2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 501

#### BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

# TAX/INCOME TAX: Changes the rates and brackets for purposes of calculating individual income tax liability and eliminates certain deductions and credits

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 47:32(A), 79, 93(B), 241, 293(3) and (10), 295(B), 300.6(A) and
3	300.7(A), to enact R.S. 47:55(6) and 293(9)(a)(xviii), and to repeal R.S. 47:55(5),
4	293(4) and (9)(a)(ii), 294, 296.1(B)(3)(c), and 298, relative to the individual income
5	tax; to provide for the calculation of individual income tax liability; to provide for
6	the rates and brackets for individual income tax; to provide for certain deductions
7	and credits; to reduce certain deductions and credits; to reduce the amount of the
8	deduction allowed for excess federal itemized personal deductions and personal
9	exemptions and credits for dependents; to repeal the deductibility of federal income
10	taxes paid for purposes of calculating individual income tax; to provide for
11	applicability; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.
12	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
13	Section 1. R.S. 47:32(A), 79, 93(B), 241, 293(3) and (10), 295(B), 300.6(A) and
14	300.7(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 47:55(6) and 293(9)(a)(xviii) are
15	hereby enacted to read as follows:
16	§32. Rates of tax
17	A. On individuals. The tax to be assessed, levied, collected and paid upon
18	the taxable income of an individual shall be computed at the following rates:

1	(1) Two percent No tax shall be assessed on that portion of the first twelve
2	thousand five hundred dollars of net income which is in excess of the credits against
3	net income provided for in R.S. 47:79;.
4	(2) Four percent on the next thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars of
5	<del>net income;</del>
6	(3) Six percent on any amount of net income in excess of fifty thousand
7	dollars of net income. Three and ninety-five one hundreths of one percent on net
8	income in excess of twelve thousand five hundred dollars.
9	* * *
10	§55. Deductions from gross income; taxes generally
11	In computing net income, there shall be allowed as deductions all taxes paid
12	or accrued within the taxable year except:
13	* * *
14	(6) Federal income taxes paid on individual income.
15	* * *
16	§79. Credits of individuals against net income
17	A. Personal exemption.
18	(1) An exemption of twenty-five hundred dollars is allowed for the taxpayer;
19	and an additional exemption of twenty-five hundred dollars is allowed for the spouse
20	of the taxpayer if a separate return is made by the taxpayer, and if the spouse has no
21	gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer for the calendar year in
22	which the taxable year of the taxpayer begins. A person who occupied status as head
23	of family during the entire taxable year is allowed an exemption of five thousand
24	<del>dollars.</del>
25	(2) In addition to the exemptions above provided for, an An exemption of
26	one thousand dollars is allowed for the taxpayer who is blind or who has sustained
27	the loss of one or more limbs or who has an intellectual disability or who is deaf. As
28	used herein the word "blind" shall mean and refer to persons who have been
29	determined by a qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist to have no vision or to

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1	have vision which is insufficient for use in an occupation or activity for which sight
2	is essential. a person who, after examination by a licensed physician skilled in
3	diseases of the eye or by a licensed optometrist, has been determined to have not
4	more than 20/200 central visual acuity in the better eye with correcting lenses, or an
5	equally disabling loss of the visual field as evidenced by a limitation to the field of
6	vision in the better eye to such a degree that its widest diameter subtends an angle
7	of no greater than twenty degrees. For purposes herein, the word "deaf" shall be
8	defined as in Paragraph (B)(5) Subsection B of this Section. Each person claiming
9	an exemption under the provisions of this Paragraph Section shall be able to prove
10	such claim by certificate of a qualified physician or optometrist.
11	B. Credit <u>Deductions</u> for dependents.
12	(1) In general. A credit of four hundred dollars is allowed for each
13	dependent (as defined in Subsection C of this Section),
14	(a) whose gross income for the calendar year in which the taxable year of the
15	taxpayer begins is less than \$600 or
16	(b) who is a child of the taxpayer and who (i) has not attained the age of
17	nineteen at the close of the calendar year in which the taxable year of the taxpayer
18	begins, or (ii) is a student.
19	(2) Credit denied in case of certain married dependents. No credit is allowed
20	under this Subsection for any dependent who has made a joint return with his spouse
21	under R.S. 47:101(B), for the taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which
22	the taxable year of the taxpayer begins.
23	(3) Child defined. For purposes of this Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) of this
24	Subsection, the term "child" means an individual who (within the meaning of
25	Subsection C of this Section) is a son, stepson, daughter, or stepdaughter of the
26	taxpayer.
27	(4) Student and educational institution defined. For purposes of Item
28	(B)(1)(b)(ii) of this Subsection, the term "student" means an individual who during

