GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 832

Short Title: DOR Administrative Hearings.	(Public)
Sponsors: Senator Winner of Buncombe.	
Referred to: Finance.	

April 13, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROVIDE A TIMETABLE WITHIN WHICE

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A TIMETABLE WITHIN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE MUST HOLD ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RENDER DECISIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 105-241.1(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) A taxpayer who objects to a proposed assessment of tax is entitled to a hearing before the Secretary as provided in this subsection. To obtain a hearing, the taxpayer must file a written request either for a hearing or for a written statement of the information and evidence upon which the proposed assessment is based. If the notice of a proposed assessment was mailed, the taxpayer's request must be filed within 30 days after the date the notice was postmarked; if the notice of a proposed assessment was delivered in person, the taxpayer's request must be filed within 30 days after the date the notice was delivered.

Within 45 days after a taxpayer files a timely request for a written statement of the information and evidence upon which the proposed assessment is based, the Secretary shall provide such a written statement to the taxpayer. A taxpayer who requests a written statement in accordance with this subsection must, to obtain a hearing, file a written request for a hearing within 30 days after receiving the written statement.

Within 60 days after a timely request for a hearing has been filed and at least 10 days before the date set for the hearing, the Secretary shall notify the taxpayer in writing of the time and place at which the hearing will be conducted. The date set for the hearing shall be within 90 days after the timely request for a hearing was filed. The date

set for the hearing may be postponed once, at the request of the taxpayer or the Secretary, for a period of up to 90 days.

The taxpayer may present any objections to the proposed assessment at the hearing. The rules of evidence do not apply to a hearing conducted under this subsection.

Within 90 days after conducting a hearing under this subsection, the Secretary shall make a decision on the proposed assessment, notify the taxpayer of the decision, and assess the taxpayer for the amount of tax determined to be due. Upon assessment, the tax shall become immediately due and collectible.

Any taxpayer who objects to a proposed assessment of tax or additional tax shall be entitled to a hearing before the Secretary of Revenue provided application therefor is made in writing within 30 days after the mailing or delivery of the notice required by subsection (a). If application for a hearing is made in due time, the Secretary of Revenue shall set a time and place for the hearing and after considering the taxpayer's objections shall give written notice of his decision to the taxpayer. The amount of tax or additional tax due from the taxpayer as finally determined by the Secretary shall thereupon be assessed and upon assessment shall become immediately due and collectible.

Provided, the taxpayer may request the Secretary at any time within 30 days of notice of such proposed assessment for a written statement, or transcript, of the information and the evidence upon which the proposed assessment is based, and the Secretary of Revenue shall furnish such statement, or transcript, to the taxpayer. Provided, further, after request by the taxpayer for such written statement, or transcript, the taxpayer shall have 30 days after the receipt of the same from the Secretary of Revenue to apply in writing for such hearing, explaining in detail his objections to such proposed assessment. If no request for such hearing is so made, such proposed assessment shall be final and conclusive."

Sec. 2. G.S. 105-241.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 105-241.2. Administrative review.

- (a) Petition for Administrative Review. Without having to pay the tax or additional tax assessed by the Secretary under this Chapter, any taxpayer may secure obtain from the Tax Review Board an administrative review with respect to his the taxpayer's liability for the tax or additional tax assessed by the Secretary. Such a review may be obtained only if the taxpayer has obtained a hearing before the Secretary and the Secretary has rendered a final decision with respect to the taxpayer's liability. If a taxpayer has made a timely written demand for refund of an alleged overpayment and the Secretary has issued a decision denying part or all of the claimed refund, the taxpayer may obtain from the Tax Review Board an administrative review of the Secretary's decision. To obtain such-administrative review the taxpayer shall:
 - (1) File Within 30 days after the Secretary's final decision is issued, file with the Tax Review Board, with a copy to the Secretary, notice of intent to file a petition for review, such notice to be filed within 30 days after notice of the Secretary's final decision is issued; review, and
 - (2) File—Within 60 days after the Secretary's final decision is issued, file with the Tax Review Board, with a copy to the Secretary,

