

191.18 INTEREST AND PENALTIES.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Applicable law" means this Chapter, the resolutions, ordinances, codes, directives, instructions, and rules adopted by the City of Sheffield Lake provided they impose or directly or indirectly address the levy, payment, remittance, or filing requirements of the City of Sheffield Lake.

(2) "Federal short-term rate" means the rate of the average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity of three years or less, as determined under Section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code, for July of the current year.

(3) "Income tax," "estimated income tax," and "withholding tax" means any income tax, estimated income tax, and withholding tax imposed by the City of Sheffield Lake pursuant to applicable law, including at any time before January 1, 2016.

(4) "Interest rate as described in division (A) of this section" means the federal short-term rate, rounded to the nearest whole number percent, plus five percent. The rate shall apply for the calendar year next following the July of the year in which the federal short-term rate is determined in accordance with division (A)(2) of this section.

(5) "Return" includes any tax return, report, reconciliation, schedule, and other document required to be filed with a the Tax Administrator or the City of Sheffield Lake by a taxpayer, employer, any agent of the employer, or any other payer pursuant to applicable law, including at any time before January 1, 2016.

(6) "Unpaid estimated income tax" means estimated income tax due but not paid by the date the tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(7) "Unpaid income tax" means income tax due but not paid by the date the income tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(8) "Unpaid withholding tax" means withholding tax due but not paid by the date the withholding tax is required to be paid under applicable law.

(9) "Withholding tax" includes amounts an employer, any agent of an employer, or any other payer did not withhold in whole or in part from an employee's qualifying wages, but that, under applicable law, the employer, agent, or other payer is required to withhold from an employee's

qualifying wages.

(B) (1) This section applies to the following:

(a) Any return required to be filed under applicable law for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016;

(b) Income tax, estimated income tax, and withholding tax required to be paid or remitted to the City of Sheffield Lake on or after January 1, 2016.

(2) This section does not apply to returns required to be filed or payments required to be made before January 1, 2016, regardless of the filing or payment date. Returns required to be filed or payments required to be made before January 1, 2016, but filed or paid after that date shall be subject to the ordinances or rules and regulations, as adopted before January 1, 2016, of the City of Sheffield Lake to which the return is to be filed or the payment is to be made.

(C) Should any taxpayer, employer, agent of the employer, or other payer for any reason fails, in whole or in part, to make timely and full payment or remittance of income tax, estimated income tax, or withholding tax or to file timely with the City of Sheffield Lake any return required to be filed, the following penalties and interest shall apply:

(1) Interest shall be imposed at the rate described in division (A) of this section, per annum, on all unpaid income tax, unpaid estimated income tax, and unpaid withholding tax.

(2) (a) With respect to unpaid income tax and unpaid estimated income tax, the City of Sheffield Lake may impose a penalty equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the amount not timely paid.

(b) With respect to any unpaid withholding tax, the City of Sheffield Lake may impose a penalty not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the amount not timely paid.

(3) (a) For tax years ending on or before December 31, 2022, with respect to returns other than estimated income tax returns, the City of Sheffield Lake may impose a penalty of \$25 for each failure to timely file each return, regardless of the liability shown thereon for each month, or any fraction thereof, during which the return remains unfiled regardless of the liability shown thereon. The penalty shall not exceed \$150 for each failure.

(b) For tax years ending on or after January 1, 2023, with respect to returns other than estimated income tax returns, the City of Sheffield Lake may impose a penalty not exceeding \$25 for each failure to timely file each return, regardless of the liability shown thereon, except that the City of Sheffield Lake shall abate or refund the penalty assessed on a taxpayer's first failure to timely file a return after the taxpayer files that return.

(D) Nothing in this section requires the City of Sheffield Lake to refund or credit any penalty, amount of interest, charges, or additional fees that the City of Sheffield Lake has properly imposed or collected before January 1, 2016.

(E) Nothing in this section limits the authority of the City of Sheffield Lake to abate or partially abate penalties or interest imposed under this section when the Tax Administrator determines, in the Tax Administrator's sole discretion, that such abatement is appropriate.

(F) By the 31st day of October of each year the City of Sheffield Lake shall publish the rate described in division (A) of this section applicable to the next succeeding calendar year.

(G) The City of Sheffield Lake may impose on the taxpayer, employer, any agent of the employer, or any other payer the City of Sheffield Lake's post-judgment collection costs and fees, including attorney's fees. (Ord. 42-23. Passed 11-28-23.)

191.19 AUTHORITY OF TAX ADMINISTRATOR; VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION.

Authority.

(A) Nothing in this Chapter shall limit the authority of the Tax Administrator to perform any of the following duties or functions, unless the performance of such duties or functions is expressly limited by a provision of the ORC:

(1) (a) Exercise all powers whatsoever of a query nature as provided by law, including, the right to inspect books, accounts, records, memorandums, and federal and state income tax returns, to examine persons under oath, to issue orders or subpoenas for the production of books, accounts, papers, records, documents, and testimony, to take depositions, to apply to a court for attachment proceedings as for contempt, to approve vouchers for the fees of officers and

witnesses, and to administer oaths.