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each of five calendar months during the calendar year in which the taxable year of the taxpayer begins,

- 3 (a) is a full-time student at an educational institution; or
  4 (b) is pursuing a full-time course of institutional on-farm training under the
  5 supervision of an accredited agent of an educational institution or of a state or
  6 political subdivision of a state. For purposes of this Subsection, the term
- 7 "educational institution" means only an educational institution which normally
   8 maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly organized
   9 body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are carried
   10 on.
- 11 (5) Credit for certain dependents. (1) A credit deduction of one thousand 12 dollars is allowed for each dependent as defined in Subsection C of this Section 13 allowed in determining federal income tax liability who is blind or deaf or who has 14 sustained the loss of one or more limbs or who has an intellectual disability. As 15 herein used the word "blind" shall be defined as in Paragraph (A)(2) Subsection A 16 of this Section. For purposes herein, the word "deaf" shall mean and refer to persons 17 whose hearing is so impaired that it is insufficient for use in an occupation or activity 18 for which hearing is essential. The taxpayer claiming credit the deduction as herein 19 provided shall be able to prove such claim by certificate of a qualified physician or 20 optometrist issued for each such dependent for which a credit deduction is claimed.
- 21 (2) In addition to the deduction authorized in Paragraph (1) of this
   22 Subsection, an additional deduction of one thousand dollars shall be allowed for each
   23 dependent as allowed in determining federal income tax liability.
- 24

C. Dependent defined.

(1) General definition. For purposes of this Chapter, the term "dependent"
 means any of the following individuals over half of whose support, for the calendar
 year in which the taxable year of the taxpayer begins, was received from the taxpayer
 (or is treated under Paragraph (C)(3) of this Subsection as received from the
 taxpayer):

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1	(a) a son or daughter of the taxpayer, or a descendant of either,
2	(b) a stepson or stepdaughter of the taxpayer,
3	(c) a brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister of the taxpayer,
4	(d) the father or mother of the taxpayer, or an ancestor of either,
5	(e) a stepfather or stepmother of the taxpayer,
6	(f) a son or daughter of a brother or sister of the taxpayer,
7	(g) a brother or sister of the father or mother of the taxpayer,
8	(h) a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law,
9	brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of the taxpayer,
10	(i) an individual who, for the taxable year of the taxpayer, has as his
11	principal place of abode the home of the taxpayer and is a member of the taxpayer's
12	household, or
13	<del>(j) an individual who,</del>
14	(i) is a descendant of a brother or sister of the father or mother of the
15	taxpayer,
16	(ii) for the taxable year of the taxpayer received institutional care required
17	by reason of a physical or mental disability, and
18	(iii) before receiving such institutional care, was a member of the same
19	household as the taxpayer.
20	(2) Rules relating to general definition. For purposes of this Section the rules
21	set forth below will apply.
22	(a) The terms "brother" and "sister" include a brother or sister by the
23	halfblood.
24	(b) In determining whether any of the relationships specified in this Section
25	exists, a child legally adopted by an individual shall be treated as if he were the child
26	of such individual by blood.
27	(c) The term "dependent" does not include any individual who is not a citizen
28	of the United States unless such individual is a resident of the United States, of a
29	country contiguous to the United States, of the Canal Zone, or of the Republic of