- a petition requesting administrative review and stating in concise terms the grounds upon which review is sought, such petition to be filed within 60 days after the expiration of the period provided in subdivision (1) for filing of notice of intent to petition for review. sought.
 - (b) <u>Secretary to Provide Records.</u> Upon receipt by the Secretary of the taxpayer's petition, the Secretary shall transmit to the Tax Review Board all of the records, data, evidence and other materials which he has in the Secretary's possession pertaining to the matters which the Tax Review Board is being requested by the taxpayer to review. He The Secretary shall also transmit to the Board a copy of his the decision respecting such matters.
 - Hearing. Within 60 days after a timely petition for administrative review has been filed and at least 10 days before the date set for the hearing, the Tax Review Board shall notify the taxpayer and the Secretary in writing of the time and place at which the hearing will be conducted. The hearing shall be held in Raleigh and the date set for the hearing shall be within 90 days after the timely petition for administrative review was filed. The date set for the hearing may be postponed once, at the request of the taxpayer or the Secretary, for a period of up to 90 days. The Tax Review Board shall fix a time for reviewing the Secretary's decision and shall hear the same in the City of Raleigh. The Board shall give notice of the time and place of such hearing to the petitioner and to the Secretary at least 10 days prior thereto.—Officers and employees of the Revenue Department, when so requested by the Board, shall attend hearings on such reviews and shall furnish the Board with all information they have respecting the asserted liability. The Tax Review Board may establish by regulation—the procedure to be followed in hearings before it and is authorized to may establish by regulations a schedule of costs of the proceedings. At least two members of the Board shall sit at the hearing and all members shall consider and decide the matters on review.
 - (b2) Decision of Tax Review Board. —The—Within 90 days after conducting a hearing under this section, the Board shall confirm, modify, reverse, reduce, or increase the assessment or decision of the Secretary, and it shall-furnish a written copy of its order to the Secretary and shall—Secretary, and serve a written copy of its order upon the taxpayer by personal service or by registered mail (return receipt requested). In the event If the decision of the Tax Review Board should—does not result in a reduction of the tax liability asserted by the Secretary to be due, or if the Tax Review Board should dismiss the petition under the provisions of dismisses the petition under subsection (c) of this section, the costs of the proceeding shall be added to and shall become a part of the tax liability to be collected by the Secretary. In the event-If the decision of the Tax Review Board should result in a reduction of the tax liability asserted by the Secretary to be due, due or in a refund to the taxpayer, no costs shall be taxed against the taxpayer. Any overpayment of tax determined by the decision of the Tax Review Board, together with interest thereon at the rate and for the period provided under G.S. 105-266, shall be refunded by the State.
 - (c) <u>Frivolous Petitions.</u> Upon receipt of a petition requesting administrative review as provided in the preceding subsection, the Tax Review Board shall examine the petition and the records and other data transmitted by the Secretary pertaining to the

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matter for which review is sought, and if it should appear from such records and data that the petition is frivolous or filed for purpose of delay, the Tax Review Board shall dismiss the petition for review and, in addition, is authorized, in its discretion, to impose a penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), which penalty shall be in addition to the tax, penalties, interests, and costs, and shall be collected in the same manner as the principal tax liability.

- Any taxpayer may also apply to the Tax Review Board under the provisions (d) of this section for administrative review of the decision of the Secretary of Revenue with respect to an alleged overpayment of tax imposed by this Chapter provided such taxpayer has filed a demand in writing for refund of such overpayment within the time allowed by law for the filing of such demand and the Secretary has issued a decision denying the claimed refund. To obtain such review the taxpaver shall file notice of intent to petition for review with the Tax Review Board, with copy to the Secretary, within 30 days after issuance of the Secretary's decision. The taxpayer shall also perfect the application for review by filing with the Tax Review Board, with a copy to the Secretary, a petition requesting administrative review and stating in concise terms the grounds upon which review is sought. Such petition shall be filed within 60 days after expiration of the period provided for filing notice of intent to petition for review. The Tax Review Board shall consider and dispose of the petition for review in the manner provided in subsection (b) for the consideration and disposition of petitions for review of any tax or additional tax assessed by the Secretary. No costs shall, however, be taxed against the taxpayer if the decision of the Tax Review Board results in a refund to the taxpayer. Any overpayment of tax determined by the decision of the Tax Review Board, together with interest thereon at the rate and for the period provided under G.S. 105-266, shall be refunded by the State.
- <u>Jeopardy Assessments. At any time the Secretary of Revenue shall have</u> authority, if in his may, if in the Secretary's opinion, such action is necessary for the protection of the interest of the State, to-proceed at once to levy the assessment for the amount of the tax against the property of the taxpayer seeking the administrative review. In levying said the assessment the Secretary shall make a certificate setting forth verifying the essential parts relating to the tax, including the amount thereof asserted to be due, the date when same is asserted to have become due and payable, the person, firm, or corporation chargeable therewith, and the nature of the tax. Under his hand and seal the The Secretary shall transmit said this certificate to the clerk of the superior court of any county in which the taxpayer resides or has property; whereupon, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the superior court of the county to docket the said-certificate and to index the same it on the cross index of judgments. When so docketed and indexed, said the certificate of tax liability shall constitute a lien upon the property of the taxpayer to the same extent as that provided for by G.S. 105-241. No execution shall issue on said the certificate before final determination of the administrative review by the Tax Review Board; provided, however, if the Secretary determines that the collection of the tax would be jeopardized by delay, he-the Secretary may cause execution to be issued, as provided in this Chapter, immediately against the personal property of the taxpayer unless the taxpayer files with the Secretary a bond in the amount of the asserted liability

