

## **Don't miss the bus this time: Take advantage of Texas Amnesty program**

The Texas Tax Amnesty Program will run from May 1, 2018, through June 29, 2018. The Texas Tax Amnesty Program will, under certain circumstances, provide delinquent taxpayers with relief from penalties and interest on tax due. Tax amnesty applies to periods before January 1, 2018, and only includes liabilities that have not been previously reported to the Comptroller's office. If a taxpayer has been notified that a period or periods are scheduled for an audit review, or if they are already under audit review, then those periods are not eligible for amnesty.

### **Eligibility Requirement:**

Eligible taxpayers include those who:

- Did not file a required return or report originally due before Jan. 1, 2018; or
- Under-reported taxes or fees due for any reason, such as erroneously claiming credits or deductions.

The amnesty does not apply to filing periods under audit or identified for an audit. Additionally, a taxpayer who has signed a settlement agreement or voluntary disclosure agreement (VDA) before the beginning of the amnesty period is not eligible.

### **Benefits of participating in the amnesty program:**

Program participants can "wipe the slate clean" by filing past due reports, or amending reports that under-reported taxes, without paying penalties or interest. You can also register for taxes that should have been reported and catch up on those reports that should have been filed, without paying penalties or interest.

### **Tax types eligible for amnesty program:**

All state and local taxes and fees the Comptroller's office administers are eligible, with the exception of Public Utility Commission gross receipts assessments. The Comptroller does not administer sports and community venue tax or property taxes, so these are not eligible. The Unclaimed Property program and International fuel tax agreement taxes are not a part of tax amnesty.

### **Procedure to apply:**

All the original or amended amnesty reports and payments must be submitted via a paper return and check to facilitate the waiver of penalty and interest. Mention word "Amnesty" on the top of the return/ application and on the check or money order.

For detailed guidance/ FAQs on Texas amnesty program refer below link:

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/tax-amnesty/>

In addition to Texas amnesty program, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts is also currently running a Voluntary Disclosure Agreement (VDA) program for taxpayers who want to comply with Texas tax laws.

A company representative initiates the process on behalf of their anonymous client by contacting the Business Activity Research Team (BART) in writing. Standard written agreements will be made available for all taxes. Liabilities due to failure to collect taxes and/or file the applicable reports will be limited to reports due for four years from the initial taxpayer contact date.

All taxes that were actually collected by the seller need to be remitted (i.e., there is no four-year limitation on tax collected not remitted). Interest will be waived on taxes voluntarily disclosed and paid that were not collected. Statutory penalties will be waived.

Agreements will be offered to taxpayers who have not been contacted regarding an audit or investigation, either verbally or in writing.

For detailed guidance on Texas VDA refer below link:

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/96-576.php>