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1	Panama. The preceding sentence shall not exclude from the definition of
2	"dependent" any child of the taxpayer born to him, or legally adopted by him, in the
3	Philippine Islands before January 1, 1956, if the child is a resident of the Republic
4	of the Philippines, and if the taxpayer was a member of the Armed Forces of the
5	United States at the time the child was born to him or legally adopted by him.
6	(d) A payment to a wife which is includible in the gross income of the wife
7	under R.S. 47:42(C) shall not be treated as a payment by her husband for the support
8	of any dependent.
9	(3) Multiple support agreements. For purposes of Paragraph (C)(1) of this
10	Subsection, over half of the support of an individual for a calendar year shall be
11	treated as received from the taxpayer if:
12	(a) no one person contributed over half of such support;
13	(b) over half of such support was received from persons each of whom, but
14	for the fact that he did not contribute over half of such support, would have been
15	entitled to claim such individual as a dependent for a taxable year beginning in such
16	<del>calendar year;</del>
17	(c) the taxpayer contributed over ten per cent of such support; and
18	(d) each person described in Subparagraph (C)(3)(b) of this Section (other
19	than the taxpayer) who contributed over ten per cent of such support files a written
20	declaration (in such manner and form as the collector may by regulations prescribe)
21	that he will not claim such individual as a dependent for any taxable year beginning
22	in such calendar year.
23	(4) Special support test in case of students. Amounts received as
24	scholarships for study at an educational institution by an individual who is:
25	(a) a son, stepson, daughter, or stepdaughter of the taxpayer (within the
26	meaning of this Section), and
27	(b) a student, shall not be taken into account in determining whether such
28	individual received more than half of his support from the taxpayer.

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1	D. Exception for certain heads of families. If the taxpayer would not occupy
2	the status of head of family except by reason of there being one or more dependents
3	for whom he would be entitled to credit under Subsection C above the credit under
4	such paragraph shall be disallowed with respect to one of such dependents.
5	E. Limitation on portion of credit deduction allowable. There shall be
6	allowed only that portion of the credits deductions set forth in the preceding
7	Subsections of this Section which the net income of the individual taxable under this
8	Chapter bears to the total net income of such individual.
9	* * *
10	§93. Period for which deductions and credits shall be taken
11	* * *
12	B. The proper year in which to claim deductions for federal income and
13	excess profits taxes allowable under the provisions of R.S. 47:55 shall be determined
14	as follows, regardless of the method of accounting regularly employed by the
15	taxpayer:
16	(1) The amount of tax shown to be due upon the federal income tax return
17	of the corporation and fiduciary taxpayer, as filed, shall be allowed as a deduction
18	in on the state corporation and fiduciary income tax return for the same period as that
19	for which such federal return is filed.
20	(2) Federal income and excess profits taxes paid after the filing of the federal
21	return in addition to the amount disclosed to be due by the return as filed shall be
22	allowed as a deduction in on the state corporation and fiduciary income tax return for
23	that period if it is not prescribed. If it is prescribed, the deduction for such additional
24	taxes shall be allowed as a deduction in on the state return for the period in which
25	such additional tax is paid. This Subsection shall apply to all such payments after
26	<del>December 31, 1973.</del>
27	* * *

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§241. Net income subject to tax

2 A. The net income of a nonresident individual or a corporation subject to the 3 tax imposed by this Chapter shall be the sum of the net allocable income earned 4 within or derived from sources within this state, as defined in R.S. 47:243, and the 5 net apportionable income derived from sources in this state, as defined in R.S. 6 47:244, less the amount of federal income taxes attributable to the net allocable 7 income and net apportionable income derived from sources in this state. The amount 8 of federal income taxes to be so deducted shall be that portion of the total federal 9 income tax which is levied with respect to the particular income derived from 10 sources in this state to be computed in accordance with rules and regulations of the 11 collector of revenue. Proper adjustment shall be made for the actual tax rates 12 applying to different classes of income and for all differences in the computation of 13 net income for purposes of federal income taxation as compared to the computation 14 of net income under this Chapter. Where the allocation of the tax is to be based on 15 a ratio of the amount of net income of a particular class, both the numerator and the 16 denominator of the fraction used in determining the ratio shall be computed on the 17 basis that such net income is determined for federal income tax purposes.