for tax, penalty and interest. If upon such final administrative determination the tax asserted or any part thereof is sustained, execution may issue on said the certificate at the request of the Secretary of Revenue, and the sheriff shall proceed to advertise and sell the property of the taxpayer.

sell the property of the taxpayer.

(f) Taxpayers seeking administrative review of liability decisions of the Commissioner of Insurance under Article 8B of this Subchapter shall follow the

Commissioner of Insurance under Article 8B of this Subchapter shall follow the procedure prescribed in subsection (a) of this section for taxpayers seeking administrative review of decisions of the Secretary of Revenue. In such cases all provisions of this section referring to the Secretary of Revenue shall be considered as applying to the Commissioner of Insurance."

Sec. 3. G.S. 105-266.1(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) If a taxpayer claims that a tax or an additional tax paid by the taxpayer was excessive or incorrect, the Any—taxpayer may apply to the Secretary of Revenue—for refund of the tax or additional tax paid by him—at any time within three years after the date set by the statute for the filing of the return or application for a license or within six months from—after the date of payment of such—the tax or additional tax, whichever is later.

The Secretary shall grant a hearing on each timely request for a refund. Within 60 days after a timely request for a refund has been filed and at least 10 days before the date set for the hearing, the Secretary shall notify the taxpayer in writing of the time and place at which the hearing will be conducted. The date set for the hearing shall be within 90 days after the timely request for a hearing was filed. The date set for the hearing may be postponed once, at the request of the taxpayer or the Secretary, for a period of up to 90 days.

Within 90 days after conducting a hearing under this subsection, the Secretary shall make a decision on the requested refund, notify the taxpayer of the decision, and adjust the computation of the tax in accordance with the decision. The Secretary shall The Secretary shall grant a hearing thereon, and if upon such hearing he shall determine that the tax is excessive or incorrect, he shall resettle the same according to the law and the facts, and adjust the computation of tax accordingly. The Secretary shall notify the taxpayer of his determination, and shall-refund to the taxpayer the amount, if any, paid amount of any tax the Secretary finds was paid incorrectly or paid in excess of the tax found by him to be due: due, except that there shall be no refund to the taxpayer of any sum set off under the provisions of Chapter 105A, the Set-off Debt Collection Act."

Sec. 4. G.S. 105-122(c)(2) reads as rewritten:

"(2) If any corporation believes that the method of allocation or apportionment hereinbefore described as administered by the Secretary of Revenue has operated or will so operate as to subject it to taxation on a greater portion of its capital stock, surplus and undivided profits than is reasonably attributable to business within the State, it shall be entitled to-may file with the Tax Review Board a petition setting forth the facts upon which its belief is based and its argument with respect to the application of the allocation formula. This petition shall be filed in such form and within such time as the Tax Review Board may

prescribe. The Board shall grant a hearing thereon. on the petition. The time limitations set in G.S. 105-241.2 for the date of the hearing, notification to the taxpayer, and a decision following the hearing apply to a hearing held pursuant to this subdivision.

