

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 604

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI

TAX/INCOME TAX: Provides relative to state income taxation of Subchapter S corporations and other flow through entities

1

AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 47:287.732(B)(1), 293(10), and 1675(G), and to enact R.S.
3 47:287.732(B)(6), 287.732.2, 293(9)(a)(xviii), 297.14, and 1675(F)(4), relative to
4 income taxation of Subchapter S corporations and other flow through entities; to
5 reduce the tax rates applicable to the income of Subchapter S corporations that elect
6 to be taxed at the corporation level; to authorize certain flow through entities not
7 taxed as corporations to elect to file as corporations for state income tax purposes;
8 to provide for a modification to exclude certain Subchapter S corporation and flow
9 through income from income subject to state individual income tax; to provide for
10 tax credits earned by Subchapter S corporations and other flow through entities; to
11 provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 47:287.732(B)(1), 293(10), and 1675(G) are hereby amended and
14 reenacted and R.S. 47:287.732(B)(6), 287.732.2, 293(9)(a)(xviii), 297.14, and 1675(F)(4)
15 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

16 §287.732. S Corporations

17 * * *

1 B. S corporation exclusion. This Subsection provides an exclusion to
2 corporations classified as S corporations under federal law for the taxable year, as
3 follows:

4 (1) In computing Louisiana taxable income pursuant to this Part, an S
5 corporation that does not make an election pursuant to R.S. 47:287.732.2 may
6 exclude such percentage of its Louisiana net income for the taxable year as is
7 provided in R.S. 47:287.732(B)(2).

∞ * * *

(6) S corporations that elect to pay tax at the corporation level as provided
in Subsection C of this Section shall not be eligible for this exclusion.

11 * * *

12 §287.732.2. Election for S corporations and other flow through entities

A. (1) Any S corporation or entity taxed as a partnership for federal tax purposes.

tax purposes may elect to be taxed and to comply with this Part in the same manner as if the entity had been required to file an income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service as a C corporation. S corporations that make this election shall not be eligible for the exclusion provided in R.S. 47:287.732.

18 (2) The election shall be made in writing and may be made at any time during
19 the preceding taxable year, or at any time during the taxable year and on or before
20 the fifteenth day of the fourth month of the taxable year. The secretary may treat an
21 election made after the fifteenth day of the fourth month of the taxable year as timely
22 made for the taxable year if the secretary determines that there was reasonable cause
23 for the failure to make the election timely.

24 (3) The election shall be effective for the taxable year of the entity for which
25 it is made and for all succeeding taxable years of the entity, until the election is
26 terminated by the secretary.

27 (4)(a) An entity that has made an election pursuant to this Section may apply
28 to the secretary for termination of the election if shareholders, partners, or members

holding more than one-half of the ownership interest in the entity on the day on which the revocation is requested consent to the revocation request.

(b) The secretary may terminate an entity's election if the entity shows a material change in circumstances. A significant change in federal tax law may be considered by the secretary as a material change in circumstances.

B. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the tax on the Louisiana taxable income of every entity that makes the election pursuant to this Section shall be computed at the rates of:

(1) Two percent upon the first twenty-five thousand dollars of Louisiana taxable income.

(2) Four percent upon the amount of net income above twenty-five thousand dollars but not in excess of one hundred thousand dollars.

(3) Six percent on the amount of Louisiana taxable income above one hundred thousand dollars.

C. An entity that has made the election provided in this Section shall be allowed a deduction in an amount equal to the federal income tax the entity would have paid on its Louisiana net income for the taxable year if the entity had been required to file an income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service as a C corporation for the current and all prior taxable years, in accordance with federal law.

D. The secretary may require the electronic filing of tax returns or reports filed by entities making an election pursuant to this Section.

* * *

§293. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply throughout this Part, unless the context requires otherwise:

* * *

(9)(a) "Tax table income", for resident individuals, means adjusted gross income plus interest on obligations of a state or political subdivision thereof, other

1 than Louisiana and its municipalities, title to which obligations vested with the
2 resident individual on or subsequent to January 1, 1980, and less:

3 * * *

4 (xviii) The pass through entity exclusion provided in R.S. 47:297.14.

5 (10) "Tax table income", for nonresident individuals, means the amount of
6 Louisiana income, as provided in this Part, allocated and apportioned under the
7 provisions of R.S. 47:241 through 247, plus the total amount of the personal
8 exemptions and deductions already included in the tax tables promulgated by the
9 secretary under authority of R.S. 47:295, less the proportionate amount of the
10 federal income tax liability, excess federal itemized personal deductions, the
11 temporary teacher deduction, the recreation volunteer and volunteer firefighter
12 deduction, the construction code retrofitting deduction, any gratuitous grant, loan,
13 or other benefit directly or indirectly provided to a taxpayer by a hurricane recovery
14 entity if such benefit was included in federal adjusted gross income, the exclusion
15 provided for in R.S. 47:297.3 for S Bank shareholders, the deduction for expenses
16 disallowed by I.R.C. Section 280C, salaries, wages or other compensation received
17 for disaster or emergency-related work rendered during a declared state disaster or
18 emergency, the deduction for net capital gains, the pass through entity exclusion
19 provided in R.S. 47:297.14, and personal exemptions and deductions provided for
20 in R.S. 47:294. The proportionate amount is to be determined by the ratio of
21 Louisiana income to federal adjusted gross income. When federal adjusted gross
22 income is less than Louisiana income, the ratio shall be one hundred percent.

23 * * *

24 §297.14. Flow through entity exclusion

25 A. (1) In computing Louisiana tax table income, an individual shall exclude
26 net income or losses received from an entity of which the individual is a shareholder,
27 partner, or member provided that the entity properly filed a Louisiana corporation
28 income tax return pursuant to R.S. 47:287.732.2 that included the net income or loss.