18 B. The net income of a corporation subject to the tax imposed by this 19 Chapter shall be the sum of the net allocable income earned within or derived from 20 sources within this state, as defined in R.S. 47:243, and the net apportionable income 21 derived from sources in this state, as defined in R.S. 47:244, less the amount of 22 federal income taxes attributable to the net allocable income and net apportionable 23 income derived from sources in this state. The amount of federal income taxes to be 24 so deducted shall be that portion of the total federal income tax which is levied with respect to the particular income derived from sources in this state to be computed in 25 26 accordance with rules and regulations of the collector of revenue. Proper adjustment 27 shall be made for the actual tax rates applying to different classes of income and for 28 all differences in the computation of net income for purposes of federal income 29 taxation as compared to the computation of net income under this Chapter. Where

1	the allocation of the tax is to be based on a ratio of the amount of net income of a
2	particular class, both the numerator and the denominator of the fraction used in
3	determining the ratio shall be computed on the basis that such net income is
4	determined for federal income tax purposes.
5	* * *
6	§293. Definitions
7	The following definitions shall apply throughout this Part, unless the context
8	requires otherwise:
9	* * *
10	(3) "Excess federal itemized personal deductions" for the purposes of this
11	Part, means the following percentages one hundred percent of the amount by which
12	the federal itemized personal deductions exceed the amount of federal standard
13	deductions which is designated for the filing status used for the taxable period on the
14	individual income tax return required to be filed: No deduction shall be allowed on
15	the first twelve thousand five hundred dollars of excess federal itemized personal
16	deductions for single filers and twenty-five thousand dollars for taxpayers filing joint
17	returns. State income taxes paid by a taxpayer shall not be included as a federal
18	itemized deduction.
19	(a) For tax years beginning during calendar year 2007, fifty-seven and one
20	half percent of such excess federal itemized personal deductions.
21	(b) For tax years beginning during calendar year 2008, sixty-five percent of
22	such excess federal itemized personal deductions.
23	(c) For all tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2009, one hundred
24	percent of such excess federal itemized personal deductions.
25	* * *
26	(9)(a) "Tax table income", for resident individuals, means adjusted gross
27	income plus interest on obligations of a state or political subdivision thereof, other

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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) State income tax refunds.
5	* * *
6	(10) "Tax table income", for nonresident individuals, means the amount of
7	Louisiana income, as provided in this Part, allocated and apportioned under the
8	provisions of R.S. 47:241 through 247, plus the total amount of the personal
9	exemptions and deductions already included in the tax tables promulgated by the
10	secretary under authority of R.S. 47:295, less the proportionate amount of the federal
11	income tax liability, excess federal itemized personal deductions, the temporary
12	teacher deduction, the recreation volunteer and volunteer firefighter deduction, the
13	construction code retrofitting deduction, any gratuitous grant, loan, or other benefit
14	directly or indirectly provided to a taxpayer by a hurricane recovery entity if such
15	benefit was included in federal adjusted gross income, the exclusion provided for in
16	R.S. 47:297.3 for S Bank shareholders, the deduction for expenses disallowed by
17	I.R.C. Section 280C, the deduction for net capital gains, and personal exemptions
18	and deductions provided for in R.S. 47:294. The proportionate amount is to be
19	determined by the ratio of Louisiana income to federal adjusted gross income. When
20	federal adjusted gross income is less than Louisiana income, the ratio shall be one
21	hundred percent.
22	* * *
23	§295. Tax imposed on individuals; administration
24	* * *
25	B. The secretary shall establish tax tables that calculate the tax owed by
26	taxpayers based upon where their taxable income falls within a range that shall not
27	exceed two hundred fifty dollars. The secretary shall provide in the tax tables that
28	the combined personal exemption, standard deduction, and other exemption
29	deductions in R.S. 47:294 shall be deducted from the two percent bracket. If such