At least three members of the Tax Review Board shall attend any hearing pursuant to such petition. In such cases the Tax Review Board's membership shall be augmented by the addition of the Secretary of Revenue, Secretary, who shall sit as a member of said-the Board with full power to participate in its deliberations and decisions with respect to petitions filed under the provisions of this section. An informal record containing in substance the evidence, contentions and arguments presented at the hearing shall be made. All members of the augmented Tax Review Board shall consider such evidence, contentions and arguments, and the decision thereon shall be made by a majority vote of the augmented Board. If the Board shall find-finds that the application of the allocation formula subjects the corporation to taxation on a greater portion of its capital stock, surplus and undivided profits than is reasonably attributable to its business within this State:

- a. If the corporation shall employ employs in its books of account a detailed allocation of receipts and expenditures which reflects more clearly than the applicable allocation formula or alternative formulas prescribed by this section the portion of the capital stock, surplus and undivided profits attributable to the business within this State, application for permission to base the return upon the taxpayer's books of account shall be considered by the Tax Review Board. The Board shall be authorized to may permit such separate accounting method in lieu of applying the applicable allocation formula if the Board deems such method proper as best reflecting—finds that method best reflects the portion of the capital stock, surplus and undivided profits attributable to this State.
- b. If the corporation shall show shows that any other method of allocation than the applicable allocation formula or alternative formulas prescribed by this section reflects more clearly the portion of the capital stock, surplus and undivided profits attributable to the business within this State, application for permission to base the return upon such other method shall be considered by the Tax Review Board. The application shall be accompanied by a statement setting forth in detail, with full explanations, the method the taxpayer believes will more nearly reflect the portion of its capital stock, surplus and undivided profits attributable to the business within this State. If the Board shall conclude concludes that the allocation formula and the

alternative formulas prescribed by this section allocate to this State a greater portion of the capital stock, surplus and undivided profits of the corporation than is reasonably attributable to business within this State, it shall determine the allocable portion by such other method as it shall find-finds best calculated to assign to this State for taxation the portion reasonably attributable to its business within this State.

There shall be a presumption that the appropriate allocation formula reasonably attributes to this State the portion of the corporation's capital stock, surplus and undivided profits reasonably attributable to its business in this State and the burden shall rest upon the corporation to show the contrary. The relief herein authorized shall be granted by the Board only in cases of clear, cogent and convincing proof that the petitioning taxpayer is entitled thereto. No corporation shall use any alternative formula or method other than the applicable allocation formula provided by statute in making a franchise tax report or return to this State except upon order in writing of the Board and any return in which any alternative formula or other method other than the applicable allocation formula prescribed by statute is used without the permission of the Board, shall not be a lawful return.

When the Board determines, pursuant to the provisions of this Article, that an alternative formula or other method more accurately reflects the portion of the capital stock, surplus and undivided profits allocable to North Carolina and renders its decision with regard thereto, the corporation shall allocate its capital stock, surplus and undivided profits for future years in accordance with such determination and decision of the Board so long as the conditions constituting the basis upon which the decision was made remain unchanged or until such time as the business method of operation of the corporation changes. Provided, however, that the Secretary of Revenue may, in his discretion, may, with respect to any subsequent year, require the corporation to furnish information relating to its property, operations and activities.

A corporation which proposes to do business in this State may file a petition with the Board setting forth the facts upon which it contends that the applicable allocation formula will allocate a greater portion of the corporation's capital stock, surplus and undivided profits to North Carolina than will be reasonably attributable to its proposed business within the State. Upon a proper showing in accordance with the procedure described above for determination by the Board, the Board may authorize such corporation to allocate its capital stock, surplus and undivided profits to North Carolina on the basis prescribed by the Board under the provisions of this section for such future years as the conditions constituting the basis upon which the Board's decision is

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made remain unchanged and the business operations of the corporation continue to conform to the statement of proposed methods of business operations presented by the corporation to the Board.

When the Secretary of Revenue asserts liability under the formula adjustment decision of the Tax Review Board, an aggrieved taxpayer may pay the tax under protest and bring a civil action for recovery under the provisions of G.S. 105-241.4."

