporate name;

d. in any legal manner to acquire, hold, use, and alienate or encumber property of any kind, including its own shares, subject to special provisions and limitations prescribed by law or the articles;

e. in any legal manner to acquire, hold, vote, and use, alienate and encumber, and to deal in and with, shares, memberships, or other interests in, or obligations of, other businesses, nonprofit or foreign corporations, associations, partnerships, joint ventures, individuals, or governmental entities;

f. make contracts and guarantees, including guarantees of the obligations of other businesses, nonprofit or foreign corporations, associations, partnerships, joint ventures, individuals, or governmental entities, incur liabilities, borrow money, issue notes, bonds, and other obligations, and secure any of its obligations by hypothecation of any kind of property;

g. lend money for its corporate purposes and invest and reinvest its funds, and take and hold property or rights of any kind as security for loans or investments;

h. conduct business and exercise its powers in this state and elsewhere as may be permitted by law;

i. elect or appoint officers and agents, define their duties, and fix their compensation; pay pensions and establish pension plans, pension trusts, profit-sharing plans, and other incentive and benefit plans for any or all of its directors, officers, and employees; and establish stock bonus plans, stock option plans, and plans for the offer and sale of any or all of its unissued shares, or of shares purchased or to be purchased, to the employees of the corporation, or to employees of subsidiary corporations, or to trustees on their behalf; such plans:

i. may include the establishment of a special fund or funds for the purchase of such shares, in which such employees, during the period of their employment, or any other period of time, may be privileged to share on such terms as are imposed with respect thereto; and

ii. may provide for the payment of the price of such shares in installments;

j. make and alter bylaws, not inconsistent with the laws of this state or with the articles, for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the corporation;

k. provide indemnity and insurance pursuant to R.S. 12:83;

l. make donations for the public welfare, or for charitable, scientific, educational, or civic purposes; and

m. in time of war or other national emergency, do any lawful business in aid thereof, at the request or direction of any apparently authorized governmental authority.

D. Thus, the mere ownership of property within this state, or an interest in property within this state, including but not limited to mineral interests and oil payments dependent upon production within Louisiana, whether owned directly or by or through a partnership or joint venture or otherwise, renders the corporation subject to franchise tax in Louisiana since a portion of its capital is employed in this state.

E. The tax imposed by this Section shall be at the rate prescribed in R.S. 47:601 for each \$1,000, or a major fraction thereof, on the amount of its capital stock, determined as provided in R.S. 47:604, its surplus and undivided profits, determined as provided in R.S. 47:605, and its borrowed capital, determined as provided in R.S. 47:603 on the amount of such capital stock, surplus, and undivided profits, and borrowed capital as is employed in the exercise of its rights, powers, and immunities within this state

determined in compliance with the provisions of R.S. 47:606 and R.S. 47:607.

F. The accrual, payment, and reporting of franchise taxes imposed by this Section are set forth in R.S. 47:609.

G. In the case of any domestic or foreign corporation subject to the tax herein imposed, the tax shall not be less than the minimum tax provided in R.S. 47:601.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:601.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue and Taxation, Income and Corporation Franchise Taxes Section, Office of Group III, LR 6:25 (January 1980), amended LR 11:108 (February 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 30:448 (March 2004).

§302. Determination of Taxable Capital

A. Taxable Capital. Every corporation subject to the tax imposed by R.S. 47:601 must determine the total of its capital stock, as defined in R.S. 47:604, its surplus and undivided profits, as defined in R.S. 47:605, and its borrowed capital, as defined in R.S. 47:603, which total amount shall be used as the basis for determining the extent to which its franchise and the rights, powers, and immunities granted by Louisiana are exercised within this state. Determination of the taxable amount thereof shall be made in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 47:606 and R.S. 47:607, and the rules and regulations issued thereunder by the secretary of revenue and taxation.

B. Holding Corporation Deduction. Any corporation which owns at least 80 percent of the capital stock of a banking corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of the state of Louisiana may deduct from its total taxable base, determined as provided in §302.A and before the allocation of taxable base to Louisiana as provided in R.S. 47:606 and R.S. 47:607, the amount by which its investment in and advances to such banking corporation exceeds the excess of total assets of the holding corporation over total taxable capital of the holding corporation, determined as provided in §302.A.

C. Public Utility Holding Corporation Deductions. Any corporation registered under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 that owns at least 80 percent of the voting power of all classes of the stock in another corporation (not including nonvoting stock which is limited and preferred as to dividends) may, after having

determined its Louisiana taxable capital as provided in R.S. 47:602(A), R.S. 47:606, and R.S. 47:607, deduct therefrom the amount of investment in and advances to such corporation which was allocated to Louisiana under the provisions of R.S. 47:606(B). The only reduction for investment in and advances to subsidiaries allowed by this Subsection is with respect to those subsidiaries in which the registered public utility holding company owns at least 80 percent of all classes of stock described herein; the reduction is not allowable with respect to other subsidiaries in which the holding company owns less than 80 percent of the stock of the subsidiary, notwithstanding the fact that such investments in and advances to the subsidiary may have been attributed to Louisiana under the provisions of R.S. 47:606(B). In no case shall a reduction be allowed with respect to revenues from the subsidiary. Any repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 shall not affect the entitlement to deductions under this Subsection of corporations registered under the provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 prior to its repeal.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:602.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue and Taxation, Income and Corporation Franchise Taxes Section, Office of Group III, LR 6:25 (January 1980), amended LR 11:108 (February 1985), repromulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 30:449 (March 2004).

repromulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 30:469 (March 2004).

§311. Newly Taxable Corporations

A. Every corporation shall pay only the minimum tax in the first accounting period or fraction thereof in which it becomes subject to the tax. It is immaterial whether the corporation became liable for the tax on the first day or the last day of the accounting period regularly used by the taxpayer in keeping its books; the minimum tax is due for that accounting period. The tax accrues immediately upon the corporation's becoming subject thereto.

B. The tax for all accounting periods subsequent to the period in which the corporation became subject to the tax accrues on the first day of the period and is based on the previous period's closing.

C. In all instances, the tax is payable on or before the fifteenth day of the fourth month following the month in which the tax accrues.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 47:611.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue and Taxation, Income and Corporation Franchise Taxes Section, Office of Group III, LR 6:25 (January 1980), amended LR 11:108 (February 1985),