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1	combined exemptions and deductions exceed the two percent bracket, the excess
2	shall be deducted from the four percent bracket. If such combined exemptions and
3	deductions exceed the two and four percent brackets, the excess shall be deducted
4	from the six percent bracket.
5	* * *
6	§300.6. Louisiana taxable income of resident estate or trust
7	A. Definition. "Louisiana taxable income" of a resident estate or trust means
8	the taxable income of the estate or trust determined in accordance with federal law
9	for the same taxable year, as specifically modified by the provisions contained in
10	Subsection B of this Section, less a federal income tax deduction to be computed
11	following the provisions of R.S. 47:287.83 and 287.85. in accordance with the
12	following provisions:
13	(1) In computing Louisiana taxable income, no federal income tax deduction
14	shall be allowed on net income upon which no Louisiana income tax has been
15	incurred, or upon which, for any reason whatsoever, no Louisiana income tax will
16	be paid. When computing Louisiana taxable income, the secretary may consider
17	reductions to the federal income tax deduction in accordance with the provisions of
18	this Paragraph.
19	(2) The alternative minimum tax is a federal income tax deductible to the
20	extent that it is applicable to regular federal taxable income. Any alternative
21	minimum tax paid on tax preference items shall not be deductible. In accordance
22	with the provisions of this Paragraph, the secretary may determine the deductible
23	portion of the alternative minimum tax.
24	(3) For purposes of this Section, federal income taxes shall include taxes
25	based on net income, accumulated earnings, war profits, excess profits, personal
26	holding company income, and tax from recomputation of investment credit. For
27	purposes of federal income taxation as compared to the computation of net income
28	under this Part, proper adjustment shall be made for the actual tax rates as applied
29	to different classes of income and for all differences in the computation of net

1	income. The amount of the federal income tax deduction shall be that portion of the
2	total federal income tax, after application of all credits, which is levied on income
3	derived solely from sources in this state as computed under the rules and regulations
4	prescribed by the secretary.
5	(4) As used in this Subsection, the term "credits" shall not include
6	overpayments of prior year taxes allowed as a credit, estimated tax payments or
7	similar prepayments, credit for prior year alternative minimum tax that is allowed as
8	a credit against the current regular federal income tax, or federal income tax credits
9	determined by the secretary to be presidential disaster area disaster relief credits.
10	* * *
11	§300.7. Louisiana taxable income of nonresident estate or trust
12	A. Definition. "Louisiana taxable income" of a nonresident estate or trust
13	means such the portion of the taxable income of the nonresident estate or trust
14	determined in accordance with federal law for the same taxable year, as specifically
15	modified by the provisions contained in Subsection C of this Section, that was earned
16	within or derived from sources within this state, less a federal income tax deduction
17	to be computed following the provisions of <del>R.S. 47:287.83 and 287.85</del> <u>R.S. 47:300.6</u> .
18	* * *
19	Section 2. R.S. 47:55(5), 293(4) and (9)(a)(ii), 294, 296.1(B)(3)(c), and 298 are
20	hereby repealed in their entirety.
21	Section 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 8 of Act No. 125 of the 2015
22	Regular Session of the Legislature, R.S. 47:297(D)(2) as enacted by Section 5 of Act No.
23	125 of the 2015 Regular Session shall not become effective.
24	Section 4. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all taxable periods
25	beginning on and after January 1, 2018.
26	Section 5. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2018, if the proposed
27	amendment of Article VII of the Constitution of Louisiana contained in the Act which
28	originated as House Bill No of this 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature is
29	approved at a statewide election and becomes effective.

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#### 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 501 Engrossed	2017 Regular Session	Stokes
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Abstract: Changes the rates and brackets for purposes of calculating individual income tax liability, eliminates the standard and certain dependency deductions, and modifies the deduction for excess federal itemized personal deductions.

<u>Present law</u> provides for a tax to be assessed, levied, collected, and paid upon the taxable income of an individual at the following rates:

- (1) 2% on the first \$12,500 of net income;
- (2) 4% on the next \$37,500 of net income;
- (3) 6% on net income in excess of \$50,000.