Sec. 5. G.S. 105-130.4(t) reads as rewritten:

- "(t) **(1)** If any corporation believes that the method of allocation or apportionment as administered by the Secretary of Revenue has operated or will so operate as to subject it to taxation on a greater portion of its income than is reasonably attributable to business or earnings within the State, it shall be entitled to-may file with the Tax Review Board a petition setting forth the facts upon which its belief is based and its argument with respect to the application of the allocation formula. This petition shall be filed in such form and within such time as the Tax Review Board may prescribe. The Board shall grant a hearing thereon. on the petition. The time limitations set in G.S. 105-241.2 for the date of the hearing, notification to the taxpayer, and a decision following the hearing apply to a hearing held pursuant to this subsection. At least three members of the Tax Review Board shall attend any hearing pursuant to such petition. In such cases, the Tax Review Board's membership shall be augmented by the addition of the Secretary of Revenue Secretary, who shall sit as a member of said the Board with full power to participate in its deliberations and decisions with respect to petitions filed under the provisions of this section. subsection. An informal record containing in substance the evidence, contentions and arguments presented at the hearing shall be made. All members of the augmented Tax Review Board shall consider such evidence, contentions and arguments and the decisions thereon shall be made by a majority vote of the augmented Board.
 - (2) If the corporation shall employ employs in its books of account a detailed allocation of receipts and expenditures which reflects more clearly than the applicable allocation formula prescribed by this section the income attributable to the business within this State, application for permission to base the return upon the taxpayer's books of account shall be considered by the Tax Review Board. The Board shall be authorized to may permit such separate accounting method in lieu of applying the applicable allocation formula if the Board deems such method proper as best reflecting finds that method best reflects the income and earnings attributable to this State.
 - (3) If the corporation shall show shows that any other method of allocation than the applicable allocation formula prescribed by this section

- reflects more clearly the income attributable to the business within this State, application for permission to base the return upon such other method shall be considered by the Tax Review Board. The application shall be accompanied by a statement setting forth in detail, with full explanations, the method the corporation believes will more nearly reflect its income from business within this State. If the Board shall conclude concludes that the allocation formula prescribed by this section allocates to this State a greater portion of the net income of the corporation than is reasonably attributable to business or earnings within this State, it shall determine the allocable net income by such other method as it shall find finds best calculated to assign to this State for taxation the portion of the corporation's net income reasonably attributable to its business or earnings within this State.
- (4) There shall be a presumption that the appropriate allocation formula reasonably attributes to this State the portion of the corporation's income earned in this State, and the burden shall rest upon the corporation to show the contrary. The relief herein authorized shall be granted by the Board only in cases of clear, cogent and convincing proof that the petitioning corporation is entitled thereto. No corporation shall use any alternative formula or method other than the applicable allocation formula provided by statute in making a report or return of its income to this State except upon order in writing of the Board, and any return in which any alternative formula or other method, other than the applicable allocation formula prescribed by statute, is used without permission of the Board shall not be a lawful return.

When the Board determines, pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, that an alternative formula or other method more accurately reflects the income allocable to North Carolina and renders its decision with regard thereto, the corporation shall allocate its net income for future years in accordance with such determination and decision of the Board so long as the conditions constituting the basis upon which the decision was made remain unchanged or until such time as the business method of operation of the corporation changes. Provided, however, that the Secretary of Revenue may, in his discretion, may, with respect to any subsequent year, require the corporation to furnish information relating to its property, operations, and activities.

(5) A corporation which proposes to do business in this State may file a petition with the Board setting forth the facts upon which it contends that the applicable allocation formula will allocate a greater portion of the corporation's future income to North Carolina than will be reasonably attributable to its proposed business or contemplated earnings within the State. Upon a proper showing in accordance with the procedure described above for determinations by the Board, the

1	Board may authorize such corporation to allocate income from its
2	future business to North Carolina on the basis prescribed by the Board
3	under the provisions of this section for such future years if the
4	conditions constituting the basis upon which the Board's decision is
5	made remain unchanged and the business operations of the corporation
6	continue to conform to the statement of proposed methods of business
7	operation presented by the corporation to the Board.
8	(6) When the Secretary of Revenue asserts liability under the formula
9	adjustment decision of the Tax Review Board, an aggrieved
10	corporation may pay the tax and bring a civil action for recovery under
11	the provisions of Article 9."
12	Sec. 6. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993, and applies to requests for a
12	having and natitions for administrative review filed on or after that date

hearing and petitions for administrative review filed on or after that date.