

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2574

As Passed House:
February 10, 1998

Title: An act relating to filing with the state tax board.

Brief Description: Revising provisions for filing with the state tax board.

Sponsors: Representative Reams; by request of Board of Tax Appeals.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Finance: 1/29/98, 2/2/98 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/10/98, 96-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives B. Thomas, Chairman; Carrell, Vice Chairman; Mulliken, Vice Chairman; Dunshee, Ranking Minority Member; Dickerson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Boldt; Butler; Conway; Kastama; Mason; Morris; Pennington; Schoesler; Thompson and Van Luven.

Staff: Bob Longman (786-7139).

Background: The Board of Tax Appeals hears appeals and issues decisions for tax disputes. For state excise taxes, the board hears appeals from decisions of the Department of Revenue. For property taxes, the board hears appeals of Department of Revenue decisions regarding utility valuations and property tax exemptions. The board also hears appeals of property tax valuation decisions by county boards of equalization. County boards of equalization provide the first level of appeal for property owners who dispute the assessed values determined by county assessors. The board also hears appeals of a few other issues as provided by statute.

A person appealing to the Board of Tax Appeals is required to file a notice of appeal with the board not more than 30 days after the decision being appealed. The appellant must also give a copy of the notice of appeal to the opposing parties (generally a county assessor or the Department of Revenue) within the same time period. For property taxes, the statutes expressly provide that these requirements are met if the notice and copies are postmarked on or before the thirtieth day. The excise tax statutes do not state

whether a postmark is sufficient proof of timely compliance with notice of appeal requirements. However, under the rules of the board a postmark is acceptable proof for both property tax and excise tax appeals.

Under a general statute, documents which must be filed with state or local government are deemed filed on the date of the postmark, if sent by mail.

Summary of Bill: The general statute which provides that documents are deemed filed on the date of the postmark is expressly applied to the Board of Tax Appeals. Persons appealing to the board are relieved of the duty of providing copies of the notice of appeal to opposing parties. The board must transmit copies of the notice of appeal to all named parties within 30 days of receipt by the board.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: None.