



NEWS

State of Delaware
Department of Finance
Division of Revenue
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DELAWARE SUSPENDS PROFESSIONAL LICENSES FOR UNPAID TAXES ONLINE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER LISTS UPDATED

Statewide – September 19, 2012 – Delaware Division of Revenue Director Patrick Carter announced today that the State of Delaware will begin suspending the professional licenses of taxpayers who fail to pay their outstanding tax liabilities. This announcement comes as the division updates its online lists of the state's top 100 delinquent individual and business taxpayers at www.revenue.delaware.gov/ddt.shtml.

As with the current delinquent taxpayers lists, House Bill 257 – which was signed by Gov. Markell on June 19, 2012 – provides Delaware with another means to collect outstanding tax debts. It gives the Division of Revenue the authority to suspend Division of Professional Regulation licenses should licensees fail to pay their overdue tax liabilities. The legislation also attempts to stop those who fail to pay their taxes from unfairly competing against businesses that comply with their state tax requirements.

“Professional licensees currently owe more than \$10 million in outstanding tax liabilities to the state, which just isn't fair to all the people who currently meet their tax obligations,” says Carter. “Since the delinquent taxpayers lists were posted online in 2007, Delaware has collected more than \$10.3 million from some of the state's worst tax evaders. We're hopeful that the ability to suspend professional licenses will be just as effective in getting people to finally pay their outstanding balances.”

Delaware's criteria for suspending professional licenses are the same as those currently followed for posting names to the Delaware Delinquent Taxpayers site: Taxpayers must have already received a judgment for unpaid taxes. They are then notified by mail that the state may take action and given 60 days to respond. Those who enter into a payment agreement with the Division of Revenue or pay their balance in full are excluded from the license suspension. Taxpayers who have filed for bankruptcy protection or have incurred a liability that is being appealed are also excluded until their case has been resolved.

In the past year, the delinquent taxpayer lists have collected more than \$2.8 million in back taxes from those whose names were published, or who were advised they qualified to have their names published, online. Delaware believes its ability to suspend professional licenses will see positive results as well.

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