



Revenue Information Bulletin No. 09-055
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Corporation Income and Franchise Tax

Corporation Income and Franchise Tax Filing Extensions

Beginning with corporation income and franchise tax returns due on or after January 1, 2010, corporate taxpayers who need additional time to file their Louisiana corporation income and franchise tax returns will need to request a specific state filing extension, submit a paper copy of the taxpayer's Federal Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File, or request an extension via an electronic application. Regardless of which option is used, all extension requests must be made on or before the return's due date. The return's due date is April 15th for calendar year filers, and the 15th day of the fourth month following the close of the taxable year for fiscal year filers.

Background

The secretary of revenue is authorized, but not required, to accept an extension of time to file a federal income tax return as an extension of time to file a Louisiana corporation income and franchise tax return. It has been the Louisiana Department of Revenue (LDR) practice in past years to use this authorization to accept federal extensions, with copies of the federal extensions submitted with the Louisiana return. The evolution of technology has allowed the IRS to grant federal extensions electronically, with a notation made to the taxpayer's IRS account and no paper extension issued to the taxpayer. The increased use of "paperless" federal extensions has made it impossible for taxpayers to attach a copy of the federal extension to their state returns. At the same time, increased use of technology by the LDR has made obtaining a state extension via the Internet possible.

Extension Requests

To obtain a state corporation income and franchise tax filing extension, taxpayers must make the request on or before the tax return's due date. Extensions may be requested by:

- a. Requesting the extension electronically through the LDR web site
- b. Submitting an Application for Extension to File Corporation Income and Franchise Tax, Form CIFT-620Ext, available on the Department of Revenue's web site at: www.revenue.louisiana.gov;
- c. Submitting a paper copy of the IRS Automatic Extension of Time to File Certain Business Income Tax, Information, and Other Returns, Form 7004.

Copies of the state and federal extensions should be mailed to Post Office Box 751, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0751.

A corporation income and franchise tax filing extension granted by the secretary only allows for an extension of time to file the tax return. The extension does not allow an extension of time to pay the tax due. To avoid interest and penalty assessments, estimated taxes should be paid on or before the original due date.

Questions should be addressed to the Department of Revenue at (225) 219-0067, or (225) 219-7462.

Cynthia Bridges
Secretary

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