Proposed law reduces individual income tax rates as follows:

- (1) <u>From</u> 2% on the first \$12,500 of net income to 0% on the first \$12,500 of net income.
- (2) <u>From</u> 4% on the next \$37,500 of net income to 3.95% on net income in excess of \$25,000.

<u>Present law</u> provides that all personal exemptions and deductions for dependents allowed in determining federal income tax liability shall be allowed in determining La. tax liability. Further provides for a combined personal exemption of \$4,500 for single, individual filers, \$9,000 for married, joint filers, \$4,500 for married, separate filers, and \$9,000 for filers who are the head of household.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law authorizes a credit of \$400 for each dependent who meets certain criteria.

<u>Proposed law</u> repeals <u>present law</u> in favor of a \$1,000 deduction for each dependent as defined in <u>present law</u>.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes an additional deduction of \$1,000 for each allowable exemption in excess of those required to qualify for the exemption allowable under <u>present law</u>. (R.S. 47:294(A))

<u>Present law</u> requires the secretary to establish tax tables that calculate the tax owed by taxpayers based upon where their taxable income falls within a range that does not exceed \$250. Further requires the secretary to provide in the tax tables the combined personal exemption, standard deduction, and other exemption deductions in <u>present law</u> which is deducted from the 2% bracket. If the combined exemptions and deductions exceed the 2% bracket, the excess is deducted from the 4% bracket, and then the 6% bracket.

<u>Proposed law</u> deletes the provisions authorizing the combined personal exemption, standard deduction, and other exemption deductions to be deducted from the income tax brackets.

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<u>Present law</u> authorizes a deduction from individual income taxes for excess federal itemized personal deductions. The term "excess federal itemized personal deductions" is defined to mean the amount by which the federal itemized personal deductions exceed the amount of federal standard deduction designated for the filing status used for the taxable period on the individual income tax return.

<u>Proposed law</u> changes <u>present law</u> by prohibiting this deduction on the first \$12,500 of excess federal itemized personal deductions for single filers and \$25,000 for taxpayers filing joint returns. <u>Proposed law</u> also excludes state income taxes paid by a taxpayer from inclusion as a federal itemized deduction for purposes of this state deduction.

<u>Present law</u> defines "tax table income" for resident individuals as the adjusted gross income plus interest on certain state or political subdivision obligations less items such as gratuitous grants, loans, or other disaster benefits included in federal adjusted gross income, federal income tax liability, amount deposited into medical or educational savings accounts, and excess personal exemptions and deductions.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but adds to the list of income not included in "tax table income" state income tax refunds.

<u>Present constitution</u> and <u>present law</u> authorize a state deduction for federal income taxes paid for purposes of computing income taxes for the same period.

<u>Proposed law</u> repeals the <u>present law</u> provisions that authorize a state deduction for federal income taxes paid for purposes of calculating individual income taxes.

<u>Present law</u> provides for the computation of La. taxable income for a resident estate or trust, including provisions for the federal income tax deduction, limitations of deductions for net income, provisions for the federal deduction for alternative minimum tax, and the authority of the secretary of the Dept. of Revenue to consider reductions to the federal income tax deduction and the determination of the deductible portion of an alternative minimum tax.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> except as it applies to the deductibility of federal income taxes.

Applicable to all taxable periods beginning on and after Jan. 1, 2018.

Effective on Jan. 1, 2018, if and when the proposed amendment of Article VII of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ of this 2017 R.S. of the Legislature is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends R.S. 47:32(A), 79, 93(B), 241, 293(3) and (10), 295(B), 300.6(A) and 300.7(A); Adds R.S. 47:55(6) and 293(9)(a)(xviii); Repeals R.S. 47:55(5), 293(4) and (9)(a)(ii), 294, 296.1(B)(3)(c), and 298)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Ways and Means</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

- 1. Delete the repeal of the educational tax credit from proposed law.
- 2. Delete the repeal of the La. Citizens Property Insurance Corporation Assessment tax credit from proposed law.
- 3. Make technical amendments.