(b) The powers referred to in this division of this section shall be exercised by the Tax Administrator only in connection with the performance of the duties respectively assigned to the Tax Administrator under the City of Sheffield Lake's income tax ordinance;

(2) Appoint agents and prescribe their powers and duties;

(3) Confer and meet with officers of other municipal corporations and states and officers of the United States on any matters pertaining to their respective official duties as provided by law;

(4) Exercise the authority provided by law, including orders from bankruptcy courts, relative to remitting or refunding taxes, including penalties and interest thereon, for any reason overpaid. In addition, the Tax Administrator may investigate any claim of overpayment and, if the Tax Administrator finds that there has been an overpayment, make a written statement of the Tax Administrator's findings, and approve and issue a refund payable to the taxpayer, the taxpayer's assigns, or legal representative as provided in this Chapter;

(5) Exercise the authority provided by law relative to consenting to the compromise and settlement of tax claims;

(6) Exercise the authority provided by law relative to the use of alternative apportionment methods by taxpayers in accordance with Section [191.03](#);

(7) (a) Make all tax findings, determinations, computations, and orders the Tax Administrator is by law authorized and required to make and, pursuant to time limitations provided by law, on the Tax Administrator's own motion, review, redetermine, or correct any tax findings, determinations, computations, or orders the Tax Administrator has made.

(b) If an appeal has been filed with the Board of Tax Review or other appropriate tribunal, the Tax Administrator shall not review, re-determine, or correct any tax finding, determination, computation, or order which the Tax Administrator has made, unless such appeal or application is withdrawn by the appellant or applicant, is dismissed, or is otherwise final;

(8) Destroy any or all returns or other tax documents in the manner authorized by law;

(9) Enter into an agreement with a taxpayer to simplify the withholding obligations described in Section [191.04](#).

Verification of accuracy of returns and determination of liability.

(B) (1) A Tax Administrator, or any authorized agent or employee thereof may examine the books, papers, records, and federal and state income tax returns of any employer, taxpayer, or other person that is subject to, or that the Tax Administrator believes is subject to, the provisions of this Chapter for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any return made or, if no return was filed, to ascertain the tax due under this Chapter. Upon written request by the Tax Administrator or a duly authorized agent or employee thereof, every employer, taxpayer, or other person subject to this section is required to furnish the opportunity for the Tax Administrator, authorized agent, or employee to investigate and examine such books, papers, records, and federal and state income tax returns at a reasonable time and place designated in the request.

(2) The records and other documents of any taxpayer, employer, or other person that is subject to, or that a Tax Administrator believes is subject to, the provisions of this Chapter shall be open to the Tax Administrator's inspection during business hours and shall be preserved for a period of six years following the end of the taxable year to which the records or documents relate, unless the Tax Administrator, in writing, consents to their destruction within that period, or by order requires that they be kept longer. The Tax Administrator may require any person, by notice served on that person, to keep such records as the Tax Administrator determines necessary to show whether or not that person is liable, and the extent of such liability, for the income tax levied by the City of Sheffield Lake or for the withholding of such tax.

(3) The Tax Administrator may examine under oath any person that the Tax Administrator reasonably believes has knowledge concerning any income that was or would have been returned for taxation or any transaction tending to affect such income. The Tax Administrator may, for this purpose, compel any such person to attend a hearing or examination and to produce any books, papers, records, and federal and state income tax returns in such person's possession or control. The person may be assisted or represented by an attorney, accountant, bookkeeper, or other tax practitioner at any such hearing or examination. This division does not authorize the practice of law by a person who is not an attorney.

(4) No person issued written notice by the Tax Administrator compelling attendance at a hearing or examination or the production of books, papers, records, or federal or state income tax returns under this section shall fail to comply.

Identification information.

(C) (1) Nothing in this Chapter prohibits the Tax Administrator from requiring any person filing a tax document with the Tax Administrator to provide identifying information, which may include the person's social security number, federal employer identification number, or other identification number requested by the Tax Administrator. A person required by the Tax Administrator to provide identifying information that has experienced any change with respect to that information shall notify the Tax Administrator of the change before, or upon, filing the next tax document requiring the identifying information.

(2) (a) If the Tax Administrator makes a request for identifying information and the Tax Administrator does not receive valid identifying information within 30 days of making the request, nothing in this Chapter prohibits the Tax Administrator from imposing a penalty upon the person to whom the request was directed pursuant to Section [191.18](#), in addition to any applicable penalty described in Section [191.99](#).

(b) If a person required by the Tax Administrator to provide identifying information does not notify the Tax Administrator of a change with respect to that information as required under division (C) of Section [191.19](#) within 30 days after filing the next tax document requiring such identifying information, nothing in this Chapter prohibits the Tax Administrator from imposing a penalty pursuant to Section [191.18](#).

(c) The penalties provided for under divisions (C)(2)(a) and (b) of this section may be billed and imposed in the same manner as the tax or fee with respect to which the identifying information is sought and are in addition to any applicable criminal penalties described in Section [191.99](#) for a violation of Section [191.17](#) and any other penalties that may be imposed by the Tax Administrator by law.

(Ord. 70-15. Passed 12-8-15.)

Revision #1

Created 2026-07-15 19:45:23 UTC by Admin

Updated 2026-07-15 19:45:43 UTC by Admin