Special Notice

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Printers and Publishers of Newspapers: B&O Tax Changes and Definitions

Background

Section VI of Engrossed Senate Bill 6635 (ESB 6635), Chapter 6 Laws of 2012, amends the definition of “newspaper” and adjusts the B&O tax rate for printers and publishers of newspapers.

“Newspaper” defined

Effective July 1, 2012, the definition of newspaper is revised to include electronic (online) versions of newspapers. Therefore income associated with electronic versions of newspapers is subject to B&O tax under the printers and publishers of newspapers classification effective July 1, 2012. Note that the electronic version of the printed newspaper must:

a) Share content with the printed newspaper, and
b) Be prominently identified by the same name as the printed newspaper or otherwise conspicuously indicate that it is a complement to the printed newspaper.

B&O tax rate for printers and publishers of newspapers

- Effective July 1, 2012, the B&O rate for printers and publishers of newspapers is 0.365 percent
- Effective July 1, 2013, the B&O rate for printers and publishers of newspapers is 0.35 percent
- Effective July 1, 2015, the B&O rate for printers and publishers of newspapers is 0.2904 percent.

Expiration date

Section VI of ESB 6635 expires on July 1, 2015. The definition of “newspaper” reverts to its previous language on this date, meaning “newspaper” will no longer include electronic versions of newspapers.

Annual report required

Businesses filing under the reduced rate for printers and publishers of newspapers must continue to file their annual reports by April 30 of the year following the year in which the reduced rate was used.

For more information

Call our Telephone Information Center at 1-800-647-7706.

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