1 (2) No exclusion shall be allowed for any amount that is attributable to
2 income that, for any reason whatsoever, will not bear the tax due pursuant to R.S.
3 47:287.732.2.

4 B. A taxpayer whose federal individual income tax return is adjusted due to
5 S corporation or partnership income or losses for which the taxpayer used this
6 exclusion shall furnish a statement to the secretary, disclosing the nature and
7 amounts of such adjustments within sixty days after the federal adjustments have
8 been made and accepted by the taxpayer, provided that if the taxpayer does not
9 receive a statement of the federal adjustments until after he accepts the adjustments,
10 he shall have sixty days from the receipt of such statement within which to furnish
11 the required statement to the collector. Paying the federal tax shown due or signing
12 a consent to immediate assessment shall constitute an acceptance of the federal
13 adjustments.

14 * * *

15 §1675. General administrative provisions for credits against income and corporation
16 franchise tax

17 * * *

18 F. Credits granted, allocated, or transferred to entities not subject to
19 Louisiana income tax or corporation franchise tax.

20 * * *

21 (4) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to entities that make an
22 election pursuant to R.S. 47:287.732.2. Beginning with the taxable year for which
23 the election is first made, the entity shall apply any credits earned at the entity level.

24 G. Credits granted or allocated to Subchapter S Corporations.

25 (1) Credits earned by, allocated to, or transferred to an S corporation during
26 a year in which the corporation operated as a C corporation ~~must~~ shall be used at the
27 corporation level.

28 (2)(a) Unless otherwise provided in the statute granting the credit, credits
29 earned by, allocated to, or transferred to a corporation during a year in which the

1 corporation operates as an S corporation do not flow through to the shareholders, but
2 ~~must shall~~ be used at the corporation level unless the S corporation makes the annual
3 election provided for in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph.

4 (b) Flow through election for S corporations. An S corporation that earns
5 or otherwise receives a tax credit through allocation or transfer during a year in
6 which the corporation operates as an S corporation may annually elect to flow
7 through the entire amount of the credit to its shareholders. The election may be
8 made for each credit received by the S corporation and shall be made annually. The
9 election shall be in writing and may not be revoked. S corporations that file their
10 corporation income tax returns pursuant to R.S. 47:287.732(C) shall not be eligible
11 to make this flow through election beginning with the taxable year for which the
12 election is first made.

13 * * *

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective for all tax years beginning on or after
15 January 1, 2019.

16 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
17 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
18 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
19 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
20 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 604 Original

2019 Regular Session

Stefanski

Abstract: Reduces the state income tax rate for S Corporations and other flow through entities that elect to be taxed at the corporation level.

Present law requires Subchapter S corporations to pay La. income tax using the corporate income tax rate and bracket schedule as follows:

- (1) 4% on the first \$25,000 of La. taxable income.
- (2) 5% on La. taxable income above \$25,000 but not in excess of \$50,000.

(3) 6% on La. taxable income above \$50,000 but not in excess of \$100,000.

(4) 7% on La. taxable income above \$100,000 but not in excess of \$200,000.

(5) 8% on all La. taxable income in excess of \$200,000.

Proposed law requires income from flow through entities such as limited liability companies that elect federal partnership treatment and partnerships (referred to as "flow through entities") to be reported on the partner or member's individual income tax return.

Proposed law provides an election that authorizes S corporations and other flow through entities to file and pay tax on their La. income as if they were C corporations.

Proposed law changes the Subchapter S corporation state income tax rates to the married individual income tax rates and brackets for S corporations that elect to be taxed at the corporate level as follows:

(1) 2% on the first \$25,000 of La. taxable income.

(2) 4% on La. taxable income above \$25,000 but not in excess of \$100,000.

(3) 6% on La. taxable income in excess of \$100,000.

Proposed law applies the married individual income tax rates and brackets to the income of all flow through entities that elect to be taxed as corporations for La. tax purposes.

Present law provides a deduction for federal income tax paid on state income for the taxable year.

Proposed law authorizes Subchapter S corporations and other flow through entities that elect to file and pay La. income tax as if they were a corporation a deduction for the amount of federal income tax the entities would have paid on its La. income if it had been taxed as a C corporation for federal income tax purposes.

Present law provides a corporation income tax exclusion for Subchapter S income that is reported on a La. individual resident or nonresident income tax return.

Proposed law retains the present law Subchapter S exclusion for S corporations not making the proposed law election and further provides an individual income tax exclusion for La. Subchapter S income and flow through entity income that is included in La. individual income taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income for that taxable year.

Present law requires individual income taxpayers to inform the secretary of revenue of federal income tax adjustments.

Proposed law retains present law and requires individual income taxpayers who use the proposed law S corporation and flow through entity exclusion to notify the secretary if changes are made to their federal income tax return due to adjustments to an S corporation's income or losses.

Present law provides that credits earned by flow through entities shall flow through to partners or members as provided in the operating agreement of the entity.

Proposed law provides that credits earned by flow through entities that have made the proposed law election shall not flow through to the partners or members but shall be applied at the entity level.

Present law requires S corporations to use corporation income tax credits at the corporation level unless the S corporation annually elects to flow corporation income tax credits to shareholders.

Proposed law retains present law requiring S corporations to use credits at the corporation level and ends the annual election to flow through credits on Jan. 1, 2019.

Proposed law applies to all taxable years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2019.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 47:287.732(B)(1), 293(10), and 1675(G); Adds R.S. 47:287.732(B)(6), 287.732.2, 293(9)(a)(xviii), 297.14, and 1675(F)(4))